



3.5.2017

# OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal (2016/2147(INI))

Rapporteur: Vilija Blinkevičiūtė



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- having regard to Article 2 and Article 3(3), second subparagraph, of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
  - having regard to Articles 14(1) and 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC<sup>1</sup>,
- A. whereas the Horizon 2020 programme, in line with the requirements of Article 16 of its Regulation, mainstreams gender equality and the gender dimension in research and innovation as a cross-cutting issue in each of the different parts of the work programme;
- B. whereas there are three mainstreaming objectives under Horizon 2020, namely: fostering equal opportunities and gender balance in project teams, ensuring gender balance in decision-making, and integrating a gender dimension into research and innovation content, which should be qualitative;
- C. whereas the EU is committed to promoting gender equality and ensuring gender mainstreaming in all of its actions; whereas research and innovation are key drivers for European economic growth and the greater representation of women in research contributes to the spread of innovations; whereas tapping into the full potential of women's skills, knowledge and qualifications will contribute to boosting growth, jobs and European competitiveness;
- D. whereas the share of women in advisory groups during the period 2014-2015 was 51.9 %<sup>2</sup>; whereas this was the sole indicator on women's participation that met its established target, which in this case was 50 %; whereas the share of women experts registered in the expert databases was 31.1 % and the share of women participating in the evaluation panels was 36.7 %<sup>3</sup>; whereas both of these figures did not meet their respective targets of 40 %;
- E. whereas the gender dimension in research and innovation content was visible in 36.2 % of granted projects<sup>4</sup>; whereas during the period 2014-2015, the share of women participants in Horizon 2020 projects was 35.8 % of the total workforce, including non-researchers<sup>5</sup>;
- F. whereas Horizon 2020, like all EU programmes, aims to achieve Europe 2020 and other international commitments, such as COP21 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104.

<sup>2</sup> Horizon 2020 Monitoring Report 2015,

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/h2020\\_monitoring\\_reports/second\\_h2020\\_annual\\_monitoring\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/h2020_monitoring_reports/second_h2020_annual_monitoring_report.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, EPRS Study, February 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

Development, including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 for gender equality; whereas these goals will not be achieved without new innovation, research and development; stresses, however, that the programme is complementary to Member States' own investment in research and innovation;

1. Notes the positive changes made in recent years in terms of equality between women and men in the fields of research, development and innovation, but draws attention to the strong vertical and horizontal segregation affecting women in academia and the presence of cultural and institutional barriers;
2. Welcomes the fact that Horizon 2020 provides support for research bodies in implementing gender equality plans; welcomes also the Commission and the European Institute for Gender Equality's joint project aimed at creating an online tool for gender equality plans, as a means of identifying and sharing best practices with relevant stakeholders;
3. Stresses the importance of maintaining as close relationships as possible with scientists from the United Kingdom in order to avoid any interruption or loss of knowledge in the area of medical research;
4. Welcomes the fact that gender balance among personnel is one of the ranking factors in the Horizon 2020 evaluation criteria but, given that women make up just 35.8 % of the workforce; calls on the Commission to introduce a minimum participation requirement of 40 % of the under-represented sex in the next Framework Programme; welcomes, moreover, the fact that applicants have the opportunity to include training and specific studies on gender as eligible costs in their proposals;
5. Welcomes the specific indicators used to monitor the implementation of a gender equality perspective in Horizon 2020, but regrets the fact that only 36.2 % of the signed grants in the same period took into account the gender dimension in the research and innovation content<sup>1</sup>; calls on the Commission, therefore, to include the undertaking of a gender impact assessment as an ex-ante conditionality to apply to all grants under Framework Programme 9;
6. Notes that there are currently no indicators to assess the percentage of projects that specifically address matters of gender equality and issues closely linked to gender equality, such as: health (maternal and new born health in particular), poverty-related and neglected diseases, which disproportionately affect women and children, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, and access to resources; notes, in this regard, the lack of indicators to measure the percentage of calls for proposals that seek out such projects; calls on the Commission to include indicators on all these issues in future Horizon 2020 annual monitoring reports and in the new Framework Programme;
7. Welcomes the gender balance reached in Horizon 2020 advisory groups, where women's participation was 52 % in 2014 and 2015; regrets, however, the fact that the share of women experts registered in the expert databases and the share of women in evaluation

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<sup>1</sup> Horizon 2020 Monitoring Report 2015, pp. 53-217.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/h2020\\_monitoring\\_reports/second\\_h2020\\_annual\\_monitoring\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/h2020_monitoring_reports/second_h2020_annual_monitoring_report.pdf)

panels did not reach the target of 40 % of participation of the under-represented sex; calls on the Commission to propose new measures to address this state of affairs;

8. Welcomes the fact that one of the objectives in ‘Science with and for Society’ is to ensure gender equality, in both the research process and research content; welcomes, furthermore, the grants ‘Support to research organisations to implement gender equality plans’ and ‘Promoting Gender equality in H2020 and the European Research Area’; deplores, however, that there are no specific lines in the budget for the objectives outlined in Horizon 2020;
9. Considers that a further review is needed in order to assess the results of Horizon 2020, based on reliable and comparable indicators such as the percentage of women participants and women project coordinators in the programme, and in order to propose adjustments to the specific actions where required with a view to securing better results;
10. Requests that the Commission increase the budget for Horizon 2020 in order to boost the number of participating universities and research institutions, and calls on the Member States to facilitate access to dedicated grants for women researchers and scientists, in order to foster equality in scientific careers and boost competitiveness in the EU;
11. Calls on the Member States to further strengthen gender mainstreaming within Horizon 2020 and the future Framework Programme 9, and to support and reinforce the dialogue between research institutions, businesses and related social partners; calls for the development of gender equality targets in strategies, programmes and projects at all stages of the research cycle;
12. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to step up their efforts to overcome remaining structural gender inequalities among researchers, particularly in working conditions – such as pay gaps and discriminatory contractual arrangements – and in the representation of women on the governing boards of research institutions and universities<sup>1</sup>;
13. Stresses the need to promote female entrepreneurship through the SME instrument, so as to encourage women to consider entrepreneurship as a relevant career option, by facilitating access to credit, cutting red tape and other obstacles for women’s start-ups, with a view to achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; underlines, moreover, the importance of support programmes for women entrepreneurs and for women in science and academia and urges the EU to support these programmes in a more tangible manner, including through positive action such as networking and mentoring programmes, as well as by creating adequate conditions and ensuring equal opportunities with men at all ages for training, advancement, re-skilling and re-training;
14. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to increase the number and impact of awareness-raising and information campaigns pertaining to Horizon 2020 with a view to attracting more girls into STEM fields and boosting women’s participation in research projects; calls on the Commission to evaluate the targeting and success of information

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<sup>1</sup> She Figures 2015. [https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub\\_gender\\_equality/she\\_figures\\_2015-final.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none](https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub_gender_equality/she_figures_2015-final.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none)

campaigns in increasing the participation of women in research projects;

15. Encourages the Member States to promote measures and action to foster the leadership potential of women and their participation in decision-making, using specific tools such as mentoring, networking and role models for women's career advancement;
16. Calls on the Commission to adopt a qualitative approach in the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation report and to use the interim evaluation report to develop specific gender participation and inclusion measurements for use in the ex-post evaluation of Horizon 2020;
17. Calls for the maintenance of an independent line of funding for gender-specific structural change projects (such as GERI for 2014-2016), as well as for other gender equality topics in research and innovation;
18. Calls for the inclusion of a robust gender equality strategy and measurable targets in the Framework Programme 9 proposal and for more developed and tangible requirements on gender inclusion in the basic regulation to be proposed for the new Framework Programme; considers it important to continue to support gender equality as a cross-cutting objective and as a specific area eligible for funding in each of the different parts of the work programme.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	25.4.2017
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 22 -: 0 0: 6
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Maria Arena, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Viorica Dăncilă, Arne Gericke, Anna Hedh, Mary Honeyball, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Elisabeth Köstinger, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Kostadinka Kuneva, Angelika Mlinar, Maria Noichl, Marijana Petir, Terry Reintke, Liliana Rodrigues, Michaela Šojdrová, Ernest Urtasun, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Anna Záborská, Jana Žitňanská
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Stefan Eck, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Mariya Gabriel, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Kostadinka Kuneva, Marc Tarabella, Monika Vana