



newsletter

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Dear colleagues,

In recent months, we have witnessed unprecedented measures that very few of us would consider possible when reading the last issue of this newsletter. Whether it is the border closure or national curfew, our lives, personal and professional, have been fundamentally affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, our work continued in spite of the government restrictions, as carrying on became so important in living through the quarantine. It is thus our pleasure to inform you about the many activities we have carried out in these difficult months. They range from our usual tasks, such as preparing the Monitoring Report on Position of Women in Science or Milada Paulová Award, to coronavirus-related activities, such as the research of our colleague Blanka Nyklová on domestic violence during the pandemic.

On behalf of the Centre I wish you inspiring reading and good health to you and all your dear ones.

Marcela Linková

NEGOTIATING THE FUTURE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

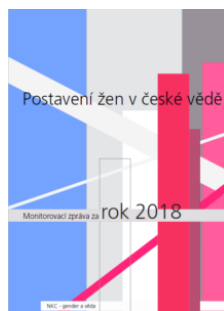
A lot has happened in the area of domestic policy in 2020. First, round tables on the Equality Strategy have been held. Their aim was a discussion on the individual tasks of key stakeholders to prevent resistances later. Overall, the chapters of the Equality Strategy are very ambitious, including those on science and education. Some of their points were reformulated, but we consider a great success that none of our suggestions have been removed. Nonetheless, to our disappointment, a compromise regarding the mandatory inclusion of gender in the research content had to be made, as it is still a new and incomprehensible topic for the stakeholders. The state so far is that gender in the research content has to be reflected in tender documents or calls and thus we can note at least some progress in the right direction.

A considerable amount of attention was also dedicated to the Jan Ámos Komenský Operation Programme (OPJAK) which is focused on supporting education and research in the Czech Republic. However, the implementation of OPJAK has not been yet finalised because of the COVID-19 outbreak and the ongoing negotiations among the stakeholders. Moreover, a problem with capacity appeared due to coronavirus, as the state administration faces personal and financial cuts which increases the possibility that ministries will not choose to submit an OPJAK project.

Regarding the National Politics on Science, Research and Innovation (VaVal), we have commented the document repeatedly in several stages through the Ministry of Education and the Department for VaVal of the Office of the Government. At this moment, we do not know how successful our efforts were.

To conclude, our major aim was to synchronise the content of the Equality Strategy and National Politics on VaVal, so they support each other rather than conflict each other. Furthermore, we attempted to reflect the trends on the European Union level, as the Czech documents do not reflect them very well because they and the EU documents are being created simultaneously.

2018 MONITORING REPORT ON POSITION OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE



In May, the Centre for Gender and Science published its yearly report on the position of women in Czech science. The statistical overview of the situation and development shows that the situation of Czech female scientists does not change in a positive direction by itself. On the contrary, there are slightly negative tendencies in the development, ie. a decrease in the representation of women in the most important areas. The Czech Republic thus still belongs among the worst in Europe.

For more details, visit this [link](#).

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILADA PAULOVÁ AWARD 2020

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Center for Gender and Science announced the 12th year of the Milada Paulová Award for a lifetime contribution to science. The Milada Paulová Award 2020 will be awarded to a female scientist in the field of electrical engineering.

)Electrical engineering in the Czech lands has a significant tradition since its inception in the 1880s. At present, there are several important colleges, universities and academic institutes, where electrical engineering fields are not only studied, but are also the subject of research and development.

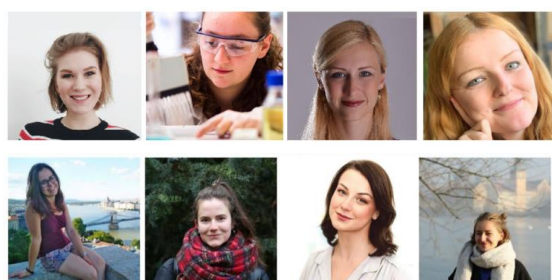
As a scientific and technical field, electrical engineering deals with the study of electromagnetism, production, distribution and conversion of electrical energy into other types of energy and thus represents a wide range of disciplines from computer engineering, energy, telecommunications or instrumentation to electronics. Given the broad spectrum of applications from information technology, robotics, cybernetics, automation, artificial intelligence to nuclear power plants, electrical engineering today plays a necessary and irreplaceable role in almost all areas of modern life. The 12th Milada Paulová Award therefore aims to draw attention to the importance of electrical engineering for society, as our lives would be unthinkable without electricity.

The award nomination may be submitted by an individual, a group of people or an institution. Nomination letters must be submitted in electronic form to the email address cena@soc.cas.cz, no later than September 10, 2020.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

This year, we celebrated the fifth International Day of Women and Girls in Science, which aims to recognise the critical role women and girls play in this field. For the first time, the Centre for Gender and Science decided to focus on the second in order, but not in importance – girls. During the eleven-day campaign #GirlsInScience, we introduced fourteen promising students from a total of nine disciplines - psychology, chemistry, phytopathology, sociology, law, hydrobiology, history, IT and biomedicine.



The aim of the campaign was to show girls and young women, who face the decision about their future education and careers, that among their peers there are scientists with great potential, as evidenced by the countless achievements in the form of grants, competitions or conference



papers. The second goal was to motivate girls and young women to enter the scientific professions.

To our great pleasure, the social media campaign gained the attention of more than 50,000 people, and we also received several hundred positive responses to interviews with "girls" in science.

BRUNCH WITH THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S PRESIDENT



This year, the Centre for Gender and Science organises the already third brunch for female early-career researchers with an inspirational woman, who breaks down stereotypes about women in science and leading positions. This year, with the chairwoman of the Czech Science Foundation (GA ČR), Dr. Alice Valkárová,

The share of women in the scientific profession in the Czech Republic is among the lowest in the European Union. The lower representation of women in research is one of many manifestations of gender culture in Czech science, which is historically adapted to men's life paths. As a result, men's scientific careers often look like a 100-meter sprint, while for women it is more of a hurdle race in which the finish line is constantly moving away. This metaphor is confirmed by the events of recent months, when the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic hit women harder, due to their caring responsibilities.

Join us and Dr. Alice Valkárová to discuss the obstacles that the current situation has brought to female researchers, the measures that GA ČR introduced or should have introduced and whether there is cooperation among European science foundations in the field of equality and diversity. The brunch will take place on 18 August from 9.00 to 12.00 in Villa Lanna in Dejvice. You can register [here](#).

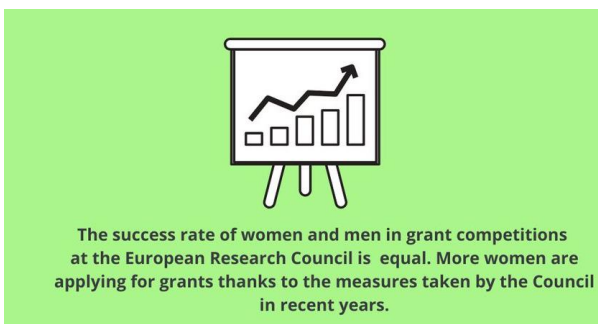
GENDERACTION

For GENDERACTION, the year has started with a February mutual learning workshop (MLW) "Communicating gender equality policy in R&I and creating impact" in Prague. On the first day, Lucy Fergusson took the participants on a tour de force on resistances and how to argue for gender equality in research. With incredible insights from Gemma Irvine, Vice-President for Equality and Diversity at Maynooth University, and Viviane Willis-Mazzichi, former Head of Gender Sector in the DG RTD of the European Commission, on advocating for gender equality, we all learnt about the importance of patience, being steadfast and communicating with open mind. Day two was dedicated to building national and European impact plans, with the aim to bring into practice the various GENDERACTION recommendations.

Just before the closure of borders, GENDERACTION organised a MLW on gender in international cooperation in R&I for the Danube and Balkan region in Belgrade. The MLW brought together representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Kosovo, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia. The MLW participants agreed that in the Balkan and Danube region, gender balance among researchers and student body is not a problem. However, continued issues lie in women's access to decision-making positions, sexual harassment in Higher Education and a general lack of interest regarding gender issues in R&I. There was a shared feeling across the countries regarding the positive impact that EU gender equality policies in R&I on the development of the region. The participants also agreed that it was necessary to build community involvement to help to advance gender equality in research and higher education.



Furthermore, the GENDERACTION team published two policy papers so far in 2020. The first one dealt with the implementation of a [gender perspective in international science, technology, and innovation cooperation](#). The policy paper is based on surveys analyses, two mutual learning workshops and a set of other sources involving third countries organisations that work on these issues. The second policy brief focused on [disruptive Measures for Gender Equality in R&I](#) argues that to achieve substantive gender equality in R&I, disruptive measures are required. The brief introduces two forms of disruptive measures: temporary special measures addressing gender imbalances and ambitious measures addressing structures. The paper also includes examples of what disruptive measures are not and what the GENDERACTION team considers inspirational for governments, research funding organisations, and research performing organisations.



In April, to keep spirits up amid the COVID-19 pandemic, GENDERACTION launched a [Twitter campaign](#) to spread good news and positive developments in the area of gender equality in research and innovation.

For those interested the Standing Working Group on Gender in Research and Innovation published a [position paper on the current COVID-19 outbreak and gendered impacts on researchers and teachers](#). The Commission has also launched a dedicated [website](#) on Gender Equality in Coronavirus research and innovation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC

A qualitative research on domestic violence by Dana Moree (Faculty of Humanities of Charles University) and Blanka Nyklová (Centre for Gender and Science) covered the period from the beginning of the emergency state to June 7. The authors examined 71 cases described by social workers in field diaries. They also used interviews with eleven clients of the organisation. They then conducted another nine interviews with the service staff themselves.

The conclusions of their research have shown that the demand for the services of organisations that help victims of domestic violence has risen by 30 to 40 % in the state of emergency. There was an even greater interest in help after the end of the ordered measures against the spread of the disease. The procedure of the police and the authorities in the regions was not uniform, often couples tried to reconcile the place of protection of the endangered.

"Physical violence with visible consequences is only the tip of the iceberg," said Nyklová. According to her, research has shown that the suppressed violence escalated during the emergency and the intensity increased. Many of the victims who have endured him for years have decided to seek help after the measures have ended. Foreigners in the Czech Republic and Czechs living abroad also began to turn to organisations.

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Address Jilská 1, Prague 1, Postal Code 110 00, Czech Republic

Editorial board Marcela Linková and Kristýna Veitová

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