Brussels, 07 June 2019

WK 7115/2019 INIT

LIMITE

RECH

WORKING PAPER

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

MEETING DOCUMENT

From: ERAC Secretariat
To: ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject: ERAC plenary on 6 June 2019 - PowerPoint presentation - Item 5.2

Dear ERAC delegates,

Please find attached the following PPT presentation given under item 5.2 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 6 June 2019:

- SWG GRI Policy Brief on Gender and Innovation.

Kind regards,

ERAC Secretariat
PROCESS

• Work Programme 2018-2019 (deadline: 06 / 2019)
• First discussion at the 3rd meeting in October 2018
  • Thomas Lichtenwöhrer, chair of Task force on Open Innovation
• Task force: TR, PT, chair
• First draft circulated on 15 March 2019, with a deadline for comments on 29 March 2019 (comments from BE FWB, CZ, DE, ES, EI, CH)
• Second draft circulated for debate at the 4th meeting on 10 April 2019, deadline for final comments on 15 April (comments from CH, DK, IL, NO, PT)
• Adoption draft circulated with a deadline on 30 May 2019 (comments from DK, MT)
• Adoption foreseen on 14 June 2019
STRUCTURE OF THE BRIEF

• Key messages
• Recommendations
• Definitions of innovation
  • Including social and open innovation, all sectors and disciplines
• Policy framework of innovation and gender
• State of the art on gender in innovation
• Innovation as a process – the underrepresentation of women among entrepreneurs and innovators
• Innovation as an outcome – the integration of the gender dimension in the design, development, testing and implementation of innovative processes, services and products
KEY MESSAGES

• **Gender is relevant** for the design, development and implementation of innovation, including innovation policy, because, inter alia:

• The *usefulness, robustness and social responsibility* of innovative solutions for all is enhanced through appropriate consideration of gender aspects;

• The *implicit user* of innovation continues to be constructed predominantly as male;

• Women continue to be severely *under-represented in innovation and patenting* activities in the EU and beyond;

• **Industries and other economic sectors with higher proportions of women** and those addressing life situations specific to women are often not recognized as sources of innovation;

• In innovation, *gender aspects intersect with other axes of economic and social inequality* and development of robust innovative solutions depends on a comprehensive approach;

• Gender and diversity are of particular relevance in the design of responsible approaches to *digitalization, Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and big data* analysis.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• The regulatory frameworks for innovation policy at the EU and Member State levels should explicitly address gender issues and ensure that gender is mainstreamed throughout the policy.

• Innovation policy and public funding to drive innovation should require that applicants and grantees address the gender dimension in the project design, development and testing, and they must also consider the gender dimension in the future implementation of new models, products, processes and services.

• Innovation policy and public innovation funders should encourage gender balance from teams receiving funding for innovation and entrepreneurship, while also requesting that they develop an organisational culture that is gender sensitive.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Innovation policy must include social innovation and innovation in the public/civil sector, with a view to broadening the range of actors, industries and sectors, the spaces involved in innovation processes and what is recognized as sources of innovation. Also, all fields of research, including the humanities, arts and social sciences, should be seen as components of the innovation ecosystem.

• Innovation processes in both public and private sectors must consider the gender dimension, and innovation creation and implementation should be designed to avoid gender and other forms of bias.

• Innovation processes will benefit from being driven by the values of inclusion, empowerment and sustainability as well as competitiveness and growth.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Successful innovation processes take on a participant perspective. This approach entails novel processes which are inclusive of all genders and which focus on people of different and diverse backgrounds as end-users.

• National authorities, in collaboration with business and enterprise, need to assume responsibility for defining an ethical regulatory framework that includes appropriate consideration of the gender dimension, particularly in emerging areas of research and innovation.

• Protection and pro-active steps are necessary to eliminate discriminatory algorithms and to ensure non-discrimination, openness and transparency in AI.