Gender Dimension in Horizon 2020: progress since FP7 and challenges ahead
GENDER-NET Strategic Seminar, 21 April Brussels
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Horizon 2020 objectives for gender equality

- Gender balance in decision making
- Gender balance in research teams at all levels
- Gender dimension in R&I content
What is the Gender Dimension?

• The gender dimension is a dynamic concept which puts researchers at the forefront of questioning gender norms and stereotypes, and addresses the evolving needs and social roles of women and men. Depending on the field of research, it entails an analysis of gender, sex or both.

• Aim: ending the ‘one size fits all’ paradigm
Definition of sex and gender

- **SEX**: Sex is defined as “a classification of living things, generally as male or female according to their reproductive organs and functions assigned by the chromosomal complement.

- **GENDER**: A socio-cultural process consisting of:
  - “Gender Norms” (spoken and unspoken cultural rules in the family, workplace, society, institutional or global culture that influence individual attitudes and behaviors)
  - “Gender Identity” (how individuals and groups perceive and present themselves in relation to gender norms)
  - “Gender Relations” (the power relations between individuals of different gender identities)
Infographic illustrating the interaction between sex and gender

source: IGH Canada
History of Gender Dimension since 2000

- GD launched in 2000
- Implemented in FP6 and FP7
- Much stronger GD requirements for H2020
- Supported by the results (=major Resource) of the Gendered Innovations project directed by the Expert Group ‘Innovation through Gender’, that produced methods of sex and gender analysis for research

Gendered Innovations case studies

- Covering large parts of H2020
- Illustrating the new knowledge created by integrating a sex and gender analysis

Osteoporotic Fracture Probability by Age and Sex
Risk shown for patients with T ≤ -2.5

Coronary Angiograms for Patients with Chest Pain
Women are more likely to have minor or no stenosis:
- Diffuse atherosclerosis: Most often seen in younger women with IHD
- Obstructive atherosclerosis: Most often seen in men and older women

Cumulative Life Course Risk Factors for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)
Highlighting the influence of sex and gender-related factors

Data from United Kingdom
Adapted from Kanis et al., 2008b
1.3 Concept and methodology

Where relevant, describe how sex and/or gender analysis is taken into account in the project’s content.

Sex and gender refer to biological characteristics and social/cultural factors respectively.

For guidance on methods of sex / gender analysis and the issues to be taken into account.

Horizon 2020 Advisory Group for Gender (AGG)

- **Mandate**: to provide advice to the Commission on integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content.

- **Composition**: each Advisory Group (for all parts of H 2020) delegates a gender expert to the AGG; 2-3 meetings per year

- **Products 2014-15**:
  - Guidance for the selection of experts with gender expertise
  - For a better integration of the GD in WP 2016-17
Horizon 2020 Advisory Group for Gender (AGG)

• Current governance (2016-17): Chair Ineke Klinge, Vice-chair Maria Stratigaki, Rapporteur Suzanne de Cheveignè

• Tasks:
  - Input into Strategic Programming of WP 2018-20 (June 1st)
  - Input into specific WP’s 2018-20 (later this year)
  - Activities to improve the weak points of WP 14-15 and 16-17 such as:
    - Criteria for evaluating integration of gender dimension
    - Increasing the gender competency of evaluators
Improvements from WP 2014-15 to WP 2016-17

• Topics with a gender dimension increased from 99 to 108
• Topics for which gender is a major component (i.e. applicants “must”, “shall”, “should”, “will”, “are expected to” integrate the gender dimension in their proposals): increased from 60 to 82

• The most significant changes can be observed in
  – WP.5- LEIT-NMPB: from 5 (out of 74) to 8 (out of 44)
  – WP.8 - Health, demographic change and well-being: from 19 (out of 50) to 21 (out of 37)
  – WP.9 - Food security, agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bio-economy: from 4 (out of 48) to 13 (out of 83)
  – WP.12- Smart, green and integrated transport: from 8 (out of 53) to 14 (out of 55)

BUT there is room for improvement:
WP 2016-2017 newer texts on the GD

• Criteria for priorities: (..) providing genuinely cross-cutting approaches and embedding key novelties such as: covering the full research and innovation cycle, social science and humanities, gender aspects, and climate and sustainable development.

• Incorporation of improvements learned from the first WP: improved addressing of the gender dimension

• All applicants are invited to explore whether and how the gender dimension in research content is relevant to their research, including where appropriate specific studies and training.
Key Challenges

• Integration of the gender dimension earlier in the preparation of the WP 2018-20

• Key role of the AGs to discuss how they see the gender dimension in their fields (all AGs have at least one member with gender expertise)

• AGs to develop concrete suggestions for topics with gender dimension (build on current knowledge in the fields and identify what is missing)

• Improve quality of gender dimension wording: refrain from too general wordings, but rather use concrete wordings, such as "collect sex-disaggregated data", "conduct a gender impact assessment", etc.

• Improve guidance documents for applicants and evaluators (ideally 1 expert with gender expertise in all panels for topics with an explicit gender dimension)

• NB Online training for evaluators developed by Canadian Institute Gender & Health (IGH), as useful resource......

• http://www.cihr-irsc-igh-isfh.ca/?lang=en
Points for further reflection

• Using ‘gender’ (without further definition) as cross cutting element of Responsible Research and Innovation creates confusion and misunderstandings

• More investment needed in elaboration of an intersectional approach

• Better collaboration between ‘theory developers’ and those who apply gender theories

• Concerted action of all stakeholders needed
Alliance for Gender & Health (NL)

• Multistakeholder Alliance: policymakers, medical specialists, health insurance companies, knowledge institutes (SCP, CBS), women’s organizations, gender researchers & scientists

• In collaboration with the national science funding body ZonMW a “knowledge agenda” has been produced, resulting in a research programme Gender & Health.

• Funded by the Minister of Health in March 2016, 12 million euros

Launch of awareness raising campaign among lay public by WomenInc.

- April 2017, World Health Day
- Launch of lay public campaign: “Doctor treat me like a lady”
- Wide publicity from all media; #behandelmealseendame
- Support from queen Máxima
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItoJ_SPvh eA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItoJ_SPvheA)
- [https://youtu.be/fjLcLOJhkV8](https://youtu.be/fjLcLOJhkV8)
Royal support and commitment of all stakeholders