

International Conference “Women in Academia; Barriers and good practice”
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Abstract

eument-net – a trans-national perspective on best practice in mentoring

The eument-net initiative has reunited four successful mentoring programmes for women PhD students and post-doctoral researchers from Austria, Germany and Switzerland, which have played a pioneering role in establishing mentoring as instrument to promote gender equality in higher education and research in their respective countries, and a Bulgarian partner without prior experience with mentoring.

In the eument-net project, partners compared experience and best practice, and discussed possibilities of knowledge transfer on mentoring. They defined sustainable structures of cooperation and initiated first cooperation activities. They also participated in the debate on instruments and standards for gender sensitive scientists' support, and elaborated an electronic platform as virtual home of eument-net.

Thus, the comparison of mentoring programmes in a trans-national perspective has led to the definition of eument-net quality standards for mentoring programmes which provide a basis for further exchange of experience and best practice examples, contributing to enhance the quality of mentoring as innovative instrument for staff development, enhancing gender sensitive work place culture.

The trans-national perspective on the experience with the implementation of mentoring schemes also provides new insight on relevant conditions for the successful establishment of mentoring as instrument to enhance women's careers in academia and research, taking into account the specific contexts. This analysis has provided an important basis for policy recommendations that have been issued at the end of the project.

The presentation will also point out to currently planned activities of the eument-net network.

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