

The European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS is an umbrella organisation bringing together networks of women scientists and organisations committed to gender equality in research in all disciplines in Europe 27 and the countries associated to the European Union's Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development. EPWS currently has more than 165 members of which 100 member organisations, together working for over 12 000 women researchers.

Since opening its Secretariat in Brussels in spring 2006, EPWS has evolved into an important point of reference for women scientists in Europe as well as policy makers aiming at promoting gender equality in science and research. As such EPWS also sets an excellent example for similar institutions for (women) scientists at national level.

The contribution will present the goal and activities of the Platform and the insights and experience gained since its creation regarding the variety of existing networks at national, regional and international level, different approaches to networking and the major challenges faced.