

## ***1<sup>st</sup> BSBF Webinar on the Integrated approach to gender equality, diversity, and inclusion in Big Science projects***

On 4-7 October 2022, the top European Big Science research facilities will meet with industry in Granada (Spain) in the [Big Science Business Forum 2022](#) to present their business opportunities for the 2022-2026 worth 37.100 million EUR. This event is a unique opportunity for industry to learn more about Big Science investments in the coming years and benefit from networking with key representatives and other stakeholders.

[Gender equality is a core value of the European Union](#)<sup>1</sup>. However, [talented women continue to be under-represented in EU research](#)<sup>2</sup>, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The [current EU strategy aims](#)<sup>3</sup> to advance women in leading scientific roles, achieve gender balance in decision making, and integrate gender dimension in research and innovation context.

Current mechanisms to achieve this at the level of member states are the [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#), and the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ([Horizon Europe 2021-2027](#)), requesting that all organisations applying for funding must demonstrate that they have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP) and explain if/how gender dimension is expected to influence results and outcomes.

There is much experience, expertise, and good practice already available to guide individual research institutions on [how to best respond to these policy objectives](#)<sup>4</sup> and how to create [GEPs](#). In the case of Big Science projects, most efforts have been conducted at agency-level and directed at attracting more women to the field. There have been also efforts to influence project stakeholders by sharing a gender equality vision and activities. e.g., as practiced in the EU [Human Brain Project](#).

However, **Big Science market** has so far been unexplored. We have a unique opportunity to advance our understanding on gender equality and diversity within this ecosystem by exploring links and synergies between the policies and practices adopted by the public and private entities. This objective is in line with the initiative of F4E and other Big Science Organizations to develop a gender equality strategy, which could be integrated into the Big Science Business Forum.

In the framework of [BSBF2022](#), we will have a satellite session addressing for the first time the theme of “Women in Science”. In order to prepare for it, a webinar will be held **on Friday, 11 February (International Day of Women and Girls in Science)**.

The purpose of the webinar is to analyse the situation of women in Big Science, through a series of interviews with relevant people of the Co organising Big Science Infrastructures, industry and other stakeholders

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<sup>1</sup> “2021 report on gender equality in the EU”

<sup>2</sup> “She figures 2021- The path towards gender equality in research and innovation (R&I)”

<sup>3</sup> “The Commission's gender equality strategy”

<sup>4</sup> GenPORT website: [GenPORT | Your gateway to gender and science resources \(genderportal.eu\)](https://genderportal.eu)

Date: Friday, 11 February 2022

Webinar ZOOM

Agenda

12.00-12.05	<p><b>Welcome and introduction- BSBF promotional video</b>                  Belén del Cerro – Spanish ILO for ITER and fusion related projects, CDTI, E.P.E.                  F4E (TBD)</p>
12.05 -12.15	<p><b>The EU strategy on advancing gender equality in research and innovation</b>                  Elizabeth Pollitzer</p>
12.15 -13:05	<p><b>Round Table: Gender equality strategies and practices in Big Science projects</b>                  Panel of invited representatives from selected organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the status quo - Why Big Science needs special attention?</li> <li>• Mechanisms, synergies and opportunities for improving gender balance and diversity</li> <li>• Recommendations for implementation/ Identifying good practice</li> </ul> <p>European Commission – Mina Stareva (TBC)                  CERN – Louise Carvalho                  ESO – Francesca Primas                  WESTINGHOUSE-WiN France: Sophie Lemaire                  Industry representative 2</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Elizabeth Pollitzer</p>
13.05 - 13.15	<p><i>Break</i></p>
13.15- 13:55	<p><b>Open discussion: Establishing the “Women in Big Science” Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why an Award?</li> <li>• How to structure its aims and process?</li> <li>• Recommendations for implementation</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Elizabeth Pollitzer                  (feedback on the points above will be also collected on-line after the webinar)</p>
13:55-14:00	<p><b>Closing</b>                  Belén del Cerro– Spanish ILO for ITER and fusion related projects, CDTI, E.P.E.                  F4E (TBD)</p>

Organising entity:

