

Gender Issues in the GoodFood Project

Francesca Campabadal

Centre Nacional de Microelectrònica (IMB-CSIC)
Campus UAB. 08193 Bellaterra. Spain

Introduction

The partners of the GoodFood project are well aware of the scarcity of women in scientific research and management, particularly in the fields of Natural Sciences and Engineering. This under-representation of women is recognised to be a threat to excellence in research and to this respect the consortium fully supports the national and European policies that are being implemented to promote gender equality.

According to the EC Policy on Women&Science by **gender equality (GE)** two different issues are considered:

- The **gender dimension (GD)** of the research content
- The promotion of gender equality by encouraging **women's participation (WP)**.

$$GE = GD + WP$$

Gender Equality in GoodFood

The GoodFood project deals with Research Activities in the agrofood sector concerning safety and quality. Since no direct activity is focussed on the effect of the lack of safety and quality in the human health that could affect in a different manner men and women, **there is not a gender dimension in the technical research** to be carried out. Despite this first consideration, during the development of the project care will be taken as to not overlook any gender dimension in the research carried out.

As for the promotion of gender equality, the GoodFood consortium has defined an action plan aimed at reducing inequalities and at increasing the number of women at all levels.

The action plan will be implemented in two phases: in the first a diagnosis of the current situation within the Consortium will be made and, based on the results, in the second phase practical actions will be taken.

Gender Action Plan of GoodFood

1. **Establishment of a Gender Working Group** of partner representatives. The GWG will analyse and discuss about the results of the diagnosis phase and propose corrective actions.
2. **Collect sex-disaggregated statistics** of the project workforce and of the attendees at project meetings and Workshops.
3. **Encourage the participation of young women researchers** in conferences, workshops, where they can make their work visible.
4. **Contribute to outreach activities** aiming at fostering enthusiasm among female students.
5. **Provide partners with relevant information** and links to national and international organisations working on **women&science**.
6. **Networking with other Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence**, in order to share information and collaborate with them.

Summary of activities during the first year

1. Gender Working Group

The Gender Working Group of GoodFood has been established and is composed of the following partner representatives:

Francesca Campabadal – CNM-CSIC, Spain
Begoña Alfaro – AZTI, Spain
Jean-Marc Diserens – Nestec, Switzerland
Lorenza Ferrario – ICT-IRST, Italy
Hubert Jeanson – CEA-LETI, France
Barbara Mazzolai – SSSA, Italy
María Luz Rodríguez – University of Valladolid, Spain
Herdis Steingrimsdottir – Microzone, United Kingdom
Ibtisam Tohill – Cranfield University, United Kingdom
Anna Vilà – University of Barcelona, Spain

The commitments of the GWG are:

- Propose activities in accordance to the project Gender Action Plan.
- Monitor and discuss the results of the assessment of gender issues and propose corrective actions.
- Report to the project Coordinator, who will inform the General Management Board.
- Inform the GoodFood Consortium at each general meeting and report to the European Commission at the 18- and 42-month review meetings.

The GWG mainly works through discussions by e-mail and meets at each Assembly Meeting.

2. Outreach Activity

A first activity has been reported by EADS that held a "Girls Day" on May. A copy of the video file of this activity has been made available to the GoodFood Consortium.

3. Information on Women&Science

In the GoodFood project website, an area has been created in which the gender action plan proposed by the project Consortium is given, links to relevant organisations working on Women&Science, both at the national and at the european level, and downloadable documents are available.

<http://www.goodfood-project.org/www/Gender/>

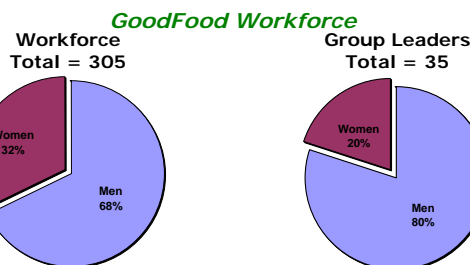
4. Contacts with other IPs and NoEs

During the first year, we have contacted and shared ideas and information on Gender Issues in research with other Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence.

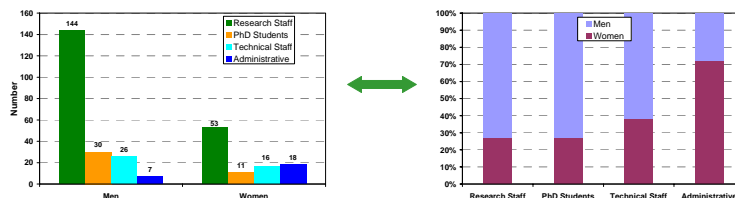
Contacts have been established with:

- GOSPEL, NoE (Danick Briand)
- NANOCMOS, IP (Flore Gouaux)
- 3DTV, NoE (Haldun Ozaktas)

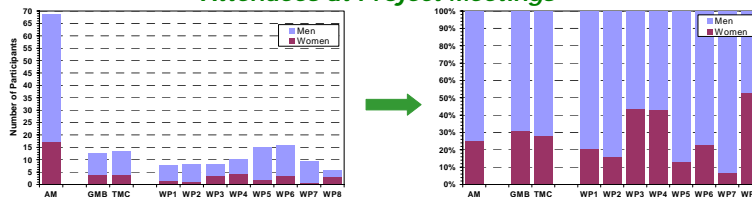
Diagnosis of current situation



Breakdown of Workforce



Attendees at Project Meetings*



AM: Assembly Meeting; GMB: General Management Board; TMC: Technical Management Committee; WP: Work Package

* Mean values corresponding to the meetings held in the first year of the project