

Press Release:

AMONET – Portuguese Association of Women in Science – held its II International Meeting hosted by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon on 12th and 13th October 2009 and attracted over 50 participants from various European countries as well as Brazil.

Joining the President of Amonet, Helena Pereira, for the opening of the meeting focusing on “Empowerment of Women in Science”, were Lígia Amâncio, Vice-President of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Luísa Prista, Head of the Unit of Scientific Culture and Gender from the Directorate-General for Research of the European Commission, and Rui Vilar, CEO of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

The meeting provided comprehensive coverage to participants about the patterns of access by women to top management positions in higher education and research institutions and the various measures being taken towards the implementation of gender equality in science. Brigitte Mühlenbruch, President of the European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS) and Teresa Rees, from Cardiff University, spoke about the situation in Europe and Luísa Prista, representing the EU, highlighted the programs and opportunities in the EU 7th Framework Program, while Capitolina Diaz, General Director for Equality in Employment in Spain, gave an account of the measures put in place by the Spanish government in the past few years and the advancement thus achieved in the processes of empowerment of women in science in Spain. The situation in Portugal was reported by Helena Pereira from the Technical University of Lisbon, Helena Nazaré from the University of Aveiro, and Helena Araújo from the University of Porto, complemented by several communications from further leading scientists.

Kelly Mack spoke about the Program ADVANCE: Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers, of the National Science Foundation of the USA. The goal of the ADVANCE program is to develop systemic approaches to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers, thereby contributing to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce. Lia de Sá gave a very moving account of her personal experience as a woman civil engineer in Brazil. A round table and further presentations by mature as well as young women scientists from Portugal and Spain gave a clear account of the issues involved and the difficulties and successes in the implementation of measures towards gender equality.

The closing remarks were made by Rosa Paiva, Vice-President of the General Assembly of Amonet, who summarised the major conclusions of the Meeting and João Caraça, Director of the Science Service of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, who expressed appreciation and commented on the efforts to achieve gender equality at the highest level.

For further information, please contact:

Tel: + 315-212948387 or +351-939458702 or amonet@fct.unl.pt

AMONET – Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Cientistas
<http://www.amonet.org>

Receive AMONET news by E-mail.
