

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Bridging Gender Voices Across the Continents

International Dissemination Event of the COST ACTION CA20137

<https://gendervoices.eu/>

**The event will take place on the
24-25 June 2024**

at Istanbul Aydın University, Türkiye

<https://www.aydin.edu.tr>

We are delighted to extend a warm invitation for an upcoming event at Istanbul Aydın University in Türkiye aimed at advancing the basis of gender equality and combating gender-based violence through gender equality policies and programmes and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) techniques in academia and beyond.

Although the proportion of women among doctoral graduates in the EU-27 is almost on par with men (at 48%), only 26% of professors and senior-level academic staff are women, and women hold hardly 24% of decision-making positions in higher education. Gender disparities are also apparent across scientific disciplines and throughout the EU Member States. Gender inequalities in Research and Innovation (R&I) do not display consistent patterns across all countries. On the other hand, Türkiye, with a distinctive geopolitical position at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, transitioned to a secular democracy with the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923. Over time, legislative efforts have enhanced gender equality in social, economic, and political spheres within the country. However, there have been challenges and setbacks in fully realising gender equality in terms of gender pay gaps, labour market participation and women's representation in decision-making positions in academia and politics, highlighting the need for continued progress and reform.

In the European Union, [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#) presents policy objectives and actions to make significant progress by 2025 towards a gender-equal Europe. The key objectives include challenging gender stereotypes; closing gender gaps in the labour market; achieving equal participation across different sectors of the economy; addressing the gender pay and pension gaps; closing the gender care gap and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics as well as ending gender-based violence. Moreover, as of 2023 the EU has been a party to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul Convention). The European Commission also approved a [new EU-wide proposal for a directive to](#)

combat violence against women and domestic violence in 2022 in order to safeguard fundamental EU values and ensure the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights are maintained.

Moreover, in the European Research Area, advancing gender equality and inclusivity is one of the priority objectives of the EU's efforts. This commitment is also crucial in EU funding initiatives for research and innovation, which requires addressing the gender dimension in research and mandate universities to have Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) to participate in EU research framework programmes.

We believe that fostering an environment for gender equality and combating gender-based violence are imperative pursuits that demand collective action and innovative solutions. Through this event, we aim to provide participants with practical insights into gender equality policies and programmes as well as monitoring and evaluation techniques, but also to ignite a transformative dialogue that transcends academic boundaries. By bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences, we aim to facilitate advancement towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

VOICES

Drawing on such good practices, the **COST ACTION CA20137 [Making Young Researchers' Voices Heard for Gender Equality \(VOICES\)](#)** aims to increase the visibility of inequalities faced by early career researchers (ECRs), with emphasis on a gender perspective; and promoting a sustainable dialogue between young researchers and stakeholders in the research ecosystem at the systemic level (European & national policymakers) and at the institutional level (senior researchers, academic managers) by creating a community of gender equality practitioners composed of various stakeholders (ECRs, independent researchers, academic managers, organisations) across Europe. The Action has various outcomes, including the establishment of training schools for researchers, publication of scientific papers, hosting international conferences, and the creation of recommendations and guidelines for academics and policymakers via a White Paper.

This event is organised by the Working Group 6 “Monitoring and Evaluation” and Working Group 4 “Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Violence and Institutional Culture,” of the VOICES Project.

CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

The main topic of the conference is to discuss gender equality policies, monitoring and evaluation as well as discrimination and gender-based violence in higher education and how cultural change can be driven. Thematic areas that, nonetheless, the sessions with specifically and critically engage with will include the following sections:

1. **Promote Gender Equality in Academia and Raise Awareness About Gender Disparities:**
By fostering dialogue and sharing best practices as well as tools, our aim is to instigate meaningful change within academic institutions, promoting gender equality and advocating against gender disparities.

2. **Enhance Understanding of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Through presentations and workshops, participants will be able to be more aware of M&E to address gender disparities and combat GBV effectively.
3. **Encourage Institutions to Integrate Gender Equality Plans:** We aim to inspire institutions to incorporate gender perspectives not only in their M&E activities but also in the development of action plans, thereby fostering a more inclusive and equitable approach towards a progressive society.
4. **Foster Networking and Collaboration Between Researchers and Institutions:** This event will provide a platform for researchers, practitioners, and institutions to have meaningful connections, facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange in the pursuit of gender equality.

Welcome to join us in this collective endeavour to drive positive change and create a more equitable society for all.

KEY DATES

Please register yourself by **20 June 2024** by providing the following information: *Name, institution, job title, research field, your email address* at [Google Survey Form](#)

CONVENORS

Prof. Anne-Sophie Godfroy, Ecole Normale Supérieure, CNRS & Collège de France - PSL, VOICES Action Chair, President of the Scientific Committee

Dr Rakibe Külçür, United Nations Studies Association Vienna & Sustaila, Austria, WG6 Leader

Prof. Philippe Liotard, Lyon 1 University & Chair of CPED, WG4 Leader

Dr Elif Kaya, Kilis University, WG4 co-lead