

First International Conference Gendering Cities Designing Sustainable Urban Environments for All

This conference aims at advancing a better understanding of the gender dimensions of environmentally related topics within the Grand Challenges included in the new European Research Framework Program Horizon 2020.

It will address how gender dimensions interact with built environments as they are relevant to several of the Grand Challenges identified in Horizon 2020, particularly: quality of life, aging and wellbeing, energy, climate change, security and inclusion, and transport. All of these are both priority research topics and also important fields of action for European institutions and member states policy.

The conference aims at producing a stocktaking of the current situation, developing a research agenda to identify main issues, and advance on the state of the art of gender analysis and policy in a number of various domains of urban environments. It will include invited speakers and an open call for papers.

The conference *Gendering Cities, designing Sustainable Urban Environments for All* is organized by Gender, Science, Technology and Environment, genderSTE, a network of experts and policy makers committed to promoting a fairer representation of women and better integration of gender analysis in research, innovation and policy. This network is funded by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

Members of genderSTE represent government bodies, research organizations, universities, non-profits, and SMEs from 40 countries in Europe and beyond, as well as international organizations, including the EC. The network is chaired by Inés Sánchez de Madariaga, Director of the Women and Science Unit, Ministry of Economy, Spain, and Professor of Urban Planning at Madrid School of Architecture.

Hosted by the Italian Department of Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as a non-institutional event of the Italian Presidency of the European Union

Rome, Late September / October 2014 TBC

Venue: TBC

Open Call for Abstracts Deadline March 15th 2014

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Topics of the Conference

Improving the Quality of Life for All in Urban Environments

Structural demographic changes in Europe, including new gender roles, changing household structures and aging, pose new demands on housing and neighborhoods for which our existing urban fabric is not well prepared. What historical and current experiences can provide us with innovative perspectives to better respond to these emerging housing needs of European populations? What can be proposed as better, more efficient and adapted ways forward of responding to those structural changes? What innovations of general application have or can be derived from explicitly taking into account gender perspectives in housing and neighborhood design? How can the experience of the pioneer women professionals in this field inform contemporary practice?

Integrating Gender in Smart Cities

The Smart Cities projects and programs are providing many cities in Europe and beyond with improved systems to manage different services and flows, supported by information technologies. However, little effort has been made until now to inform these programs with an understanding of gender dimensions. This topic will address how to introduce gender issues into Smart Cities approaches. Which aspects of gender should be taken into account when developing Smart Cities initiatives? How are considerations of “care” being taken into consideration, if at all and how should they be better integrated? What data are relevant? How should gender aware indicators be developed?

Gendering Transport

Women’s issues in transport have been studied now for various decades, bringing evidence of significant gender inequalities in access to transport services which limit women’s access to employment opportunities and overall quality of life. However, this body of knowledge has not moved into mainstream transport research and even less into teaching and policy. In addition, fuller integration of gender dimensions in transport research is still needed, challenging long-seated assumptions built into the field. Issues to be addressed include: rebalancing employment and care in transport, challenging conceptual frameworks, developing gender aware indicators, developing tools for gendering transport policy and research and collating innovative examples.

Gendering Urban Policies in the Global South

Gender has been an explicit element of development policy for many years now. What has been achieved, from the viewpoint of gender, in development policies in the last decade within the framework of the activities of the various international organizations acting in the field, such as UN- Habitat, UN-Women, Millennium Development Goals? As the level of life has improved in many countries, what new circumstances define the current situation? In which specific aspects is there any convergence with the North? What should be the objectives of the next round of policies from these institutions and relevant stakeholders? What can be learnt in the North of gendered policies in the South, particularly as new forms of need appear in the developed world?

Safe and Secure Cities for All

Women continue to feel unwelcomed in public space in many parts of world, although recent developments seem to point to a new awareness of violence against women in countries such as India and Egypt. In the developed world, women still do not access the city on equal terms to

men and the fear and actuality of sexual and physical assault impinges differentially on women and men, girls and boys, limiting their rights to public space. Comfort extends beyond physical safety and the intrusion of sexualized images into the public realm also poses new challenges for gender equality. A gendered approach to the expansion of the night-time economy, experienced in many countries in the world, needs to be fully developed in policy and practice. What are the challenges, in the North and South, for a gendered approach to safety and conviviality in cities? What has been learnt so far, and how can we advance in terms of policy and action? What new data needs to be collected? How can change be effected?

Gender, Built Environments, Energy and Climate Change

Evidence suggests that gender differences exist in access to and consumption of energy. In the global south there is evidence of significant gender differences in the impact of climate change. However, knowledge of the gender dimensions in energy use and impact of climate change is still limited. What is the state of knowledge in these topics? What data and indicators do we need produce in order to better understand these issues? What are the priority areas for a research agenda on gender, energy and climate change? What policy initiatives should be developed to reduce gender inequalities in these areas while promoting sustainable development?

Practical Tools for Gender Mainstreaming Urban Policies and Planning

Since the Treaty of Amsterdam established the principle of gender mainstreaming, a number of policy initiatives have been developed in the field of urban planning. However, these remain piecemeal, scattered and are not integrated into mainstream planning systems. While a number of toolkits and targeted resources have been created by various institutions and researchers, there is a clear need for better guidance that is up to date and tailored to specific contexts. This topic will address the issue of how to develop toolkits that consistently take gender into account and at the same time are well adapted to local contexts and conditions, including national, regional and local planning systems, legislation, administrative structures and procedures. It will also ask what changes are required at a strategic level to make these toolkits effective? How can professionals and politicians be persuaded to champion their use?