

Creating a Gender Sensitive Institution

The Gender Dimension in Research

SESSION INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to this session focused on the gender dimension in research. My name is Dr. Jemimah Bailey, Visiting Research Fellow in the Trinity Centre for Gender Equality and Leadership, and I will be guiding you through this session, which was developed in collaboration with Dr. Rita Bencivenga, Research Fellow in the Centre.

Promoting gender equality in research funding and research active organisations has become a priority across Europe, and this has led to projects such as the Systematic Action for Gender Equality (SAGE) project that has produced this module.

The primary mechanism for the European Union (EU) to fund research is through the 'framework programmes' and there have been calls for the inclusion of a 'gendered perspective' since the Sixth Framework Programme (which ran for four years from 2002). In many individual countries funding is increasingly being linked to the presence of a gendered perspective in research applications.

While the importance of including gender in research activities and organisations is increasingly urgent, we know that for researchers and stakeholders a lack of training on gender related issues acts as a barrier to giving proper attention to the potentially gendered aspects of their research topics. Without addressing the gender aspect, projects risk receiving a less favourable evaluation, and more importantly, are less useful to society at large and risk having a limited impact on their target groups.

The aim of this session is to provide you with an understanding of how and why the 'gender dimension' and/or the 'sex dimension' should be included in your research. The session will guide you through the resources that will help you in addressing the potential sex and/or gender-related aspects of your research activities.

It will explore projects that have developed strategies and methodologies to 'gender sensitise' the research process, then it will guide you through the process of writing an application and running a project, providing you with an understanding of how it is possible to include a gendered dimension at each stage of the process.

You will gain valuable tips to transfer into your daily practice on how you can ensure you reach the widest possible range of human beings in your research.

We will explore selected case studies of research projects that have included a gendered dimension, based on concrete examples drawn from research fields. This will help you in understanding the advantages of taking a gender sensitive approach to your research project.

So, as you watch the presentation and engage with the tasks and additional material, you will have an opportunity to build your knowledge on how other researchers have addressed the gender dimension through their research projects, and with what results.

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Another crucial aspect of promoting gender equality in the research environment is the importance of providing equal participation in research teams for all genders, and the other sessions in this course focus on this feature of gender equality in research active organisations.

So, on completion of this session, you should be able to:

- Explain the importance of addressing gender in the research process
- Outline Europe's commitment to gender mainstreaming
- Describe examples of gender sensitive research
- Address gender in your research proposal, activities and outputs
- Explain why the gender dimension is not applicable in some areas of the research you are planning
- Identify examples of gender sensitive research in your field

There are a several tasks for you to complete in line with this topic. Completing these will help you achieve the learning outcomes I just listed in addition to developing an in-depth appreciation for the importance of the gender dimension in research.