

## **ECREA WOMEN'S NETWORK REPORT 2010**

The ECREA Women's Network first management team, composed by Nuria Simelio Sola (Chair) and Sinikka Torkolla and Clara Sarmento (Vice-Chairs), has been re-elected for another 2 years during the 2010 business meeting at the Hamburg ECREA Conference. During this meeting, the ECREA Women's Network members approved the changes to the Network's Modus Operandi suggested by the Board of ECREA.

The second WN workshop, "Women in European communication research: Representations, practices, difficulties, achievements, objectives, realities", took place in October 2010, in Hamburg, where delegates from all over Europe discussed the actual situation of gender discrimination within European universities and polytechnics. The Workshop identified procedures and issues that implicitly perpetuate gender discrimination; studied the social and media representations of women in higher positions at universities; and analysed other images of gender, stereotypically operating in the academic world. The Workshop stimulated the exchange of expertise and insights across national borders, as well as the effective discussion and comparison of case studies, methodologies and materials.

The ECREA Women's Network Workshop provided a general assess of women's real condition, based upon the actual problems and questions raised during the discussion of papers, that may have escaped the attention of larger institutional studies. Therefore, participants were able to come up with innovative reality-based conclusions, inferred from the issues discussed by ECREA members.

As we all know, ECREA Women's Network is working to build a community that promotes gender equality among scholars across borders and cultures. The Network is a (virtual) community that facilitates especially female researchers' international cooperation and career progress. The Women's Network also intends to function as a channel for informing members about ECREA's activities

With such goals in mind, during the course of 2009-2010, the ECREA Women's Network has built a digital platform, with an open forum, in order to facilitate female researchers' international cooperation and career progress. This platform is accessible at

[www.iscap.ipp.pt/~cei](http://www.iscap.ipp.pt/~cei), by clicking on the ECREA logo on the left side menu. It is our goal to develop and improve this platform in the course of 2011, especially with contributions, contents, bibliographies, links, and information from all ECREA members.

Here, members will find information about the ECREA Women's Network's executive team, how to become a member, contact information, modus operandi, objectives, and minutes of meetings. The platform offers announcements and calls for papers on gender, academia and communication related conferences. There is also a specific space for new books, calls for contributions, and book reviews on these topics. The "Links" section directs the user to libraries, universities and research centres, women's studies websites, academic associations, and activism-related websites. The option "Research" offers outlines of current research projects, facts and figures, and bibliographies on gender, academia and communication. Ultimately, we would like to create a data bank of studies concerning equal opportunities. Under the option "Work", members may find announcements of scholarships, positions, job offers, grants, and fellowships. As we are aware of the actual constraints of women's everyday lives, here members will also learn about kindergartens and day-care centres close to the universities and institutions where Women's Network members work. Last but not the least, the website hosts a Forum for on-line questions and discussion groups. This Women's Network Forum wishes to provide required information, assist, share ideas, offer/get peer support and peer review.

In November 2011, the "WN III International Workshop: Sharing Experiences" will take place, celebrating international cooperation through an Iberian joint-organization. However, the excellent quality of the texts presented at the I and II WN Workshops has already motivated the management team to prepare a collection of selected essays, to be submitted to the ECREA book series editor, in the course of 2011.

The Women's Network welcomes all those interested in joining this complex but fascinating collective project.