

Event report

EXPRESS² Gender Webinar

31.01.2024

Express2 Gender Webinar was organized by the **Gender Observatory** led by Sabanci University on 31 May 2024. It was dedicated to the presentation of the gender equality objectives and the Gender Guidelines of the project to familiarize the consortium members with the document and receive and incorporate their feedback. The Webinar was attended by 12 team members and the External Expert Advisory Board (EEAB) member Jule Goikoetxea, lasted for 2,5 hours, from 10:00 am to 12:30 am CEST and was recorded online.

The first session of the Webinar focused on gender equality in project management and execution. Following the welcome session where all members briefly introduced themselves, SU team leader Zeynep Gülru Göker presented data and information from she figures (2021) and UniSafe (2021) on gender inequality in higher education and gender-based violence in academia, discussed gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, introduced the EU Gender Equality Plan (2020-2025) and ERA policy agenda, and talked about some contemporary developments and resistance to gender equality. The session continued with the presentation of the first part of the Gender Guidelines by Meriç Çağlar (SU) who focused on the objectives of the guidelines, talked about the role and tasks of the Gender Observatory and introduced the recommended actions regarding the establishment of gender balance in the consortium, gender equality in decision making, gender sensitive communication and the prevention and prohibition of sexual harassment, gender-based violence and misconduct.

After the presentations of the first section of the Gender Guidelines, the webinar participants engaged in a discussion about the incorporation of women' voices and perspectives into knowledge production and various strategies to include a gender lens in project activities in meaningful ways such as engaging with feminist perspectives on social contract theories. Participants also addressed gender-sensitive approaches to language and communication, what it means to have a gender perspective in communication, how visual and written material can be made gender-sensitive and highlighted the importance of continuous awareness-raising to create a climate of gender equality in academia. The participants also talked about the Express2 consortium should not only aim at adhering to the existing EU framework regarding gender in research but also engage in a critical

reflection on its shortcomings as well as the gaps between norm and implementation, to help generate a more inclusive one.

The second part of the Webinar was dedicated to gender in research. SU team leader Zeynep Gülru Göker briefly talked about feminist/gender perspectives on knowledge production and research, the contribution of feminist philosophy and epistemology to research, and different perspectives and ways in which a gender perspective can be integrated to the study of politics and political theory. After this introduction, Meriç Çağlar (SU) presented the second section of the Guidelines which focuses on the integration of a gender perspective in research. The presentation focused on different elements of gender-sensitive research regarding research design, methodology, data collection, data analysis, dissemination, and publishing.

In the discussion, participants reflected on the project's gender-sensitive recruitment strategy and gave examples to how gender can be integrated into research. With examples from the project's work package on populism, the discussion focused on treating gender beyond a variable and the incorporation of an intersectional gender lens. The Webinar closed with a short presentation of the future activities of the Gender Observatory and final contributions from the participants.

