

## ***From International Day of Women and Girls in Science to International Women's Day***



**Press Release – 12nd February 2021**  
**Make equality bloom**

**Gender-SMART is launching a 26-days' campaign to power up a gender culture within academia and research funding and performing organisations (RFOs & RPOs) in agriculture and life sciences.**

Gender biases and stereotypes persist in the workplace, one of the reasons explaining why women have to break more barriers to advance in their career and are underrepresented in decision-making positions. The Covid crisis has but worsened these criticalities. Therefore, RFOs and RPOs are called to take actions towards building a stronger gender-sensitive culture to inform their daily engagements.

Gender-SMART is a Consortium of 7 European research performing and funding organizations from France, Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Ireland and Netherlands, operating in the broadly framed field of research in food, agriculture and life sciences, supported by 2 technical partners.

The Gender-SMART community has committed to one key operational objective, namely implementing 7 Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) and this, in line with the intention expressed by the European Commission to achieve a higher share of Research Performing Organisations with GEPs as an indicator of innovation and excellence.

Furthermore, as from 2021 to be eligible to funding, every legal entity, whether it is a public body, a research organization or a higher education establishment applying to Horizon Europe will need to have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP).

A lot of groundwork needs to be done, since this requirement will be enforced and become a fully-fledged eligibility criterion for applicants in 2022.

One of the common pillars of the seven GEPs is advancing a Gender Equality Culture at institutional level by mobilizing stakeholders, generating accountability for gender policies, addressing conscious and unconscious resistances and encouraging gender-sensitive behaviours.

The communication campaign will showcase women of impact in science through an "In Their/Her Wake" interview series. It will end up with an open webinar "Inspiring practices to design gender sensitive culture" due to be held on March 23, 2021 (date to be confirmed) to create momentum towards a more egalitarian gender culture.

Follow the campaign on our website <https://www.gendersmart.eu/home> from 11 February to 8 March, 2021.

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/gendersmart\\_eu](https://twitter.com/gendersmart_eu)

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH7on5k0Gtp7QRDvCSUELcQ>

## Contact

CIRAD, Montpellier

E-mail: [contact@gendersmart.eu](mailto:contact@gendersmart.eu)



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824546.*