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Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of eument-net, I have the pleasure to present the following considerations regarding the EU-2020 strategy.

eument-net is European network of mentoring programmes supporting women academics and researchers. It is organised as association under Swiss law.

Eument-net would like to express its concern that the issue of women in science is not sufficiently tackled in the EU-2020 strategy.

The Strategy has three priorities 1) creating value by basing growth on knowledge, 2) empowering people in inclusive societies, 3) creating a competitive, connected and greener economy. Gender is mentioned once in Priority 1 under education (A greater emphasis on vulnerable groups, gender equality and social cohesion is needed to ensure that no one is excluded from knowledge), but not under research, and also once in Priority 3, referring to the need to improve employment rates for women.

As European network of mentoring programmes promoting women's careers in academia and research, eument-net is particularly concerned about the fact that there is no mention, in the EU-2020 strategy, of the role of "women in science" in European research.

Women have much to contribute in defining and resolving the major challenges facing Europe: climate change, innovation, sustainable economic growth, employment and education, social cohesion.

Also, the observation made in the EU-2020 Strategy document that "the EU needs to provide more attractive framework conditions for **innovation and creativity**", is particularly true with regard to women's participation in academia and research.

Women are still widely under-represented in science decision-making positions and far too few are pursuing an academic career. The gender dimension still plays an unjustifiable role in determining job opportunities and funding allocation, which prevents women from fulfilling their scientific potential and hampers the sustainable development of European societies.

It is therefore of utmost important that the issue of women in science be explicitly addressed in a more thorough and consistent way.

On behalf of eument-net, I would like to thank the President Barroso for the opportunity provided to participate in the public consultation on the EU-2020 strategy.

Yours faithfully,

Helene Föger
president of the eument-net association