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Gender equity actions at the ERC: results of sustained measures

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The European Research Council (ERC), Europe's premiere funding agency for frontier research, views equality of opportunities as an essential priority and a vital mission to ensure credibility in the review process. The ERC monitors closely various demographic data yearly on every call and has taken actions to tackle imbalances and potential implicit and explicit biases.

This presentation is focused on gender data for the three main funding schemes: Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant and Advanced Grant. After more than 12 years of existence, and various specific actions to tackle societal imbalances, ERC data provides an insight on the impact of various actions.

In the first framework programme (FP7, 2007-2013), 25% of applicants were women. In the last years (Horizon 2020, 2014-2020), this percentage increased by 4%, with 29% of women applying for ERC grants. In the same periods of time, the share of women as grantees has also increased from 20% to 29%. In the last years, men and women enjoy equal success rates.

The ERC knows that work to ensure equality of opportunities is never-ending. This presentation analyses the institutional efforts critically and considers possible steps to consolidate the accomplished results.