

Madrid as an action spot for advancing gender equality and tackling resistance. GENDERACTIONplus gathered for a Mutual Learning Workshop and consortium meeting.

Madrid, 14 June 2024 – The Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades) hosted a consortium meeting of the Horizon Europe GENDERACTIONplus project and on this occasion the Spanish capital also became an action spot for a Mutual Learning Workshop on resistance to gender equality for the project's two Communities of Practice. Policy makers and representatives of research funding organisations took part in the workshop and discussed the various forms of resistance to gender equality they encounter and exchanged information on ways of building competences for reacting to resistance and shared their practices for self-care in the face of resistance.

The consortium meeting of GENDERACTIONplus, held on 13 June at the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades) in Madrid, discussed the recent updates and upcoming plans of the GENDERACTIONplus project, which is heading into its final stage. “We are grateful that we found a home for our consortium meeting in Madrid,” stated Marcela Linková, project coordinator and Member State Co-Chair of the ERA Forum Subgroup on Inclusive Gender Equality, adding: “Spain's commitment to inclusive gender equality policies serves as a valuable role model for us all.”

Breaking the resistance

Following the consortium meeting, the two-day Mutual Learning Workshop delved into the specific challenges of addressing resistances to gender equality. In preparation for the workshop, GENDERACTIONplus mapped the experience of its consortium members with resistance. The survey identified non-prioritization as the most common form of resistance for both national authorities and research funders, with denial of the relevance of the issue and inaction next. Using the Double Diamond framework, the consortium members worked together to identify and reframe resistance, coming up with actionable insights and strategies to be put to practice.

“The workshop showed the high degree of commitment to advancing gender equality as well as openness and mutual support among the members of our two Communities of Practice,” stated Marcela Linková, adding that “we are coming home empowered and inspired, with new awareness and tools to put to practice when facing resistance.”

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