'Considering the sex and gender dimension in your research'

Researchers want to make a difference. But what if, without realising it, your research was only applicable to half the population..............

The Irish Research Council funds excellent research and excellent research fully considers the potential sex and gender elements of the research content to maximise the impact and societal benefit of research.

If you want to learn more about how to consider fully whether your research might have a potential sex/gender dimension (this is a requirement for all new Council applications) come along to an information training session:

**WHEN:** 10:30 coffee/tea, 11am – 4pm on Monday 25th February  
**WHERE:** Clyde Hotel, Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 
**WHO:** Anyone thinking of applying to the Irish Research Council

To be led by: Katrien Van der Heyden, from Yellow Window Management Consultants, www.yellowwindow.com who developed the “Toolkit on Gender in EU-funded Research”, funded by the EC and produced in 2009. This was designed to provide a number of concrete examples on how to introduce the gender dimension in FP7 research projects in different thematic areas.

**Overview of the training:**
The objectives of the training are consistent with the approach in FP7 and relevant to the upcoming Horizon 2020 in regards the integration of gender or sex aspects into the research topics:

- Help participants to understand the concepts of gender and gender mainstreaming and their relevance for research;
- Sensitize participants on the importance of including the gender dimension into research projects and designing more gender sensitive projects;
- Provide the participants with practical suggestions for implementing a gender approach to their research proposals;
- Examples of sex / gender relevance in the different research fields.

**TO SECURE A PLACE:** Please email info@research.ie by 22nd February.


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Whereas consideration of the gender dimension is well-developed in some humanities and social sciences fields there are many examples that show the importance of integrating the gender dimension into medical research, in environmental research, in the development of new technologies for instance, and also in many research initiatives striving towards technological innovation.

For example:

SCIENCE: Most basic research with animal models focuses on males to the exclusion of females (Zucker et al., 2010; Marts et al., 2004). Results of studies in males are often generalized to females without justification, and even some conditions that occur more often in women are studied in mostly male animals.

HEALTH AND MEDICINE: Men account for nearly a third of osteoporosis-related hip fractures across Europe and the U.S. (Dhanwal et al., 2010). Nonetheless, osteoporosis is considered primarily a disease of postmenopausal women, and men are rarely evaluated or treated for it (Khosla et al., 2008).

ENGINEERING: Conventional seatbelts do not fit pregnant women properly, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of fetal death related to maternal trauma (Weiss et al., 2001). The male body is often defined as the norm and serves as the primary object of study. In this case, crash test dummies were first developed to model the U.S. 50th percentile man (taken as the norm). This means that other segments of the population were left out of the “discovery” phase in design. Inattention to humans of different sizes and shapes may result in unintended harm.

ENVIRONMENT: The potential effects of environmental chemicals (ECs) on human reproductive health have been studied predominately in men