

INSPIRE Centre for Excellence on Inclusive Gender Equality in Research and Innovation

## INSPIRE 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference

### Inclusive Gender Equality in R&I from an Intersectional Perspective: Lessons from INSPIRE for the evidence base, practice & policy

Townhall Europe, Square de Meeûs 5-6, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

16-17 April 2026

Over the last four years, the Horizon Europe project INSPIRE Centre for Excellence on Inclusive Gender Equality in Research & Innovation (R&I) has promoted inclusive and intersectional approaches to gender equality across the European Research Area. The project is ending at a critical time. Debates on the future of the ERA and society's demands for equality and inclusion are intensifying, while backlash against these principles is growing.

The INSPIRE 2nd Conference will discuss progress towards inclusive gender equality in research and innovation, highlighting key project findings, tools, and resources. It will also involve policymakers, researchers, equality practitioners, and other stakeholders in a dialogue on sustaining change and addressing future challenges.

#### 16th April      INSPIRE Evidence and Practice

13:00-13:45      Registration & networking lunch

13:45-14:00      **Opening**, Rachel Palmén, INSPIRE Coordinator, UOC

14:00-15:30      **Building up the Evidence Base:** Key research findings from INSPIRE  
*How has INSPIRE advanced knowledge on inclusive gender equality from an intersectional perspective in R&I?*, Moderator: Yvonne Benschop, RU  
*Presentations and panel discussion*

- *Mapping inclusive gender equality throughout Europe: Survey & Web Scraping Key Findings*, Mazlum Karatas, GESIS
- *Achieving Impact with Gender Equality Plans: Six facilitating factors & a model for change*, Jörg Müller, UOC
- *Traces of Intersectionality: Key findings from higher education & research*, Joanna Beeckmans, UH
- *Integrating the gender dimension into research and innovation content: Key findings*, Helene Schiffbänker, JR

15:30-16:00      *Coffee break & networking*

16:00-18:00 **Communities of Practice as agents of change: Lessons from INSPIRE's Communities of Practice (CoP)**, Moderator: Liv Baisner Petersen, SDU  
*Panel discussions with INSPIRE's CoP facilitators and members.*

**KSH1: Sustaining change**, Moderator: Rachel Palmen, UOC

- Sara Clavero, TU Dublin
- Silvia Donoso Lopez, ICM-CSIC
- Yvonne Galligan, TU Dublin
- Isabelle Kraus, Université de Strasbourg

**KSH2: Widening participation**, Moderator: Ewa Krzaklewska, Jagiellonian University

- Ewelina Ciaputa, Jagiellonian University
- Blas Fernandez, FLACSO
- Petroula Mavrikiou, Frederick University

**KSH3: Intersectionality**, Moderator: Lorena Pajares Sánchez, Notus

- Esther Domínguez Ramírez, UOC
- Julia Morrow, ATU, formerly RCSI
- Víctor Royo Calavera, VHIR

**KSH4: Innovation**, Moderator: Carolina Wienand, Fraunhofer ISI

- Annabell Moser, University of Southern Denmark
- Anastasia Zabaniotou, RMEIM
- Monika Ryndzionek, National Centre for Research & Development
- David Kintero Thokora, Passau University & Landshut University (TZE)

**17<sup>th</sup> April** **Integrating inclusive gender equality into the EU's R&I policy ambitions**

09:00-09:50 **What's next? Embedding Inclusive Gender Equality at the heart of future R&I policy**, Moderator: Dagmar Simon, Evaconsult/WZB  
*Presentations and panel discussion*

- *What's next for EU's policy on gender equality in R&I?*, Katerina Svickova, European Commission
- *Embedding Inclusive Gender Equality at the Spanish R&I policy*, Maria Bustelo, Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities
- *Inclusive Gender Equality: Main Policy Lessons from INSPIRE*, Rachel Palmen, INSPIRE Coordinator, UOC

09:50-10:40 **Embedding the inclusive gender dimension in R&I: Progress not Problem**, Moderator: Maria Karaulova, Fraunhofer ISI

*Inclusive Gendered Innovation: what is needed now?* Helene Schiffbänker, JR

*Panel discussion with:*

- Sybille Reidl, JR
- Sophia Ivarsson, Vinnova
- Janice Bailey, FRQNT
- Curt Rice, Fulbright Norway

10:40-11:10 *Coffee break & networking*

11:10-12:00 **Intersectionality as a foundation for inclusive change in R&I**, Moderator:  
Mary Ann Danowitz, North Carolina State  
*Panel discussion*

- Patrizia Zanoni, Hasselt University
- Martina Cannone, European Commission
- Sara Aguirre, Université Libre de Bruxelles

12:00-12:50 **Widening & sustaining change: A change is going to come**, Moderator:  
Paola Chaves, Radboud University  
*Panel discussion*

- Marta Warat, Jagiellonian University
- Yvonne Benschop, Radboud University
- Anna Knapińska, National Information Processing Institute
- Doyin Atewologun, Delta Alpha Psi

12:50-13:20 **Where do we go from here?**  
Rachel Palmen, INSPIRE Coordinator, UOC & Lorena Pajares Sánchez,  
Notus

13:20-13:30 **Closing remarks**  
Mary Ann Danowitz, North Carolina State University & Jörg Müller, UOC

13:30-14:30 *Lunch & networking*