

The Gender Equality Strategy and the Gender Equality Plan 2022-2025

for the Research institute

"Petru Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry / Institutul de Chimie Macromoleculară "Petru Poni" (ICMPP)

15th of July 2022

Document elaborated after the model issued by the Horizon Europe NCP Unit within the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation - UEFISCDI from January 2022, having as authors: Laura Chirilă, Daniela Dragomir, Sabina Olaru, Dragoș Sandu, Adina Stănculea and Coordinator: Antoaneta Victoria Folea.

Contents

Abreviations and definitions	.3
Introduction	4
I. Review of requirements, policies and case studies	4
II. Diagnosis (data collection and analysis)	4
II.1. Data collection	4
II. 2. Data analysis	14
III. GE strategy and GEP	15
III.1. GE Strategy 2022-2025	15
III.2. GE Plan 2022-2025	15
IV. Monitoring and evaluation of the GEP	21
Annex 1. Horizon Europe recommended methodology and areas of intervention for the gender equality plan	22
Annex 2. Horizon Europe recommended indicators for data collection and analysis	24
Annex 3. List of sources used for the literature review	25

Abbreviations and definitions

GE	Gender equality
GEP	Gender equality plan
HoD	Head of Department
HR	Human Resources
D	Director
DD	Deputy Director
SD	Scientific Director
SC	Scientific Council
ICMPP	Institutul de Chimie Macromoleculară Petru Poni /
	Petru Poni Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry
Sex	Either of the two major forms of individuals that occur in many species and that are distinguished respectively as female or male especially on the basis of their reproductive organs and structures (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/)
Gender	The behavioural, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/)
Sex vs Gender	A clear delineation between sex and gender is typically prescribed, with sex as the preferred term for biological forms, and gender limited to its meanings
Gender	involving behavioural, cultural, and psychological traits. In this dichotomy, the terms male and female relate only to biological forms (sex), while the terms masculine/masculinity, feminine/femininity, woman/girl, and man/boy relate only to psychological and sociocultural traits (gender) (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/)

Introduction

The Gender Equality (GE) strategy for 2022-2025 was developed by ICMPP on the basis of the input from the entire institute, taking into account everyone who works herein. The GE strategy was built on the provisions of the European Charter for researchers and of the Code of Conduct in the process of the recruitment of researchers 2015-2019,¹ the European Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025,² and the Horizon Europe guidance on gender equality plans.³

The motivation for developing the GE strategy is to ensure that ICMPP is a safe place for everyone, and all activities and processes that take place respect the principles of equality, diversity, inclusiveness and non-discrimination.

Based on the GE strategy, ICMPP developed the GE Plan (GEP) for 2022-2025, with concrete actions and measures, as well as indicators for measuring progress of its implementation and revisions.

Enforcing its mission and values, the GE strategy and the GEP of ICMPP ensure and promote equality and diversity to knowledge and to the acquisition of skills to all personnel. The objectives of the GE strategy are implemented through specific actions that aim at safeguarding an equal and inclusive organizational culture and promoting gender-equality at all levels. As such, the GE strategy and the GEP will pro-actively enable gender equality, awareness raising, skills and competences; gender balance in decision-making structures and processes, including recruitment; gender equality in research; and integrating the gender dimension in the entire research process.

I. Review of requirements, policies and case studies

Prior to developing the GE strategy and the GEP, the management team of ICMPP appointed a working group composed of the representatives of each research department and one representative for administrative/support units to conduct a literature review of the existing requirements, policies, recommendations, examples and case studies pertinent to discrimination, inclusiveness and gender equality, with a special focus on research performing organisations (RPOs).

The resources used in this literature review study are presented in Annex 3.

The data collection was also preceded by the organization of events meant to increase the awareness on GE issues at the level of top management board (ICMPP Scientific Council) and staff as well as of the executive research, administrative and support staff. Thus, on 4th of February 2022, the colleagues of ICMPP, also members of the team of the EC project, acronym BioNanoTech presented in an enlarged session of the ICMPP Scientific Council the following documents *European Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025* and *Horizon Europe guidance on gender equality plans*. The minimal conditions for the establishment and implementation of ICMPP *Gender Equality Strategy (GES) and the Gender Equality Plan (GEP) 2022-2025* were also presented.

During March and May 2022, these issues were discussed at the level of executive staff in each research and administrative/support department and finally a questionnaire was sent to the whole staff of the institute.

II. Diagnosis (data collection and analysis)

II.1. Data collection

The following indicators were selected at ICMPP as relevant for the discussion on gender equality issues:

• Numbers of women and men in research and administrative decision-making positions (e.g., top management team, boards, committees, recruitment and promotion panels) (Tables 1 and 2)

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ffcb06c3-200a-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1

¹ https://cdn2.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/ttf_goal_2_results_v1.0.pdf

 $^{^{2} \, \}underline{\text{https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy} \, \, \text{en} \\$

- Staff numbers by sex/gender at all levels, by domain (research, administration / support staff) and functions (Tables 3 and 4)
- Numbers of women and men candidates applying for distinct job positions in the last 5 years (Table 5).
- Numbers of staff by sex/gender applying for/taking parental leave, for how long and how many returned after taking the leave (Table 6).
 - Answers to the questionnaire.

Collected data

1. Women and men in leadership positions

Table 1. Research institute management

Table 1. Research institute management		
	Women	Men
FIRST LEVEL DECISION	I STAFF	
Scientific Council*	12	9
Director (D) / President of the Scientific Council	1	
Deputy Director (DD)		1
Scientific Director (SD)	1	
Chief Accountant	1	
TOTAL first level decision staff	13	9
SECOND LEVEL DECISION S	STAFF	
Department 1. Centre of Advanced Research in	1	
Bionanoconjugates and Biopolymers		
Head of Department 1. Senior researcher degree I/Dr		
Department 2. Polyaddition and Photochemistry		1
Head of Department 2: Senior researcher degree I/Dr		
Department 3. Polycondensation and Thermostable	1	
Polymers		
Head of Department 3: Senior researcher degree I/Dr		
Department 4. Functional Polymers	1	
Head of Department 4: Senior researcher degree II/Dr		
Department 5. Natural Polymers, Bioactive and		1
Biocompatible Materials		
Head of Department 5: Senior researcher degree I/Dr		
Department 6. Inorganic Polymers, Hybrid and Complex	1	
Systems		
Head of Department 6: Senior researcher degree I/Dr		
Department 7. Electroactive Polymers and	1	
Plasmochemistry		
Head of Department 7: Senior researcher degree I/Dr		4
Department 8. Physical Chemistry of Polymers		1
Head of Department 8: Senior researcher degree I/Dr		
Department 9. Physics of Polymers and Polymeric		1
Materials		
Head of Department 9: Senior researcher degree I/Dr		<u> </u>
Department 10. Applied Research and Technology		1
Transfer		
Head of Department 10: Engineer		
Department 11. Human resources		1
Head of Department 11: Dr. Economist, specialist in human		
resources		

Department 12. Administration		1
Head of Department 12: Economist		
Department 13. Financial Accounting	1	
Head of Department 13: Economist		
Department 14. Mechanical and Maintenance		1
Head of Department 14: Dr. Engineer		
TOTAL second level decision staff	6	8
GENERAL TOTAL	14	13

^{*} Scientific Council is composed of (D. DD, SD and Heads of research departments, one member of the Romanian Academy and one elected position from each research department; their numbers are not summarized in the total first level decision staff

Table 2. Other Heads of research institute structures / units

	Women	Men
Internal Public Audit Unit	1	
Human Resource Office Payroll		1
Public Procurement Unit		1
Occupational Medicine Office	1	
Legal Office	1	
Library	1	
TOTAL	4	2

2. Women and men - research staff

Table 3. Total number of research staff per department

Research departments	Experienced researchers* Total / Women Total / Men	Early-stage researchers** Total / Women Total / Men	Technical staff*** Total / Women Total / Men	Total staff	Women	Men
ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTER FOR BIONANOCOJUGATES AND BIOPOLYMERS	11 / 7	17 / 10 17 / 7	5 / 4 5 / 1	33	21	12
POLYADDITION AND PHOTOCHEMISTRY LABORATORY	8/5 8/3	11 / 11 11 / 0	1/1	20	17	3
POLYCONDENSATION AND THERMOSTABLE POLYMERS LABORATORY	8/5 8/3	17 / 13 17 / 4	3/2 3/1	28	20	8
FUNCTIONAL POLYMERS LABORATORY	4/3 4/1	11 / 7 11 / 4	2/2 2/0	17	12	5
NATURAL POLYMERS AND BIOACTIVE MATERIALS LABORATORY	14 / 11 14 / 1	12 / 11 12 / 1	3/2	27	24	3
INORGANIC POLYMERS LABORATORY	14 / 8 14 / 6	16 / 7 16 / 9	3/2 3/1	33	17	16
ELECTROACTIVE POLYMERS AND PLASMOCHEMISTRY LABORATORY	6/3	9/6	3/3	18	12	6

POLYMER PHYSICAL	13 / 10	16 / 11	3/2			
CHEMISTRY LABORATORY	13/3	16 / 4	3/1	31	23	8
PHYSICS OF POLYMERS	5/4	8/5	6/3			_
AND POLYMERIC MATERIALS LABORATORY	5/1	8/3	6/3	19	12	7
			TOTAL	229	159	70

^{*} Experienced researchers of degree I (CSI), II (CSII), III (CSII); ** Early-stage researchers: research assistants (ACS), young researchers (CS); *** Technical staff: technicians, engineers

3. Women and men – administrative and support services

Table 4. Total number of women and men in administrative and support services

	Total number	Women	Men
Department of human resources	5	2	3
Medical office	1	1	
SSM office	1	1	
Ethics office ¹	1		1
Doctoral Office ¹	1	1	
Accounting department	6	4	2
Office for public auctions	3	2	1
Administration department	11	4	7
Applied and Technology Transfer Dept.	5		5
Mechanical and Maintenance Dept.	9		9
Legal office	3	1	2
Librarians and persons in charge with ICMPP archive	2	2	0
Internal auditor	1	1	0
IT support services*	2	0	2
TOTAL	49	18	31

¹ Cumulation of functions; * External service

Table 5. Number of women and men candidates applying for distinct job positions in the last 5 years.

Year	Candidates for positions in:	Total	Total Women	
2017	research	25	18	7
2017	administrative	5	1	4
2018	research	55	40	15
2016	administrative	21	9	12
2040	research	55	42	13
2019	administrative	16	4	12
2020	research	49	36	13
2020	administrative	35	19	16
2024	research	44	34	10
2021	administrative	5	3	2
	Total	310	206	104

Table 6. Numbers of staff by sex/gender applying for/taking parental leave, for how long and how many returned after taking the leave

Year	Total	Women	Men
2017	2	2	0
2018	6	6	0
2019	5	5	0
2020	2	2	0
2021	3	3	0
Total	18	18	0

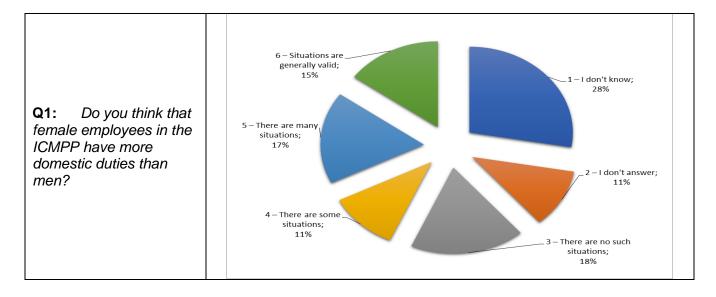
Questions/Answers to the questionnaire

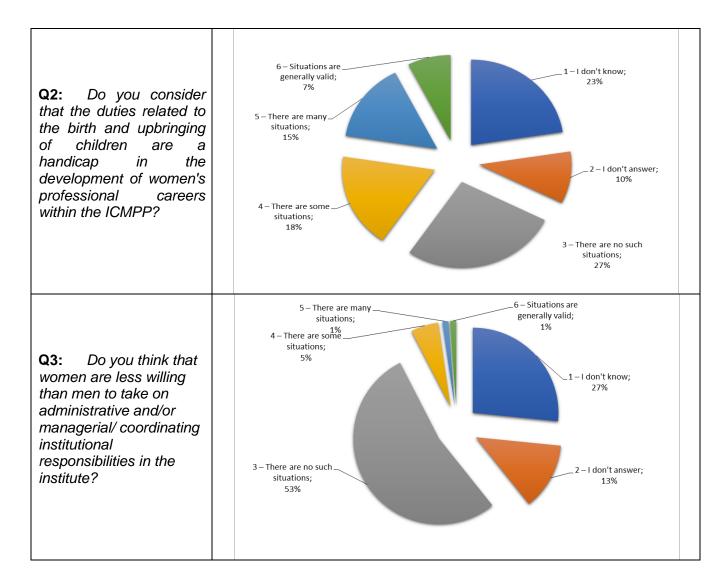
From a number of 283 persons (ICMPP personnel number), 2 persons were in medical leave and 5 persons were in research missions abroad. From the 276 persons present at the institute, only 173 filled questionnaires have been received (about 63%). The quite low interest of ICMPP staff in GE issues is probably due to the bad and more impacting general situation generated by pandemic and the war close to our frontier.

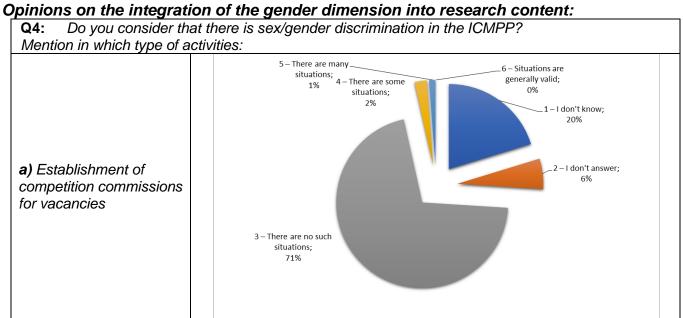
For anonymous answers received to the ICMPP Questionnaire in June 2022, see the questions (Qi) and the corresponding answers (Ai) detailed in the figures below, where (i) is the number of the question, respectively of the corresponding answers' statistics; The numbers1 - I don't know the answer; 2 - I don't like to answer; 3 - such situations do not exist; 4 - such situations exist in some extend; 5 - there are many such situations; 6 - situations are generally valid).

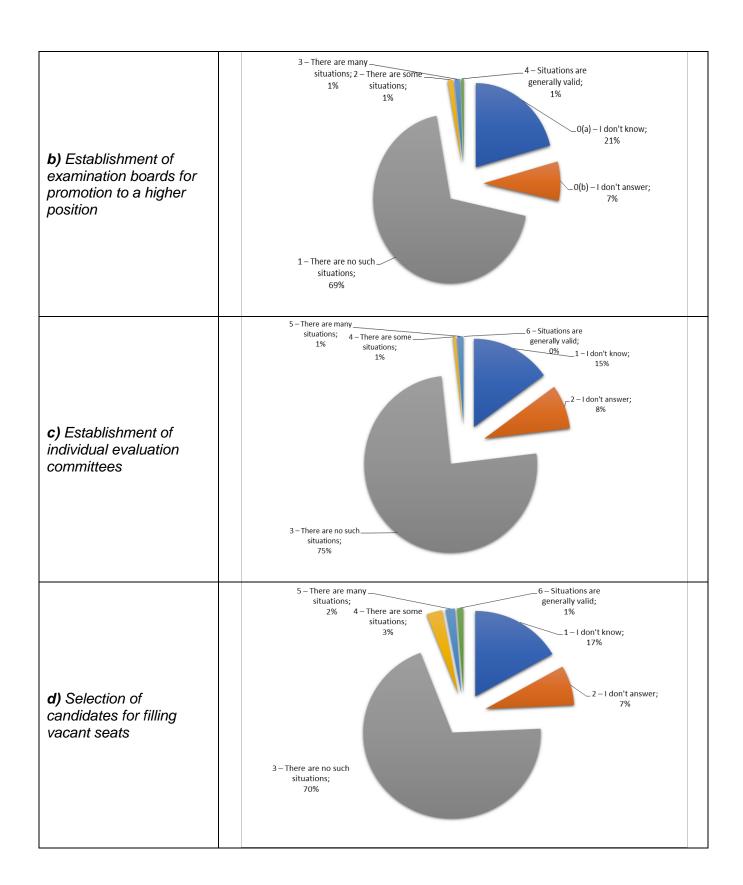
• Opinions on the work-life balance in the research institute, especially related to women condition:

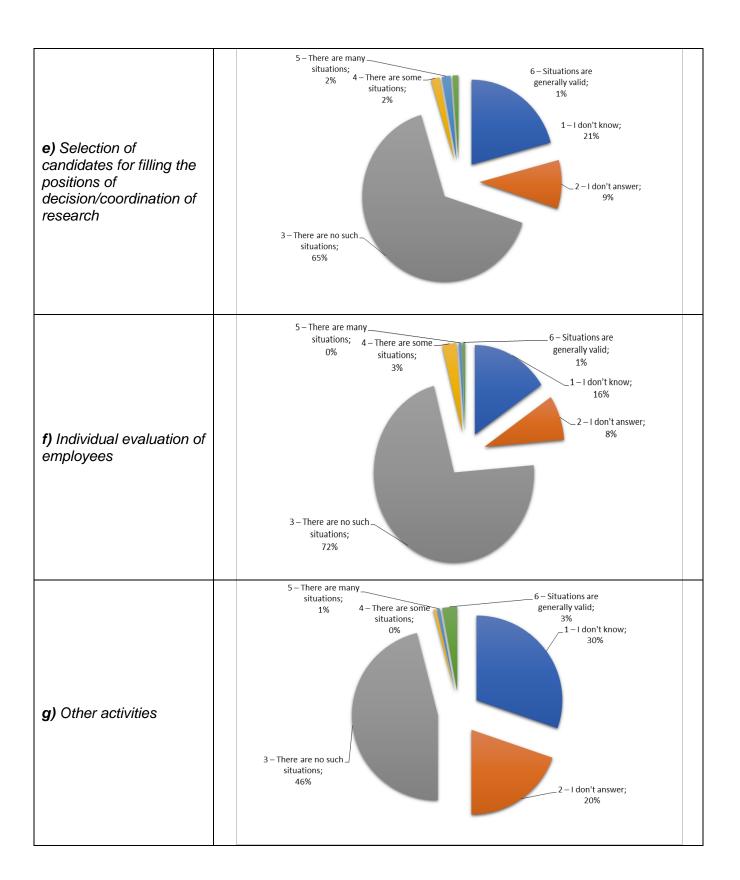
Quite scattered answers were obtained as concerns the work-life balance, especially for women condition.



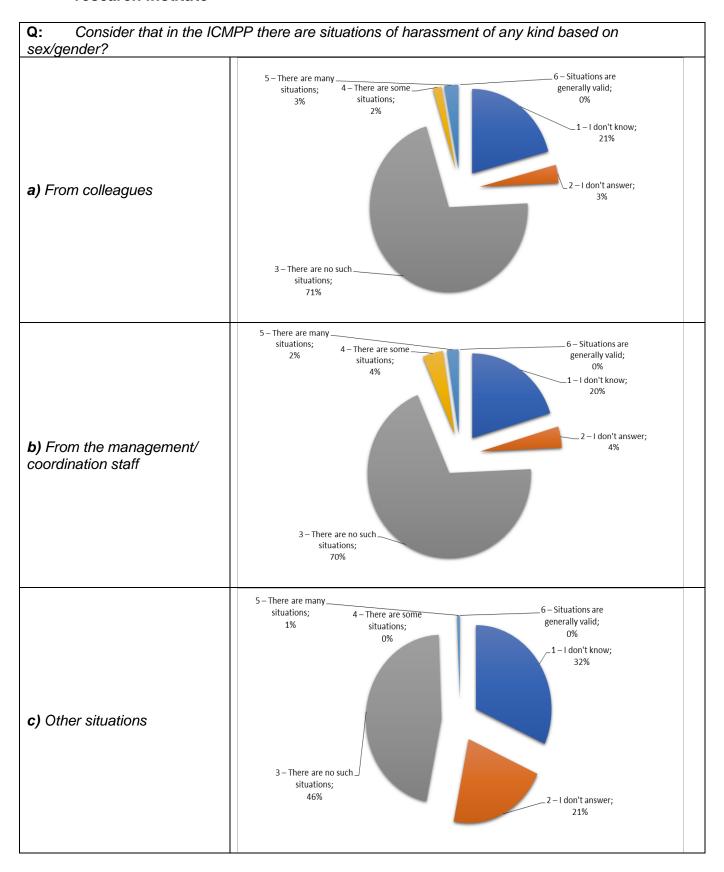




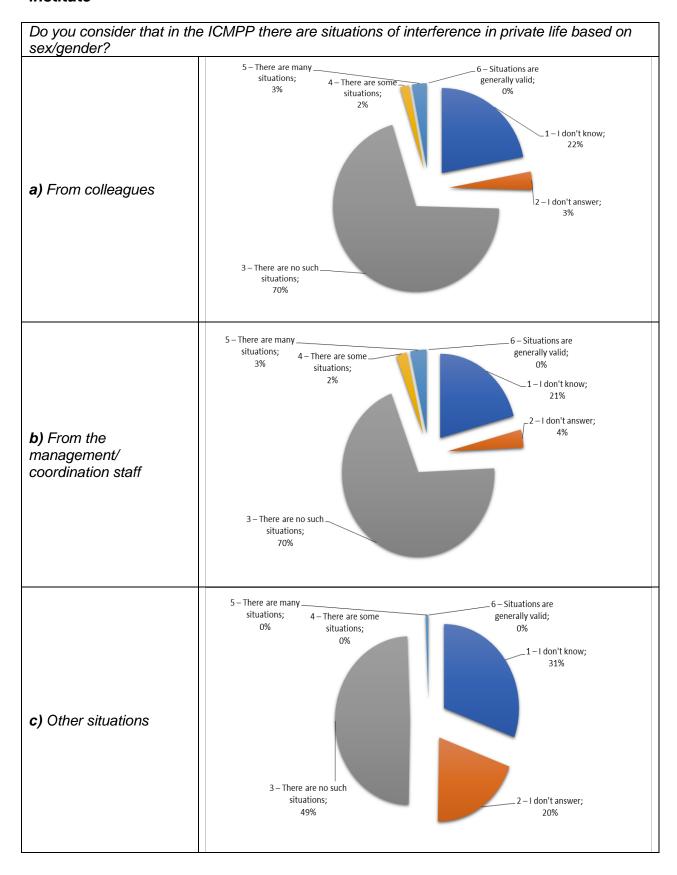




• Perception of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment in the research institute



Perception (opinion) regarding inclusiveness and discrimination at the research institute



II. 2. Data analysis

In ICMPP were conducted internal analyses of the data collected, and reviews the existing policies addressing gender equality and inclusiveness. The analysis took place in meetings and working seminars at all levels during May-June 2022 with the gender equality function assigned for developing the GEP (*GEP Working Group*) and including the research institute management, research staff and representatives of research institute administrative and support services.

The conclusions of the internal audit were then analysed and approved in the Scientific Council, and then communicated to the entire research institute staff.

With the mandate from the Scientific Council, the institute Director committed to the development and implementation of the GEP for the ICMPP research institute for 2022-2025.

II.2.1. Quantitative analysis of data

The analysis of numerical data illustrated that:

- There are more women than men in departmental leadership positions; women are more willing to take on additional administrative responsibilities and attach special importance to work-life balance (see Tables 1, and 2).
- On average, the number of women in research positions, experienced researcher and early-stage researcher, is higher, reflecting the specific general situation of gender sharing in Romania, i.e. for chemistry studies (including chemical engineering), the women were and still are more interested than men. Thus, more numerous graduates in chemistry are women (See Table 3). However, the women proportion is balanced by the higher number of men in administrative functions.

II.2.2. Qualitative analysis of data

The qualitative research showed that:

- When it comes to combining work and family life women seems that are equally responsible for most professional duties.
- Expectations of international mobility are more difficult for women with childcare, but for those who are not married, mobility is not a problem.
- Maternal responsibilities generally do not delay research work and do not discourage women from holding administrative positions.
- Women publish quite a lot, get quite involved in the social life of the department and decide to hold administrative or management positions
- The gender dimension is still well integrated into research, and the Research Institute is perceived as a safe place without gender violence.
 - The research institute is generally perceived as including a second home for most employees.
- Women publish more, get more involved in the social life of the department and decide to advance in their career.
 - The gender dimension is still well integrated into research.
 - The research institute is perceived as a safe place without gender-based violence.
 - The research institute is generally perceived as inclusive.
 - Stereotypes and prejudices translate into behaviours such as condescending treatment, refusal to recognize the substantial training of women because of their self-presentation style, it is very confrontational.
 - There are procedures and knowledge on gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination.
 - Survey respondents did not indicate that they had experienced situations, for example, that someone took credit for another's accomplishments (%) or that there were conflicts between work and private life (%).

In order to summarize the results of the studies, it can be seen that all the situations mentioned by the respondents and the situations analysed at the institute are, to a certain extent, factors of non-discrimination or manifestations based on gender criteria.

The important **conclusions of the internal analysis** at ICMPP are:

- We need to revisit the existing policies and procedures, to make gender relevant, and develop new ones covering all identified areas of intervention;
 - We need to train and educate our staff on gender-equality;
 - We need to communicate gender relevant actions and measures actively and efficiently;
- We need to develop a gender strategy and a GEP for 2022-2025, with clear actions and targets, and responsible persons.

III. GE strategy and GEP

Based on the internal review and the national and European policies and requirements, the Scientific Council and the Director of ICMPP committed to developing the institute strategy for gender equality for 2022-2025, and the corresponding GEP.

ICMPP decided on creating the function of GE officer at the institute plus one GE delegate in each department. The GE officer has a proactive role, and the GE delegates have a consultant role in implementing and monitoring the GE strategy.

Specifically, the GE officer and GE delegates contribute to setting up, implement, monitor and evaluate the GEP; provide practical support and tools to the actors involved in the GEP implementation; cooperate with and engage stakeholders at all levels in order to ensure the implementation of the GEP's actions; raise awareness about the benefits of gender equality in the research institute; assess the progress towards gender equality in the institute.

The institute management mandated the GE functions (officer and delegates) at the institute and a dedicated working group to develop the GE strategy and the GEP 2022-2025. The GE working group included men and women representatives of research institute leadership and researchers, representatives of research institute administration and support services, and one external advisor.

III.1. GE Strategy 2022-2025

The GE Strategy comprises the following areas of intervention and objectives for 2022-2025:

Area of intervention	Objective(s)
1. Work-life balance and organisational	Promoting integration of work with family and
culture	personal life
2. Gender balance in leadership and decision-making	Promoting gender equality in the institutional culture, processes and practice
3. Gender equality in recruitment and career progression	Promoting processes to favour and support gender-sensitive recruitment, career and appointments
4. Integration of the gender dimension into research content	Promoting a gender and sex perspective in research process Promoting the integration of a sex and gender perspective in research activity
5. Measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment	Raising awareness about the importance of equality issues and strengthening positive attitudes towards diversity

III.2. GE Plan 2022-2025

The GE Plan at the research institute I comprises areas of intervention, objectives, key measures, target audience, timeline, responsible persons, and indicators to measure progress.

Area 1. Work-life balance and organisational culture

Objective: Promoting integration of work with family and personal life

Action/Measure	Target		Timeline			Indicator(s)	Posponsible
Action/illeasure	Target	2022	2023	2024	2025	Indicator(s)	Responsible
Availability of policies, procedures at the research institute for promoting integration of work with family and personal life	Researchers, technical and administrative staff		X	X	X	Policies, procedures for work and personal life integration	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer
2. Feasibility plans for the creation of new welfare services	Researchers, technical and administrative staff		X	X	X	Policies, procedures for work and personal life integration	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer
3. Implementation of ICT-based systems for enhancing flexibility and improving a better planning of working meetings accordingly to work life balance needs (e.g., management and communications of the meeting schedule/timing)	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	X	X	X	X	Standard procedure for ICT-based systems promoting work and personal life integration	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer, IT services
4. Availability of flexible working times arrangements, from part-time to remote working	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	Х	Х	Х	Х	Policies, procedures and services for work and personal life integration	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer

Area 2. Gender balance in leadership and decision-making

Objective: Promoting gender equality in the institutional culture, processes and practice

Action/Measure	Torget		Time	eline		Indicator(s)	Responsible
Action/weasure	Target	2022	2023	2024	2025		
1. Appointing delegates in departments/centres, with a proactive and/or consultant role to be responsible for monitoring and ensuring that workplace procedures and practices respect gender equality	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	Х	Х			Gender equality policy and structures	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer, GE delegates
2. Routine revision of any text, communication, images, from a gender equality and diversity standing point	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	Х	Х	X	Х	Policies, procedures and services for work and personal life integration	GE officer, GE delegates
3. Promotion of initiatives to facilitate a widespread gender competence at all levels of the organization with provision of training to staff and researchers	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	Х	Х	X	X	Awareness training on gender equality issues	GE officer, GE delegates

Area 3. Gender equality in recruitment and career progression

Objective: Promoting processes to facilitate and support gender-sensitive recruitment, career and appointments

Action/Monauro	Action/Moscure Torget		Time	eline		Indicator(a)	Deeneneible
Action/Measure	Target	2022	2023	2024	2025	Indicator(s)	Responsible
Carrying out gender awareness initiatives, briefings and creating guidelines for gender- sensitive recruitment, career and appointments	Research institute management	X	X	Х	Х	Gender awareness initiatives and guidelines	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer
2. Courses and training on gender equality	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	X	X	X	X	Courses and training for recruitment Courses and training for career progression Courses and training for leadership	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer, GE delegates
3. Disseminate and communicate career good practices - role models for women (scientists, researchers and academics)	Researchers, technical and administrative staff					Initiatives for raising awareness on female role models Initiatives for raising awareness on gender diversity in research teams	GE officer, GE delegates, HoDs

Area 4. Integration of the gender dimension into research content

Objectives:

Promoting a gender and sex perspective in research process
Promoting the integration of a sex and gender perspective in research activity

Action/Measure		Timeline		Indicator(s)	Posponsible		
	Target	2022	2023	2024	2025	Indicator(s)	Responsible
1. Internal training seminars on the use of sex and gender perspective in research, to foster the acknowledgment of its economic, social and innovation value	Researchers, scientific community	X	X	X	X	Participation in training seminars on integrating sex/gender analysis methods, by gender and field of research	SD, Researchers, GE officer
2. Development, communication and implementation of standards for the incorporation of the sex and gender variables into research	Researchers		X	X	X	Participation in training seminars on integrating sex/gender analysis methods Perception of the gender/sex variables in research contents	SD, Researchers, GE officer
3. Institutional recognition within the research institute of those projects that have taken the gender dimension into account. (e.g., prizes)	Researchers, scientific community		X	Х	Х	Awarded projects	D, HoDs, Researchers
4. Disseminate and communicate career good practices - role models for women (scientists, researchers and academics)	Researchers, technical and administrative staff		X	X	X	Initiatives for raising awareness on female role models Initiatives for raising awareness on gender diversity in research teams	GE officer, GE delegates, HoDs
5. Workshops on the integration of gender equality and diversity issues in research activity, as support for research staff	Researchers		Х	Х	Х	Training seminars on integrating sex/gender in research activity	SD, HR, HoDs, GE officer
6. Courses and training tools in all departments and at all levels (experienced or early researchers) on sex and gender variables	Researchers		Х	Х	Х	Courses on specific gender dimensions, per research activity	SD, HR, HoDs, GE officer

Area 5. Measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment
Objective: Raising awareness on the importance of equality issues and strengthening positive attitudes towards diversity

Action/Measure Target		Timeline				Indicator(s)	
Action/measure	rarget	2022	2023	2024	2025	` '	Responsible
Training on discrimination phenomena (including discriminatory language), violence (including that based on prejudice or gender), harassment, and sexual harassment	Researchers, technical and administrative staff		X	X	X	Participation in training, per categories Skills acquired in relation to identifying and responding to discrimination and violence phenomena	D, HR, HoDs, GE officer
2. Develop internal (institute) electronic tool (website/platform) supporting information and education, as well as allowing the reporting of sexual harassment and discrimination	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	X	X	Х	X	Dedicated research institute website/platform, number of visits, number of real-case situations reported and solved	D, HoDs, HR, IT services, GE officer
3. Reinforce the Code of Ethics of the institute with provisions against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment	Researchers, technical and administrative staff		X	X	X	Initiatives for raising awareness on female role models Initiatives for raising awareness on gender diversity in research teams	D, HoDs, HR, GE officer
4. Awareness campaign highlighting diversity and inclusiveness in the scientific community and encouraging prevention of discrimination in various areas	Researchers, technical and administrative staff	Х	Х	Х	Х	Awareness campaign	GE officer

IV. Monitoring and evaluation of the GEP

The implementation of the GEP at ICMPP, the progress against the GE strategy aims and objectives are regularly assessed, through periodic meetings. The implementation of the GEP will be permanently monitored by the GE functions (officer and delegates) at the institute. The GE officer together with the GE delegates within each department are responsible with collecting data and input. They will perform a first analysis of the progress of the GEP (against the indicators), gather knowledge and feedback.

The GE functions at the institute will conclude findings reports (once a year), which are then presented to the research institute management (GD, HoDs) and discussed. These meetings will provide valuable conclusions on the implementation of the GEP. These meetings will also provide comments and recommendations that will enable adjustments and improvements to interventions on the GEP for the following year.

The periodic reports allow the continuous review of the impact of the GEP as well as keeping the wider community informed and engaged in the progress towards gender equality. The review of progress reports includes qualitative information as well as quantitative data, such as updates on human resource data disaggregated by sex, monitoring data to keep track of the implementation of key actions.

After their conclusion and adoption by the research institute management (Board of Directors, GD, HoDs), the periodic (annual) GE progress report is published on the research institute website and communicated to the entire scientific community.

Institutul de Chimie Macromoleculara/ Petru Poni Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry
Director,
Dr. Valeria Harabagiu

This GEP was approved in the Scientific Council Meeting on 15.07.2022 and has been made available on the ICMPP website, thus being communicated to all of the ICMPP employees and to everyone interested.

Annex 1. Horizon Europe recommended methodology and areas of intervention for the gender equality plan

Gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union. Gender equality benefits research and innovation (R&I) by improving the quality and relevance of R&I, attracting and retaining more talent, and ensuring that everyone can maximise their potential.

There has been demonstrable progress towards gender equality in the European Research Area (ERA), but data shows there is still significant work to be done. Gender equality goals can only be achieved through a structural approach to change across the whole European R&I system, entailing the joint commitment of R&I organisations, their funders and national authorities, and the European Commission.

The introduction of the Gender Equality Plan (GEP) eligibility criterion aims to support these efforts, reflecting the Horizon Europe legal basis which strengthens gender equality as a cross-cutting priority.

Individual organisations applying to any part of Horizon Europe, and belonging to the following categories of legal entities established in EU Member States or Associated countries, are all required to have a GEP as of calls for proposals with deadlines in 2022 onwards:

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
\Box Public bodies, such as research funding bodies, national ministries or other public authorities, including public-for-profit organisations;
☐ Higher education establishments, public and private;
□ Research organisations, public and private.
The Horizon Europe Guidance on Gender Equality Plans is designed to support these organisations in meeting

The Horizon Europe Guidance on Gender Equality Plans is designed to support these organisations in meeting the GEP eligibility criterion.

A GEP is a set of commitments and actions that aim to promote gender equality in an organisation through institutional and cultural change. When developing a GEP there are some essential elements – 'building blocks' – which must be included.

To comply with the Horizon Europe GEP eligibility criterion, a GEP must meet four mandatory process-related requirements:

- 1. Public document: The GEP must be a formal document published on the institution's website, signed by the top management and actively communicated within the institution. It should demonstrate a commitment to gender equality, set clear goals and detailed actions and measures to achieve them.
- 2. Dedicated resources: a GEP must have dedicated resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan. Organisations should consider what type and volume of resources are required to support an ongoing process of sustainable organisational change.
- 3. Data collection and monitoring: organisations must collect sex/ gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students, for the establishments concerned) with annual reporting based on indicators. Organisations should consider how to select the most relevant indicators, how to collect and analyse the data, including resources to do so, and should ensure that data is published and monitored on an 1 REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 and COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU 6 annual basis.

This data should inform the GEP's objectives and targets, indicators, and ongoing evaluation of progress.

4. Training: The GEP must also include awareness-raising and training actions on gender equality. These activities should engage the whole organisation and be an evidence-based, ongoing and long-term process. Activities should cover unconscious gender biases training aimed at staff and decision-makers and can also include communication activities and gender equality training that focuses on specific topics or addresses specific groups.

In addition to these four mandatory requirements, there are also five recommended content-related (thematic) areas that organisations may wish to consider in their GEP:

- 1. Work-life balance and organisational culture: GEPs aim to promote gender equality through the sustainable transformation of organisational culture. Organisations should implement necessary policies to ensure an open and inclusive working environment, the visibility of women in the organisation and externally, and that the contribution of women is properly valued. Inclusive work-life balance policies and practices can also be considered in a GEP, including parental leave policies, flexible working time arrangements and support for caring responsibilities.
- 2. Gender balance in leadership and decision-making: Increasing the number and share of women in leadership and decision-making positions touches upon all aspects in the GEP. Measures to ensure that women can take on and stay in leadership positions can include providing decision-makers with targeted gender training, adapting processes for selection and appointment of staff on committees, ensuring gender balance through gender quotas, and making committee membership more transparent.
- 3. Gender equality in recruitment and career progression: Critically reviewing selection procedures and remedying any biases can ensure that women and men get equal chances to develop and advance their careers. Establishing recruitment codes of conduct, involving gender equality officers in recruitment and promotion committees, proactively identifying women in underrepresented fields and considering organisation-wide workload planning models can be important measures to consider in a GEP.
- 4. Integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content: The GEP should consider how sex and gender analysis will be included in the research or educational outputs of an organisation. It can set out the organisation's commitment to incorporating sex and gender in its research priorities, the processes for ensuring that the gender dimension is considered in research and teaching, and the support and capacity provided for researchers to develop methodologies that incorporate sex and gender analysis. Research funding and research performing organisations both have a role to play in ensuring this.
- 5. Measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment: Organisations establishing a GEP should consider taking steps to ensure they have clear institutional policies on sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence. Policies should establish and codify the expected behaviour of employees, outline how members of the organisation can report instances of gender-based violence and how any such instances will be investigated and sanctions applied. They should also consider how information and support is provided to victims or witnesses and how the whole organisation can be mobilised to establish a culture of zero tolerance toward sexual harassment and violence.

An effective GEP should be founded on a model of change that identifies the problems it seeks to address, their causes and desired outcomes, including targets, it should detail the set of activities that are required to achieve the aims, and indicators to monitor progress. A GEP should engage the whole organisation, from senior leaders to staff, students (in the case of a teaching organisation) and stakeholders, and it should form ongoing process that encourages self-reflection and review of processes and practices.

All organisations applying for Horizon Europe funding must submit a self-declaration at the proposal stage, through a specific questionnaire confirming they have a GEP in place. This declaration will later be included in the entity validation process. If the four mandatory requirements are met through another strategic document, such as an inclusion or diversity strategy, it will be considered as a GEP equivalent.

Annex 2. Horizon Europe recommended indicators for data collection and analysis

(Source: Horizon Europe guidance on gender equality plans, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ffcb06c3-200a-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1)

Relevant data on gender equality for all organisations can include:

- Staff numbers by sex/gender at all levels, by disciplines, function (including administrative / support staff) and by contractual relation to the organisation;
- Average numbers of years needed for women and men to make career advancements (per grade and by discipline);
 - Wage gaps by sex/gender and job;
- Numbers of women and men in academic and administrative decision-making positions (e.g. top management team, boards, committees, recruitment and promotion panels);
 - Numbers of female and male candidates applying for distinct job positions;
- Numbers of women and men having left the organisation in past years, specifying the numbers of years spent in the organisation;
- Numbers of staff by sex/gender applying for/taking parental leave, for how long and how many returned after taking the leave;
 - Number of absence days taken by women and men and according to absence motive;
 - Number of training hours/credits attended by women and men;

Specific data on gender equality relevant to research performing organisations (RPOs) may include:

- Number of female and male students at all levels and for all disciplines, and academic and employment outcomes;
 - Share of women and men among employed researchers;
- Share of women and men among applicants to research positions, among persons recruited and success rate, including by scientific field, academic position, and contract status;
- Share of women and men in recruitment or promotion boards, heads of recruitment or promotion boards and share of decision-making bodies, including by scientific field.

Annex 3. List of sources used for the literature review

(in alphabetic order)

European sources

Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission, https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/gender-equality-commission

EU FESTA - Gender Issues in Recruitment, Appointment and Promotion Processes – Recommendations for a Gender Sensitive Application of Excellence Criteria,

https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/festa gender issues recruitment appointment promotion.pdf

EUA - Universities' Strategies and Approaches towards Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,

https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/universities-39-strategies-and-approaches-towards-diversity-equity-and-inclusion.pdf EUCEN - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in European Higher Education Institutions,

https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/web_diversity%20equity%20and%20inclusion%20in%20european%20higher%20education%20institutions.pdf

European charter & code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers,

https://cdn2.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/ttf_goal_2_results_v1.0.pdf

European Institute for Gender Equality, https://eige.europa.eu

GARCIA - Mapping organizational work-life policies and practices,

https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/garcia report mapping org work-life policies practices.pdf

Guidelines for using gender-sensitive language in communication, research and administration,

https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/reutlingen_university_guidelines_for_using_gender-sensitive_language.pdf

Horizon Europe General Annexes, https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-

2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf

Horizon Europe guidance on gender equality plans, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ffcb06c3-200a-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1

LERU - Equality, diversity and inclusion at universities: the power of a systemic approach,

https://www.leru.org/publications/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-at-universities

Science Europe - Practical Guide TO Improving Gender Equality in Research Organisations,

https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/se_gender_practical-guide.pdf

Student evaluations of teaching (mostly) do not measure teaching effectiveness,

https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science_open_research_student_eval_teaching_effectiveness.pdf

National legislation

Law no. 202/19.04.2002 on equal opportunities and treatment between women and men - republished in 2020;

Government Decision no. 262/24.04.2019 approving the Methodological Norms for the application of the provisions of Law no. 202/2002 on equal opportunities and treatment between women and men;

Government Emergency Ordinance no. 137/31.08.2000 on the prevention and sanctioning of all forms of discrimination-modified in 2020.

ICMPP internal rules

Internal Regulation of ICMPP - 2021;

Ethics Code of ICMPP - 2021.