



## European Studies on Gender Aspects of Inventions- Statistical survey and analysis of gender impact on inventions

SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

FP6- 2005-Science and Society -17

4.3.5.2 c) Deepening and broadening the quantitative knowledge base on women and science in Europe

### **Project summary**

Within this SSA the gender impact on inventive activities of all 25 EU Member States within the time-span 2002 - 2004 will be investigated. The available knowledge base, which is very narrow up to now, indicates a comparatively low participation of women in inventive activities in relation to their participation in research and development. A complete study covering all 25 EU Member States is missing to this day.

The method of the proposed project will be to use patents as an indicator for inventive activities. It includes the comparison of statistical data of the European Patent Office with statistical data of EUROSTAT, with the results of an online survey exploring the attitude of applicants (i.e. companies).

The European Union's aim is to be the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by the year 2010, therefore the full range of innovative and inventive potential of the society should be incorporated. The proposed project will deliver the missing knowledge base concerning the participation of women in inventive activities. The comparison of the different EU Member States will reveal efficient tools and political strategies to increase the contribution of women in invention and patent creation. With the proposed project we contribute

to the EU gender mainstreaming policy and the goals of gender equality.

The structure of the proposed project consists of two parallel parts: Statistical data analysis and online survey of applicants. These two parts merge into the last part of the project: The gender impact assessment of the inventive activities of all 25 EU Member States.