



**IOP** Institute of Physics

# European Platform of Women Scientists

## - A Network of Networks across a Continent

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**ICWIP 2011**

# Background

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November 2005: EPWS legally established in Brussels with EU funding,  
as an international non-profit association (AISBL),  
with an international Board of Administration,  
*(3 of the 11 are physicists).*

General Assemblies:

1<sup>st</sup> in Brussels - 2007

2<sup>nd</sup> in Vilnius - 2008

Since 2008 EPWS has relied on its members' voluntary efforts.

3<sup>rd</sup> in Brussels - 2009

4<sup>th</sup> in Brussels - 2010

5<sup>th</sup> will be in Budapest - 2011

# EPWS Mission

## **To Represent:**

- *democratically*
- *legitimately* –
- *with transparent decision-making structures,*

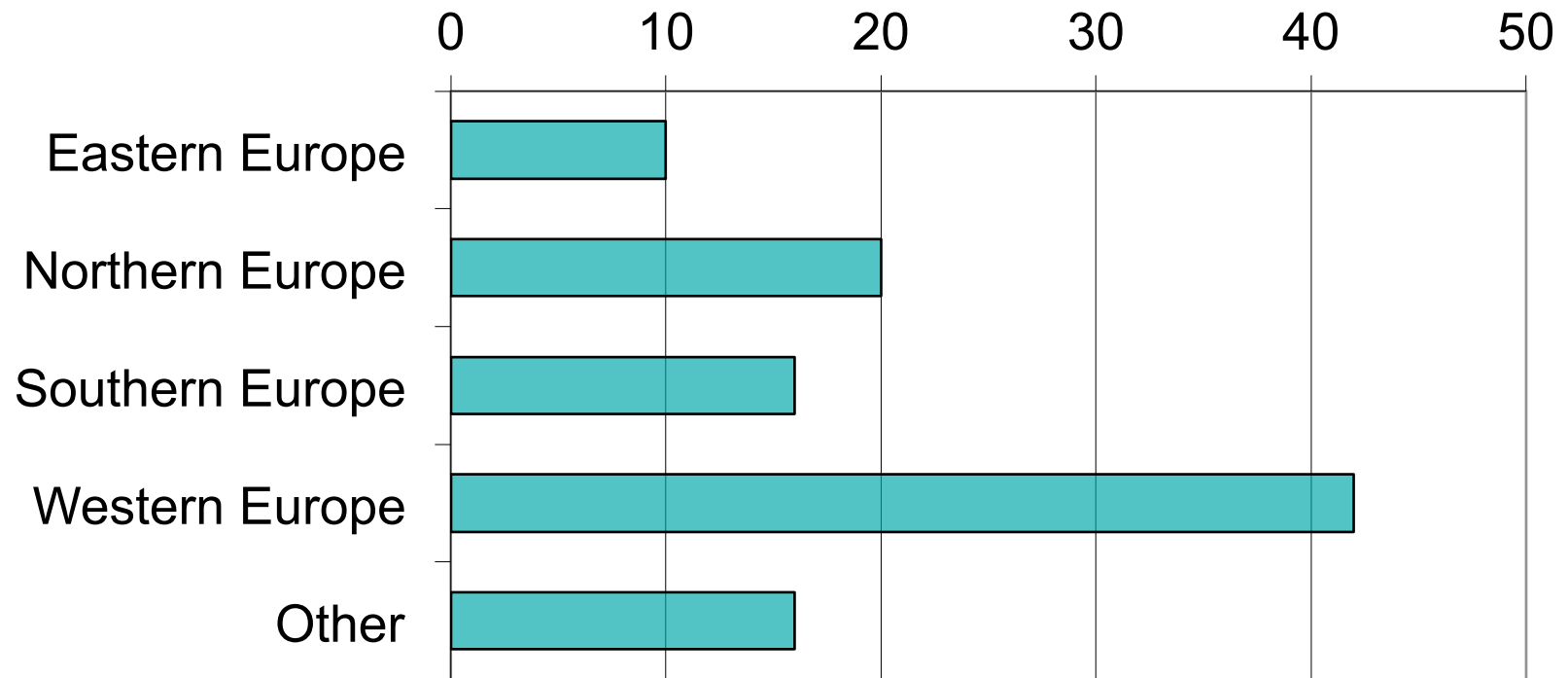
**the**

- **concerns,**
- **needs,**
- **aspirations**
- **and interests**

***of European women scientists*** -

- *in all stages of their career path,*
- *in dialogue with national,  
European and  
international institutions.*

# Number of Networks by Regions



35 countries are represented

50 full members  
25 associate members  
29 supporting organisations  
+ 80 individual members

# Networking within the EU

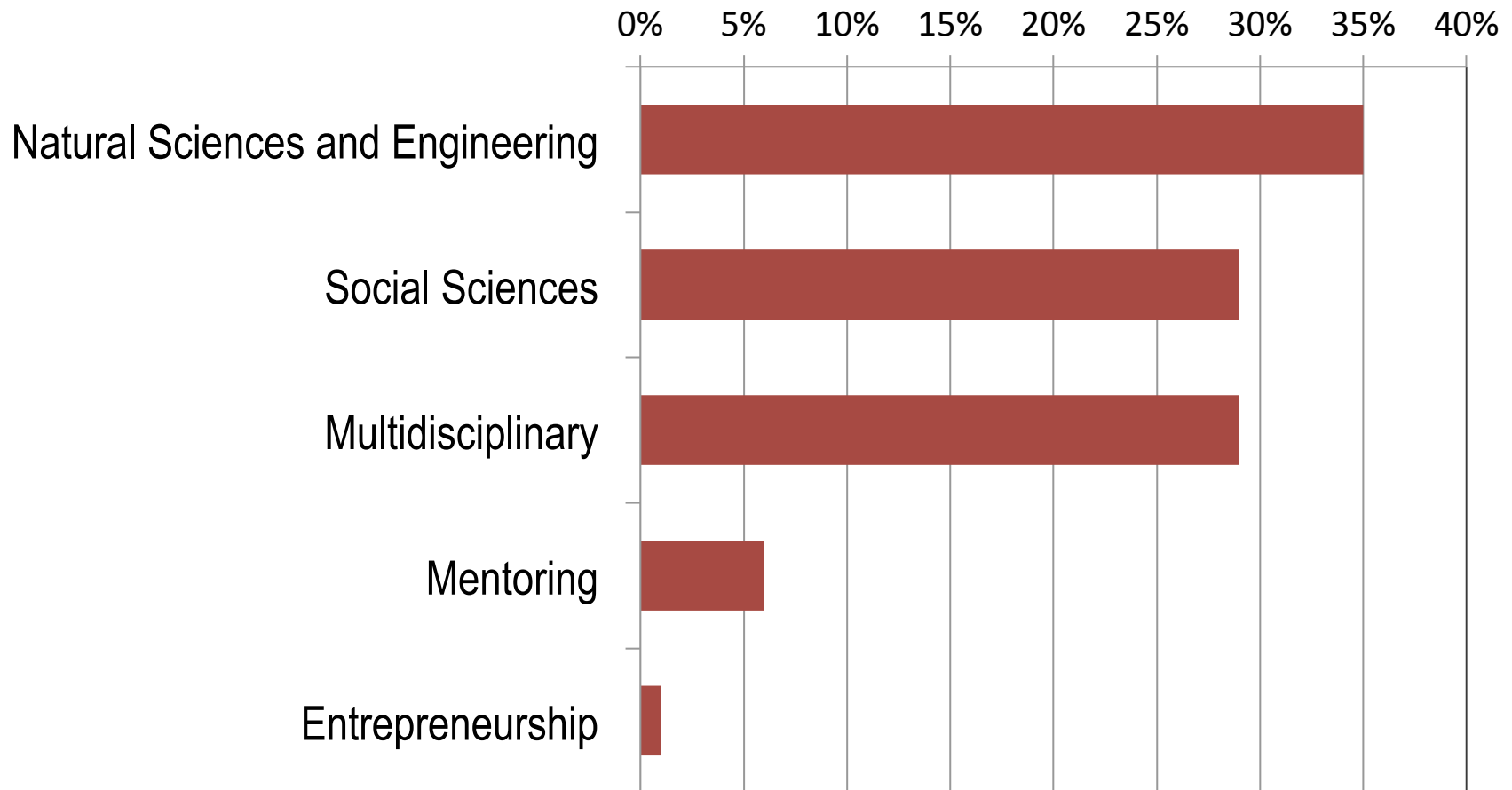
**EPWS - a voice for women in science in the EU policy debate**  
A Structural Link - for women scientists and policy makers



Examples:

- Policy statements
- Meetings with MEPs
- Encouraging members to take part in EU consultations
- Sharing best practice documents
- Contacts and visibility among stakeholders

# Disciplines of Member Networks

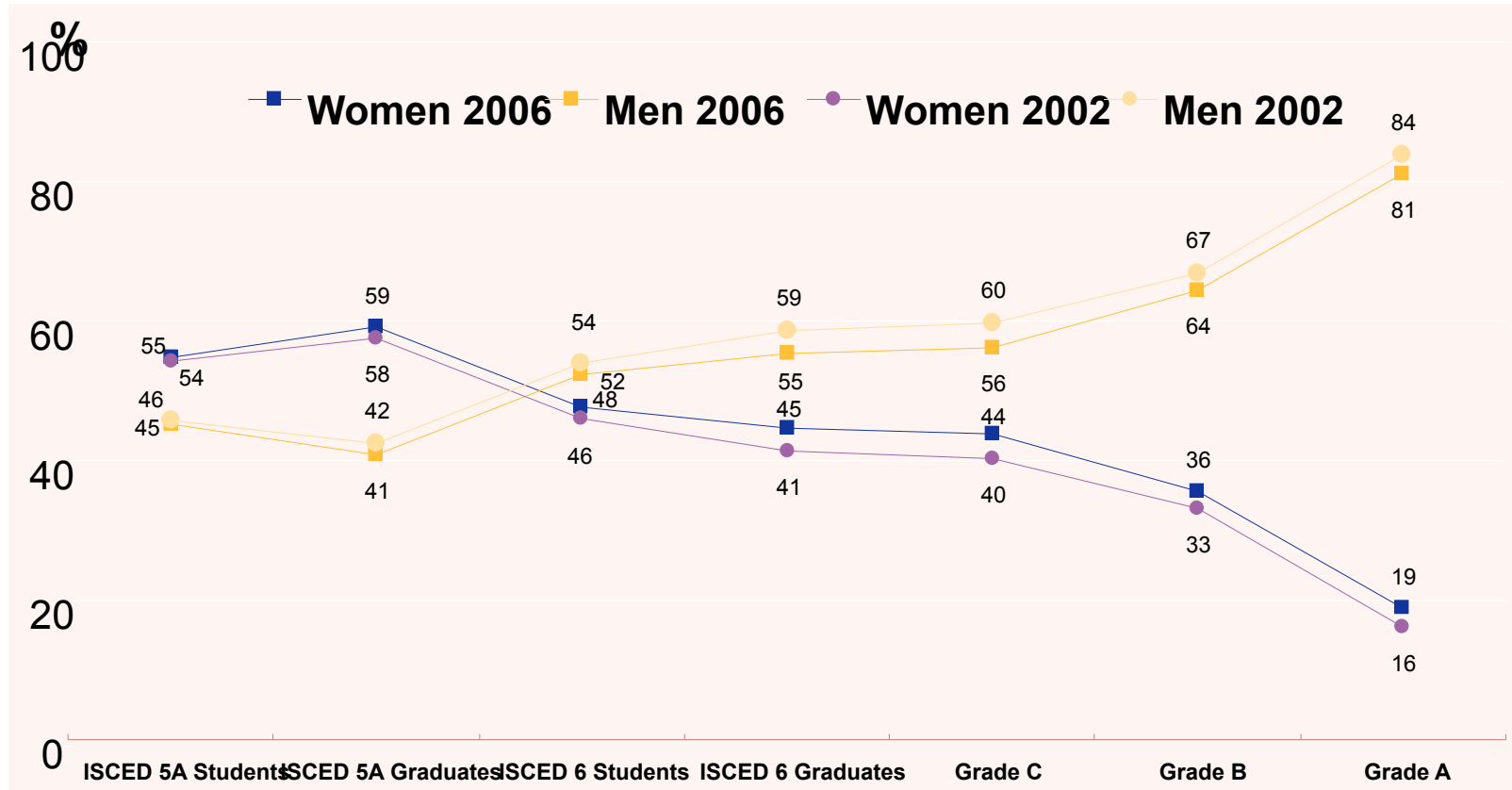


# Networking the Networks

## Over 100 member organisations

- **Annual Conference** – talks on EU funded projects, country activities, good practice shared
- **The EWPS electronic platform provides** - reports on EPWS activity, its involvement in the policy debate and its involvement in EU projects. [www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org) ;
- **News pages** - regularly up-dated at [www.epws.net](http://www.epws.net)
  - reports on the latest developments in EU research policy,
  - database of networks
- Exchange of good practices
- News of regional networks –eg BASNET

# Gender Gap in a typical academic career EU-27



**But for Science and engineering the lines do not touch.**

Source: She figures 2009  
European Commission



# Quote: EPWS Mission and Activities 2008



The participation of women in science, in science research and in the research policy debate is **a fundamental human right** of women scientists, and therefore is a **matter of justice**.

In view of the acknowledged discussion on the value of diversity, it has also **essential to achieve excellence and innovation in research** and to ensure a sustainable scientific quality of research.

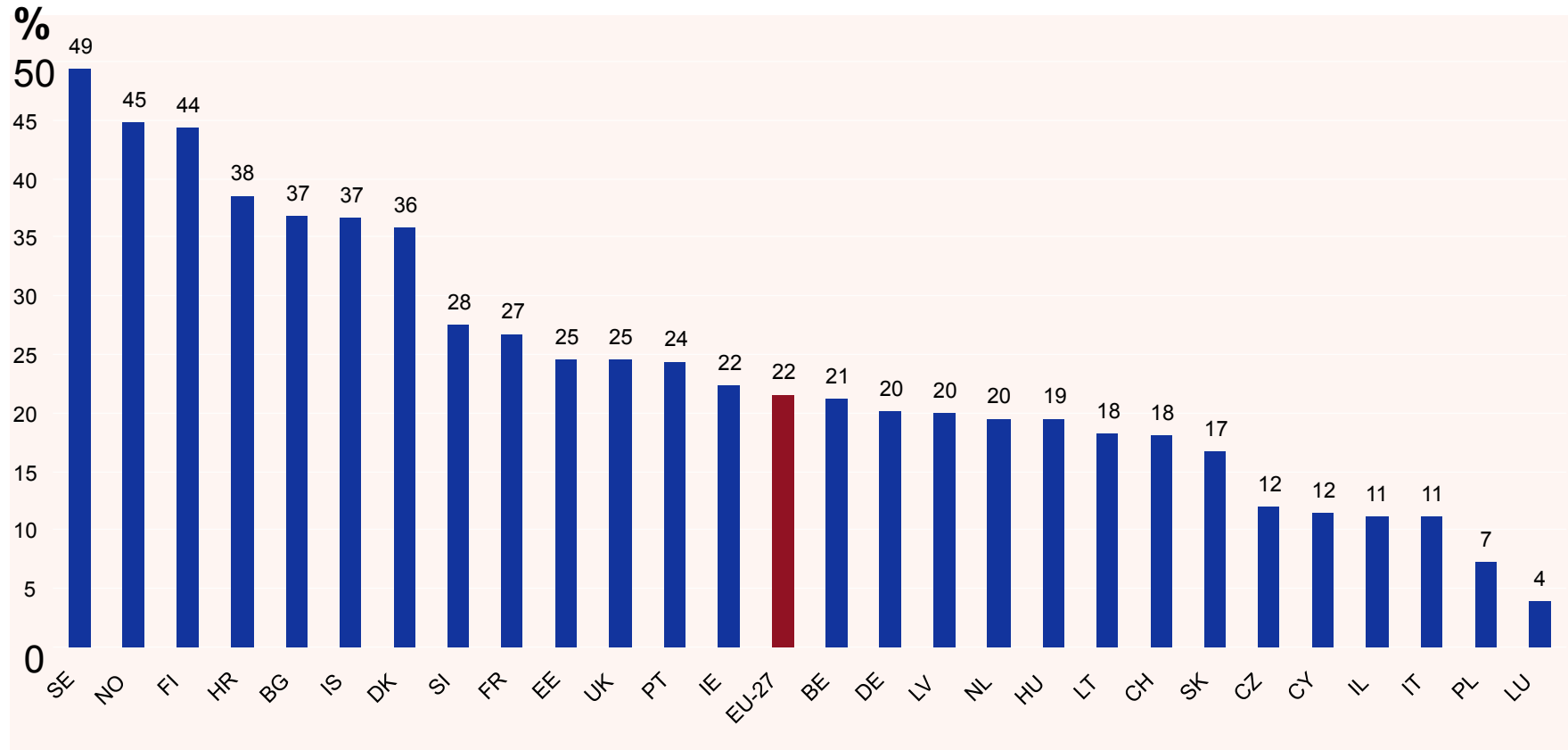
**Failing** to make full use of the available qualified human potential of women scientists **is detrimental to economies and societies** at the macro level as well as to individual research institutions on the micro level.

# A network for all members

- EPWS represents more than 12 000 women scientists
  - Information from and towards members
- **Website**
- **Electronic Platform** – interactive
  - significant events, awards, surveys etc of concern to women scientists and those working towards gender equality in the sciences;
- **Newsletters** – electronic – free to download
  - over 1600 registered readers
  - provide EU news, highlight the activities of member networks, announce future activities
- EPWS links individual members to numerous networking opportunities - - -

# Proportion of Women on Boards

( scientific, advisory, funding etc in EU)



Note – average = 22  
Sweden (SE) has 49%  
Poland 7%, Luxembourg 4%

Source: She figures 2009  
European Commission

# Networking for individuals

- - - EPWS links individual members to numerous networking opportunities across Europe

**Member networks are made up of individuals.  
Also it is possible to be an individual member**

Announcements about events, meetings, conferences - - -

Also:

6% of EPWS members are mentoring based organisations.

**Mentoring** for women can be life changing

Examples:

- BeWise - Belgium
- MentorSET - UK

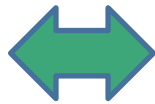
# Encouraging girls into science

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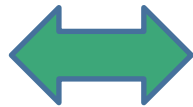
- **Finding: Many member organisations are involved with outreach activities to encourage girls to take science**
- This has economic impact - within nations – within EU
- **The EPWS Statutes are being modified to include this aim!**
- Sharing best practice
- Websites – publications – fun activities that excite interest
- The future
- EYF
- Good personal development for scientists

# EPWS: Network of Networks<sup>2</sup>

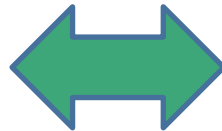
- EU



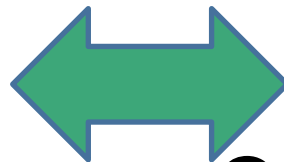
- EPWS



- Member organisations



- Individuals



- Outreach



**Thank you for listening!**

**[www.epws.org](http://www.epws.org)**

*With grateful thanks to my sponsors:  
the (French) **Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique**  
and the **Institute of Physics***