

Centre for Gender and Education Studies **WiTEC ITALY**

CSGE - Centre for Gender and Education Studies



The Centre for Studies on Gender and Education (CSGE) deals with interdisciplinary research on gender and education, namely with social dynamics related to educational processes and socialization from a gender studies perspective. The center is the result of the collaboration among professors, scholars and researchers of the Department in various academic disciplines: Pedagogy, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, History, Philosophy and Physical and Natural Sciences. The main purpose of the CSGE is to promote research on education and gender identity. Accordingly, it addresses to different audiences (university students, schools, cultural centers, local authorities, etc.) for issues pertaining to gender and education. The CSGE collects and promotes different approaches of research, and focuses on gender topics including:

- Education to femininity and masculinity (and gender-related constraints, stereotypes, prejudices, etc..) in local, national and international context;
- Education and good practices in gender relations;
- Education, gender socialization and immigration;
- Sexual discrimination and unequal conditions;
- Social and media representations of gender differences;
- Gender issues in educational, social and cultural settings.

Moreover, by connecting researchers and scholars in international networks, it promotes gender information on education; it also raises funds for further research in both local and national areas.

Some members of the centre, from different disciplines, are particularly involved in researches and activities dealing with women's careers in educational paths and work contexts that are particularly unbalanced from a gender perspective.

Csge's research and activities in this field include:

- ***Women, science and technology in modern and contemporary history***
- ***Gender stereotypes about math from as early as 5-to-6 years of age***

- **Gender stereotypes in the choice of secondary school.**
- ***Women in work transition***
- ***Gender balance in the public administration***
- ***Leadership and education***
- ***Micro credit and micro entrepreneurship for migrant women***
- ***Women and citizenship on the web***

Web page: <http://www.csge.unibo.it/>



VHTO

WITEC NETHERLANDS

Attracting more girls into SET: Good practice is ‘an integral approach

Girls and women are underrepresented in science and technology compared to their male counterparts - not only in the Netherlands, but also in other European countries. However, the situation in the Netherlands is somewhat exceptional in that we are often one of the lower ranking countries worldwide in this area. However, in recent years, more and more girls have chosen a science profile that gives access to university courses in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). The percentage of girls who choose a science profile is higher at those schools where a ‘VHTO intervention’ took place. The VHTO intervention has proven to be successful, but what are the success factors of this intervention?

- The intervention is research-based; VHTO collects and analyses the research that has been conducted on gender SET and actively disseminates the results (via website, magazine, ezine (online magazine) and presentations). VHTO is currently working together with Australian researcher (associate professor) Helen Watt and recently formed a network of key researchers on this subject.
- The intervention has an integrated approach; special activities for girls (including contact with female professionals/role models) are combined with teacher training, and a policy-based approach to gender mainstreaming.
- VHTO stimulates collaboration between schools and higher education institutions. The majority of the institutions work closely with VHTO on outreach activities designed to attract girls. They participate in the speed-date sessions as their female students act as role models, and some institutions organise special activities for girls, like career days and high teas. They also participate in “Girlsday”; an international initiative where technical companies and institutions invite young girls to visit and view their organisation.
- VHTO organises annual conferences in order to make the activities within the schools more visible.

In these programmes VHTO cooperates with the Dutch government and the National Platform for Science and Technology. This platform has been commissioned by the government to achieve a structural increase of 15 per cent more pupils and students in scientific and technical education. One of the key areas of VHTO’s mainstreaming work is the emphasis on gender in the overall system of auditing and monitoring the programme.

Role models

Female role models are a key factor in the success of these programmes. It is because of their enthusiasm that girls gain a more realistic and positive view of SET. In order to thank them for their (voluntary) efforts, VHTO organised, in cooperation with National Dutch Railways (NS) a national conference especially for these women.

During that conference role models were trained and awards were given out to role models and companies who actively support females in SET. This year the award was won by Tata Steel.



Speed-date session.

**KRINOVA
WiTEC**

SCIENCE

**PARK
SWEDEN**

WiTEC Sweden reorganized

From having been located within a department at Halmstad University, WiTEC Sweden has now created its own organization. In November last year WiTEC Sweden was registered as a nonprofit organization and in April 2012 the first assembly meeting was held at Krinova Science Park, Kristianstad, Sweden. During the first build-up period of the new WiTEC Sweden, Krinova Science Park will act as host organization. An executive board was elected with people from universities and industry. Altogether the board consists of professionals with complementary experience from different sectors of society and from different parts of Sweden. Charlotte Lorentz Hjorth, CEO of Krinova Science Park was elected president and Ingrid Thuresson general secretary and the one who will act as coordinator for WiTEC Sweden.

The aim and direction for the near future of WiTEC Sweden will be:

- to develop mentorship and trainee programs for female students
- to support women's innovation and entrepreneurship
- to develop the network and use the website to inform about ongoing and actual R&D projects on gender and science, technology, IT, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Krinova Science Park is one of 60 science parks and incubators in Sweden. Science parks are founded in a university context to enable collaboration between academy, business and society at large, with the mission to promote innovation and development. About 80 companies and organizations have their offices in the Krinova building, and they represent a dynamic mix of companies of different sizes and industries. Krinova arranges and facilitates meeting for about 20.000 people annually.

Krinova's cross innovation focus is Food, Environment and Health, relating to Kristianstad University's areas of research and the Kristianstad region's businesses and industries. Food, Environment and Health are core challenges for the future, and have relevance for the individual human being. Development in these areas supports sustainable growth. Smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth are priorities of EU's 2020 strategy, and are also priorities for Krinova. Krinova's aim is to become a dynamic node that links local, regional and global perspectives with a strategy that contributes to the development of the Skåne region, aiming at becoming one of the most innovative regions in Europe.



The picture shows the new key actors of WiTEC Sweden, Coordinator Ingrid Thuresson (on the left) and President Charlotte Lorentz Hjorth (on the right).

