

PRESS RELEASE

Formation of a Network of Gender Equality Committees of Greek Research Centers & Independent Research Institutes

On the initiative of the Chair of the Gender Equality Committee (GEC) of Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), **Dr. Maria Klapa**, on **April 6, 2022** took place the first online meeting of the Gender Equality Committees of thirteen (13) Greek Research Centers and Independent Research Institutes, during which they decided to form an informal Network of GECs of Greek Research Centers and Institutes. The formation of the Network was decided by the GECs of the: Athena Research Center (RC), National Observatory of Athens (NOA), National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF), Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), National Center for Scientific Research (NCSR) "Demokritos", National Centre of Social Research (EKKE), Hellenic Agricultural Organization (ELGO) DIMITRA, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy Of Athens (BRFAA), Biomedical Sciences Research Center (BSRC) "Alexander Fleming", Benaki Phytopathological Institute (BPI), Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR) and FORTH and a representative of the under creation GEC of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute.

The Network of Greek RC/RI GECs is expected to contribute to the exchange of information and good practices, the development of collaborations, the organization of joint events and activities and the creation of integrated working groups on gender issues in research between the involved Research Centers and Institutes. It was decided that the coordination of the Network will be alternated between the RCs in every two years, with the Chair of FORTH GEC Dr. **Maria Klapa** undertaking the role in the first term. At the next meeting, the Network will decide on the framework of its operation principles and its next actions.

The Network of Greek RC/RI GECs will be in direct collaboration with the respective Network of Greek University GECs that had been formed earlier, on October 6, 2020. The Coordinator of the Greek University GEC Network and Chair of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki GEC, Professor **Dimitra Kogkidou**, attended the meeting and presented the goals and activities of the University GEC Network.

The meeting was also attended by Assistant Professor **Ntia Anagnostou**, Vice Chair of the Panteion University GEC and collaborator of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), delivering a brief presentation of the project "Fighting gender inequalities in research and higher education in Greece (GENDRHED) ", funded by the Active Citizens Fund.