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Report on the Satellite Meeting

“Gender issues in Magnetism research institutions”

held during the

International Conference on Magnetism

26 – 31 July 2009, Karlsruhe, Germany



**Thursday, 30.07.09, Alfred Mombert Hall
Program of the Meeting:**

13:30-13:45	Britta Bergfeld	Welcome of the workshop participants and overview of the policy regarding promoting of women at FZK
13:45-14:00	Julia Ivanisenko	The European charter and code
14:00-14:45	Caroline Robertson-von Trotha	Women in leading positions in science: visions and realities
14:45-15:00	Catherine Pappas	A life between family, neutrons and magnetism
15:00-15:15	Luise Theil Kuhn	Barriers in a magnetism career
15:15-15:30	Open Discussion, led by all speakers	

On July 30, 2009 a satellite meeting on the topic **“Gender issues in Magnetism research institutions”** was organized by partners of the EC-funded project “Diversity”, Dr. J. Ivanisenko and Prof. H. Hahn, in the framework of the International Conference on Magnetism, ICM 2009, held in Karlsruhe, Germany.

The **International Conference on Magnetism (ICM)** belongs to a series of conferences held once every three years under the auspices of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) to provide a forum to the international magnetism community for discussion of new concepts, properties, and developments in all branches of fundamental and applied magnetism, as well as in magnetic materials and their applications. The first conference of the ICM series took place in 1958 in Grenoble, France and has been followed by similar, highly regarded conferences held in various parts of the world. The most recent conferences were held in Warsaw (1994), Cairns (1997), Recife (2000), Rome (2003), and Kyoto (2006).

About 45 participants of totally 300 followed the invitation to the satellite meeting, mainly women scientists and female students and Ph.D. students. Surprisingly, 12 interested male scientists also came to the meeting. Dr. Britta Bergfeld gave an introductory talk informing about the current gender policy at Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, one of the largest research centres in Germany. Dr. Julia Ivanisenko provided a brief introduction into the European Charter and Code and explained the principal objectives of the



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Project "Diversity". Main emphasis was given to invite the participants of the meeting to become actively involved in project activities. First of all this addresses their participation in the survey which will be organised in the frames of "Diversity" in order to collect information and data on the particular situation of women in the field of material sciences at the different career levels. Furthermore, they were invited to attend the regional workshops that are planned for the whole project duration and are announced at the Project webpage.

Very interesting talk was given by Prof. Robertson von Trotha with intriguing title "Women in leading positions in science: visions and realities". It was shown that despite the notable progress in providing women equal rights in development of their professional carrier as compared with the men, still much should be done in the particular area of decision making process.

Finally Prof. Caterine Pappas and Dr. Luise Theil Kuhn told about their own experience in building carrier in science, and explained how they managed not to sacrifice their private life and to bring together motherhood and a scientific career. These two very personal presentations were listened by the auditory with special interest and gave a start to hot discussions.

Prof. Suzanne te Velthuis from Argonne National Laboratory told about her private experience and encouraged young female scientists not to be afraid of difficulties and go ahead along the chosen path. Prof. Gernot Goll, the Secretary of the Local Committee of ICM 2009 stressed that the role of women in science has increased in the recent past which also demonstrated the present conference, where up to 15 % of all participants were women. He also told that a special baby-sitting service was provided by the conference organisers, and several participants have used this possibility and came to the conference with their small children. However many critical words were said to the Organising Committee in respect to the very low number of female invited and key note speakers. Finally, almost all participants of the satellite meeting expressed their interest to actively participate in the planned "Diversity" activities. Even after the end of the event discussions were continued, and several Emails with requests for further information were send to the satellite Event Organisers.



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Dr. Britta Bergfeld gives report about the situation at FZK.



Dr. Julia Ivanisenko invites the next speaker – Prof. Robertson von Trotha



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Prof. Catherina Pappas about her own view at the problem.



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Men also participated in the satellite event. Here: Prof. G. Goll from Karlsruhe and Prof. A. Sidorenko from Kishinev, Moldova.



Discussions continued after the end of the Workshop.