

Report on the EUGenMed final conference “European Roadmap for Implementation of Sex and Gender in biomedicine and health research”.

Partners and Project - Introduction

Vera Regitz-Zagrosek as coordinator presented the partners sites, Charité University Medicine Berlin, University of Maastricht (UM), the European Institute of Women’s Health (EIWH). The partners presented themselves and the team members - at Charité Dr. Sabine Oertelt-Prigione, Dr. Ute Seeland, Zuhal Kartal, at UM Prof. Ineke Klinge and Lucie Dalibert, PhD and at EIWH Hildrun Sundseth, Peggy Maguire and Kirsten Semancik. She briefly introduced also Charité and the Institute of Gender in Medicine (GIM) at Charité. The Institute of Gender in Medicine at Charité has developed a large European network and is building on this network to promote gender medicine in a European context.

Vera Regitz-Zagrosek also gave an overview on the EUGenMed project that aims at the introduction of sex and gender aspects into biomedicine and health research. This approach focusing on women and men equally will lead to more efficient use of resources and improve the health of European citizens. It will build on existing activities and develop a sustainable European gender health network after the end of funding that is open to all stakeholders.

Vera Regitz-Zagrosek briefly discussed the differences between sex as a biologically based phenomenon and gender that includes lifestyle, sociocultural and environmental facts; and justified the focus of the project on sex and gender (S&G).

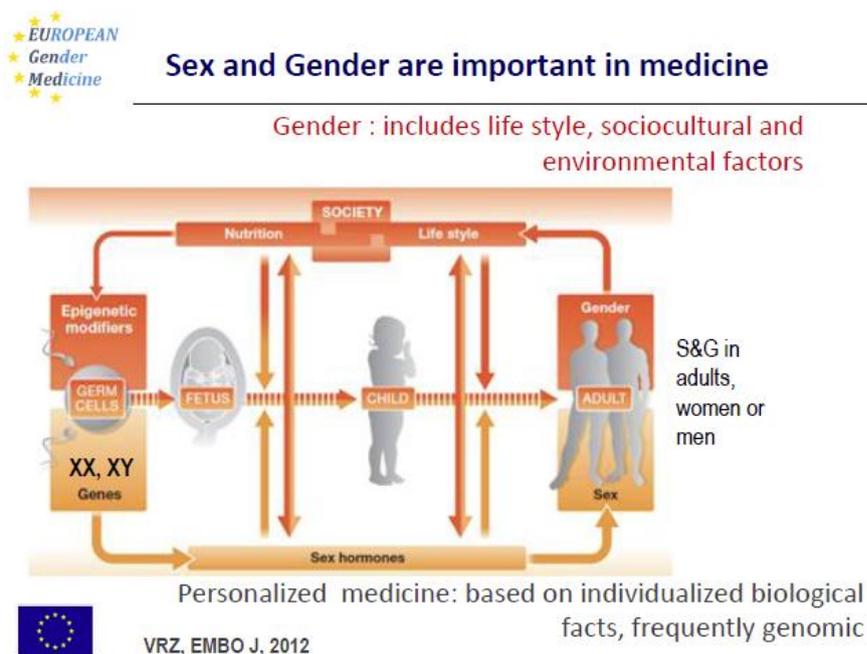


Fig 1: Relation between Sex and Gender (S&G)

Vera Regitz-Zagrosek also discussed the NIH statement from June 9th, 2015 that asks for the consideration of sex as a biological variable in research designs, analysis, and reporting in vertebrate animals and human studies. She briefly mentioned how important S&G is and gave a few examples, e.g. the higher lethality of myocardial infarction in women than in men in France, the higher number of inappropriate medications in elderly women in comparison with elderly men and the resulting

greater number of drug complications in this cohort. She mentioned that S&G aspects can be found in all medical disciplines and quoted some reference books for this.

She explained the structures and the timelines of the EUGenMed project starting with the identification of stakeholders in October 2013, a kick-off conference with these stakeholders invited in April 2014, the four different workshops between November 2014 and March 2015, the final conference now in June 2015 and the dissemination phase until September 30, 2015 when the project ends. She went with more details into the outcomes of the workshops and future steps towards implementation. These issues are presented in more detail in the session on the workshops. She then discussed sustainability, what means maintaining network of experts and ongoing exchange after the end of the project, updating results and generating results, position papers, policy briefs, and facts sheets, development of training and teaching books. This requires participation of all stakeholders and ongoing meetings and discussions after the formal end of the project in September 2015. In particular, there is a very important dissemination phase from July to September 2015 and a first opportunity to disseminate EUGenMed results to the gender scientific community at the 7th annual conference of the International Society of Gender Medicine in Berlin on September 20-21, 2015. She invited all stakeholders to this conference.

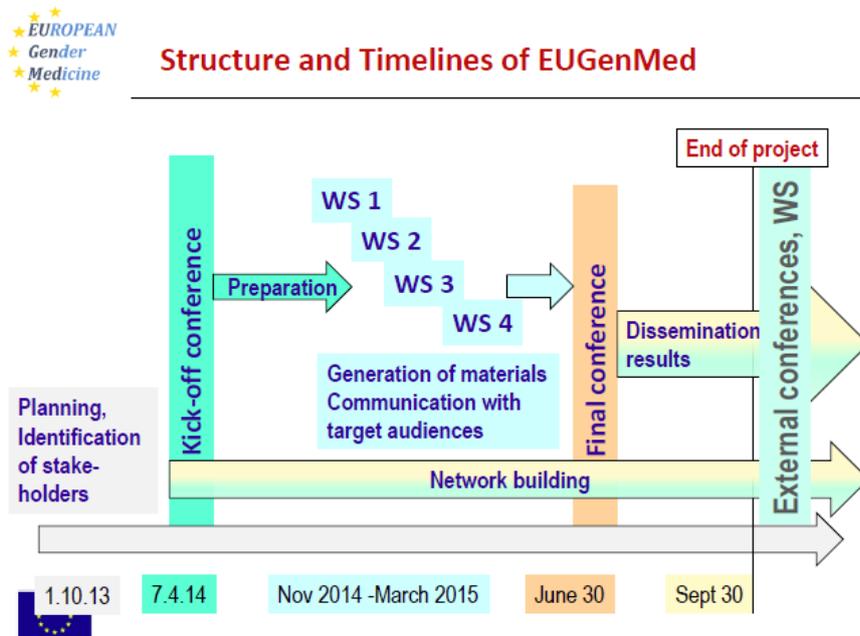


Fig 2: Timelines of the EUGenMed project