

Elise-Richter-Netzwerk General Assembly 2022

7.9.2022, 16:30 NIG (hybrid: in person and Zoom)

Eingang Liebiggasse 6, 1010 Wien

Seminarraum Dept Science and Technology Studies

Attending board members: Stefanie Widder, Katja Mayer, Anna Artaker, Doris Lucyshyn (in person), Maria Bertel (online). Excused: Karin Sardadvar, Barbara Fischer

Attending ERN-members: 7 ER-members in person, 12 online



Agenda

I. Report about the activities since the foundation of the association by the chairwoman - Resolution/discharge by the general assembly

II. Outlook on planned activities for the next two years by the chairwoman - resolution by the general assembly

III. Report on the financial management by the auditors - resolution/discharge by the general assembly

IV. Any other business

I. Synopsis of Activities and Aims

März 2021: Vereinsgründung with the objective to have a more formal representation of excellent female researchers and artists. Furthermore to enable FWF funding of Richter network homepage.

Articles of our association (Statuten) and data protection statement developed by Maria Bertel (lawyer); available from the webpage.

Preamble: The Elise Richter Network is an exchange platform for excellent female researchers in Austria. It connects past, present and future Elise Richter awardees and aims to support their careers in academia and beyond. In our activities, we advocate for gender equality and battle systemic deficits of equal career opportunities in Austrian academia.

This page highlights scientific achievements and critical perspectives of the group, portrays the scholars behind the research and enables contact and networking.

Mission statement: Excellent research – equal opportunities

Since then:

- public voice that stands in for targeted career development for excellent female scholars and raises systematic challenges and biases
- directed networking within and outside ERN (e.g. FWF, AK, worker's council Univie, other Mittelbau organisations like IGLektoren, BOKU (Stephan Pueringer, Florian Part), ministry for BMBWF)
- contributions in press, radio and social media around the UG amendment

I. Activities since 2021

UG 02 Amendment & career development

- Jan 2021 Public statement to UG2002 neu at parliament homepage: >800 supports. The writing process was initialised by a smaller group of people including Brigitte Pertschy, Jitka Polechova, Sabine Mueller + more → [link to the statement](#)
- Jan 2021: Doris Lucyshyn OE1 in PunktEins: Uni-Gesetz neu - was Interessenvertretungen kritisieren
- March 2021: public statement to the revision of UG2020 → [link to the statement](#)
- Summer 2021: design, conduct and analysis of ad-hoc exploratory survey „Career trajectories of excellent female scholars in Austria/Positions and Impact Amendment UG02 “ initiated by Katja Mayer (analysis by the Richter Board)
- Nov. 2021: Presentation of survey results at FWF (B. Zimmermann, E. Wisocky) and at the Ministry (Section Head Weitgruber, Section Head University Statistics Harald Titz, Sabine Koch Head University development (University planning) and involved in negotiations of the University budget/Pichl, Head Genderparity and Diversity Roberta Schaller-Steidl; ERN Stefanie Widder, Doris Lucyshyn, Barbara Fischer. Follow up discussion by e-mail on relevant action points.

Survey results:

Qualitative results

Majority of participants targets a career in Austria:

- Employment history >> 10 temporary contracts.
- Institutional career development is lacking and turns into career barriers (bad practice examples).
- Acute research delays and interruptions were encountered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

UG Amendment 2021

- The §109 chain contract rule will lead to massive brain drain, even more reduced career perspectives and a loss of expertise in Austria.
- The maximal employment duration drastically counteracts diversity efforts and gender balance in academia.

Planned science careers with targeted career development:

- A national strategy for long-term, funded career models is missing.

Action points

1. Systematic increase of diversity and gender-parity in academic top positions by nation-wide career models, generation of funded positions under the perspective of gender-balance and binding new parameters reflecting measure implementation of diversity and gender-parity in academia.
 2. Absorbing the negative effects of §109 by targeted acute funds for successful scholars and cancelling retrospective effectiveness of maximal employment duration.
 3. Compensating Covid-19 related delays in running projects.
- Dec. 2021: Media discussion with press release on the survey results in the context of Diskurs-Wissenschaftsnetz by Stefanie Widder; contribution to Ö1 Mittagsjournal, broad media echo
 - Feb 2022: Talks with Blimlinger via zoom on the new UG (organized by UnivieBetriebsrat): Add on amendment;

Input ERN:

Par 109 diffuse retrospective application.

Transition agreement on starting and running projects PIs

Transparent career models across Austria (including discipline specifics)

- June 2022: Participation in the FWF event "Women in Top Research" and representation of the ER Network by Barbara Fischer and Katja Mayer, networking with Section Head Weitgruber, FWF President Gattringer, and other people from FWF (Kranewitter, Zimmermann, Wysocki).
- June 2022: Correspondence with FWF (President Gattringer) regarding the inclusion of the word "excellence" in descriptions of the program. Response: generally positive and understanding, but no commitment. Budget increase and presentation in career section with START.
- March 2022: Participation in organizing led by BOKU (Florian Part) to discuss the position of mid-level faculty at universities, labor law situation, and the new UG..
Doris Lucyshyn: We were invited by Netzwerk Unterbau (nuwiss: Florian Part (BOKU), Stefan Pühringer (JKU) and others): issues concerning working conditions at Austrian Universities, especially at the level of 'Mittelbau' - meaning postdocs / early career researchers / young PIs, mostly funded by third-party projects. The goal is to connect different interest groups, including IG-Lektor:innen, Arbeiterkammer Wien, a subgroup of GÖD (Gewerkschaft öffentlicher Dienst / Union of Public Services) and potentially other groups, in an organizing process, in order to concert efforts and make joint statements on issues like the chain-contract rules, limited contracts, missing career options, and other topics related to university law. The group holds regular meetings, 2-3/semester, usually Wednesday afternoons – in German! Currently a strategy document is being written together (relatively slow process), that will be the basis for joint statements and public discussions, potentially also planned to be sent to rectorates. The aim is to formulate better solutions and suggestions for better contracts, career options, but also working conditions and inclusion in general decision-making processes. One important goal is the elimination of §109, and applying general employment law also for third-party funded employees.
Current members of Organizing: Nuwiss (members of BOKU Vienna, JKU Linz, Uni Wien, etc), IG-Lektor*innen, Arbeiterkammer Wien, GÖD (Gewerkschaft öffentlicher Dienst / Union of Public Services), ULV (UniversitätslehrerInnenverband), ERN

Public appearance ERN

- November, Dez, Jan. 2021: Meeting with Kranewitter vom FWF (Head of PR) and webpage sounding board; Decision that FWF finances webpage
- March 2022 Publication of ER-Website: Presentation of Richter scholars, portrait of the month and news on successes and achievements (content, career). Thank you so much for your initial contributions, as well as ongoing input!
- Social media activity: We are currently sharing news, portraits and statements on twitter (150 followers so far).
- There was the recommendation to also be visible in LinkedIn – here we are lacking persons to host such an account.

II. Outlook

- Inviting new Richter awardees to netzwerk/maillinglist (latest November)

- Webpage: Invitation to new Richter awardees, as well as people who missed deadline in spring – personal information and portraits.
- Next steps organizing prozess:

For this important networking activity, we require a larger pool of persons to engage. Any interested (german speaking) ERN members: please get in touch with doris.lucyshyn@boku.ac.at

- Status quo / planned changes Exzellenz-Programme FWF:

Start, Richter and Schroedinger could merge into 1 excellence career program; standing invitation to development process by president Gattringer; time frame start 2023

Pool of persons

- Individual talks and presentations with rectorates: First attempt at MUW was a sobering event. 1.2 Mio-> Par. 99.5; TU offers 99.5 for Richter;
- Alternative metrics discussion with the ministry BMBWF Frau Riesinger; Richter fellows involved are Bea Maas, Karen Kastenhofer, Aglaja Przyborsky, Astrid Weiss, Andrea Schnepf, Carolina Merjane, Noelia Rabanal, Kristina Kubina, Veronika Hayden-Hanscho;

Meeting 15.9.22; A report back to the board would be suitable.

- More research on European Project on Hochschulraumentwicklung is required + networking with European Mittelbauvertreter involved in European Hochschulraumentwicklung; Science careers development and work framework in Europe.

driver people/pool of persons

III. Report on Finances

As of today's date (5.9.2022) there is € 4.938,44 on our association account.

The FWF has transferred €5000 to us in December 2021. Since then we have paid €20,58 per in account maintenance fees per quarter, received a few cents interest and paid a few cents capital gains tax. TU has not yet invoiced us for creating the website.

Entlastung des Vorstands: Einstimmig

IV. Any other business

- Propositions for other suitable activities and driver persons