

Electronic Newsletter | Work-Life Balance of Scientists Working on OP RDI Projects | 1/2015 (English version)

Generic terms used in the text in the masculine refer both to men and women unless specified otherwise.

Feedback from participants with respect to the conference “Young Scientists: Balancing Career and Family”

We would like to share the results of the **feedback** we have received from “**Young Scientists: Balancing Career and Family**” conference with you, which took place at the end of last year under the auspices of Masaryk University and the Work-Life Balance Project. The online evaluation form was filled by approximately 20% (19 respondents) of the total number of more than 100 participants.

The key note speaker, **Prof. Edeltraud Hanappi-Egger**, who talked about “*Balancing between work and family in the academic field: a contradiction or a necessity?*”, has definitely received some of the most positive feedback. Positive feedback has also been received on the lecture of **Dr. Marta Vohlídalová**, who addressed, in particular, the outputs of research focused on work-life balance among male and female scientists, which were based on quality interviews with individuals, among other things, and also on “double-career” scientist couples. Another aspect of the conference that has received positive feedback was the **panel discussion of male and female scientists on their work and family**, which focused on their individual experiences rather than any theoretical theses. The afternoon round table discussion was attended by a significantly lower number of participants. Of the total number of 19 respondents, only 7 were able to evaluate their satisfaction with the round table discussion, with the average score being 2.5 on a scale of 1 to 5.

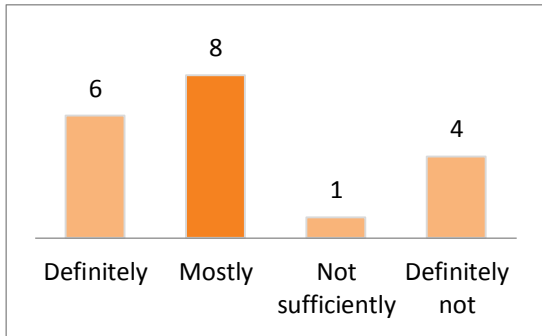
The most relevant topic has proven to be the central theme of the conference, i.e. the issue of **balancing family and professional life**, followed by the **career development of young scientists at the stage of PhD or post-doc study**. According to the respondents, the least relevant topic was the issue of equal opportunities in science. We also asked the participants about their preferences in the forms of support for young male and female scientists in this field. The respondents by and large prefer **individual consulting services** in the field of work-life balance (legislative, tools, etc.), as well as general **information services** (e.g. in the form of a portal for employees or newsletters), and, last but not least, **workshops and seminars conducted by professionals**.

In the end, the respondents had an opportunity to provide a verbal evaluation. Very positive feedback was given to the actual **opening of this discussion in the academic environment** and, in terms of organisation, the day care services that were offered throughout the day. On the other hand, negative comments reflected disappointment with lectures being too theoretical and excessive emphases on the issue of equal opportunities as a problem for women. There were also perceptions that there was an insufficient focus on practical problems faced by young scientists (both male and female).

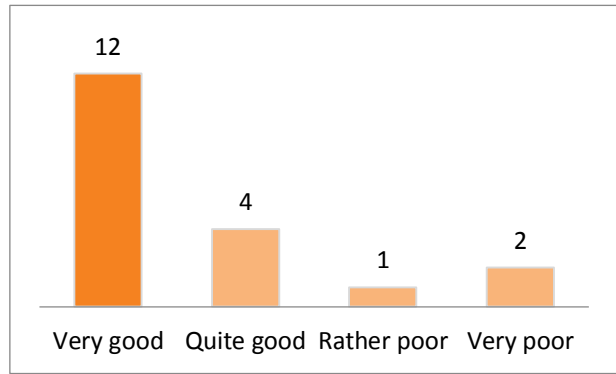
We would like to thank all the respondents for their feedback, which we would like to draw on as we organise future activities at the CEITEC Centre and at partner institutions in the Work-Life Balance Project!

Below, we present a graphic summary of selected questions:

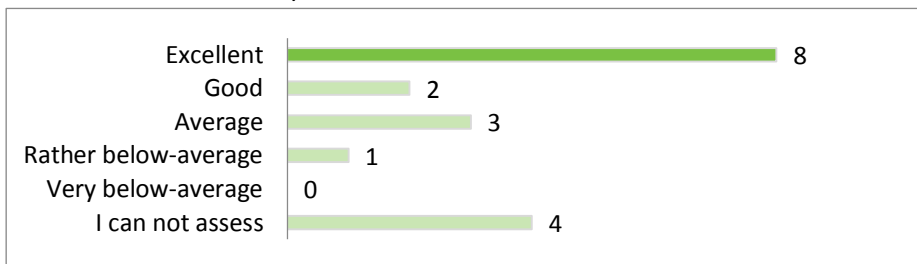
Has the conference fulfilled your expectations with respect to its agenda?



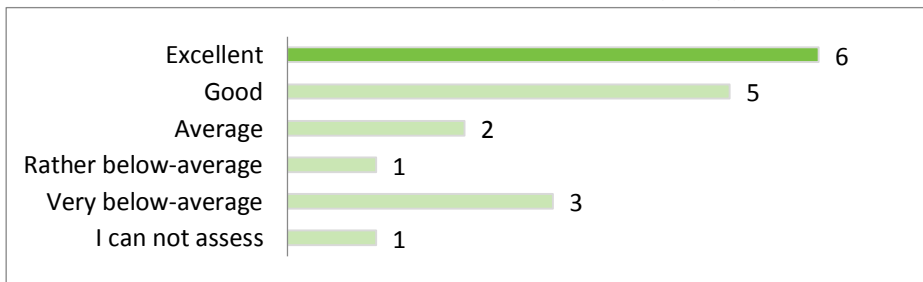
How would you evaluate the conference organisation?



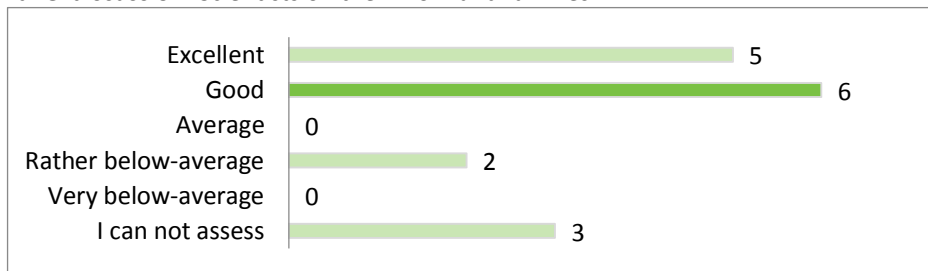
Keynote speaker: Prof. Edeltraud Hanappi-Egger / Balancing between work and family in the academic field: a contradiction or a necessity?



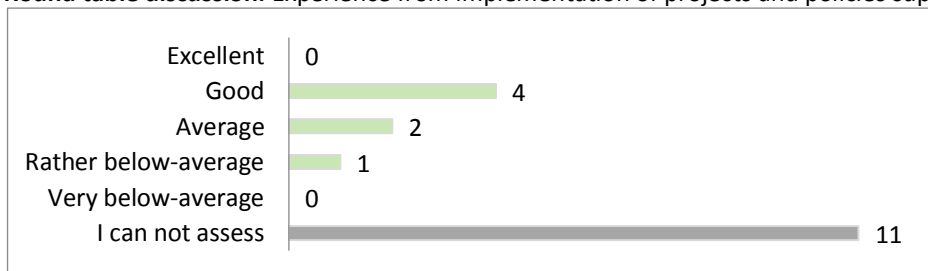
Presentation 2: PhDr. Marta Vohlídalová, Ph.D. / Position of young people in science: problems and challenges



Panel discussion: Scientists on their work and families



Round table discussion: Experience from implementation of projects and policies supporting young scientists



Should you wish to receive full outcomes of the feedback, feel free to contact the project administrator ([eliska.matejova\(at\)ceitec.cz](mailto:eliska.matejova@ceitec.cz)).

Book with stories of talented young female scientists for download

In the last issue, we informed you about a new book of interviews that focuses on life stories and professional careers of young female scientists *Rozehraná partie: talentky sedm let poté* (*Open game: talents seven years thereafter*), which was introduced in December last year. The book is now also available in electronic form and can be downloaded [HERE](#). Should you wish to receive a hardcopy, feel free to contact the project administrator ([eliska.matejova\(at\)ceitec.cz](mailto:eliska.matejova@ceitec.cz)) or the [National Contact Centre Women and Science](#) directly.

INVITATION: Seminar “What prevents women from entering into research and management work”

We would like to inform you of an event planned and organised by the Agency of Technology of the Czech Republic. The seminar entitled “**What prevents women from entering into research and management work**” will take place on Wednesday, **11 February 2015, at 01:00 p.m.** at the Agency of Technology of the Czech Republic in Prague (Evropská 1692/37). This seminar continues the debate on gender issues within the series “Women in Research and Business”. Over the course of the seminar, experiences of women in research or management positions will be presented as well as some of the measures that the providers, research institutions and universities abroad have adopted in order to eliminate gender barriers. A discussion is also planned on the proposed measures to be introduced in the Czech Republic and the possibilities of their implementation by the Agency of Technology of the Czech Republic to support women in research and in the business environment.

More information, including the registration form (registration is open until 8 February 2015), is available [HERE](#).

INVITATION: Conference “Parents in a Company”

Aperio – Healthy Parenting Association organises an international specialised conference entitled “**Parents in a Company, a.k.a. Good Practices from the Czech Republic and Abroad**”. The conference will address the following topics: contributions of family-friendly measures for employers, flexible job schemes and home offices, departures for maternity and parental leave and the return to work, services in care for children and other family members of employees, support for fathers providing child care.

The conference will take place on **10 February 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 05:00 p.m.** at the National Technical Library (Technická 6/2710), Prague. The conference is intended for representatives of employers. Admission is free but the number of seats is limited. More information, including the registration form, is available [HERE](#).

J. E. Purkyně Fellowship

The Academy of Science of the Czech Republic (AS CR) grants, among other awards, the prestigious J.E. Purkyně Fellowship to support excellence in research for expatriate AS CR employees or employees returning from abroad. In December 2014, this prestigious award was received by a female scientist, **Valentina Fava, Ph. D.**, an historian at the Institute of Contemporary History of the AS CR;

she has been investigating technology transfers between the East and West in the automotive industry.

The objective of the J. E. Purkyně Fellowship for excellent and promising employees is to acquire excellent and creative scientists from abroad to work at specialised sites of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic. These include both scientists of Czech origin who have been working abroad for a long time as well as excellent foreign scientists, usually under 40 years of age. The fellowship is provided for a maximum of 5 years. Nominations/applications for the J. E. Purkyně Fellowship are submitted for selected candidates by the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic directors of their respective institutions, usually by 31 August of each calendar year.

More information about the possibilities of supporting excellence within the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic is available [HERE](#).

Take advantage of our consulting services

As of March 2013, employees have been able to take advantage of our consulting services provided as a part of the WLB project. Employees of OP RDI projects can address our consultants with their queries related to balancing their personal and work lives:

- Are you planning to take maternity or parental leave and do you want to get familiar with your rights and obligations?
- Are you planning to return to work from maternity or parental leave and are considering a flexible form of employment (part-time, compressed work week, etc.)?
- Do you want to learn more about the available forms of balancing your personal and work life and find a way to agree on them with your employer?
- Are you interested in the up-to-date information relating to grant financing with respect to female scientists leaving on maternity or parental leave?

In such a case, do not hesitate to contact the consultants at the WLB project, either by telephone or by e-mail on workdays. You can also make an appointment for a personal meeting.

Eliška Pudová consulting for CEITEC employees	eliska.pudova@ceitec.cz 724 517 046
Petra Zavadilová consulting for CEITEC BUT employees	petra.zavadilova@ceitec.vutbr.cz 541 146 206
Martina Šatinská consulting for expatriate employees	martina.satinska@jcm.cz 724 803 394
Jaroslava Žaludová consulting for Cetocoen employees	zaludova@recetox.muni.cz 549 49 3065

Project in brief

Partners in the project: [Masaryk University](#) | [South Moravia Region](#) | [South Moravian Centre for International Mobility](#) | [Brno University of Technology](#) | [University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno](#) | [Institute of Physics of Materials of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic](#).

Implementation period of the project: 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2015

Total eligible costs of the project: CZK 7,701,921.44 (ESF financing: CZK 6,546,633.22 – 85 % | National budget financing: CZK 1,155,288.22 – 15 %)

Contact details of the project team

Feel free to contact us with any enquiries or suggestions:

Eliška Pudová | project investigator at MU | gender expert responsible for the implementation of key activities of the project | eliska.pudova@ceitec.cz

Eliška Matějová | project administrator | eliska.matejova@ceitec.cz