

Participation of women in technology innovation projects in Croatia



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Gender differences among participants in „technology projects“ in Croatia

- Gender differences among participants in Croatian program of technology innovation development (HITRA) as a part of the project “Social Evaluation of Croatian Innovation System in the Function of Knowledge Society”
- Social and demographic profile of women scientists who successfully applied and finished technological projects, i.e. women who wanted to develop innovative products and solutions and commercialize their knowledge

[Why women?]

- Women are increasingly present in higher education in the last few decades and today are majority
- Female students are more successful in their study (faster, better grades) than male students
- The role of women in the knowledge based society is increasingly more important

Women in technology and engineering

- Many professions traditionally dominated by men are feminized (medical, veterinarian profession)
- Women are still underrepresented in engineering and technology
- But, they are majority in biotechnology and biomedicine
- Biotechnology is one of the key areas in converging technologies of the future

Project “Social Evaluation of Croatian Innovation System in the Function of Knowledge Society”.

- Creation of the analytical, conceptual and methodological framework for researching the role of knowledge and innovation in the socio-economic development
- Development of the new empirical methods, concepts and theories which explain the role of knowledge, technology and innovation in the Croatian socio-economic development. The second aim assumes comparison of the innovation policy.
- Analyses of potentials of CNIS

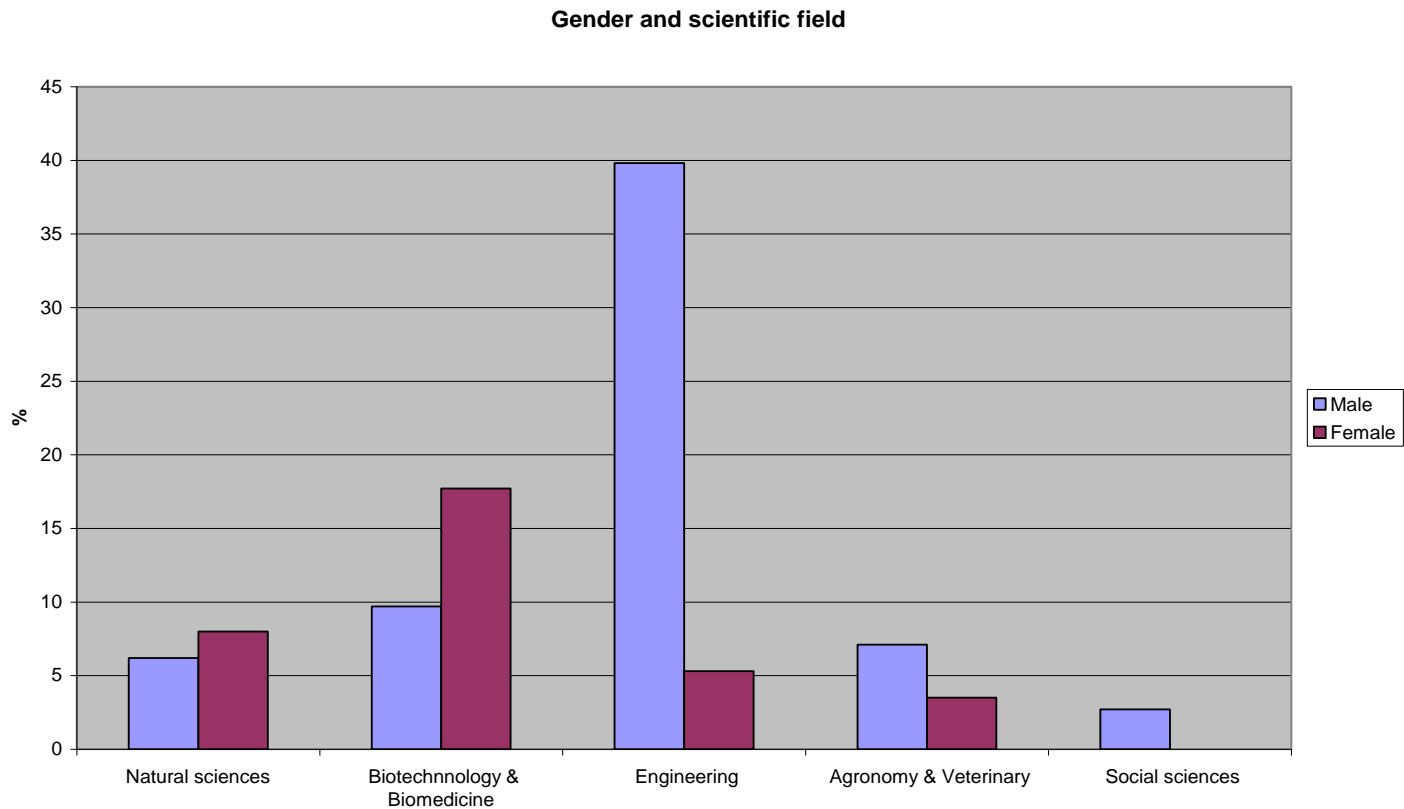
Project “Social Evaluation of Croatian Innovation System in the Function of Knowledge Society”

- Generally the aim of the ongoing project is to explore how social and cultural environment factors influence and shape innovation process by exploring the performance of certain innovation policy instruments
- Part of the project was a survey on different aspects of the program for participants in program HITRA. The questionnaire was targeted at scientists who have participated in the “Croatian innovation and technological development Program”

Project “Social Evaluation of Croatian Innovation System in the Function of Knowledge Society”

- The following aspects were questioned:
 - individual characteristics
 - scientific and social profiles
 - characteristics and typology of the projects in the domain of public-private partnership
 - typology of social networks
 - attitudes towards the exiting innovation policy measures in Croatia (expectations, disappointments, obstacles, success and criteria of success)

Gender and scientific field



Gender and scientific field


- Women in TEST project comes from biotechnology, biomedicine and natural sciences.
- Most of the projects are in the field of engineering and technology where male researches dominate
- Women tend to stay in academic career and change job less than male researches

Conclusion

- Gender differences among participants in TEST program are not significant
- Women are entering in the area of technology and engineering – gender differences in younger categories of researchers are smaller
- Both genders share the same value system in attitudes about commercialization of research as in the general value orientations (tradition, antiglobalism, statism)
- Differences are in greater presence of women researches in biotechnology, biomedicine and natural sciences
- Women have relatively higher academic status and their motivation to apply to TEST was more in funding additional research than commercialization
- Because of their more academic orientation in the career women are less successful in commercialization and see more obstacles to it

Conclusion

- Long term impact of value system from previous socialist system on acting of key actors in terms of rather weak “ spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship “.
- Women who succeeded in male dominated area of research and commercialization of knowledge show better performances in publication and scientific rank.
- This fact may be interpreted as support to the thesis that women haven't equal access to all areas of technology activities. But once they enter- gender differences disappear.

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Lažnjak, J.; Šporer, Ž.; Švarc, J. (2011) “Women in Science Commercialization: Looking for Gender Differences“. **Gender Technology and Development. 15, 2; 175-200**