

## Report on the outcomes of a Virtual Mobility<sup>1</sup>

Action number: 19130

Grantee name: Barbara Będowska-Sójka

### **Virtual Mobility Details**

Title: Editorial boards of finance journals: gender and social connectedness

Start and end date: 03/10/2022 to 30/10/2022

### **Description of the work carried out during the VM**

Description of the virtual collaboration and activities carried out during the VM, with focus on the work carried out by the grantee. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

*(max. 500 words)*

The goal of the grant was to establish a team to focus on studying the structure of editorial boards and the gender of editors in academic finance journals. The work carried so far was conducted during meetings in a virtual environment.

We reviewed the literature on editorial boards and identified a gap with regard to editors from journals in the field of finance and economics. We have calculated the simple metrics and found out that female were accounting for less than 15% of boards members in May 2022.

Next, we discussed the structure of the database with data from more than 200 academic journals used in the study and manage to construct it. The database includes information on names of editors, their affiliations, role in the board (editor, managing editor etc.), gender (which in some cases must have been individually checked), as well as the names of the journals, in which they sit in the board, and the publishers of the journals. Some editors are present in several boards at the same time. We also took into account the geographical aspect of journals' origin – even in Europe due to the different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, we found differences of the gender structure in journals' boards in the Western and Eastern European countries.

The methodology applied in the study was also discussed and established. We used scientometric analysis to describe the proportion of the male and female editors. We are applying the social network analysis to study the interconnections between members of the editorial boards of the examined journals. To identify individuals who are more influential in the examined community, we rely on measures such

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<sup>1</sup> This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

as the closeness centrality measure or betweenness for weighted graphs. Weights are obtained from the observed structure of editorial boards.

### **Description of the VM main achievements and planned follow-up activities**

Description and assessment of whether the VM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the VM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

*(max. 500 words)*

The main achievement is the construction of the database and the literature review. We plan to publish the results of the study as the academic paper, which aim is to raise the awareness about the fact that few woman are in editorial boards. The paper on editorial boards is already work-in-progress - we plan to send it for a publication to the academic journals such as Feminist Economies (Routledge) or Journal of Business Ethics (Springer). After the publication, the dataset with editors will be available for the Action members.

Finance and economics in general are two disciplines that largely suffer from gender imbalance. Our team - on the contrary - is composed exclusively of women with participants from COST Inclusiveness Target countries, such as Albania, Turkey, Romania and Poland. It has thus contributed to objectives of the diversity group. The work on the project has been and will continue to be a platform for sharing our experiences and knowledge. Through our work on the network of editors, we have created our own network of people who collaborate on a given topic and at the same time conduct various COST Action activities. We have enriched the discussion around diversity and actively encouraged researchers at different stages of their careers to take part.

Thanks to the work on the grant, a team of academics has been constituted who are ready to collaborate and have diverse competencies. In the course of meetings organized within the framework of COST, sharing experiences from the ongoing project, we promoted the idea of equal opportunities also in areas previously dominated by men. We fostered collaboration between different academic centers across Europe, from Turkey to Ireland, and worked together to find solutions to promote gender integration.