

Abstract

The main purpose of the report is to give information on the higher education system in Austria with special attention to the situation of women aspiring to have or having a career in academia. This report forms part of the project Women in European Universities (WEU). The project is being undertaken in Austria, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom. The methods used in this report are statistical findings and a literature survey. The main findings are attached to the circumstances of the great many changes in the Austrian higher education system over the last decade. A new situation is arising for women and scholars in general in Austria as the system turns into a more autonomously regulated system with teaching as a central facet. The report concludes that the Austrian system is still a non-commercialised one. Furthermore it warns about an opting out of young men from the university system and it relates this to a devaluating of the university in general.

Finally the report proposes some guidelines for future research in the field.

Keywords: Austria, Higher Education System, University, Women, Students, Professors, Academic Personnel, Career Patterns, Equal Opportunity Measures, Educational Reforms.

Women in European Universities project aims:

The three main objectives of our project are: Firstly to investigate whether career patterns in universities constitute administrative and structural opportunities or barriers to the appointment of women in positions of authority. Secondly to analyse whether specific organisational cultures embedded in the history and the internal decision-making processes of universities comprise embodying organisational opportunity structures or obstacles to the professional advancement of women in academia. And thirdly, to research whether affirmative action concepts have led to an effective promotion of women in positions of authority at European universities.