Gerd Bjørhovde, Chair
The Norwegian Committee for Mainstreaming – Women in Science:

The importance of government initiative and institutional commitment to improved gender mainstreaming: a Norwegian example
Why a Norwegian Committee for Mainstreaming – Women in Science?

- Established by the Ministry of Education and Research in January 2004 (2004-06)
- A new (the present) committee appointed in April 2007
- Funding: 3 million NOK (app. € 350,000) per year for a three-year period (unaltered in second period 2007-2010)
- Secretariat: The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions
Members of the committee - representation

- Norwegian universities and colleges (4 members)
- The Research Council of Norway (1 member)
- the Norwegian Association of Students (1 member)
- the Research Institute sector (1 member)

+ 2 observers, 1 from the Ministry of Education and Research, and 1 from the KILDEN Information Centre for Gender Research in Norway
Tasks/mandate

- National coordinator and promotor, mandated to create dialogue and contact points with and between:
  - higher education institutions
  - the Ministry of Education and Research
  - the Research Council of Norway
  - the research institute sector (as from 2007)
  - other relevant Government Ministries and public bodies

- Information and inspiration:
  - give advice on national and institutional level
  - raise awareness in the sector
  - distribute information about “best practices”/good examples

- International contacts and perspectives
Activities/results

- Institutional review/study of gender action plans
- Several surveys on assignment from the Committee (i.e. improvement of statistics, about research conditions and research milieu)
- Submitted a report on assignment from Ministry of Education and Research in May 2008: “Positive action in Norwegian higher education and research: Challenges and opportunities 2008-2010”
- Established a network for “equality workers” at the institutions
Further activities/results

- Organised national and international seminars and conferences
- Invited to several European meetings, seminars and conferences
- Responsible for advertising and judging the Ministry’s Gender Equality Award for two years now (NOK 2 million = approx. € 230,000)
- Announced financial support for networking for women scientists earlier this year – tremendous response!
- Monthly newsletter (approx. 1000 subscribers)
- Website http://www.kvinneforskning.no/english
  Please visit it!