PRESS RELEASE:

SMART VENICE LED FOCUS GROUP WITH SISTER-PROJECTS COORDINATORS

On September 2, 2020, CALIPER partner Smart Venice organized a focus group in the context of Task 1.3 "Methods and good practices on engendering research-innovation ecosystems", which consisted of a study including in-depth interviews with experts/scholars and practitioners.

The aim was to identify and analyze good and promising practices of implementation of institutional gender equality policies, in STEM research fields, which leverage collaboration and alignment with other actors within their innovation ecosystems.

In particular, the focus group involved representatives of other sister projects (SPEAR, GE Academy, GEECCO, SUPERA, Gearing Roles, Gender Smart, CASPER, UniSAFE and EQUAL-IST) in order to discuss about their experience and expertise in supporting RPOs and RFOs by leveraging on relevant collaborations and exchanges with external actors in the frame of institutional change processes.

In particular, the following dimensions were explored:

- ✓ Benefits of the involvement of external actors
- ✓ Stage(s) of the process in which the involvement is more relevant
- ✓ Internal staff categories to be involved
- ✓ GE priorities and type of collaborative actions
- ✓ Role of feminist/women associations
- ✓ Relevance of an intersectional approach
- ✓ Obstacles and internal resistances
- ✓ Shortcomings and unexpected effects

After a round of introductory presentations and an overview of the methodology and objectives' setting, participants continued their discussion in 3 smaller groups, to conclude with a plenary feedback session.

Overall, participants agreed that the collaboration with external stakeholders can be useful and strategic for enhancing structural change processes towards gender equality and several specific examples where raised, although some critical aspects were also highlighted.

An additional focus group is foreseen with the ACT on Gender Communities of Practices, while in parallel interviews are carried out to in depth analyzing good and promising practices.

Results from this CALIPER study are going to be analysed and included in project's Deliverable D1.3 titled 'Gender analysis of research and innovation ecosystems and reports from the local R&I Hubs' which is due end of October 2020.