

RMEI on TARGET: TAKing a Reflexive approach to Gender Equality for institutional Transformation

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Abstract. The Mediterranean Network of Engineering Schools (RMEI), which supports the UniTwin651 UNESCO Chair, currently includes around 70 Higher Education Institutions from 17 Mediterranean countries. The network's vision is the promotion of the Mediterranean basin Sustainable Development by bridging the Mediterranean countries and its people through the common history, cultural heritage, towards a social-economic vitality, based on green economy, social cohesion, gender equality, environmental protection. The main mission of RMEI is to enhance the ethics of responsibility of Mediterranean Youth through Education and Culture, since Universities play a key role in contributing to social transformation and Sustainable Development through Education, Research and Innovation. Universities-members of RMEI are committed to embed the SDGs UN world agenda 2030 and, develop their activities within this framework. The Gender Equality Policy (GEP) of RMEI complies with SDGs because women engineers need to be considered equal to men at all levels of their activities and life. The RMEI GEP is being boosted by the Horizon 2020 TARGET project '*Take A Reflexive Approach for Gender Equality for Institutional Transformation*', which aims to contribute to the advancement of gender equality in

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research and innovation (R&I), by supporting a reflexive gender equality policy in the Mediterranean basin. The TARGET countries have been characterized as relatively 'inactive' in developing gender equality policies in R&I. The widening gap between 'proactive' countries and 'inactive' countries may have negative implications on the quality and excellence of R&I throughout Europe. The TARGET approach goes beyond the formal adoption of a gender equality policy by the establishment of a community of practice for gender equality and tailored Gender Equality Plans (GEP) in each Institution, designed, implemented, monitored, self-assessed and evaluated.

Keywords: Education, Universities, Mediterranean Network, Engineering, Gender Equity, Sustainable Development.