Despite the general advancement of equality principles and policies in Europe, in practice career patterns and outcomes differ for men and women in academia, e.g. in terms of the number of women at higher academic positions (in particular within fields of engineering and ICT) as well as in terms of their participation in innovation systems.

GENOVATE is an FP7-funded action research project including seven European partner universities with different institutional and national contexts for gender equality. One of the core goals of the project is to ensure equal opportunities for women and men by encouraging a more gender-competent management in research, innovation and scientific decision-making bodies.

In this paper, drawing on some of the results of the firsts months of the project, one of the work-packages, aiming at strengthening innovation systems by promoting gender equality and diversity, will be described and discussed. Focus will be on the possibilities of developing tools and methods to integrate gender and diversity perspectives in innovation systems.