



GenSIS FAQs

1. Eligibility

Q: Is this initiative only for STEM, or are humanities and social sciences included?

A: *GenSIS focuses on STEM systems and institutions. At the start of each national project, the scope of STEM will be defined in line with the International Standard Classification of Education: Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013).*

At the same time, contributions from the social sciences, humanities, and gender studies are highly relevant and encouraged, particularly where they support institutional analysis, gender-in-STEM data collection, policy design, and evidence-based reform.

Q: Can non-profit organizations (including those working in the tech sector) apply?

A: *Non-profit organizations, including NGOs working in the tech sector, cannot apply independently. Applications must be led by an OWSD National Chapter. However, such organizations may participate as partner institutions or contributors within a national application.*

Q: Can international organizations working on gender equality participate?

A: *Non-profit organizations, including NGOs working in the tech sector, cannot apply independently. Applications must be led by an OWSD National Chapter. However, such organizations may participate as partner institutions or contributors within a national application, and may also engage through the International Community of Practice of Institutions.*

Q: Can a student submit the form on behalf of their institution?

A: *No. The EoI must be formally endorsed and submitted by the OWSD National Chapter leadership. Students may engage through their institutions in the institutional best practices and the International Community of Practice of Institutions, but they cannot submit an application on behalf of a country.*

Q: Can institutions that are part of an existing national chapter all apply?

A: *Only one application per country is expected, led by the OWSD National Chapter. Multiple institutions may participate as partners within the same national application. Institutions may eventually engage in GenSIS through the International Community of Practice of Institutions.*

2. National Chapters & Committees

Q: Is there a national chapter in my country?

A: *A list of OWSD National Chapters is available on the OWSD website, [and linked here](#).*



Q: Who can be a member of the National GIS Committee?

A: National GiS Committees are multisectoral, and their composition will depend on the specific national science and innovation ecosystem. Committees may include representatives from the OWSD National Chapter, relevant ministries and STI authorities, science granting councils, universities and research institutes, private-sector actors, professional associations, OWSD fellowship alumnae, early-career researchers, and, where relevant, UNESCO National Commissions or Field Offices. The OWSD National Chapter will play a key role in identifying and convening the most relevant actors for its national context.

Q: How will these committees be formed?

A: National GiS Committees will be established and convened by the OWSD National Chapter, in close collaboration with national authorities and partner institutions, and tailored to national priorities and ecosystem needs.

Q: Can two national chapters work together and submit one proposal?

A: No. Applications are country-specific and must be led by a single OWSD National Chapter. However, cross-country collaboration and exchange are encouraged.

Q: Are European chapters included or recognized?

A: This phase of GenSIS focuses on countries in the Global South. European OWSD chapters are therefore not eligible to apply under this call. However, European institutions and experts may engage through knowledge-sharing activities and the International Community of Practice of Institutions.

Q: If my country has a chapter, can my institution participate independently?

A: Institutions cannot apply independently. Participation in the national application must be coordinated through the OWSD National Chapter, either as a partner institution or contributor. Institutions may also engage independently through the International Community of Practice of Institutions, outside the national application process.

3. Application Process

Q: Where can we find the Expression of Interest (EOI) form?

A: The EoI form is published [here](#) on the OWSD website.

Q: What is the deadline to submit the EOI or pre-registration form?

A: The deadline to submit the GiS Expression of Interest (EoI) will be in March - the exact date will be announced in mid-January 2026.

Q: Should the institution be listed as a university or as a national chapter in the pre-registration form?

A: The applicant must be the OWSD National Chapter. Universities, NGOs, research centres, and



other organisations should be listed as partner institutions, in agreement with the OWSD National Chapter.

Q: How many groups/countries will be supported?

A: Up to 12 countries will be selected through this call. Institutions from other countries may still participate in the project through the International Community of Practice of Institutions (a separate call for expressions of interest for this part of the project will be opened in January).

Q: What domains or topics can institutions choose when applying?

A: Applications should focus on national gender-in-STEM priorities, informed by local evidence, institutional gaps, and policy needs.

4. Project Scope & Implementation

Q: Is the data collection global? Will the data be publicly accessible?

A: Data collection is conducted at the national level in selected countries. National reports will be published, alongside aggregated findings and knowledge products

Q: Isn't it too restrictive if data are collected only for developing countries?

A: This phase prioritises the Global South to address persistent data gaps and institutional barriers, while contributing to global learning through cross-regional exchange and the International Community of Practice of Institutions.

Q: How will the bottom-up approach be implemented within three years?

A: Through OWSD National Chapters, which convene focused National GiS Committees, the project will support targeted national data collection, short-cycle policy innovation pilots, and structured leadership and capacity-building activities tailored to each national ecosystem. These national efforts will be complemented by cross-country learning and institutional exchange through the International Community of Practice of Institutions.

Q: Can existing gender equality committees/groups be integrated into the project?

A: Yes. Existing gender equality committees or groups may be leveraged or integrated, provided they align with the objectives and governance of the National GiS Committee. Demonstrating how such structures add value and strengthen implementation can actually be an advantage in the proposal.

Q: What kinds of institutions count as STI Institutions?

A: STI institutions include ministries and public authorities responsible for science, technology and innovation; science granting councils; universities and other higher education institutions; research institutes and academies; innovation agencies; and other relevant public or not-for-profit bodies involved in the governance, funding, or implementation of research and innovation.

5. Collaboration & Participation

Q: How can institutions partner across regions?

A: Through cross-regional learning activities, exchanges of institutional best practices, and participation in the International Community of Practice of Institutions.

Q: Can displaced scholars or individuals without institutional affiliation participate?

A: Displaced women scholars who qualify to be members of national chapters (i.e., they have a postgraduate degree in science and are from a developing country) may participate as members of national chapters. They may also engage in open webinars, events, and knowledge-sharing activities.

Q. How do I become a member of an OWSD National Chapter?

A: Visit ['Become a Member' page](#) on the OWSD website.

Q: How do we get in touch with national chapter contacts?

*A: Contact details for OWSD National Chapters are available on each national chapter's page on the OWSD website **or via the OWSD Secretariat** owsd@owsd.net*

6. Funding & Project Details

Q: How will the project budget be distributed?

A: Selected OWSD National Chapters will receive a grant of up to EUR 25,000, complemented by mandatory in-kind and/or financial contributions from host and partner institutions.

Q: What opportunities exist for researchers to submit project proposals?

A: This call does not fund individual research projects. It supports institutional strengthening, data collection, leadership development, and policy innovation.

Q: What is meant by 'good policy' in this context?

A: Policies that are evidence-based, gender-transformative, context-specific, and capable of improving women's participation, retention, and leadership in STEM.