

EWORA and the Recognition of Successful Implementation of Gender Equality Policies

Ambassador of Finland to Turkey, Mr. Ari Maki
Rector of Kadir Has University, Sondan Feyiz Durukanoglu
Dear Colleagues,

It is the first time that we are organising EWORA AWARD CEREMONY with very small number of distinguished guests. We had a very limited audience but on the other hand this time we have two eminent players Cihat Aşkın (violin) and Can Okan (piano) to give a short recital of two Finnish composers in this ceremony.

Our original plan was to organise this Award Ceremony at ETH Zurich on 9th of June 2021 as ETH Zurich is the Co-organizer and the host of the 7th EWORA Conference but due to COVID-19 pandemic we have to hold the conference online. Now we are here in İstanbul at Kadir Has University and its distinguished Rector is kindly hosting this ceremony in their historic building located along the Golden Horn.

Dear Colleagues,

The recognition of outstanding achievements not only honours the institution/individuals that receive the award, but it is also a great source of pride and happiness for the institution that presents it. Awards have the capability of calling attention to “best practices” and encouraging people to create new success stories.

Let me to share with you the 2021 EWORA Award Justification

EWORA was established as a non-profit association in 2015, but its activities started already in 2008 in the format of European Women Rectors Platform. From the start, the aim of EWORA has been to advocate gender equality in higher education and to build up the self-confidence of female academics to apply for academic leadership positions. In 2018, to celebrate its ten years of existence, the Board of Directors of EWORA agreed to celebrate major gender equality achievements by an Honorary Award granted on the International Women’s Day in March. The aim of this honorary recognition is to highlight actions and initiatives that turn policies into practice and empower women to become fully-fledged citizens in academia and in their respective societies.

EWORA’s Honorary Award in 8 March 2021 goes to Sanna Marin, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland, in recognition of the

outstanding contribution of the Finnish Government to equality, inclusion and female leadership.

The overarching purpose of EWORA is to increase the number of women at decision-making levels in all walks of life. Ms. Marin's government illustrates what equal opportunities can achieve in national politics. Ms. Marin's coalition government consists of five parties, all currently headed by female leaders who also hold ministerial positions in the Finnish government.

Ms. Marin's government, as all governments in the world, had to deal with the consequences of an unprecedented pandemic in the past year. EWORA would like to express its appreciation for the course of action that the Finnish government has adopted to address the crisis. In this difficult situation, their primary concern has been the health and welfare of all citizens and an unwavering policy to combat the disease.

The Finnish government has based its policies solidly on ethical values and expert scientific evidence. These consistent and trustworthy principles have won the approval of the vast majority of the population and resulted in a successful fight against this unpredictable virus.

EWORA applauds these efforts by the Finnish Government and is very proud that Prime Minister Sanna MARIN has agreed to accept our Honorary Award..

When we decided to hold the Award ceremony here in Istanbul we communicated with the Finnish Prime Minister's Office. We are so happy that the Finnish Prime Minister Office proposed Ambassador of Finland to Turkey Mr. Ari Maki to represent the Finnish Prime Minister in this award ceremony. I would like to thank Mr. Ambassador Mr. Ari Maki for being with us today.

Now I would like to invite Ambassador Mr. Ari Maki to the floor to present the Award.