



The HR factor: codes of conduct and gender issues as levers of innovation in geosciences

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Professional geosciences organizations which support governments, industry and academic institutions in setting standards for communication, responsible use of geosciences information and continuing professional development do have codes of professional conduct, binding their members.

“The geologist is responsible for the impression he gives of his profession in the opinion of those around him and of the public at large” reads one principle of the Code of Professional Conduct of the European Federation of Geologists.

Several higher education institutions and public research bodies inspire their regulations to the European Charter of Researchers.

In strengthening the relationships of professional organizations with industry, society and academy, it becomes interesting to highlight similarities and fruitful points of contacts between codes of professional ethics and the Charter of Researchers. Ethical principles, professional responsibility and attitude, accountability, dissemination and exploitation of results, public engagement, continuing professional development are some of the remarkable principles.

Gender issues are also vital, as starting point to rethink processes in the knowledge society.

Structural changes in institutions to improve excellence in research need more women in decision-making bodies, practices of work-family balance and codes of conduct which prevent hidden discriminations.

In communication of natural hazards that have societal impact, the diversity management of both target public and communicators can make the difference between a generic communication and an effective one which is more tailored to information needs of women and men acting in the society.