

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Democratic societies
should enable men
and women to
participate equally in
all spheres of life.



Human rights, democracy and the rule of law have been proclaimed as core values for the European Union. Although the EU has achieved positive results in providing gender equality, it continues efforts in that direction.



Gender equality is at the core of European values and enshrined within the EU legal and political framework



Equal rights and opportunities for women and men in EU treaties

- * The Treaty of Rome (1957), Article 119;
- * The Maastricht Treaty (1992), Article 2;
- * The Treaty of Amsterdam (1997), Articles 118-119;
- * The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000), Articles 21, 23;
- * The Lisbon Treaty (2007), Articles 1, 2, 5, 63, 69.



Towards realising gender equality

A dual approach to gender equality



Positive actions

Gender mainstreaming



*Specific measures
aimed at supporting equality*

*Integrating a gender equality
perspective into all EU policies and EU
funding programmes 2014-2020 in all steps
of programme cycle*

- ✓ Legislation
- ✓ Financial support
- ✓ Raising-awareness campaigns

*Is not a policy goal in itself, but a means
to achieve gender equality.*

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender Mainstreaming, which was recorded in the Beijing Platform for Action and officially approved at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, is a globally recognized strategy for gender equality. Gender-based prioritization involves (re)organizing, refining, developing and evaluating political processes in such a way that participants in policy-making use a gender-based approach in all policy areas and at all stages.

Special measures in gender policy

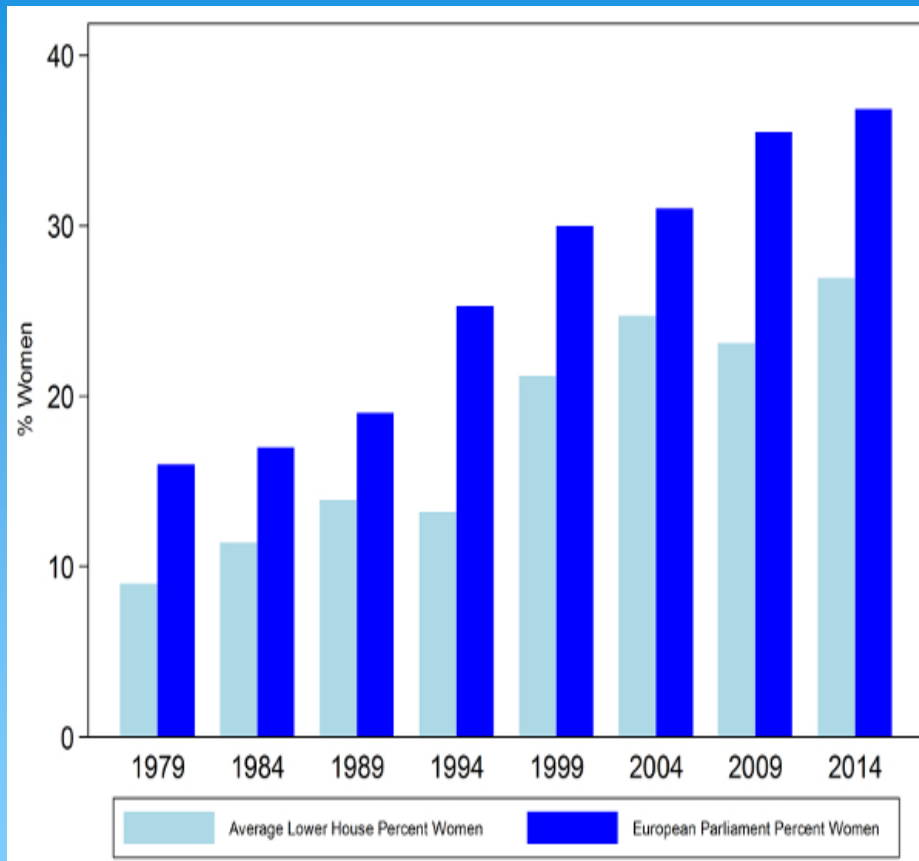
Special measures in gender policy at the EU level are legislation, information and education campaigns as well as financial programs. The purpose of these measures is to address specific problems, such as the difference in pay, the lack of representation of women, for instance, in certain areas of employment, etc.

Institutional provision of gender equality

- * The Trio Presidency adopts the "Joint Declaration on Equality between Men and Women".
- * The European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality;
- * The High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming;
- * The Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men;
- * The Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Commission of the EC.

The European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby is the largest umbrella organization of women's associations in the EU focused on equal opportunities for women and men. It was founded in 1990 and now includes more than 2500 organizations from 31 countries. Among the directions of the organization, one concerns the promotion of women in politics.



In particular, the EWL launched the European Political Mentoring Network specifically for the 2014 European Parliament elections within the framework of the "50/50 campaign". It aims to increase the representation of women in institutions at EU level.

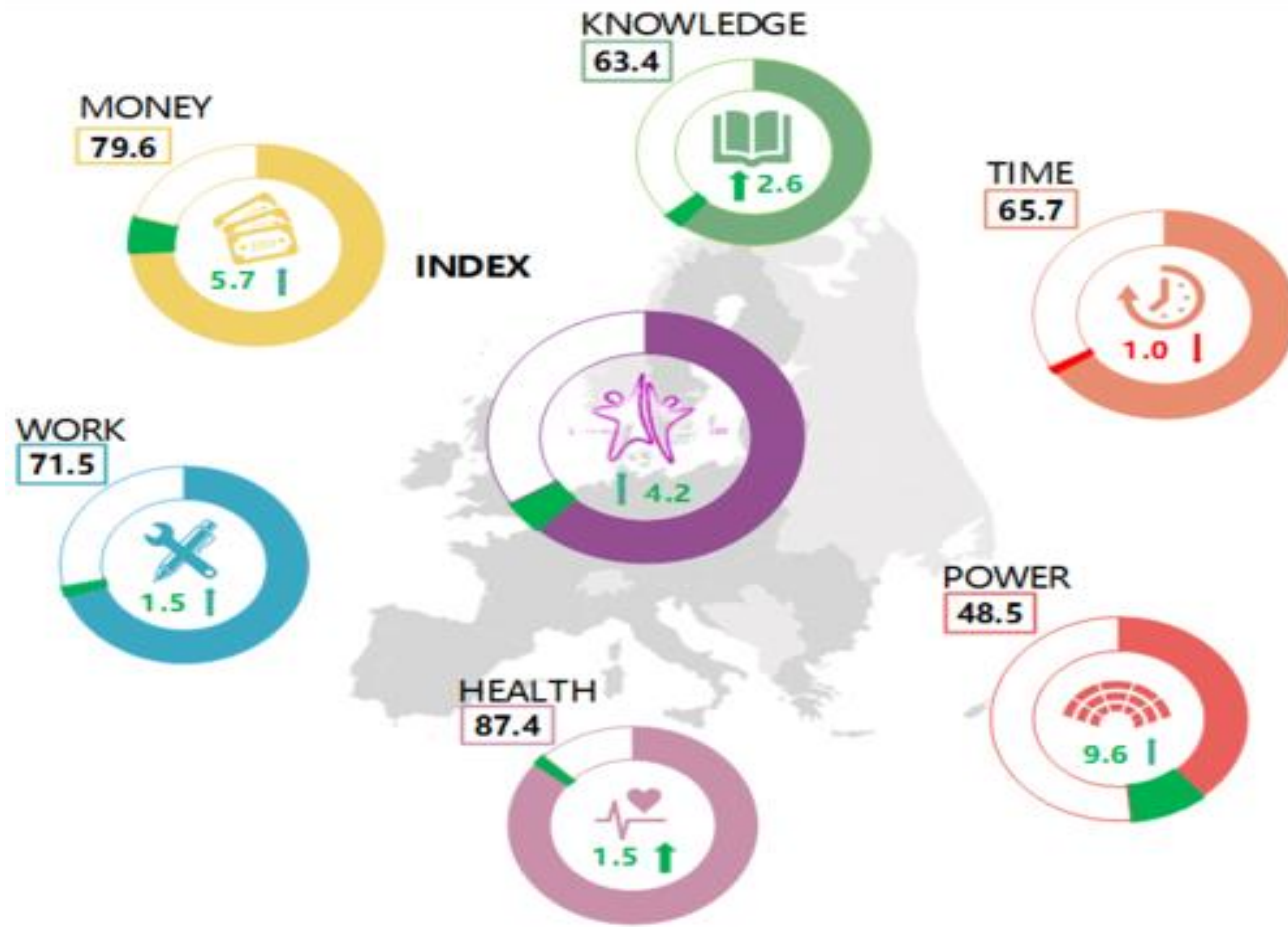
Research on gender issues in the EU



The effective implementation of a policy of equal rights and opportunities requires in-depth research of the issue. That is why in 2006 the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), based in Lithuania (Vilnius), was founded. The key tasks of the Institute are the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on gender equality, including the results of research and successful implementation of equal rights and opportunities; suggestions of research directions; improving the methodology of data collection, etc.

Gender Equality Index





The scores of the Gender Equality Index and its domains at EU-level in 2015, along with the changes in scores from 2005.

Conclusions

In total, the EU has an index of gender equality of 54, that means that only half of gender equality is provided. In the EU the best situation in ensuring equality is in the area of health protection of women and men, while the worst is in the division of power. The Strategy for Equality between Women and Men (2010-2015) mentions the lack of representation of women at the decision-making level, so the European countries have to work hard to implement gender equality as a value.

Thank you for attention!