

Mrs. Algimanta Pabedinskiene
Minister of Social Security and Labour
Welcome speech for the Expert's meeting on the Gender equality index
of the European Institute for Gender Equality
April 16, 2013
Ministry of Social Security and Labour
Vivulskio str. 13, room 201

Dear Virginija, honourable participants,

Glad to welcome you here in my Ministry for the first presentation of the very important instrument, produced by the European Institute for Gender Equality - Gender Equality Index. Congratulations to the EIGE with this meaningful result.

The Gender Equality Index is adjusted to the EU gender equality policy framework and objectives. Main aims of this instrument are closely connected to the one of the priority theme of the Lithuanian Presidency to the EU - the effective functioning of institutional mechanisms towards gender equality de facto as a contribution to Europa 2020.

Equal, full and effective participation of women and men in all areas, in particular in employment, contribute to economic growth, prosperity and targets of the Europe 2020. Equality between women and men as a horizontal priority in all areas, in particular in employment and the labour market, needs effective

governance and implementation. Gender Equality Index would ensure systematic monitoring as one of the elements of good governance.

We are thankful to the European Institute for Gender Equality for the support to Lithuanian Presidency. On the basis of existing indicators adopted during Finnish Presidency and the related study, the EIGE prepares comparative study on the changes of the Institutional mechanisms in the Member States since 2006. The study will overlook the subsequent changes in institutional mechanisms in the Member States and the impact of these changes on the *de facto* gender equality.

On the basis of the EIGE study Lithuanian Presidency will develop Council Conclusions reviewing indicators on institutional mechanisms towards effective governance of equality between women and men as a contribution to Europe 2020 targets and possibly suggesting sub-indicator on statistics disaggregated by sex, also actions to be taken to make institutional mechanisms more effective.

To ensure continued co-operation between Member States and the European Commission, on 11-12 September Lithuanian Presidency will host a meeting of the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming, followed by a Presidency

Conference on September 13 on the effective functioning of Institutional mechanisms towards the achievement of de facto equality between women and men as a contribution to achieving Europe 2020 targets.

Well developed and effective mechanisms are the necessary precondition to make gender equality a reality in all areas of everyday life. Let me make small parallel –Gender Equality Index measures gender gaps within such important areas of everyday life, as work, income, knowledge, time, power and health. We do believe, that the Gender Equality Index will greatly contribute to the effective monitoring and assessment of gender equality policies both at the European Union level and in the Member States, leading to the better policies towards gender equality de facto.

Dear colleagues, let me wish you productive and interesting day.