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# Council Conclusions on The Effectiveness of Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality

Lithuanian Presidency  
of the Council of the EU 2013



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# The gender equality priority of the Lithuanian Presidency

Promoting effectiveness of Institutional mechanisms for accelerating *de facto* gender equality

*De facto* gender equality is a crucial element of democracy and a prerequisite for the full enjoyment of human rights, for economic growth and for competitiveness



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# Council Conclusions on The Effectiveness of Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality

- Accompanied by EIGE report “Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Gender Equality.”
- Agreed at the Council’s Social Questions Working Party in two meetings.
- To be adopted in EPSCO on 9 December.



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# Council Conclusions

## THE COUNCIL

- Seeks to reinforce the commitments to accelerate substantial gender equality;
- Takes note of the new indicator “Production and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by sex”, as developed by EIGE;
- Suggests concrete actions to be taken by the Member States and the European Commission towards effective governance of gender equality in the EU Member States.

# Council Conclusions

Based on the conclusions of EIGE's report, the Council **recognizes the efforts** of the Member States:

- To strengthen the effectiveness of governmental gender equality bodies by reinforcing their mandate and functions,
- To increase the involvement of civil society, in particular women's organisations and non-governmental organisations promoting gender equality,
- To increase the accountability of gender equality policies;
- To establish structures for gender mainstreaming.

# Council Conclusions

Based on the conclusions of EIGE's report, the Council **nevertheless notes that:**

- the status of governmental responsibility in promoting gender equality has not increased considerably since 2005 in some Member States,
- equality bodies responsible for several discrimination grounds cannot always provide information on the personnel resources allocated for combating discrimination on the grounds of sex, which hinders the monitoring of progress on Indicator 2b,
- the use of gender mainstreaming methods and tools is still rare and not properly institutionalised in many Member States.



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# Council Conclusions

## **Umbrella actions** suggested to the Member States:

- Take active and effective measures to accelerate the achievement of de facto gender equality, including by ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of institutional mechanisms;
- Continue ensuring that gender equality remains a high priority on the governmental agenda;
- Pursue complementary approaches, namely:
  - measures to combat discrimination on the grounds of sex and
  - policies for promoting gender equality.

General actions



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# Council Conclusions

Strengthen the effectiveness of **governmental gender equality bodies** by:

- placing them at the highest possible level in the government, falling under the responsibility of a Cabinet minister,
- providing them with clearly defined mandates and powers, including the competence:
  - to analyse, assess and contribute to policies in different areas,
  - to formulate and review legislation,
  - to develop and to implement gender equality policies,
- providing them with adequate personnel resources for fulfilling this mandate.

Indicators 1 and 2a





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# Council Conclusions

Ensure that **bodies for the promotion, analysis, monitoring and support of equal treatment** of all persons without discrimination on the grounds of sex (*in particular “merged” bodies*):

- devote sufficient attention to combating discrimination on the ground of sex,
- devote sufficient attention to promoting equal treatment for women and men,
- regularly assess the share of financial and personnel resources dedicated for this work.

Indicator 2b



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# Council Conclusions

- Continue to improve the effectiveness of gender equality policies by taking the **dual approach** of gender mainstreaming and specific actions,
- Continue to develop **national strategies and action plans** that should include:
  - strategic objectives,
  - clear and measurable goals,
  - specific targets,
  - timeframes,
  - resources for implementation,
  - indicators for monitoring and evaluation,
  - regular reporting on the results achieved.

Indicator 3



# Council Conclusions

## **Strengthen gender mainstreaming through:**

- engagement and consultation with all ministries and departments;
- for example, nomination of persons responsible for equality between women and men in each of them;
- easily applicable gender mainstreaming tools and methods;
- promoting their use in practice.

Establish and/or ensure the effective functioning of inter-ministerial coordination structures for gender mainstreaming that involve key actors.



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## Council Conclusions

- **Raise awareness** of gender equality and of the benefits of gender mainstreaming;
  - Making full use of the capacities, knowledge and products of EIGE;
- **Strengthen expertise** in gender equality and gender mainstreaming among public officials across different sectors.



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# NEW 4<sup>th</sup> EU INDICATOR of institutional mechanisms

## Indicator 4: Production and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by sex.

This indicator is designed to measure governmental commitment to the production and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by sex and to identify the methods in use for dissemination of such statistics.

For the future review of progress,

As developed by EIGE



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# Council Conclusions

- Improve the **production, dissemination and use** of comparable, reliable, regularly updated **statistics disaggregated by sex** in all relevant areas, in particular where this data is still missing, **making full use of EIGE.**
- **Promote the use of such statistics** for the establishment of targets and indicators in the relevant action plans
- Make statistics disaggregated by sex **available** to all users by ensuring the existence of regular publications and/or websites, **making full use of EIGE**

Indicator 4



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# Thank you

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