

Gender equality and urban mobility

Gender Mainstreaming

Urban mobility

Gender-sensitive infrastructure (*)

Public services such as transport, health centres and care facilities play an essential part in the well-being of Europeans. We use public service infrastructure every day; it underpins our lives, and is essential for the functioning of society. Infrastructure is meant to deliver services that address the diverse needs of women and men and contribute to equal opportunities for all.

Urban mobility infrastructure makes everyday life easier

In a survey on the benefits of gender-sensitive infrastructure carried out by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), respondents were asked to rank three key types of infrastructure in relation to urban mobility:

- public transport
- sidewalks and footpaths
- street lights
- parking

The results show that women perceived all four infrastructure as more important in enabling their everyday life than men.

Figure 1: The importance of urban mobility services in enabling participation in different life activities at an average scale from 1 to 10

Life Activity	Women (Scale 1-10)	Men (Scale 1-10)
Education	~7.5	~6.5
Employment	~7.0	~6.0
Access and use activities	~6.5	~5.5
Physical and mental health	~6.5	~5.5
Socialisation	~6.5	~5.5
Mobility	~7.5	~6.5
Leisure	~6.5	~5.5

Women value public transport more than men

Public transport emerged as the second most important infrastructure service in enabling the everyday lives of people, after healthcare services and medical centres. Public transport had a positive impact on participation in education and employment, both for women and men. The results show that women perceive public transport infrastructure services to be more helpful for their everyday life.

- 46 % of women said that public transport had been 'very important' in enabling them to participate in education, compared to 32 % of men.
- 42 % of women regarded transport as 'very important' in enabling their participation in employment, compared to 33 % of men.

(*) EIGE based on the data from the 2018 survey on urban mobility. It covers the benefits of gender equality through infrastructure provision in Education, Employment, Access and use activities, Physical and mental health, Socialisation, Mobility, and Leisure. The survey was carried out by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in 2018. The survey was carried out in 12 EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, and Poland. The survey was carried out in 12 EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, and Poland. The survey was carried out in 12 EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, and Poland.

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[Benefits of gender equality through infrastructure provision: an EU-wide survey](#) →

[EIGE's Gender Mainstreaming Platform](#) →

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