

Gender Equality Training

Gender equality training in the European Union

Legal and policy framework

Provision of GET in the EU

Challenges in the provision of GET

Previous efforts

Commitment to mainstreaming gender in the EU

Gender mainstreaming has been adopted as a strategy by EU institutions to promote gender equality in policies and programmes and ensure gender equality between women and men.

- Several EU treaties emphasise that the Union should work to eliminate gender inequalities and promote transversal equality in all its activities. Gender mainstreaming was established as a policy norm in the Treaty of Nice (2003) and the Treaty of Lisbon (2009)
- Gender mainstreaming has been a long-standing priority of the European Commission. In March 2010, the Commission presented a ‘Women’s Charter’ expressing its increased commitment to gender equality over the next five years. The charter reinforced the Commission’s obligation to mainstreaming gender.
- Gender mainstreaming is a key component of the current Commission’s Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010–2015, and is promoted as ‘an integral part of the Commission’s policymaking’. In this follow-up process to the Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men, the Commission emphasises the need to develop and make use of specific methodological gendered tools to foster the concrete implementation of the

gender-mainstreaming strategy.

- In the European Pact for Gender Equality (2011–2020), the European Council highlighted that de facto gender equality had yet to be attained and stressed the need to integrate gender in a transversal way into all EU policy, in particular in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Council recalls that ‘mainstreaming the principle of equality between women and men in all its activities represents a general aim for the Union’. By integrating the gender perspective into all policy areas, gender mainstreaming is also considered a tool to promote and reinforce good governance.
- Besides stressing the need to effectively mainstream the gender dimension in the work of national administrations, in 2009 the European Commission’s Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men recommended that Member States ensure that ‘those with responsibilities for gender equality in national administrations are effectively supported and resourced’.