

Beijing+20 factsheet - Area B: Education and Training of Women



Policy Context

Education and learning are instrumental in shaping the opportunities and aspirations of girls and women. Ensuring equal treatment in education is an important mechanism to achieving the realisation of women's full potential, as well as impacting their freedom of thought and allowing them to make a greater impact on society.

The Europe 2020 strategy

- Aims at delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through job creation and poverty reduction in the EU.
- The target of reaching 75 % employment of women and men aged 20-64 requires Member States to reinforce the education and training of women, particularly in sectors where they are underrepresented.
- Sets the headline target of reducing the early school leaving rates below 10 % and of having at least 40 % of the 30 to 34 year olds to complete third-level education.
- Introduce direct-use of women's capabilities of Europe 2020, which supports investment in research and development and actions improving the capacity to harness research into new services and products.
- Horizon 2020 - the financial instrument to implement the Innovation Union, which promotes gender balance in research teams by making this a ranking factor in selecting proposals with the same scores and to decision-making with aim to meet the target of 40 % of the underrepresented women or men in each group (e.g. expert panels and panels (e.g. evaluation panels).

European Pact for Gender Equality (2011-2020)

- Reaffirms the Council's commitment to fulfil EU ambitions to gender equality, especially in those areas of equal economic, healthy employment, education and promoting social inclusion in particular through reduction of poverty.

The strategic objectives of the BPfA and the EU indicators

- B.1.** Invest in education
- B.2.** Empower women among women
- B.3.** Support women's access to digital learning, innovation and technology in continuing education
- B.4.** Develop non-formal and informal learning
- B.5.** Address skills requirements across all their generations of work environments
- B.6.** Promote lifelong education and learning for girls and women

In 2012 the Council agreed on three EU-wide indicators, including two sub-indicators to measure the progress in the implementation of the BPfA objectives in education. They capture gender segregation in education, both horizontally (i.e. in the field of study) and vertically (i.e. in the level of the degree) and the relative returns from education for women and men by looking at the employment rate of women and men by level of education attained.

The statistics 'Women and men in the EU - facts and figures' developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality provides the latest data and information on these indicators available at: <http://eige.europa.eu/eige-research-and-data-in-the-facts-and-figures>

Findings from EU-wide data

Women represent a majority of university graduates in the EU

Women's participation in education is above the rate of men at graduate level in the EU in 2012 (59 %), the level being unchanged since 2007. At postgraduate level, men (70) graduates with a higher rate (59 % in 2012, 54 % in 2007) with a small and decreasing gender gap. Changes are more visible at the

Read more:

[EIGE's work on the Beijing Platform for Action](#)

Downloads



Beijing+20: The Platform for Action (BPfA) and the European Union Area B: Education and Training of Women

EN (PDF, 146.65 KB)















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Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: B. Education and Training of Women