

Beijing+20 factsheet - Area F: Women and the Economy



Policy Context

Equal access to economic resources is not just a matter of economic efficiency but has long been recognized as a prerequisite for the achievement of economic growth, equity and sustainability. Encouraging women's participation in the labor market is crucial to GDP, economic growth and, more generally, to ensure that the EU makes full use of available human and human resources.

The Europe 2020 Strategy

- Emphasizes the high-employment economy and its goal for target 'to raise to 75% the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64'.
- In order to meet the objectives, the Strategy introduced a flagship initiative, the agenda for new skills and jobs (2010), that proposes a set of actions to build a labor market supported by measures, of which some target women.
- Countries (by economic condition, the Member States) should take into account in their economic, employment and social policies adopted by the European Commission every year.

Parental Leave Directive (Council Directive 2010/28/EC)

- Changes introduced in 2010 include longer leave, reasons for eligible parents and parents of children with a disability.
- Member States encouraged for fathers to take parental leave.

Directive on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity (2010/41/EU)

- Replacing Directive 84/157/EEC which was the first Directive on equality of access for self-employed women and their spouses or life partners.

- Extends coverage to all self-employed women and partners, introduces other measures to prevent discrimination and harassment of those in a self-employed capacity and applies the principle of equal treatment on the grounds of sex.

The strategic objectives of the BPfA and the EU indicators

- 1.1. Promote women's economic rights and resources, including more employment, adequate working conditions and career development measures.
- 1.2. Facilitate women's equal access to economic, employment, training activities.
- 1.3. Promote business creation, making full access to markets, information and technology, particularly for the female sector.
- 1.4. Strengthen women's economic capacity and entrepreneurial networks.
- 1.5. Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination.
- 1.6. Promote the harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men.

Women and the economy is one of the most advanced areas of the BPfA. In 2010 and 2011, the Council focused on the issue of work-life balance and on pay inequality between women and men in 2010. The Genderequality in 2014 set out to assess the implementation of the first strategic objective to promote women's economic rights and independence, and identify their additional indicators.

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

Read more:

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

Downloads



Beijing+20: The Platform for Action (BPfA) and the European Union Area F: Women and the Economy

EN (PDF, 143.43 KB)



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Platforma de acțiune Beijing+20 și Uniunea Europeană Domeniul F: Femeile și economia

RO (PDF, 147.08 KB)



Beijing+20: Handlingsplanen (Beijinghandlingsplanen) og Den Europæiske Union Område F: Kvinder og økonomi

DA (PDF, 148.36 KB)



Πεκίνο+20: Η πλατφόρμα δράσης (BPfA) και η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση Τομέας ΣΤ: Γυναίκες και οικονομία

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„Pekinas + 20“. Veiksmų platforma (PVP) ir Europos Sąjunga F sritis. Moterys ir ekonomika

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“Pekina+20”. Rīcības platforma (BPfA) un Eiropas Savienība F joma “Sievietes un ekonomika”

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Beijing+20: Il-Pjattaforma ta' Azzjoni (BPfA) u l-Unjoni Ewropea Qasam F: In-Nisa u l-Ekonomija

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Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: F. Women and the economy