

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



Policy Context

Equal access to economic resources is not just a matter of economic efficiency/competitiveness but has long been recognised as a prerequisite for the achievement of economic growth, poverty and employment reduction. Encouraging women's participation in the labour market is crucial to GDP, economic growth and, more generally, to ensure that the EU makes full use of available talent and human resources.

The Europe 2020 Strategy

- Encourages the 'high-employment economy' and its goal for target 'close to 75% for employees' rate for women and men aged 20-64.
- In order to meet this objective, the Strategy identified a Europe 2020, its agenda for new skills and jobs (2010), that proposes a set of actions to boost inclusive growth, supported by measures, of which some target women.

• Country-specific recommendations that 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 2010/18/UE)

- Changes introduced in 2010 include longer leave months for adoptive parents and parents of children with a disability.
- Member States should take steps 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)

- Repealing Directive 86/115/EEC which was the first Directive on maternity protection 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

- K1.** Promote administrative, digital and professional skills, including online development, computer writing, coding and online new economic models.
- F2.** Facilitate women's entrepreneurial activities, and improve their access to finance.
- K3.** Promote business ventures, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly in the economic sector.
- F4.** Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks.
- F5.** Enhance occupational integration and all forms of employment discrimination.
- F6.** Promote the harmonisation 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 set up negotiations between women and men in 2010. The Council Presidency in 2014 set out to ensure the implementation of the first strategic objective to promote women's economic rights and independence, and identified three additional indicators.

The database Women and men in the EU – facts and figures, developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality provides the most up-to-date 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)



Пекин+20: Платформата за действие и Европейският съюз Област Е: Жените и икономиката

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Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: F. Women and the economy

