

Beijing+20 factsheet - Area A: Women and Poverty



Policy Context

Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem that goes beyond a lack of resources for survival and extends to the deprivation of civil, social and cultural activities, as well as opportunities for political engagement and social mobility. Council of the EU (2005). Women remain lower income compared to men, placing them at a greater risk of poverty.

The Europe 2020 Strategy

- Aims at delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU through job creation and poverty reduction.
- Sets the headline target of lifting at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion by 2020.

The European platform against poverty and social exclusion

- One of seven flagship initiatives of Europe 2020. Aims of the key initiatives to protect and promote women and social inclusion. It applies gender mainstreaming by its key initiatives such as the promotion of social economic independence, the attainment of gaps in employment to family-related areas and the improvement of the transportation of working conditions related to family responsibilities.

European Pact for Gender Equality (2011-20)

- Reaffirms the Council's commitment to full EU employment on gender equality, especially in those areas related to gender equality, namely employment, education and promoting social inclusion in particular through the reduction of poverty.

The strategic objectives of the BPfA and the EU indicators

In 2007, the Council agreed on three EU-wide indicators including two sub-indicators to measure the progress on the EU on the implementation of the BPfA objectives. They look at the areas of poverty (by age, sex and type of household, including lone parents with dependent children) and at the elderly (by age and sex).

- A.1.** Promote wage and market mechanisms, taking into account changes that address the needs and risks of women in poverty.
- A.2.** Remove legal and administrative obstacles to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic activities.
- A.3.** Provide women with access to crèche and child care services and nurseries.
- A.4.** Develop government interventions and other measures to address the structural of poverty.

The database '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/content/women-and-men-in-the-eu-facts-and-figures>.

Findings from EU-wide data

The at risk of poverty rate increased

In 2012, 17 % of the population in EU was at risk of poverty, with women at a slightly higher risk of poverty than men. This is partly explained by the fact that, across Europe, women receive lower pay and work in poorer working conditions than men, and they are more likely to be in part-time work, have family responsibilities or to have care-related obligations from the work force.

Along with a slight rise in risk of poverty for both women and men (up 0.2 pppt since 2010) the gender gap has narrowed to just over 1 % in 2012. If the average increase in mobility in the EU there is however a significant increase in risk of poverty in two thirds of the Member States, particularly in those having hit by the crisis.

The increase in risk of poverty is indeed to mention Germany, if a country it may lead to fully take into account the level of poverty in Member States where there has been a fall in income.


Read more:

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

Downloads













Beijing+20: The Platform for Action (BPfA) and the European Union Area A: Women and Poverty
EN (PDF, 143.34 KB)



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Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: A. Women and Poverty