

Beijing+20 factsheet - Area A: Women and Poverty



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

Policy Context

Poverty is a complex, multi-dimensional problem that goes beyond a lack of resources for survival, extends to the deprivation of civil, social and cultural activities, as well as opportunities for political engagement and social mobility. Council of the EU (2007) 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 is one of the key instruments to protect and promote women and social inclusion. It applies gender mainstreaming to its key initiatives such as the promotion of social economic independence, the achievement of gaps in employment in family-related areas and the monitoring of the integration of working women related to family care arrangements.

European Pact for Gender Equality (2015-20)

- Reaffirms the Council's commitment to the EU's ambitions 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 2001, the Council agreed on three EU-wide indicators including two sub-indicators, to measure the progress in the EU on the implementation of the BPfA objectives. They look at the extent of poverty and by age, sex and type of household including single parents with dependent children and at the difficulty by age and sex.

A.1. Women, wages and maternal responsibilities: address the socio-economic changes that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty.

A.2. Women face job administrative and legal barriers to secure economic social rights and access to economic activities.

A.3. Provide women with access to savings and credit facilities and insurance.

A.4. Develop gender-based methodologies and indicators to assess the structural 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 those 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 fewer men contacts or to have care-related absences from the work force.

Along with a slight rise in risk of poverty for both women and men (up 0.2 pp) since 2007, the gender gap has narrowed to just over 1 % in 2012. If the average income in households in the EU, there is however a significant increase in risk of poverty in households of the Member States, particularly in those headed by the state.

The increase in risk of poverty is similar in member countries. As a result, it may lead to fully take into account the trend of poverty in Member States where there has been a fall in incomes.

Read more:

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

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Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: A. Women and Poverty

