

Beijing+20 factsheet - Area A: Women and Poverty



Policy Context

Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem that goes beyond a lack of income to territorial and social exclusion, 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 aimed at the key objectives 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 advancement of girls in STEM, family-friendly policies and the improvement of the transportation of mobility, education related to family leave and flexible work.

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 2011 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 diversity (by age and sex

- A.1.** Women, along with children, remain more vulnerable to the socio-economic changes that affect the needs and rights of women in poverty.
- A.2.** Women have not fully benefited from social and economic growth and access to economic activities.
- A.3.** Provide women with access to skills and decent work opportunities.
- A.4.** Develop government interventions and other measures to address the structural causes 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 fixed-term contracts 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 pppt since 2011) the gender gap has narrowed to just over 1 % in 2012. If the average increase in risk of poverty in the EU shows a noticeable increase in risk of poverty in two thirds of the Member States, particularly in those having hit by the crisis.

The increase of risk of poverty is related to member countries. In a worst, 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)



Пекин+20: Платформата за действие и Европейският съюз Област А: Жените и бедността

BG (PDF, 148.46 KB)



Peking+20: Pekingská akční platforma a Evropská unie Oblast A: Ženy a chudoba

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Peking+20: A cselekvési platform (BPfA) és az Európai Unió A. terület: Nők és szegénység

HU (PDF, 143 KB)



Beijing+20: Pekingplattformen och EU Område A: Kvinnor och fattigdom

SV (PDF, 140.76 KB)

Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: A. Women and Poverty