


Economic benefits of gender equality in the EU: How gender equality in STEM education leads to economic growth



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Getting more women into STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education will have a positive impact on economic growth in the European Union. However, despite good employment opportunities and highly productive jobs in this area, there is currently a low proportion of women studying and graduating in STEM subjects (1).

A study from the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on the economic benefits of gender equality puts forth robust new evidence showing the positive impacts of reducing gender inequalities in education in developed countries.

Closing the gender gap in STEM education can foster economic growth

Gender equality measures, such as the removal of gender stereotypes in education, awareness raising, and the promotion of STEM subjects to girls and women, and career guidance for young women, can increase the number of women who graduate from STEM subjects. These measures are likely to result in higher numbers of women graduating from STEM subjects. In turn, these measures could encourage more women to take up jobs due to improved future prospects in the area of STEM at present and in the future. At the same time, an increase in STEM employment would help to reduce labour market shortages and making progress in the labour market.

Closing the gender gap in STEM could lead to an additional 1.2 million jobs.

Closing gender gaps in STEM education would have a positive impact on employment. Total employment would increase by 800,000 to 1,200,000 by 2050. These jobs are forecasted.

Figure 3. The effect of closing the gender gap in STEM employment



1) The study measured the gender gap in the field of computing and engineering, between the number of women in doctorate or master's degrees, the proportion of men in total job opportunities in a given job, and the proportion of men in total STEM jobs.

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Further information

[Economic Benefits of Gender Equality: interactive platform presenting the results](#)



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