

Fact sheet: Gender equality and Institutional Mechanisms



POLICY CONTEXT

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) was officially adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. All 191 Member States are committed to implementing its strategic objectives at the national level. A series of instruments have been developed by each of the existing Presidency of the Council of the European Union since 1999 to monitor its implementation in the EU.

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women have to be one of the 11 areas of concern of the BPA. 9-point have strategic objectives:

- **M1: create or strengthen national mechanisms and other governmental bodies;**
- **M2: integrate gender perspectives in legislative, public policies, programmes and projects; and**
- **M3: generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.**

In 2008 the Council emphasised the need to enhance the status of the national bodies for the promotion of gender equality in order to bring gender equality to its highest level. The Council also stressed that the conditions necessary for an effective national institutional structure for gender equality are that it is located at the highest possible level in the government, handles cross-cutting, organisational, gender-mainstreaming issues and has the capacity to influence the development of all government policies. The European Commission's Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015) also highlights the need to raise gender equality the agenda in all EU and national policies, and mainstream gender mainstreaming as an integral part of policy-making, including through impact assessment and evaluation processes.

FINDINGS

By 2015, all 28 EU Member States had established governmental gender equality bodies and designated bodies for the promotion of equal treatment. However, compared to 2008, no substantial progress has been observed within the existing mechanisms in relation to their mandate, human resources, and capacity to promote gender equality and track a more systematic implementation of gender mainstreaming. In fact, there has been a tendency for gender equality, as a policy area, to decrease in importance.

The report by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of gender equality (2018), building on the monitoring and evaluation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the High Level Group of the European Council (2018), reviewed the progress of Member States since 2008 regarding institutional mechanisms for gender equality, including gender mainstreaming. On 9 and 10 December 2018, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council discussed EIGE's report and adopted conclusions on the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and gender equality in the form of ECE's report and report action four indicators in this area including a new indicator on gender role and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by sex.

EU-LEVEL INDICATORS

- Indicator 1:** Status of the governmental body responsible for promoting gender equality
- Indicator 2a:** Functional structure of the governmental gender equality body
- Indicator 2b:** Functional resources of the designated body to monitor for the promotion of equal treatment of women and men
- Indicator 3:** Gender mainstreaming
- Indicator 4:** Production and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by sex

Indicator 1: Status of the governmental body responsible for promoting gender equality

Compared to 2008, there was an improvement in 10 Member States in terms of governmental responsibility for gender equality by 2015, in particular in the area of statistics for gender equality policies. The percentage of Member States which adopted national action plans for gender equality increased from 40 % in 2008 to 50 % in 2015. In addition, the percentage of Member

EU Indicators for the Beijing Platform for Action area H. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women ➔

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 **Fact sheet: Gender equality and Institutional Mechanisms**
EN (PDF, 625.99 KB)

 **Lyčių lygybė ir Instituciniai Mechanizmai**
LT (PDF, 253.97 KB)

Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: H. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

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