

# Fact sheet: Gender equality and Institutional Mechanisms



**GENDER EQUALITY AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS**  
Implementation of the Beijing Platform  
for Action in the EU

### POLICY CONTEXT

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) was formally adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. All EU Member States are committed to implementing its strategic objectives in the field of gender equality. A series of studies have been developed to assist the leading Presidency of the Council of the European Union (2016) in assessing 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 to cover these strategic objectives:

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

In 2008, the Council emphasized the need to enhance the status of the national bodies for the promotion of gender equality, in order to bring gender equality to the forefront. 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, involves voluntary organizations, gender data collection, research and has the authority 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 use gender equality data derived in all EU and national policies, and implement gender mainstreaming as an integral part of policy-making, including through impact assessment and evaluation processes.

### FINDINGS

By 2012, 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 additional progress has been observed in the following indicators 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 institutional and inter-agency processes set down by the Report Presidency Council of the European Union (2008) 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 of Ministers (EPSCO) adopted conclusions on the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and gender equality in the form of EIGE's report and non-binding recommendations in the area including a new mandate on planning and development of statistics disaggregated by sex.

### EU-LEVEL INDICATORS

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

**Indicator 2a** Mandate of the governmental body responsible for promoting gender equality

**Indicator 2b** Human resources of the designated body for gender equality for the promotion of equal treatment of women and men

**Indicator 3** Gender mainstreaming

**Indicator 4** Profile and distribution of staff members responsible for it

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

Compared to 2008, there was no improvement in EU Member States in terms of governmental responsibility for gender equality by 2012, in particular in the area of accountability for gender equality policies. The percentage of Member States which adopted national action plans for gender equality increased from 60 % in 2008 to 82 % in 2012. 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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## Metadata

**AREAS:** Beijing Platform for Action

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

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