

Gender equality and care infrastructures



Public services such as care facilities, public transport and health centres play an essential part in the well-being of Europeans. We use public service infrastructure every day; it underpins our lives, and is essential for the functioning of society. Infrastructure is meant to deliver services that address the diverse needs of women and men and contribute to equal opportunities for all.

Care infrastructure makes everyday life easier

In a survey carried out by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), respondents ranked nine public services in order of how they helped them to participate in seven everyday life activities. The results show that women and men perceive the importance of childcare infrastructure differently (Table 1).

Health services and medical centres were top of the list for both women and men, followed by public transport. Women perceived childcare services as more important for helping their everyday life than men. Women placed nurseries for children in kindergartens and after-school care for children aged 7-14 years in fourth place because they enable participation in work and education. In contrast, men placed nurseries for children aged over 3 years in seventh place because they allow them to participate in education. In the last two positions, men placed nurseries for children aged 0-3 for enabling the carrying out of domestic and care work, and nurseries for children aged over 3 years for enabling participation in paid work as employed or self-employed.

Table 1: Services most helpful with everyday life from respondents aged 18 to 68

| How important is the service to your everyday life? | Women's ranking | Men's ranking |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Health services and medical centres because they enable taking care of physical and mental health | 1 | 1 |
| Public transport because it enables moving around and reaching destinations independently | 2 | 2 |
| Nurseries from 3+ years because they enable participation in paid work as employed or self-employed | 3 | 14 |
| Nurseries from 7+ years because they enable gaining of knowledge through participation in education | 4 | 3 |
| Nurseries for 0 to 3 year-olds because they enable participation in paid work as employed or self-employed | 5 | No ranking (6) |
| Recreational and leisure services because they enable moving around and reaching destinations independently | 6 | 9 |
| Parks and green areas because they enable leisure | 7 | 8 |
| Parks and green areas because they enable taking care of physical and mental health | 8 | 7 |
| Public transport because it enables the gaining of new knowledge through participation in education | 9 | 5 |
| Food shopping or retail stores because it enables moving around and reaching destinations independently | 10 | 6 |

(6) No ranking: Nurseries for 0 to 3 year-olds because they enable carrying out domestic and care work as husband

(1) EIGE works in the field of gender equality and research to provide the benefits of gender equality through the promotion of public institutions, strengthening of institutions and the role of public services, work-life balance, diversity and mental health, youth, skills, gender equality and employment of young people, and the role of the private sector. EIGE also supports the development of gender equality indicators, the implementation of the strategy, and the development of research and innovation projects. EIGE also promotes the implementation of the strategy and the role of the private sector. EIGE also supports the development of gender equality indicators, the implementation of the strategy, and the development of research and innovation projects. EIGE also promotes the implementation of the strategy and the role of the private sector. EIGE also supports the development of gender equality indicators, the implementation of the strategy, and the development of research and innovation projects. EIGE also promotes the implementation of the strategy and the role of the private sector.

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Access to care infrastructure has a direct impact on how people who care for children, older people and persons with disabilities use their time. It also affects their opportunities to take up employment, participate in education or training, and take care of their physical and mental health.

Read more

[Benefits of gender equality through infrastructure provision: an EU-wide survey](#)



[EIGE's Gender Mainstreaming Platform](#)



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