

Gender-sensitive Communication

Overview of the toolkit

Language is a reflection of the attitudes, behaviours and norms within a society. It also shapes people's attitudes as to what is 'normal' and acceptable.

Women play an active role in society, yet – all too often – we use language that ignores or minimises their contribution. Words matter in shaping our worldview. For example, the dominance of masculine words for general references can reflect assumptions about gender roles and influence readers [[source](#)].

This toolkit is an easy-to-use guide on how to use more gender-sensitive language.

This toolkit is one of a series of documents produced by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) to raise awareness of gender-sensitive language. Other useful documents include a glossary to explain the meaning of key terms linked to gender equality and a thesaurus exploring the relationship between different terms, both accessible at [EIGE's Gender Equality Glossary and Thesaurus](#).

Another useful resource is EIGE's Gender Trainers Database, which includes information about individuals and organisations offering gender training in the EU, available at [EIGE's gender trainers' database](#).