

Grey literature on entrepreneurship



Resource and Documentation Centre

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What is grey literature? It is literature produced by non-commercial publishers, such as public institutions, universities, research institutes and civil society. It contains a lot of useful content, but is often hard to find as it is scattered across different locations. EIGE has collected grey literature on gender equality and you can access our collection through a simple search interface. EIGE's collection of grey literature is available in several EU languages and documents come from all EU Member States.

The relevance of gender in entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is crucial in creating jobs, innovation and growth. Interest in women's entrepreneurship has grown among scholars and policymakers. Women's entrepreneurship is about gender equality, empowerment and social inclusion, but also relates to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Grey literature in EIGE's library

EIGE's library hosts one of the largest collections in gender-related literature related to entrepreneurship. The collection presents **good practices** of current policies throughout Europe as well as **gender indicators** aimed at assessing gender equality in entrepreneurship. Several resources focus on the ways in which the EU has mainstreamed gender into **policy processes** for entrepreneurship. You will also find **research reports** and **statistical documents** providing data on key gender issues related to entrepreneurship.

Women entrepreneurs

Many of the resources in the library include data that shows the extent of women's presence in the sector. Despite the increasing numbers of women entrepreneurs, gender gaps are still wide in terms of self-employment numbers, as well as in terms of the gender pay gap and business scale. When women do start businesses, they do it on a smaller scale than men and in a limited range of sectors. A number of resources examine the principal determinants and motivations behind women entrepreneurship.

Reading list

Library Briefing — Women entrepreneurship in the EU
Women in Enterprise: A Different Perspective

Barriers to women's access to entrepreneurship

Many of the resources in the library show that women still face a great number of **obstacles when establishing a business**. These include access to finance, unfavourable business regulations, administration and training gaps, lack of contacts, as well as access to social support and networking. Although most of these difficulties are common to both women and men, evidence suggests that the barriers faced by women entrepreneurs are often significantly greater than those experienced by their male peers. Cultural barriers are a specific form of barrier that strongly influence the presence of women in the

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