

# “Born to be Leaders”

Gender equality is a cross-cutting priority of the Romanian Presidency of the Council which covers diverse domains, from employment aspects, health, fundamental rights, to digitalization and commerce.

Equality between men and women is a fundamental principle of the European Union enshrined in the Treaties and one of the objectives and tasks of the EU, and mainstreaming the principle of equality between women and men in all its activities represents a specific mission which the EU has committed to.

Nevertheless, we have yet to achieve gender equality, especially in the world of work. Patriarchal management and stereotypes associated with the place of women in society are still felt and lived by women that aspire to high positions.

The reality of today is that women continue to earn less than men, are less likely to advance their careers and have lower pensions due to the pay gap. Also, women are more likely to take parental leave after the birth of a child and more often than not they choose to leave their careers behind.

The reason for this is the lack of comprehensive and flexible work-life balance policies at national level and childcare systems which are demonstrated to help new mothers return to work.

Women graduate from college at higher percentages than men do today, yet women still earn less money and hold fewer executive positions. Why is that? And how can we improve the situation?

## Objectives

This event will give participants a unique possibility to participate in a discussion with high-level officials, national representatives and women who are pioneers in their respective fields of work in order to reflect on the future of gender equality in the EU and on concrete ways to break the glass ceiling.

In the context of International Women’s Day, but also current trending topics such as the #metoo movement and #timesup, this event aims at facilitating a bold discussion about topics such as the importance of diversity at the workplace, work-life balance, the economic empowerment of women, the role of mentoring and the impact of social media.

