

A final round up of gender equality in action

From our renewed Gender Equality Index to bold action on violence against women. Here's what shaped the [last quarter of the year!](#)



□ Welcome to EIGE's newsletter!

As the year draws to a close, we're taking [a moment to look back](#) at the milestones, the challenges, and the momentum for change.



The [2025 Gender Equality Index](#) is here!

On 2 December, EIGE published the [2025 Gender Equality Index](#) - and this year's edition reveals that:

- Women in the EU still need to work 15½ months to earn what men make in a year.

- Progress is happening, but at the current pace, full gender equality is still more than 50 years away.
- Gender stereotypes continue to have a firm grip, shaping our ambitions, decisions and daily experiences – but change is possible.

This year's edition marks the [first major upgrade](#) since the Index launched over a decade ago. Because Europe in 2025 is not the Europe of 2013. Work patterns, caring roles and digitalisation have transformed – and continue to evolve. Our Index this year has adjusted its methodology to reflect today's realities.

Explore the [new web interface](#) to easily grasp the current state and progress over time: by country and by domain.

We also celebrated the launch of the new Index in Brussels – a huge thank you to everyone who joined us in person and online. [Watch the livestream here!](#)



Latest News

Two sides of communication: progress and backlash

The past few months have been especially active at EIGE, with two Communications Lab workshops - one bringing together youth activists, and another gathering our Experts Forum member from across the Member States.

'Messages Matter: Communicating effectively to help end violence against women' centred on practical tools for building strong,



evidence-based messages, drawing on our new Comms Lab workbook, [Communicating for Change](#). Developed through evidence, expert insight and peer learning, the workbook helps communicators craft values-led messages and respond to gendered disinformation.

In these dynamic workshops, we explored how to stay effective and grounded in a rapidly shifting communication landscape - one marked by both progress and the growing challenge of anti-gender disinformation. You can [watch a livestreamed webinar edition of the Comms Lab](#) where we unpacked the contents and had critical conversations with experts.

All women deserve to feel safe on and offline



“No woman or girl should feel a knot in her stomach when her phone lights up. As each of the powerful artworks show, online abuse follows women and girls into their homes, their classrooms, their workplaces and their streets.”, says Carlien Scheele, EIGE Director.

To keep the momentum high on ending violence against women, EIGE joined the UN-led campaign [Orange the World](#), participating in the 16 Days of Activism to show how online violence shadows women through every part of their lives. And how we can change it.

Our ‘Safe Spaces’ artwork series by Lithuanian illustrator Eglė Narbutaitė was the heart of our refreshed mini campaign.

Cyber violence is not a separate, virtual problem. It is part of a continuum of violence against women and girls. It can follow women from the virtual space of phones, laptops and social media to have real-world impacts. And vice versa.

“Digital spaces are part of our daily lives, and they must be safe. When women are pushed out or silenced, we all lose. We cannot and will not accept this as normal,” says Carlien Scheele, EIGE Director.

A big step forward for gender equality in Ireland!



EIGE recently carried out a country [visit to Dublin](#), ahead of the upcoming Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2026.

“Ireland is making steady progress in tackling gender stereotypes but much like everywhere in Europe, it’s an ongoing challenge. (...) By tackling harmful norms and restrictive masculinities, you open doors to gender equality in every other area – from education and employment to leadership and care,” [states](#) Carlien Scheele, EIGE Director.

The visit included discussions with national institutions, exchanges on Ireland’s gender equality priorities, and participation in the launch of the National Strategy for Women and Girls.

Publications

Best of 2025

It has been a significant year for research, analysis, and fresh insights at EIGE. From cyber violence to migration, from stereotypes to future foresight. Here are our Top 5 publications of 2025:



1. Despite growing awareness, gender stereotypes remain deeply embedded in EU cultures, institutions and daily interactions, shaping how women and men perceive themselves and each other. [Perception to policy: Dismantling gender stereotypes in the European Union](#) analyses how these stereotypes influence people’s choices, opportunities and access to public services.

2. Migration to the EU has surged due to global crises, increasing women’s and girls’



vulnerability to gender-based violence, especially among displaced or undocumented migrants. [Responding to gender-based violence in the context of migration: Mapping EU Member States' policies and actions](#) show that although policies exist, responses across Member States remains fragmented.



3. [The European Protection Order: Overview for Victim Support Services](#) provides an overview of the European Protection Order, a legal instrument which ensures that victims protected in one EU Member State remain protected when they travel or move to another, safeguarding individuals from criminal acts.



4. Advancing gender equality requires looking ahead, and [Future issues and trends in gender equality: A foresight guide by EIGE](#) offers tools to anticipate change and guide today's actions toward more equitable futures.



5. Cyber violence against women and girls is rapidly increasing as digital and emerging technologies expand, posing growing risks to their safety, rights and online participation. [Combating cyber violence against women and girls: Developing an EU measurement framework](#) provides indicators for EU Member States to measure and report the prevalence and impact of cyber violence against women and girls in a consistent, comparable way.

Good to know

The IPA Project comeback!



We are proud to announce that the Agency is [continuing its cooperation with the Western Balkans and Türkiye](#) through the IPA III project, supported by the European Commission until 2029!

The project boosts evidence-based policy-making and [regional knowledge exchange](#).

Over the next four years, we will help develop national gender equality indices, improve gender statistics, and strengthen data on violence against women, supporting EU accession and regional cooperation. Watch this space!

“The youth will bring a shift”



During a recent Management Board meeting, [we sat with Helena Valas](#), Chair of EIGE's Management Board, for a quick-fire tour through gender gaps, political heroes and giving the floor to the youth.

Asked which gender gap she would fix instantly, Helena didn't miss a beat: “The care gap.”

“We have a huge imbalance between paid and unpaid work. Once you fix that - and once men see how much unpaid work women are doing - they will definitely appreciate it more,” she explains.

Watch the [full interview](#) with Helena for more of her professional insights and a few personal surprises!

Strengthening Europe’s response to GBV in 2026



In 2026, EIGE will strengthen the evidence base on [gender-based violence](#) (GBV) through three complementary research projects:

- Identifying and preventing GBV in asylum reception centres: Assessing current practices in GBV identification and prevention across EU asylum reception centres to support more consistent, trauma-informed approaches.
- Support services mapping across the EU-27: developing shared definitions and indicators under Directive (EU) 2024/1385.
- Updating the FGM risk estimation methodology: refining tools to improve data quality and align with evolving demographic standards.

Together, these projects will offer practical, comparable insights to support more effective GBV responses throughout the EU.

Thank you for reading!



We hope you all have a wonderful break over the holiday period. Until next time!

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