

This factsheet is part of the study “Collection of good practices of non-monetary measures in the area of Women and Poverty” (EIGE/2015/OPER/18). This study was commissioned by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and implemented by the Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (FGB). EIGE provides high quality research to support better informed policy-making at EU and Member State levels, in the critical areas of concern of the BPfA chosen by the EU Presidencies. EIGE developed an online platform on gender mainstreaming that provides access to a database of researches and good practices collection on specific area of the BPfA.

THREE STRANDS OF PRACTICES ON WOMEN AND POVERTY

Positive action measures target resources on women. They directly address the inequalities experienced by women in dedicated initiatives. The aim is to contribute to achieving full equality in practice with men. Positive action measures addressing women and poverty can include the provision of training to enable women to get jobs in male dominated sectors or the provision of training to open up new opportunities beyond the limited possibilities dictated by gender stereotypes.

Specific action measures directly address particular forms of disadvantage and/or discrimination that specifically affect women, because of their gender. Women in poverty are more exposed to violence and it is a causal factor in their poverty. Specific action measures addressing women and poverty can include the creation of pathways for the reintegration of victims of human trafficking and sexual exploi-

tation or the elimination of exploitation of domestic workers, usually migrant women.

Mainstreaming measures are anti-poverty actions addressed to men and women experiencing poverty and designed to take account of the different experiences of poverty, routes into poverty, and routes out of poverty of women and men and involve an internal institutional framework to secure a focus on gender equality. Mainstreaming measures can include, for example, the provision of specific supports to women, within information and counselling services for migrants that take account of the additional impact on them of the unequal sharing of care responsibilities or taking action to address the particular vulnerability to violence of homeless women within services to homeless people.

Intersections:

The intersection of gender with other sources of social inequality influences the specific nature and severity of the poverty experienced by women at these intersections. The experience of poverty is specific for:

- women with low socio-economic status older single women,
- lone mothers,
- women with migrant or ethnic minority backgrounds, including Roma women,
- women with disabilities.

FIVE TYPES OF INTERVENTION ON WOMEN AND POVERTY

Creating conditions for change includes action to develop a knowledge base about the situation, experience and perceptions of the women involved, to establish a means of engagement for the women targeted, and to develop and apply a gender analysis to the work proposed.

Empowerment of women includes action to engage the women targeted as partners in the initiative, to enable women to have their own space and to organise together, and to provide a platform for particular groups of women to voice their perspectives.

Building and strengthening the capacity of women enables them to occupy new positions and access male-dominated arenas and in-

cludes the provision of information and counselling, training, mentoring, and networking. **Fostering economic independence** of women includes supporting women to progress their careers from precarious low paid and insecure jobs and acting to break the economic dependence of women subjected to human trafficking and sexual exploitation through the provision of sheltered housing, income support, and training for employment.

Addressing causes of poverty for women includes action to change legislation, policy, institutional practice and organisational and societal culture.

¹ Good practice as defined in the EIGE approach to the identification and selection of good practice:

- works well;
- may be replicated;
- is good for learning;
- is embedded in a wider gender mainstreaming strategy;
- demonstrates achievement in advancing gender equality

Gender sensitivity in non-monetary measures in the area of women and poverty can require:

- **Action addressing specific needs** of women in poverty such as gender-based violence, gender stereotyping, gender discrimination and patriarchal systems and cultures as stand-alone actions or dimension of a wider initiative.
- **Specific communication channels and messages** to engage women, reflecting that women might use different channels of communication as well as the need for messages that address the negative impact of gender stereotyping and gender inequality on women's motivation.
- **Action on childcare, access to school provision, and flexibility** in the timing of service provision or the requirements of employment, to free up women to seize opportunities in a context of unequal sharing of caring responsibilities between women and men.
- **Design and delivery** of interventions enable participation where the content of training can address particular needs of, or barriers faced by, women or the provision of training by women can respond to fears and challenge stereotypes through the use of women trainers.

Qualitative Criteria for Good Practices on Women and Poverty:

- Reflects the multi-dimensional nature of poverty experienced by women and the need for integrated responses to this, paying due attention to intersections between gender and other sources of social inequality.
- Addresses the need to promote the economic independence of women as an integral part of any policy to combat poverty.
- Takes account of the relevance of gender-based violence in addressing women's poverty, with a specific focus on economic violence.
- Adopts a life-cycle approach aimed at long term impacts, preventing women's entrapment in poverty over the life course as well as the reproduction of poverty into the next generation.
- Acknowledges the mobilisation of women and a participatory approach as fundamental drivers for change, under the principles of empowerment, partnership, cultural dialogue, and self-help.
- Establishes stable partnerships and collaboration between public, private, academic, and civil society sector actors to promote sustainable and effective policies, strategies, and initiatives to tackle women's poverty and promote social inclusion.

THREE TYPES OF IMPACT ON WOMEN AND POVERTY

Individual change or change in the situation and experience of individual women in poverty. Individual change can include empowerment of women through advice and counselling, engaging women as partners in initiatives, and offering women their own space to organise. It can involve securing economic independence for individual women in accessing employment or improved working conditions. It can secure release from oppressive situations such as isolation for migrant women or gender-based violence.

Institutional change or change in the policy, procedure and practice of organisations. Institutional change is about eliminating the causes

of poverty for the full cohort of women. It can include action to set standards in the practice of organisations, provide advice and support to improve practice, or engage political support for policy change.

Societal change or change in the values and understanding of the general public about women and poverty. It can include creative actions to stimulate public debate and new awareness of the situation and experience of particular groups of women, communication initiatives to give public voice to groups of women who are not heard in public debate, and innovative actions to challenge old perceptions and offer new perceptions about groups of women in particular circumstances.

Sources of sustainability:

- Adequate funding and financial security for the initiative.
- Initiatives forming part of broader long-term policy or programme strategies including gender mainstreaming strategies.
- Initiatives achieving institutional change that creates the conditions for their objectives to continue to be realised through this changed institutional setting.
- Initiatives securing broad recognition from external evaluation or from receiving public awards.

The 9 good practices selected:

Good Practice: In-work poverty	Country
Interface 3	Belgium
Partnership for Change and Development in the Local Labour Market in a Rural Area	Croatia
Cooks Without Homes	Czech Republic
The Right to Full-Time Employment	Sweden
Good Practice: Poverty experienced by migrant women and Roma women	Country
Migrant Domestic Workers' Rights on the Threshold of Czech Households	Czech Republic
Mobile Drop-In Centre for Migrants from South East Europe and for Roma (MOBI)	Germany
Cleo-Patria Women's and Neighbourhood Studios	Netherlands
Roma Women Talk	Slovak Republic
Rescuing Women from Modern Day Slavery	Spain

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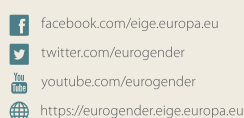
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More information: <http://eige.europa.eu>



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