



European Institute for Gender Equality – EIGE in brief

More information on the European Union is available on the internet (<http://europa.eu>).
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What is EIGE?

The **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)** is an autonomous body of the European Union, established to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality. Its remit includes supporting gender mainstreaming in all EU policies and the resulting national policies, the fight against discrimination based on sex and raising EU citizens' awareness of gender equality.

EIGE aims to become Europe's knowledge centre on gender equality, the front-runner in developing reliable evidence, collecting knowledge and sharing useful experiences and expertise. Having started operations in 2010, EIGE celebrated its fifth birthday in 2015.

What is the context of EIGE's work?

Although equality between women and men has been one of the fundamental principles of the European Union since the very beginning, there is still clear evidence of a democratic deficit with regard to women's involvement in EU policymaking. Despite a strong commitment and recent progress, the European Union is only half way towards a gender-equal society.



Viviane Reding, then Vice-President of the European Commission, Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania, and Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, during the opening ceremony for EU House in Vilnius, May 2013.

EIGE operates within the framework of European Union policies and initiatives, fulfilling the objectives and tasks assigned to it by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. It contributes to better-informed policymaking by delivering high-level expertise to the European Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament and also engages the pre-accession countries in its activities.



19 June 2015 — Open-doors day on EIGE's birthday.

The Institute's vision is:

making equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and people beyond.

And its mission is:

to become the European knowledge centre on gender equality.

EIGE is governed by a Management Board consisting of 18 representatives from the Member States and one representative from the European Commission. The Institute's Experts' Forum supports EIGE as an advisory body.



Monitoring the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU

EIGE is supporting the presidencies of the Council of the European Union by reviewing the implementation of the **Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)** in the Member States. The BPfA is the UN-level commitment taken on by the EU in 1995.

Since 2010, EIGE has published eight reports and a research note on the critical areas of concern for the BPfA, which have been fed into the policy-making process through Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council conclusions.

Gender equality and economic independence: part-time work and self-employment

The report on 'Gender equality and economic independence' noted that the employment rate of men had reached the Europe 2020 target of 75 % by 2012, while the employment rate for women remained low, at 62 %. The report shows that 14 Member States had achieved, or were very close to, Europe 2020 targets in terms of men's employment rates, but all Member States, except Sweden, failed to meet the Europe 2020 target when it came to the employment of women.

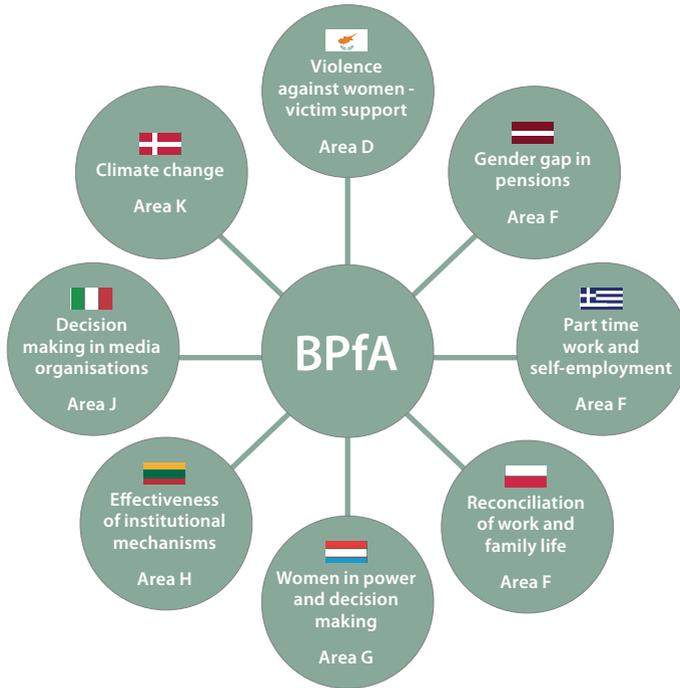
Based on EIGE's report, the EPSCO Council called on the Member States and the Commission to support a better work-life balance for women and men, by encouraging the equal sharing of care and domestic responsibilities through a combination of different measures (Council of the EU, 2014 a).

Beijing+20: fourth review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States

The Beijing+20 report is the fourth review of overall developments at the EU level in relation to the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA. It presents the main trends, progress and major challenges in gender equality in the EU from 2007 to 2012.

Based on the results of EIGE's Beijing+20 report, the EPSCO Council called on the Member States and the Commission to take further action to tackle the remaining challenges in the field of gender equality, including gender gaps in education and training, in the labour market, in the sharing of domestic and caring responsibilities, in pay and pensions and in decision-making (Council of the EU, 2014 b).

EIGE's reports on Beijing Platform for Action (2010–2015)



Gender gap in pensions in the EU: research note for the Latvian Presidency

Pensions are crucial in ensuring dignified ageing and preventing poverty in old age. In 2012, the average gender gap in pensions, which can be seen as the sum of a lifetime of gender inequalities, for the 28 EU Member States was 38 %. This means that while pensioners in general face a higher risk of poverty, it is even more pronounced for women and needs to be seriously addressed. Read the research note [here](#).



Women in power and decision-making

In its report under the Luxembourgish Presidency, EIGE analysed gender imbalances in decision-making in the political, economic and social fields. The latest data highlights men's overrepresentation in all spheres of public life, most significantly in economic and social decision-making. The report recommends improving work-life balance and implementing institutional changes as key measures. Even though the political and economic areas are prominent on the policy agenda, gender imbalances in decision-making in other social areas, such as sports, media and research, require much more visibility and action. Read the report [here](#).

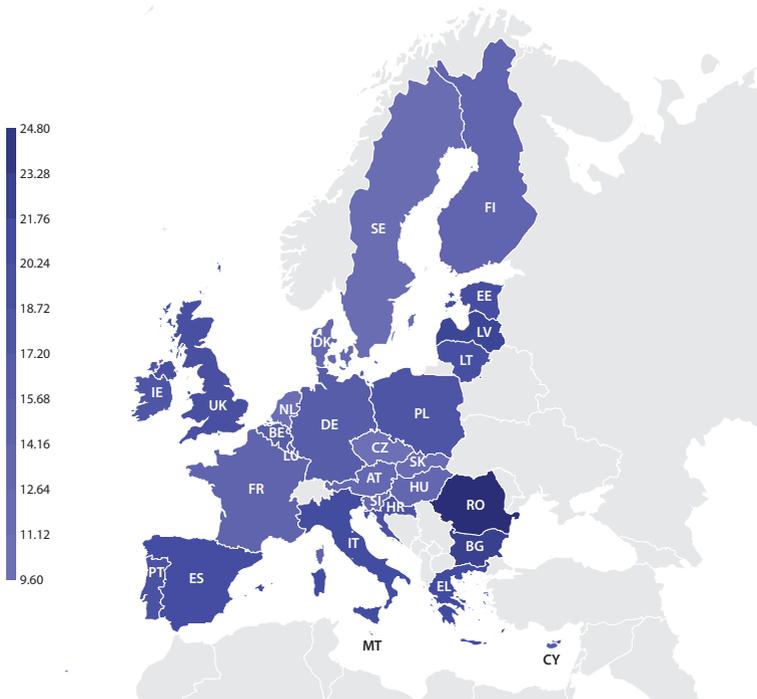
EIGE's database 'Women and men in the EU — Facts and figures'

If you are looking for the most recent comparable and reliable data on gender equality in all Member States and at the EU level, EIGE's database is the right source! It covers all Beijing indicators endorsed by the EPSCO Council since 1999, the most up-to-date information at Member State and EU levels and progress reviews for almost all of the 12 areas of the BPfA. With the help of an interactive map, data tables and graphs, you can quickly get an overview of the situation of an individual Member State and of Member States by comparison.

Find out more:

- EIGE's database on Beijing indicators: 'Women and men in the EU — Facts and figures' (<http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/women-and-men-in-the-eu-facts-and-figures>)
- EIGE's reports covering various areas set by the Beijing Platform for Action: (<http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications>)

EIGE's database 'Women and men in the EU — Facts and figures'. A map showing an indicator 21: At-risk-of poverty rate.



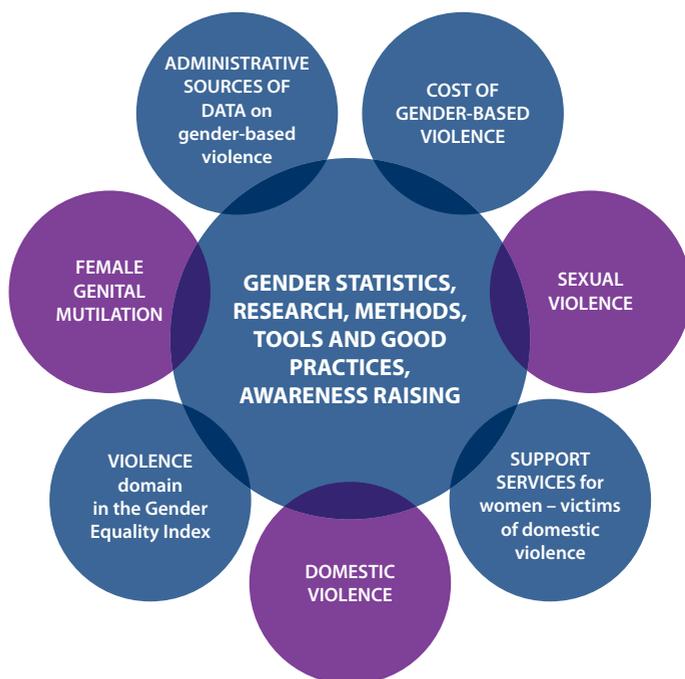
EIGE against gender-based violence



Gender-based violence reflects and reinforces inequalities between women and men and remains a major problem in the European Union. It is prevalent in all societies and is based on unequal power relations between women and men, which reinforce men's dominance over women. In the EU, nine out of 10 victims of intimate partner violence are women. Such violence harms not only women but also entire families and communities and society as a whole.

EIGE aims to support the Member States and all relevant institutions, including the European Parliament and the European Commission, in their efforts to combat and prevent gender-based violence, by providing reliable and comparable data to help measure the effectiveness of related policies. For the next few years EIGE's work will be shaped by its strategic framework on violence against women (2015–2018).

EIGE focuses on the following areas in its work on gender-based violence.



Administrative data sources on gender-based violence

Administrative data on gender-based violence are not primarily collected for statistical purposes, but for the internal use of institutions or agencies in order to monitor their activities. They do not measure the true extent of gender-based violence due to unreported incidents. However, they can provide detailed information on how judicial, police, health and social services respond to gender-based violence, which can support the development and assessment of appropriate policies and measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women across the European Union.

The Institute has reviewed and analysed the availability, accessibility, comparability and quality of the data gathered by these institutions across the EU, published two reports and developed a database on administrative data sources on gender-based violence (available at: <http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications>).

Female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a violent form of subordination of women and girls that stands in gross contradiction to the principles of gender equality. In 2012, EIGE launched an EU-wide study on this topic. The study primarily highlighted the fact that the prevalence of FGM in Europe is extremely hard to estimate as data is scarce. It also stresses the importance of reliable data on prevalence to support the struggle against this phenomenon in the EU and in the rest of the world.

The European Commission, in its communication 'Towards the elimination of female genital mutilation', called on EIGE to develop a methodology for estimating the risk of female genital mutilation in the EU. In 2013, the Institute launched a second study on the subject: 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union'. EIGE has developed a methodology for estimating the risk of FGM and tested this methodology in three Member States — Ireland, Portugal and Sweden. The findings of this research also stress the importance of cooperation between governments and communities in preventing the practice of FGM in Europe and beyond.

EIGE is gradually expanding the scope of its research and data relating to FGM, which includes a database on good practices, research guidelines and policy recommendations.

Costs of gender-based violence in the EU

The data requirements for estimating the costs of gender-based violence are complex, and the quality of available data is insufficient. In 2014, EIGE commissioned a study to analyse the existing approaches and propose methods to estimate the costs of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence against women in all Member States.

The report, 'Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the EU', provides an in-depth review and analysis of the methodological options for such estimations. It also includes a case study for the United Kingdom. The study estimates that the annual cost of failing to prevent this violence in the EU amounts to GBP 206 billion (259 billion euro).



The round-table meeting on ‘Strengthening cooperation to combat female genital mutilation’ in Lisbon was opened by (from left to right) EIGE’s Director Virginija Langbakk together with Portuguese Secretary of State Teresa Morais, and President of the Champalimaud Foundation Leonora Beleza.

Intimate partner violence

Intimate partner violence (sometimes called domestic violence or family violence) remains one of the most widespread forms of gender-based violence. Although all Member States have implemented measures to prevent and combat such forms of violence, there are still significant differences among the Member States in this area. To enable them to share good practices in the prevention of intimate partner violence, EIGE has developed a collection of resources, methods, tools and good practices on the prevention and protection of victims of this form of violence.

Find out more:

- EIGE’s EU mapping tool on administrative data sources on gender-based violence.
- ‘Female genital mutilation in the European Union and Croatia’ — report.
- ‘Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union’ — report, step-by-step guide, country factsheets and profiles.
- Databases on resources, good practice and methods and tools to prevent and eradicate FGM.
- The study ‘Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union’.
- All materials related to gender-based violence can be found at: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence>

Men and gender equality



Although some of the Member States have incorporated a specific focus on men within their gender equality policy framework, such developments are rather uneven among the Member States and they are not undertaken in a sustainable way.

The role of men in promoting gender equality has increasingly become the subject of studies and gender policies in the EU. The European Commission's roadmap for equality between women and men 2006–2010 stressed the need for men to be more involved in care activities. The strategy for equality between women and men 2010–2015 states that gender equality requires the active

contribution, support and participation of men and that policies should also address gender-related inequalities that affect boys/men, such as literacy rates, early school leaving and occupational health.

EIGE's website contains the study on 'The involvement of men in gender equality initiatives' and the Database on Men and Gender Equality Organisations. The Institute gives visibility to gender inequalities affecting men and highlights the engagement of men in supporting gender equality, for example by presenting men's work for gender equality through awareness-raising campaigns, such as the White Ribbon Campaign.



"I strongly condemn any violence against girls and women and I warmly salute all those fighting against this violence and helping the victims, like the winner of the Sakharov Prize of 2014, Mr Denis Mukwege. Condemning this clearly unacceptable violence is easy, but we should all see how we can contribute to actually stopping it and how we can help the victims."

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, supporting the White Ribbon Campaign.

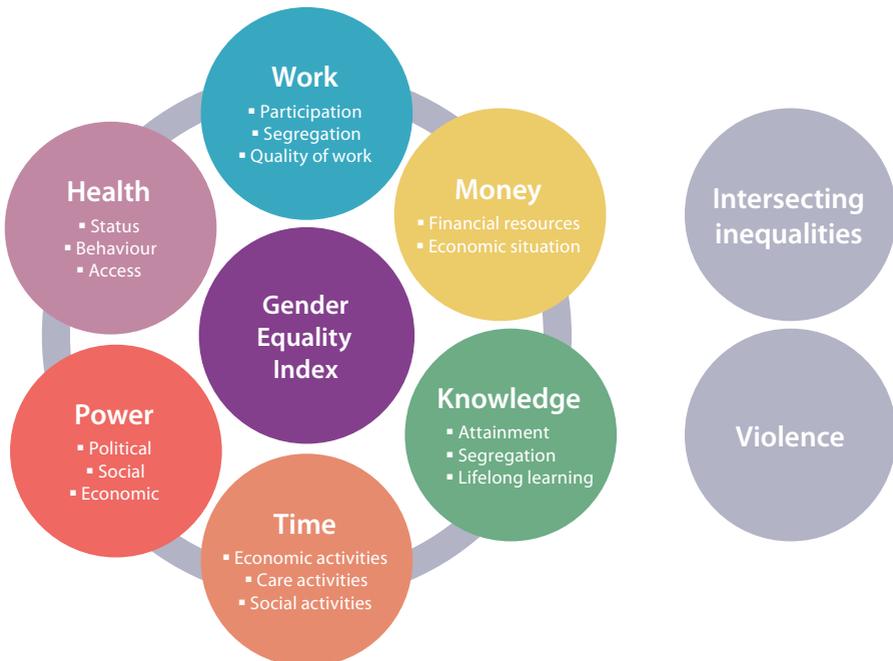


Gender Equality Index

Comprehensive measure of gender equality in the EU

The **Gender Equality Index**, developed by EIGE and launched in 2013, is a unique measurement tool that synthesises the complexity of gender equality into a user-friendly and easily interpretable measure. It is particularly useful for policymakers in the European Union as it is based on the EU policy framework.

It is formed by combining gender indicators, according to a conceptual framework, into a single summary measure. It consists of **six core domains** (**work, money, knowledge, time, power** and **health**) and **two satellite domains** (**intersecting inequalities** and **violence**). These satellite domains are used to include phenomena applying to a selected group of the population.



Domains and sub-domains of the conceptual framework of the Gender Equality Index.

The Gender Equality Index assigns scores for the Member States between 1 and 100, where 1 signals total inequality and 100 signifies full equality. The scores are given for the EU average, for each Member State and for the respective domains. The index measures gender gaps that are adjusted by levels of achievement to ensure that a high score reflects both small (or absent) gender gaps and a good overall situation for all.

Gender Equality Index 2015: measuring gender equality over time

The Gender Equality Index 2015, launched in June 2015, measures how far from — or close to — achieving gender equality the EU was in 2005, 2010 and 2012. Results are provided for all Member States and the EU as a whole, on domain and sub-domain levels.

The index shows a slight advance in gender equality between 2005 and 2012. The score for the 28 Member States rose from 51.2 in 2005 to 52.9

(out of 100) in 2012, showing that the EU remains only halfway towards gender equality.

In the EU as a whole, the domain of power — measuring representation in economic and political decision-making — exhibits the greatest signs of progress, while the greatest deficit is visible in the domain of time — reflecting the way in which women and men spend their time on care and leisure activities.

Moreover, the index offers a first step in developing a composite measure of violence against women, based on the data collected by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights through the EU-wide ‘Survey on violence against women’.

This first attempt to measure violence against women confirms the necessity for a regular data collection to provide the foundation for reliable statistical assessments and to enable better and more effective measures to eradicate gender-based violence.

You can access the Gender Equality Index at: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index>



The EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality – Věra Jourová speaking during the Gender Equality Index conference, June 2015, Brussels.



Statistics on gender equality in one place

EIGE's Gender Statistics Database

This database is a comprehensive source for gender statistics and information on various aspects of (in)equality between women and men.

It will support the measurement of whether, or to what extent, gender equality is being achieved in practice. It will also act as a reliable resource for the formulation and monitoring of policies that are beneficial for both women and men and will facilitate more informed decision-making towards the advancement of gender equality. For example, it facilitates gender analysis through access

to statistics that show whether women and men allocate their time differently between paid employment and unpaid work such as caring or have unequal access to education, health or economic resources.

It is aimed at providing statistical evidence that can be used to support and complement the European Commission's current and future work on gender equality and help the Member States to monitor their progress.

You can access the database at: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics>

The landing page of the Gender Statistics Database.

What is gender mainstreaming?



Gender mainstreaming has been embraced internationally as a strategy towards realising gender equality. It refers to the integration of a gender perspective into each stage of every intervention: preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes. The aim is to promote equality between women and men in all spheres of life.

EIGE has created an online platform on gender mainstreaming, which:

- provides recommendations on what EU officials and civil servants can do to take account of gender aspects in their daily tasks and responsibilities when working in different policy areas;
- helps to improve individual competences to mainstream gender throughout different stages of policy development and implementation; understanding how to design, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate policies from a gender perspective will strengthen EU policies and increase their relevance to society;
- creates a system for storing and accessing information on gender mainstreaming, including an overview of institutional mechanisms in the EU;
- provides access to a database of selected resources on gender mainstreaming: tools and methods, good practices, laws and policies, manuals, studies, toolkits and more.

You can access the platform at: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming>



The home page of EIGE's gender mainstreaming platform.

Good practices and tools and methods

The aim of the work on good practices is to provide evidence of effective approaches and tools adopted for the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies and policy implementation in the Member States.

In the period 2011–2015, 90 examples of good practices were collected in the following areas:

- women and political decision-making;
- women's entrepreneurship;
- reconciliation of work, family and private life;
- prevention of domestic violence;
- prevention of female genital mutilation;
- women and the media;
- gender training.



A family-friendly enterprise certification scheme, run by Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs since 2007.

Benefits of gender equality

By focusing on the social and economic benefits of gender equality, EIGE will contribute to advocacy for a broader inclusion of gender equality within the political agenda across the Member States and provide better support for equality between women and men, as one of the founding principles of the EU. For this purpose, EIGE will identify methods that outline and define the benefits of gender-sensitive policies for the economic and social development of society.

This process has begun through analysing the **economic case for gender equality** and benefits of spending on public services related to gender equality.

The first study will help to determine the most relevant methodological models to assess the economic benefits of gender equality at the EU level. The model identified may later be tested at European level and/or in selected Member State(s).

Benefits of gender equality by spending on public services

EIGE is also conducting the pan-European survey on benefits of gender equality by spending on public services. The survey examines the needs for and experiences of using public services among European women and men. The study aims to provide evidence for a gender-responsive approach to infrastructure for public service, so that women and men in Europe can become better equipped and more empowered to pursue their goals and through that make a better contribution to the society.

EIGE's Resource and Documentation Centre (RDC)



EIGE's long-term objective for its **Resource and Documentation Centre (RDC)** is to gather the institutional memory of gender equality work at EU and Member State levels and to make it accessible to all. In partnership with EIGE, the leading documentation and information centres in the EU are making their resources available through this one single point. The Institute is also collecting grey literature (academic literature that is not published and hence unrecorded) on gender equality from all Member States.



Presentation of Gender Equality Thesaurus and Glossary by Violetta Neubauer, in February 2015, Brussels.

The RDC is built around two main functions:

- an online and physical library — a single access point to gender equality-related resources;
- a knowledge centre — containing the new studies, databases and resources produced by EIGE.

On its website EIGE provides access to the first Europe-wide gender equality glossary and thesaurus, which offers all users a comprehensive source of structured concepts describing various terms of gender equality.

The online library provides access to more than **500 000 resources** in all the official languages of the EU, including more than 26 000 resources on gender-based violence. Resources are gradually growing in the fields of gender and media, climate change, reconciliation of work and private life, men and gender equality, and institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women.

The physical library is located in EU House in Vilnius and includes two main spaces:

- a ground floor area that provides information and free publications on gender equality work in the EU, open to all citizens and freely available to host gender equality-related events

(film screenings, discussions, book launches, exhibitions, etc.);

- a specialised library on the fourth floor which is open to everyone by prior appointment.

You can also access the RDC online at: <http://eige.europa.eu/rdc>

EuroGender

The European Network on Gender Equality is an online collaborative platform hosted on EIGE's website. We encourage you to be part of our EuroGender community and to join us for our mission to work towards 'making equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and beyond'. Sign up and return for upcoming events, discussions, recent publications and experience exchange!



The entrance to the EIGE's Resource and Documentation Centre, Monday to Friday, from 9:30 – 13:00 and 13:30 – 18:00.

Join the EuroGender network at: <http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/>

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

Cooperation with EU candidate and potential candidate countries

Since 2013, with the support of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), EIGE has begun to cooperate with six pre-accession countries from the western Balkans and with Turkey. Besides engaging in the Institute's regular activities, several IPA countries (including Kosovo and Serbia) have strengthened their commitment to gender equality and are on the way to developing their own gender equality index.

Let's talk

You can find EIGE on different platforms. All our publications are available on the Institute's website, via its Resource and Documentation Centre and on EU Bookshop. You can also contact us through a virtual meeting place, EuroGender, where you can be a part of an online community.

The entrance to the RDC is located on the ground floor of our offices in Vilnius, at Vilniaus Gatvė 10. The RDC is open from Monday to Friday, from 9:30 – 13.00 and 13:30 – 18:00.

The entrance area is a place to meet, interact and learn about gender equality work in the EU.

Further information is available at: rdc.info@eige.europa.eu

For research purposes and in-depth information you are welcome to visit our specialised library on the fourth floor. So that we can plan your visit, please make an appointment via rdc@eige.europa.eu

You can also talk with us on social media:



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