



EU2019.FI Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union



GENDER EQUALITY INDEX CONFERENCE

2019

15 October • Brussels



Gender Equality Index Conference 2019

Meeting venue: Justus Lipsius building, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels

- Moderators:**
- *Mira Banerjee, Head of Knowledge Management and Communications, EIGE*
 - *Vincent-Immanuel Herr, Author, moderator and activist, Herr & Speer*

08:00 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:05 **Welcome**

- *Reijo Kemppinen, Director General Communication and Information – COMM, Council of the European Union*

09:05 – 09:30 **Opening address**

- *Virginija Langbakk, Director, EIGE*
- *Thomas Blomqvist, Minister for Nordic cooperation and Equality, Finland*
- *European Commission, speaker TBC*

09:30 – 11:00 **SESSION 1: Is gender equality in the EU still moving at a snail's pace?**

This session will reveal the results of the Gender Equality Index 2019. We will see how far the EU and its Member States have progressed towards achieving gender equality since 2005.

Presentation by: Blandine Mollard, Research Officer, EIGE

Panel:

- *FEMM Committee, European Parliament, speaker TBC*
- *Tiina Astola, Director-General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission*
- *Joanna Maycock, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby*
- *Anna Widegren, Secretary General European Youth Forum*

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 13:00 **SESSION 2: Does public infrastructure support work-life balance?**

Access to infrastructure, such as health clinics, childcare, schools and public transport is crucial for work-life balance but impacts women and men differently. This session will shed light on women's and men's access and use of public services and the dimensions (e.g. quality, affordability, accessibility) that are the most conducive for work-life balance for different groups of women and men.

Presentation by: Jolanta Reingarde, Programme Coordinator, Research and Statistics, EIGE

Panel:

- *Markku Markkula, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions*
- *Sylvain Renouvel, Director, Federation of European Social Employers*
- *Carmen Gheorghe, President, E-Romnja*
- *The City of Vienna, speaker TBC*

13:00 – 14:15

Lunch

Press conference

14:15 – 15:30

SESSION 3: Parental leave: can everyone benefit?

Parental leave helps parents balance their caring duties with work life, but who is eligible? Which groups of women and men find themselves excluded from this entitlement and on which basis (age, family characteristics, employment, citizenship)? How can employers and governments encourage more men to take up parental leave?

Presentation by: Marre Karu, Researcher - Gender Equality, EIGE

Panel:

- *Koen Dedoncker, MenEngage*
- *Annemie Drieskens, President, COFACE Families Europe*
- *Björn Sieverding, Board Member, NELFA - Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations (NELFA)*

15:30 – 16:45

SESSION 4: Flexible work: helping or hindering gender equality?

Are flexible working arrangements the answer to all our problems when it comes to work-life balance? Or do they simply encourage employees to work longer hours from home? How much flexibility can businesses allow their staff? In this session, we will discuss flexible working in the context of the European Commission's Work-Life Balance Directive, which puts forward the right to request flexible working arrangements for caring purposes.

Presentation by: Davide Barbieri, Statistics Officer, EIGE

Panel:

- *Philippe Seidel, Policy and European Parliament Liaison Officer, AGE Platform Europe*
- *Juliane Bir, Head of Trade Policy, European Trade Union Confederation*
- *Elke Heitmueller, Head of Diversity Management, Volkswagen AG*

16:45 – 17:00

Closing remarks

More information:

 <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index>


 www.twitter.com/eurogender

 www.facebook.com/eige.europa.eu

 www.youtube.com/eurogender

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/eige>

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