Does public infrastructure support work-life balance?

15 October 2019, Brussels
Work-life balance scoreboard

Parental leave policies
Long-term care
Childcare
Public infrastructure
Flexible working arrangements
Lifelong learning
Which infrastructure matters?

Social infrastructure:
- Social services
- Cultural infrastructures

Social services
- Educational infrastructures
- Health infrastructures

Educational infrastructures
- Monetary intermediation

Trade infrastructures
- Natural endowment

Economic infrastructure
- Transport
- Energy network
- Waste disposal
- Water purification plant

Environmental infrastructure
- Green areas
Why infrastructure matters?

Impacts women’s and men’s daily life differently

Contributes to inequalities and social exclusion

Impacts work-life balance

Limits women’s employment opportunities

Links to gender-based violence

Affects wellbeing and quality of life

...
Childcare provision: an EU priority yet to reach every family

Source: EU-SILC, 2017
Accessible childcare services and gender equality go hand in hand

More childcare services for children up to 3 years of age
Every sixth family has unmet needs for childcare services

Source: EIGE calculations, EU-SILC Ad hoc module on Access to services, 2016
Every third family lives without adequate professional home care services

Source: EIGE calculations, EU-SILC Ad hoc module on Access to services, 2016
Commuting patterns reflect and perpetuate gender roles at home and at work.

Source: EIGE calculation based on EWCS (2015) data
Equal access to transport would lead to better and more diversified job options.

Source: EIGE calculation based on Eurobarometer 82.2 data
Concluding remarks

The public infrastructure should be considered as a cause and consequence of long-standing gender inequalities.

Rising long-term care needs and lack of care services intensify gender inequalities within families and in the labour market.

The transport sector is traditionally male-dominated and as a result transport policy is male-oriented and centered around men’s lifestyle.

If gender equality was better mainstreamed into public infrastructure developments and with greater investment in public transport overall, private transport would play a less crucial role in determining job options.

Tackling gender equality via improved access to public infrastructure and transport requires a sustained, forward-looking understanding of the relationship between gender, mobility and work.
Explore the Gender Equality Index:

http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index