

## Let's turn up the power for more gender equality



**Years of crises, the increasing clout radical right-wing voices, and a sense of ‘gender fatigue’ have impacted EU governments’ commitment to gender equality. New research from EIGE shows that Member States are allocating less attention to the institutional structures that have helped narrow the gaps between women and men.**

“Progress on gender equality cannot be taken for granted,” said Virginija Langbakk, EIGE’s Director. “Governments need to turn up the power and provide adequate resources for the institutional mechanisms that advance gender equality.”

While all Member States have governmental gender equality bodies, several have been demoted in the governmental hierarchy and had their functions decreased. Trends over the past decade have resulted in independent gender equality bodies being merged with other anti-discrimination organisations.

The commitment to gender mainstreaming has weakened since 2012, with only a quarter of Member States performing highly in this field. And while most Member States have the methods and tools to collect gender-disaggregated

data, production and dissemination is lacking in several countries. This can make it difficult to adequately assess the situation of gender equality.

“If we want to see progress, gender equality must be woven into each stage of all policy processes, from the collection of sex-disaggregated data to the gender-sensitive evaluation of government action. That is the aim of gender mainstreaming, to which the EU Member States have been committed since 1995 when they adopted the Beijing Platform for Action at the UN World Conference on Women,” said Barbara Limanowska, EIGE’s Gender Mainstreaming Programme Coordinator.



## Equality between women and men is slipping down the political agenda



### It is time to #PowerUpGenderEquality

Across the EU, gender equality and gender mainstreaming are less well institutionalised than six years ago. Besides political commitment, gender equality needs:



1

#### NATIONAL STRUCTURES

Progress in the area of gender equality requires that the national machinery:

- is located at the highest possible level of government
- has a clearly defined mandate
- has a plan for action



28

Member States have a permanent governmental gender equality body



9

Member States vested their gender equality body at the highest level within the governmental hierarchy



19

Member States have national action plans for gender equality and a system for regular reporting in place



3

#### GENDER MAINSTREAMING - a strategic approach to integrate gender equality in each policy area and at each step of the policy cycle



AT, BE, BG, ES, FI, PT, SE are high gender mainstreaming achievers. These Member States have a structure in place and they commit to use methods and tools for gender mainstreaming.

17

Member States have a legal obligation to implement gender mainstreaming



2

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

Lack of resources, personnel and knowledge can explain lack of progress in gender equality. Several Member States replaced their gender equality bodies with bodies for protection against discrimination on multiple grounds – including gender.

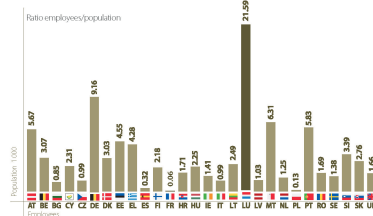


In 2018 the size of governmental equality bodies varies:

##### < 10 full-time employees:



##### > 50 full-time employees:



4

#### GENDER - SENSITIVE MONITORING

Met and tools for production and dissemination of sex-disaggregated statistics are in place in most Member States, but commitment is lacking.



11

Member States have committed to produce sex-disaggregated data



4

Member States have committed to disseminate sex-disaggregated data



eige.europa.eu

#PowerUpGenderEquality



The forthcoming report ‘Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming’ compares data from 2018 with data gathered in 2012 to assess trends in governmental commitments to gender equality.

Follow #PowerUpGenderEquality on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for all the latest updates.

#### Note for editors

The results were obtained following a literature review, as well as a survey of national experts and representatives of national institutions for gender equality in the European Commission’s High-level Group for Gender Equality.

**Read more**