

# THEMATIC DIGEST

Supporting analyses for committees



## POLICY DEPARTMENTS

### Women's economic empowerment: let's act together

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting - Brussels

#### Purpose

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality is holding an inter-parliamentary committee meeting dealing with the economic empowerment of women. The meeting will take place on 08-09 March 2017.

The debates and workshops are set to focus on women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, women in political and economic decision-making, and work-life balance. From a global perspective, the issues of freedom from violence as a pre-condition for empowerment and the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals will also be discussed.

#### Inside

This leaflet provides extracts from relevant supporting analyses provided by the European Parliament's Policy Departments for the Committees on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, on Culture and Education, on Development and on International Trade. Scan the QR codes or click on the titles for access.



#### Publications

[The gender pension gap: differences between mothers and women without children](#) - July 2016

Demographic trends and the financial and economic crisis have obliged European countries to accelerate the revision of their pension systems with the aim of ensuring their sustainability. This report summarises changes in pension reforms and their effects on gender pension gaps, with a focus on women with children. The assessment of recent pension reforms shows that changes in pension design may increase the gender gap in pensions and translate into higher poverty risks for older women compared to men, unless specific measures are implemented to support women's position in the labour market.



[Differences in men's and women's work, care and leisure time](#) - March 2016

Europe is going through challenging times, with a deteriorating demographic situation. The economic crisis has profoundly affected the labour market and private life of men and women. This study examines the interrelation of policies with the ways women and men allocate time to paid work, care and leisure and the outcomes produced in different socio-economic and cultural settings. It shows that policies are powerful tools which can contribute to a better work-life balance and transform gender roles in accordance to the targets of EU2020 strategy and EU28 commitment to gender equality.



# #IWD2017

## [The issue of violence against women in the European Union](#) - March 2016

Violence against women is considered to be a serious violation of the human rights of women and girls. This study provides an update of the 2011 study on the issue of violence against women in the EU. The different forms and interrelated factors of this type of violence are examined. The study also gives an overview of the current international and European political and legal framework on violence against women. Other issues such as the difficulty of the monitoring and gathering of data, the protection of victims, and the prevention of violence against women are also looked into.



## [Women's empowerment and its links to sustainable development](#) - February 2016

This note provides background information on the key priority theme of 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 2016. It gives an overview of the role of women's empowerment in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda, clarifies some basic concepts relating to empowerment and sustainable development and examines the means of implementing, financing and monitoring of the activities related to the new Sustainable Development Goal 5 entitled "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".



## [Demography and family policies from a gender perspective](#) - December 2016

The European Union is in the midst of three crises: the economic, the demographic and the refugee crises. All Member States exhibit increasing life expectancy and decreasing fertility rates, while the problem of sustaining the working age population and by consequence economic growth becomes more prominent. This study evaluates policies aiming at increasing fertility through work-life balance, reveals their interrelation with family policies and economic priorities and suggests ways of addressing challenges on all three fronts, with the view to minimising their gendered outcomes.



## [Youth education and entrepreneurship](#) - August 2015

This document contains background papers related to the workshop on youth education and entrepreneurship held for the Committee on Culture and Education in 2015. The overall objective was to shed some light on how far Member States have gone in promoting entrepreneurship and how strongly it is embedded both in school curricula and in teachers' trainings/attitudes. Entrepreneurship is not solely about business creation, but also about setting the right environment for the development of a skilled, innovative, entrepreneurial workforce able to anticipate change and face challenges.



## [The EU's trade policy: from gender-blind to gender-sensitive?](#) - July 2015

With the EU's trade policy not yet fully integrated into the Strategy for equality between women and men at the time of writing, the European Parliament's International Trade Committee has had the opportunity to consider how gender issues should be dealt with in the context of the EU's trade policies. This paper begins with an overview of the current understanding of the gender and trade policies nexus, describes how gender aspects are treated by the World Trade Organisation, assesses how the Commission handles gender in trade policy and concludes with some possible policy options.



# #IWD2017

## [The EU budget for the gender equality](#) - May 2015

This study subjects the EU budget to a gender budgeting analysis, revealing the impact of revenue and spending decisions on gender equality. It covers the operational expenditure of six selected policy areas. The analysis leads to the following conclusions: many titles of the EU budget do not follow the EU's high level commitment to gender equality and mainstreaming; the EU budget is not entirely transparent; specific gender indicators and gender-disaggregated data are not systematically used in the monitoring and evaluation of different actions that are funded by the EU budget.



## [The European year for development: women and girls](#) - February 2015

In many developing countries women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty and exclusion. International development cooperation recognises the importance of gender equality to promote both human rights and sustainable development. Gender equality is a key principle of European integration, enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. This paper looks into the situation of women and girls in developing countries and provides a Gender Inequality Index for 2013 composed of indicators on reproductive health, empowerment and labour market.



## [Women in decision-making: the role of the new media for increased political participation](#) - June 2013

This study reviews the barriers to women's involvement in politics and looks into how new media may help to increase women's involvement at different levels of political participation, including formal representative politics. Its main aims are to: understand current uses of new media by European politicians and political institutions; understand and explore new media uses by organisations and individuals which have political implications; and explore the uses and impacts of new media with end users. This is done by means of case studies and qualitative and quantitative analyses.



## [Women and girls as subjects of media attention and advertisement campaigns in Europe](#) - March 2013

This study addresses the representation of women and girls in media and advertisement campaigns in Europe. It focuses on the ways that the social imagery diffused by the media can lead to gender-based discrimination and hinder gender equality. The research questions underpinning the study are: what are the key findings of literature tackling the issue of gender and the media? What are the legislative instruments related to this issue in the different Member States? What are the best practices that guarantee a fair and non-stereotyped representation of women and girls in media coverage?



## [Social and employment policy, gender equality, fighting poverty and discrimination](#) - February 2017

The Fact Sheets on the European Union provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. This compilation of Fact Sheets deals with the following issues: general principles of social and employment policy; social dialogue; equality between men and women; the fight against poverty, social exclusion and discrimination. The Fact Sheets are drafted by the policy departments and the Economic Governance Support Unit of the European Parliament and are available in 23 languages. Their online version is updated regularly.



## Policy Departments

There are five policy departments within the European Parliament's DGs for Internal Policies and for External Policies. They are responsible for providing both in-house and external high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of committees, which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

### Outputs

Most frequently prepared at the request of a European Parliament committee or delegation, the written output of the policy departments comprises a wide range of products, including studies, in-depth country- or issue-specific analyses, briefings examining issues of strategic importance, as well as notes containing short EU-oriented analyses of recent events or developments. They serve a variety of purposes: they can feed directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serve as a briefing for delegations of members. The policy departments also draft the Fact Sheets on the EU, which provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. Furthermore, they provide background notes and speaking points.

### Events

The policy departments organise events that enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues. Public workshops, bringing together groups of experts, are organised to provide independent expertise via written and oral presentations. Expert panels are set up to provide members with regular written contributions or to feed into the parliamentary debate during meetings. Publications are generally presented during committee meetings.

### Scrutiny

Policy departments provide research support to enhance the European Parliament's capacity to monitor EU negotiations and the implementation of international agreements. They have also developed an in-house methodology to scrutinise EU-funded projects.

## Contacts

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## Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets give an overview of European integration and of Parliament's contribution to the process. They cover six main themes:

- the EU's functioning;
- a citizens' Europe;
- the internal market;
- economic and monetary union;
- sectoral policies; and
- external relations.

The Fact Sheets are available in 23 languages and are updated regularly.

[www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets)



## Supporting Analyses

Access policy departments Studies, Briefings, In-depth Analyses and At-a-Glance notes.

[www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses)



## Thematic Digests

Leaflets with policy department publications relevant to seminars, inter-parliamentary meetings.



## Monthly Highlights

The Monthly Highlights provide an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and future events.

To receive them, send an email to: [ep-policydepartments@ep.europa.eu](mailto:ep-policydepartments@ep.europa.eu)

