

THEMATIC DIGEST

Supporting analyses for committees



POLICY DEPARTMENTS

International Women's Day 2018

Empowering women and girls in media and ICT - key for the future

Interparliamentary committee meeting - Brussels, 8 March 2018

Purpose

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality is holding an inter-parliamentary committee meeting on empowering women and girls in media and ICT. The meeting, which will bring together EU institutional representatives, members of EU national parliaments, experts and stakeholders, will take place on 08 March 2018.

The presentation and debates will deal with the topics of women shaping media, empowering women and girls through digital inclusion and women's movements and advancing equality in the digital age.

Inside

This leaflet provides extracts from relevant supporting analyses provided by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, for the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. Scan the QR codes or click on the titles for access.



Publications

[The underlying causes of the digital gender gap and possible solutions for enhanced digital inclusion of women and girls](#) - March 2018

With information and communication technologies (ICTs) seen as necessary ingredients for economic development in the so-called knowledge society, the internet in particular has acquired a dominant position albeit with contradictory and often controversial effects. It is important to address the changes associated with ICT and internet deployment, the extent to which gender relations are effected and the related degree of empowerment provided to women. This study looks into these issues and offers some practical recommendations to better balance women's participation in the ICT sector.



[Gender equality in the media sector](#) - February 2018

Across Europe, and across media types, women remain significantly under-represented in the media workforce, particularly at decision-making levels. This study examines key elements of the European policy agenda pertaining to gender equality in the media sector. It reviews existing research on women's representation within media content and the media workforce and analyses actions to promote gender equality in the media at both the EU and the Member State levels. It also presents case studies of gender equality in the sector in four Member States: Austria, Malta, Sweden, and the UK.



[Women's economic empowerment at international level](#) - March 2017

This note was written ahead of the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at the UN Headquarters in New York in March 2017. It focuses on the key priority theme of the 61st Session, namely women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work. It outlines relevant key international policy and legal instruments and EU initiatives to further women's economic empowerment - seen as a transformational process, in which women gain increased access to and power over economic assets and economic decisions. Next steps to secure progress are also identified.



[Empowering women on the internet](#) - October 2015

The advances in information and communication technologies represent a revolution in the way people interact among each other, access information and services, communicate, work, and live. This paper examines the actions taken at the international and at the European levels to empower women on the internet. The research aims at exploring the opportunities, risks/threats and challenges for women in relation to the digital world and the internet, notably in the areas of employment, entrepreneurship, cyber-activism, stereotyping, harassment, sexual violence and trafficking/modern slavery.



[Empowering women and girls through education](#) - February 2015

This study explores challenges and opportunities for empowering women through education. Based on existing research, it shows how various factors like poverty, gender stereotypes and institutional cultures effect educational outcomes. Consequently, a more equitable distribution of educational resources, gender sensitive institutional cultures and practices, and challenging social norms and expectations of men and women are needed. The challenge is to find the right policy mix and the political will to address the complex factors that affect women's and girls' empowerment through education.



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

The study reviews the barriers to women's involvement in politics and, through case studies and research with new media users, how new media may help to increase women's involvement at different levels of political participation, including formal representative politics. New media can be used in diverse ways to either directly or indirectly engage women in political discourse. If women politicians were to use new media tools more effectively, this would allow them to become leaders in this field, as politicians - including female ones - are overall not very innovative at using new media.



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

Few of the acts/policies/practices found in the EU Member States are characterised by the simultaneous presence of all those criteria that mostly guarantee a fair and non-stereotyped representation of women and girls in the media. This study focuses on the mechanisms through which gender representation in the media hampers the achievement of gender equality. It gives an overview of the main definitions, theories and studies, and explores the regulatory acts in Member States by looking at the most interesting experiences to present under what conditions they are more effective.



[Women in ICT](#) - July 2012

This paper gives an overview of selected literature and best-practice cases on attracting more women into ICT-related courses and to a career in ICT. Two approaches are taken: firstly, an analysis of the presence of girls and young women in ICT-related courses and best practices on encouraging them to pursue them; secondly, an overview of the obstacles female workers face in their work and progress in ICT companies, and best-practice cases on attracting more female qualified workers into the sector, ensuring there is fair progress in their careers, and a good work-life balance.



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Policy Departments

The policy departments provide high-level independent expertise, analysis and advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. Their expertise covers all areas of Parliamentary activity. They deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, feeding directly into the legislative work of committees or members' delegations. Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels to enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches.

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Fact Sheets on the EU

Available in 23 languages, the Fact Sheets give an overview of European integration and of Parliament's contribution to the process. They cover five overarching themes: How the European Union works; Economy, science and quality of life; Cohesion, growth and jobs; Citizens - fundamental rights, security and justice; and the EU's external relations.

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