DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Regional Development

on investment for jobs and growth: promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union
(2014/2245(INI))

Rapporteur: Julie Girling
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

A. whereas historically women have been more affected by unemployment than men; whereas women’s unemployment stands at 10 % across the EU, with significant regional variation;

B. whereas at university men remain over-represented in STEM subjects, which restricts economic opportunities for women;

C. whereas according to OECD projections, equal participation by women and men in the labour market would result in a 12.4 % increase in GDP per capita by 2030;

1. Regrets the fact that Member States have not done more to address the gender pay gap; is concerned that women in the EU earn on average 16 % less than men doing work of equal value;

2. Recognises that SMEs make a significant contribution to the European economy, in particular by creating jobs; is disappointed that women lead SMEs to a much lesser extent than men; calls on the Member States to exchange best practices for encouraging women to set up SMEs; is pleased that the European Regional Development Fund is providing support to women-led SMEs;

3. Notes that women are more likely to be engaged in part-time work, which results in in-work poverty and a gender pension disparity; is concerned about the variation in part-time work figures among the Member States; calls on the Commission to produce an updated, in-depth analysis of the different types of employment, including comparisons within and between Member States;

4. Notes that there is a strong trend of rural-urban migration among women, who leave rural areas in search of job opportunities, thereby creating a gender imbalance in employment in rural areas; stresses the importance of developing the rural economy in a way which taps into the potential of men and women;

5. Calls on the Member States to give priority to the digital economy agenda; stresses that full broadband access is a vital element in offering options to women and businesses in terms of flexible work arrangements and homeworking.