



March 2018

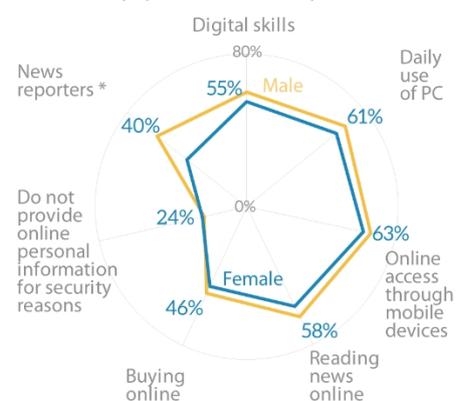
Gender equality is a fundamental value of the EU. 'Gender mainstreaming' underpins the EU's approach, meaning that, in principle, all EU policies need to take both female and male perspectives into consideration. However, much more work needs to be done to achieve gender equality. The Commission has identified priority areas for EU action in the coming years, such as increasing female labour market participation and economic independence, reducing gender gaps in pay, earnings and pensions, promoting equality in decision-making, combating gender-based violence, and promoting gender equality all over the world. This year, the European Parliament is highlighting the situation in the media and digital sectors. This Topical Digest offers a selection of recent publications and graphics, produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service, on gender issues.

Gender equality in the EU's digital and media sectors

Infographic by Giulio Sabbati, Martina Prpic and Rosamund Shreeves, March 2018

The digital revolution is also a social process, and one which is not gender neutral. It can be a way for women to access new opportunities or it can reinforce existing gender inequalities. Media monitoring shows that there has been progress, but women continue to be under-represented as producers of media content and under- and misrepresented in media coverage.

EU gender gap in digital and media sectors
% of 16 - 74 population (* of all reporters)



The Istanbul Convention: A tool to tackle violence against women and girls

'At a glance' note by Ulla Jurviste and Rosamund Shreeves, November 2017

The Istanbul Convention is the first instrument in Europe to set legally binding standards specifically to prevent gender-based violence, protect victims of violence and punish perpetrators. The EU signed the Convention in June 2017, and the European Parliament's consent is required for the EU's accession to the Convention. Pending Council's formal request for that consent, Parliament adopted an interim resolution on the process in 2017.

Gender mainstreaming in the EU: State of play

'At a glance' note by Rosamund Shreeves, March 2016

When the European Union endorsed 'gender mainstreaming' as its official policy approach to gender equality, it was seen as a potentially revolutionary means of accelerating progress and achieving real equality between the sexes. Twenty years on, there are concerns about fragmented implementation across policy areas and institutions at EU and national levels, and a possible downgrading of its status.

Gender-responsive budgeting: Innovative approaches to budgeting

Briefing by Gianluca Sgueo, June 2015

GRB is one of the key tools that can be used to implement gender mainstreaming and assess the outcome of policy. The EU has committed to applying it to its own budget and funding programmes, to ensure that EU funds do not finance measures that might undermine gender equality and that they promote gender equality goals, but analysis shows that it needs to be based on better data and used more systematically.

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Violence against women in the EU: State of play

Briefing by Martina Prpic and Rosamund Shreeves, November 2017

Violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of gender-based discrimination. Rooted in inequalities between men and women, it takes many forms. Estimates about the scale of the problem are alarming. Such violence has a major impact on victims and imposes a significant cost burden on society. The EU is tackling the problem in various ways, but has no binding instrument designed specifically to protect women from violence. Parliament's efforts have focused on strengthening EU policy in the area.

Further reading

[Empowering women in Europe and beyond](#)

Series of EPRS-Globalstat briefings to mark International Women's Day, March 2017

[Public expectations and EU policies - Equal treatment of men and women](#)

Briefing by Rosamund Shreeves, Gianluca Sgueo and Alina Dobрева, June 2016

[Sexual harassment of women in the EU](#)

Infographic by Giulio Sabbati and Martina Prpic, March 2018

[Women and education in the EU](#)

Infographic by Ulla Jurviste, Martina Prpic and Eulalia Claros, March 2015

[A new directive on work-life balance](#)

'EU Legislation in progress' briefing by Nora Milotay, February 2018

[Invisible jobs: The situation of domestic workers](#)

Briefing by Monika Kiss, December 2015

[Women in parliaments](#)

Infographic by Martina Prpic and Samy Chahri, March 2017

['Harmful practices' as a form of violence against women and girls](#)

Briefing by Rosamund Shreeves and Martina Prpic, November 2016

[Fighting conflict-related sexual violence](#)

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, December 2016

[The gender dimension of human trafficking](#)

Briefing by Sofija Voronova and Anja Radjenovic, February 2016

[Gender aspects of migration and asylum in the EU: An overview](#)

Briefing by Rosamund Shreeves, March 2016

[EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 at year one](#)

Study by Isabelle Ioannides, October 2017

[Radicalisation and counter-radicalisation: A gender perspective](#)

Briefing by Anita Orav, Rosamund Shreeves and Anja Radjenovic, April 2016

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