

## WBG Commission on a gender equal economy – general call for evidence

### European Institute for Gender Equality Submission

As regards your question on important publications for the purpose of the Commission, we wanted to let you know about our new report on gender budgeting, which has found that less than 1% of the EU's Structural and Investment Funds have been set aside for the promotion of gender equality. This is despite the EU's legal obligations and political commitments to close the gender gap, which persists across all member states.

[Read our press release here](#)

As the EU prepares its 'budget for the future', we put forward our proposals for how to ensure the budget serves the future of the whole population. Currently women earn less, spend more time on caring and housework, and end up with significantly lower pensions than men. The report outlines in detail how the EU institutions and member states can help realise the goal of gender equality through improved gender budgeting, which identifies the different needs of women and men and allocates resources accordingly. Read our report [Gender budgeting: Mainstreaming gender into the EU budget and macroeconomic policy framework](#).

In addition, EU-based evidence from our research on the [economic benefits of gender equality in the EU](#) might also be of interest. The study shows that if the EU stepped up its efforts to improve gender equality, more jobs would be created, GDP per capita would increase and society would be able to adjust better to the challenges related to the ageing population.

#### Key findings:

- improvements to gender equality would generate up to 10.5 million additional jobs in the EU by 2050, with about 70% of these jobs taken by women
- the EU employment rate would reach almost 80%.
- The EU GDP per capita would also be positively affected and could increase up to nearly 10% by 2050.
- The level of economic benefits varies considerably across Member States, with some individual countries seeing around a 4% GDP increase and others exceeding 10%. Countries with more room to improve their current level of gender equality have much to gain.
- Improved gender equality measures could also help address demographic challenges for the EU, such as the ageing population. Previous research suggests that gender equality is linked to higher fertility rates, which would lead to a larger population and an increase in long-term labour supply. This is important in light of current EU demographic projections, which predict a rise in the number of older people out of the labour force.

The study on the 'economic benefits of gender equality' looked at what the economic impacts would be if gender inequalities were reduced in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education, labour market activity and pay. It also considered the demographic changes when these gender gaps are reduced. No previous study has attempted econometric modelling of such a broad range of macroeconomic benefits of gender equality in the EU.

Last but not least, [EIGE's Gender Equality Index 2017](#), which shows where Europe stands today. We are moving forward but overall progress is very slow. The EU's score is just four points higher than ten years ago, now 66.2 out of 100. The top performing country is Sweden with a score of 82.6, while Greece moved to the bottom with 50 points. The award for the most improved country goes to Italy, which made a big leap and gained 12.9 points to place itself at rank 14 on the ladder.