Gender equality

Equality between women and men is one of the European Union's founding values. It goes back to 1957 when the principle of equal pay for equal work became part of the Treaty of Rome.
Gender equality Index

The Gender Equality Index (GEI) developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is a valuable instrument to measure progress achieved by Member States on the way to gender equality.

The Gender Equality Index is built around six core domains:

- work, money, knowledge, time, power and health

and two satellite domains:

- violence against women and intersecting inequalities

It is based on EU policy priorities and it assesses the impact of gender equality policies in the European Union and by Member States over time.
EU is still only **half way towards gender equality**, as shown by the Gender Equality Index 2012 of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).
The significant differences in progress among the Member States reflect the different choices of priorities and approaches in implementing EU policies and objectives’ concludes Virginija Langbakk, Director of EIGE.
Gender balance in decision-making positions

The domain of **POWER** shows the greatest progress with scores rising from 31.4 out of 100 in 2005 to 39.7 in 2012. Despite this, women are underrepresented in decision-making positions, particularly in politics and business, even if the situation varies between EU countries.
GEI: POWER DOMAIN

2012

Political Power

Economic Power

Political Power 2005 2012

Economic Power 2005 2012
Gender balance in time use

TIME USE reflects how gender roles attributed to women and men, girls and boys, shape the division of labour within a household.

The domain of TIME reveals the lowest score (37.6 out of 100) across the six core domains of the Gender Equality Index.

This highlights the unequal division of unpaid work between women and men in the private sphere, which remains the greatest barrier to gender equality.

- What does it mean to perform a laborious task on a daily basis, but not receive payment for it? Is that work?
- In order for an activity to be considered work, does one need to receive remuneration for it?
- Without payment, is an arduous routine activity merely an activity? Does such an activity have any impact on the economy or society?