

Needed: renewed EU action on gender equality

On 11 October 2017, The European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) launched the Gender Equality Index (GEI) 2017, which clearly showed that gender equality advances at an embarrassing snail's pace in the EU.

The GEI measures progress in 7 areas or domains: Work, Money, Knowledge, Time, Power, Health and Violence.

With an average Gender Equality Index score of 66.2 out of 100, the EU needs to do much more to create the right conditions for gender equality. The GEI shows that Sweden and Denmark have consistently been the most gender-equal societies while Italy and Cyprus show the greatest improvement. Although this is good news, a number of Member States showed a decline in gender equality over the past ten years, in particular on the issue of time.

The GEI is an excellent tool to point policy-makers to the areas where more work needs to be done. European Commission First Vice President Timmermans expressed shock concerning this new data.

For the GEI to be effective, it needs to be used widely, reminding policy-makers of their duties to make gender equality a central objective.

For more information: <http://Eige.europa.eu>

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