



Focal Area 3: Data Collection and Dissemination

Resource and Documentation Centre (RDC)

The establishment of the Institute's Resource and Documentation Centre will create a central tool for EIGE to disseminate collected data, information, tools and methods, good practices and all other relevant information. The Centre will develop the capacity to house an online collection, databases and catalogues, and a physical library that will be accessible

to researchers, policy analysts, experts and media/communicators. As part of the RDC, **an Electronic European Network on Gender Equality** will foster the exchange of information and relevant data in the field of gender equality among stakeholders and other partners. Over the next two years, stakeholders will be drawn together to join the network and its various thematic networks, which will identify and share relevant information, methods, good practices and publications within their specific areas of interest.

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EIGE COMMUNICATIONS

The European Institute for Gender Equality – In Brief

Equality between women and men is both a fundamental right, common principle and value of the European Union. Making it a reality for all Europeans and beyond is the vision of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). To become the competence centre in the area of gender equality in Europe, EIGE will consolidate its efforts in collecting knowledge, sharing experience and hosting expertise on equality between women and men.





The **First Years** of the European Institute for Gender Equality

As a recently established gender equality actor at EU level, the European Institute for Gender Equality will operate within the framework of European policies and initiatives. Regulation No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council lays the ground for the Institute's activities, and assigns to it the role of addressing the challenges of and promoting gender equality across the European Union.

EIGE was established in 2006, becoming fully independent and hence operational in June 2010.

The European Commission Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010 - 2015, adopted on 21 September 2010, provides the political context for the Institute to contribute to strengthening equality between women and men in Europe. The Institute will contribute to the successful implementation of the Strategy and the promotion of equality between women and men in Europe through delivering technical expert support to the European Commission and Member States.

The new strategy for jobs and growth, Europe 2020, adopted by the European Council in 2010, is relevant to the work of EIGE regarding its target for the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, as well as regarding policies promoting further opportunities for developing training, skills and the professional experience of women.

During the period 2009-2010, marked by intensive efforts to set up the agency, EIGE created the conditions necessary for its administrative and financial independence, granted in June 2010. The Grand Opening event on 21-22 June 2010 was a significant milestone, and offered the opportunity to introduce the Institute's mandate and objectives to a large number of stakeholders and the public.

Since the beginning in 2010, the team at the Institute has grown rapidly and met its target to recruit 40 staff members. Important procedures and internal rules have been developed to ensure the smooth and transparent functioning of the agency. The Management Board of the Institute started its new term of office with nine new members from Member States. The Institute's Experts' Forum continues to support EIGE since the initiation of the first areas of work.

To ensure synergies, avoid duplication and increase the effectiveness of its work, the Institute has established close relationships and concrete cooperation with other EU agencies like FRA, Eurofound, CEDEFOP and EU OSHA.

Collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating data and information on gender equality issues creates the framework for all of EIGE's activities, starting with the collection phase.

Collect Process Produce Disseminate

Three Focal Areas of the European Institute for Gender Equality

Focal Area 1: Compiling existing data at European level and developing methods to improve the objectivity, comparability and reliability of data and indicators.

Work with the Beijing Indicators – EIGE provide technical support to the Council Presidencies in selected areas of concern. The development of reliable data, statistics and indicators will offer the European Commission, the Member States and all other stakeholders a steadfast, coherent and centralised system to support, follow-up and report on the advancement of women, and progress of gender equality in the 12 areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Developing for a Gender Equality Index – EIGE will contribute to the creation of a commonly agreed concept for assessing the realities of gender (in) equality in the EU Member States, and will present hard evidence to support political decisions. In cooperation with the European Commission and the Member States, EIGE will focus on the development of a conceptual framework and harmonised methodology for a Gender Equality Index. The establishment of a conceptual framework for a Gender Equality Index will be improved and complemented by implementing EIGE's activities in the area of the Beijing Indicators.

Focal Area 2: Gender mainstreaming methods and tools.

Collection and development of tools and methods for gender mainstreaming

EIGE will identify the first effective gender mainstreaming approaches and tools, make them available through the Resource and Documentation Centre, and start developing the Institute's capacity to design tailor-made gender mainstreaming products.

Good practices on gender equality approaches, methods and tools –

EIGE will collect, process and disseminate good practices as developed and used by the Commission services, Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

