Index conference 2019

About the Conference

The conference will provide a forum for around 300 decision-makers and practitioners to discuss the findings of the Gender Equality Index 2019. We will get the new scores for gender equality in the EU, look at trends over time and show areas for improvement in the current political context.

A new feature of this year's Gender Equality Index is a special focus on work-life balance. The conference will explore the diverse ways women and men balance work and personal commitments. Aspects such as parental leave, flexible working arrangements and public infrastructure will be scrutinised and discussed by our panel speakers.

Please register [here](#). If you need additional information regarding the conference, please contact [indexconference2019@eige.europa.eu](mailto:indexconference2019@eige.europa.eu)

Agenda

Conference moderators:

- Mira Banerjee, Head of Knowledge Management and Communications, European Institute
08:00–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:05 Welcome

- Reijo Kemppinen, Director General Communication and Information – COMM, Council of the European Union

09:05–09:30 Opening address

- Virginija Langbakk, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- Thomas Blomqvist, Minister for Nordic cooperation and Equality, Finland
- Věra Jourová, European Commissioner, Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

09:30–11:00 IS GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EU STILL MOVING AT A SNAIL’S PACE?

This session will reveal the results of the Gender Equality Index 2019. We will see how far the EU and its Member States have progressed towards achieving gender equality since 2005.

Presentation by: Blandine Mollard, Research Officer, EIGE

Panel:

- FEMM Committee, European Parliament, speaker TBC
- Tiina Astola, Director-General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- Joanna Maycock, Secretary General, European Women’s Lobby
- Ana Widegren, Secretary General European Youth Forum

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–13:00 DOES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT WORK-LIFE BALANCE?

- Mira Banerjee, Head of Knowledge Management and Communications, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- Vincent-Immanuel Herr, Author, moderator and activist, HERR & SPEER
Access to infrastructure, such as health clinics, childcare, schools and public transport are crucial for work-life balance but impact women and men differently. This session will shed light on women's and men's access and use of public services and the dimensions (e.g. quality, affordability, accessibility) that are the most conducive for work-life balance for different groups of women and men.

Presentation by: Jolanta Reingarde, Programme Coordinator, Research and Statistics, EIGE

Panel:

- Sylvain Renouvel, Director, Federation of European Social Employers
- Carmen Gheorghe, President, E-Romnja
- Eva Kail, Expert in urban gender planning, City of Vienna

13:00–14:15 Lunch

Press conference

14:15–15:30 PARENTAL LEAVE: CAN EVERYONE BENEFIT?

Parental leave helps parents balance their caring duties with work life, but who is eligible? Which groups of women and men find themselves excluded from this entitlement and on which basis (age, family characteristics, employment, citizenship)? How can businesses encourage more men to take up parental leave?

Presentation by: Marre Karu, Researcher - Gender Equality, EIGE

Panel:

- Karin Strandås, State Secretary to the Minister for Gender Equality, Sweden
- Koen Dedoncker, MenEngage
- Annemie Drieskens, President, COFACE Families Europe
- Björn Sieverding, Board Member, NEFLA - Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations (NEFLA)

15:30–16:45 FLEXIBLE WORK: HELPING OR HINDERING GENDER EQUALITY?
Are flexible working arrangements the answer to all our problems when it comes to work-life balance? Or do they simply encourage employees to work longer hours from home? How much flexibility can businesses allow their staff? In this session, we will discuss flexible working in the context of the European Commission’s Work-Life Balance Directive, which puts forward the right to request flexible working arrangements for caring purposes.

Presentation by: Davide Barbieri, Statistics Officer, EIGE

Panel:

- **Philippe Seidel**, Policy and European Parliament Liaison Officer, AGE Platform Europe
- **Juliane Bir**, Head of Trade Policy, European Trade Union Confederation
- **Rebekah Smith**, Deputy Director, Social Affairs Department, Business Europe
- **Elke Heitmueller**, Head of Diversity Management, Volkswagen AG

16:45–17:00 CLOSING REMARKS

- **Virginija Langbakk**, Director, EIGE

Download the draft agenda
1.24MB, PDF

Practical Information

The conference will take place on 15 October from 09:00–17:00 in the Justus Lipsius building, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. [View the map.](#)

Please be aware that to access the building, there is a tight security check. For a smooth start, you are encouraged to arrive at the venue at 8:00 am for registration.
Hosted under the auspices of

Finland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union

European Commission