

Workshops -

Short descriptions

Block I

Workshop n° 1:

“Women in STEM: progress stalled or being eroded?”

Organised in cooperation with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

STEM refers to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – four areas crucial to economic and employment growth. Despite a strong demand for professionals in this sector, women remain highly under-represented in STEM in general and in specific occupations in particular. Several reasons, including stereotypes in education choices or lack of female role models explain this gender gap. The emerging data also shows that progress of women’s employment in STEM might have stalled or is even on the reverse trend in some countries, especially in such areas as ICT. The consequences of high gender segregation in this field are vast. Not only does it narrow down employment choices, lead to a gender pay gap, but also further reinforces gender stereotypes. Based on EIGE’s research on economic benefits of gender equality, an increase in women’s employment in STEM, on the other hand, would create new and highly productive jobs and would boost the overall capacity of the economy. This workshop will provide a forum to review the current status quo of women’s participation in STEM and to look into policy measures and initiatives providing additional stimulus for tackling gender segregation.

Workshop n° 2:

“Global perspective: freedom from violence and empowerment”

Organised in cooperation with the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) of the European Parliament

The main objective of the workshop is to raise awareness of the shared challenges with regards to gender justice and freedom from gender-based violence (GBV), to highlight the responsibility of parliamentarians and to identify opportunities that ensure mechanisms of implementation for laws and policies in their respective countries. The workshop will address the link between GBV and female economic empowerment. While freedom from violence is certainly a pre-condition to empowering women economically, their ability to challenge state laws, societal norms and violence increases when women are more economically independent. The varying approaches and contexts of different countries will be discussed by addressing the gap between the existing legislations or international commitments and the realities. It will tap into the parliamentarians’ experience with key actors, cases or events that triggered GBV debates in their respective countries. The workshop will additionally seek to address the issue of public funding that supports advocacy and campaigning initiatives seeking to advance both state and societal attitudes, norms and practices.

Workshop n° 3:

“Gender-sensitive policy making at the core of inclusive growth”

Organised in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Equitable legislation for inclusive growth is not just a matter of passing wise labour law reforms. All policy domains influence men and women's ability to access and participate in the labour market, and attention to economic growth cannot be divided from increasing the overall well-being of all parts of society, considering aspects of security, justice, social development, etc. Parliaments play a crucial role in framing the overall conditions for women's empowerment both in political and economic spheres. In fact, Parliaments are uniquely positioned to redress gender inequalities within budgets, laws and policies that provide a foundation for the more equal participation of women and men in economic, social and political life. Central to this debate are the tools, incentives and accountability structures that Parliaments hold to advance gender-responsiveness of their activity. Within the framework of the OECD 2015 Recommendation of the Council on Gender Equality in Public Life, this session will explore the role of Parliaments as legislators and policymakers working to embed a gender filter in national laws, policies and budgets to ensure equitable outcomes for men and women in all policy domains, towards the realization of inclusive growth and wellbeing for all.

Block II

Workshop n° 4:

“Shall we wait a century to achieve work life balance for women and men?”

Organised in cooperation with Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission (EC/DG JUST)

This workshop will discuss work-life balance as a driver of the gender gaps in employment, pay and earnings, looking at the newly published Commission Report on equality between women and men. It will also be an opportunity to exchange on promising national practices and European actions to close these gaps, including regarding family-related leaves and flexible working arrangements.

Workshop n° 5:

“Global Perspective: Women's Economic Empowerment and the UN Sustainable Development Goals”

Organised in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

This workshop, will look at the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More specifically, the workshop will focus on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work) asking how the 2030 Agenda contributes to advancing women's economic empowerment, also given the universality of the Agenda. Moreover, the discussion will address the recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment and the way forward to ensuring women's full participation in the labour market.