

WHY

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Ongoing studies on gender equality policies in the European Union and various member states show that the degree of inconsistencies between the national and the European level is detrimental to the quality of these policies, and hence ultimately detrimental to the quality of life of European citizens, especially women.

While there have been considerable efforts to abolish gender inequality at the European level, there are some serious limitations to the impact of these policies, many of which are related to the complex relationship between the EU and its member states. The shifting meaning of subsidiarity and the increasing use of 'soft' law measures – as in the Open Method of Co-ordination – are just some characteristics of this complexity. In the coming years, this complexity is not likely to change. Under such circumstances, it is important not only to have a good overview of the existing gender equality policies and their quality (as delivered by LARG), but also to be able to understand why gender equality policies differ, are inconsistent, or lack quality. Only then will it be possible to design policy options (soft or other) that might reduce these inconsistencies and that can improve the quality of European policy-making.

The aim of WHY was to contribute to such understanding. WHY was not limited to a comparison between European countries but also aimed to provide an explanation of the different 'natures' and 'speeds' of Europeanisation in the field of (gender) equality policies. The ambition of the WHY activity was to explain two types of variations in gender+ equality policies, one being the variations in the inclusion of civil-society voices, the other the variations in the content of these policies.

The final WHY report can be downloaded [here](#).

WHY papers (2009)

- Feride Acar and Gülbanu Altunok: Paths, borders and bridges: impact of ethnicity and religion on women's movement in Turkey

- Alba Alonso: Institutionalizing intersectionality in Portugal: towards a multiple approach

- Alba Alonso and Maxime Forest: Is gender equality soluble into self-governance? Europeanizing gender at the sub-national level in Spain

- Jo Armstrong, Sylvia Walby and Sofia Strid: Intersectionality and the quality of gendered employment policy

- Susanne Baer, Janet Keim and Lucy Nowotnick: Intersectionality in gender+ training

- María Bustelo and Maxime Forest: The politics of intersectionality in Spain: shaping intersectional approaches in a multi-level polity

- Maria Carbin, Hannele Harjunen and Elin Kvist: Children and fathers first? Fertility treatment policies in Denmark, Finland and Sweden

- Magdalena Dabrowska: European vs. national in Polish gender equality debates and policy documents

- Jasminka Dedi : Roma in European gender equality policy debates: intersectionalized and feminized

- Maxime Forest and Emanuela Lombardo: Beyond the 'worlds of compliance': a sociological and discursive approach to the Europeanisation of gender equality policies

- Ana Frank: Rethinking the effects of Europeanization: civil society and state framing of gender equality policies in Turkey and Croatia

- Elena del Giorgio and Emanuela Lombardo: Institutionalising intersectionality in Italy: gatekeepers and political dynamics

- Martin Jaigma: On the interface between civil society and state and its implications for the quality of gender equality policies in Estonia

- July Jarty: Women and employment: does France go it alone?

- Erika Kispéter: Family policy debates in post-state socialist Hungary: from maternalism to gender equality

- Andrea Krizsán and Raluca Popa: Frames in contestation. Domestic violence policy debates in five countries of Central and Eastern Europe

- Andrea Krizsán and Raluca Popa: Stretching EU conditionality: mechanisms of Europeanization in making domestic violence policies in Central and Eastern Europe

- Andrea Krizsán, Raluca Popa and Viola Zentai: Intersectionality: who's concern? Institutionalizing equality policy in new Central and Eastern European members states of the EU

- Roman Kuhar: In the background of non-discrimination discourse: From the rights of same-sex partners to the rights of children. The use of the Europeanization frame in non-heterosexual intimacy policies in Europe

- Elin Kvist and Elin Peterson: Norms and silences in gender equality policies: an analysis of policy debates on domestic services in Spain and Sweden

- Elin Kvist, Maria Carbin and Hannele Harjunen: Domestic services or maid? Discourses on gender equality, work and

integration in Nordic policy debate

- Sophie Lauwers: Identifying gender transformation in welfare state policies: an analysis of leave regulations and framing in EU member states and the EU

- Sophie Lauwers and Saskia Martens: Accommodating multiple discrimination: equality bodies in Belgium and the Netherlands analyzed from an intersectional gender perspective

- Emanuela Lombardo and María Bustelo: The political treatment of inequalities in Europe: a comparative analysis of Italy, Portugal and Spain

- Emanuela Lombardo and Lise Rolandsen Agustín: Framing gender intersections in the European Union: what implications for the quality of intersectionality in policies?

- Emanuela Lombardo and Mieke Verloo: Institutionalising intersectionality in the European Union? Policy developments and contestations

- Zuzana Ocenasova: Europeanization of gender equality policies through the needle's eye of Slovakia and the Czech Republic

- Maro Pantelidou Maloutas: Gender policies as means of Europeanization: the case of Greece

- Vilana Pilinkaite-Sotirovic: Limits of Europeanization: marriage, family and reproduction policies in Lithuania

- Ingrid Röder: Gender+ equality policies as Europeanisation of old and new member states? An ongoing process

- Karin Tertinegg: Going international? Civil society voices and the role of international actors in Austrian and German gender equality policies

- Doris Urbanek: Towards processual intersectional policy analysis

- Femke van der Wal and Mieke Verloo: Religion, church, intimate citizenship and gender equality: an analysis of differences in gender equality policies in European Catholic countries

- Sylvia Walby, Jo Armstrong and Sofia Strid: Intersectionality and the quality of equality architecture in Britain

