STRIQ

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The new European focus on banning discrimination based upon “sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation” broadened the scope of the European Union’s attention to structural inequalities by explicitly mentioning a larger number of them than ever before (Charter of Fundamental Rights 2000). Such claims are not (yet) accompanied by a reasoning or theory on how to conceptualise the relationship between various inequalities.

The activity “STRIQ” not only provided such a conceptualisation (see the conceptual framework for gender+ equality policies and Chapter 2 of the final STRIQ report), but also translated this conceptualisation into recommendations for good practices in policy-making. The starting point for this activity was the idea that probably also underlies the initiatives to introduce a focus on multiple discriminations in the first place. This idea is that different inequalities are not a set of independent different problems, but rather one family of problems: how inequalities are produced and reproduced in societies and what policy-making can do about it.

Next to its conceptual work, STRIQ also contributed towards empirical knowledge. For each country and for the European Union, a report on intersectionality in gender equality policies was produced (D35: Series of reports analysing intersectionality in gender equality policies, to be put on the website in autumn 2010). The STRIQ activity also aimed to impact on effective policy-making towards the reduction of a larger set of intersecting inequalities. It thus contributed to the design of inclusive gender+ equality policies. See Chapter 4 of the final STRIQ report for preliminary policy recommendations.