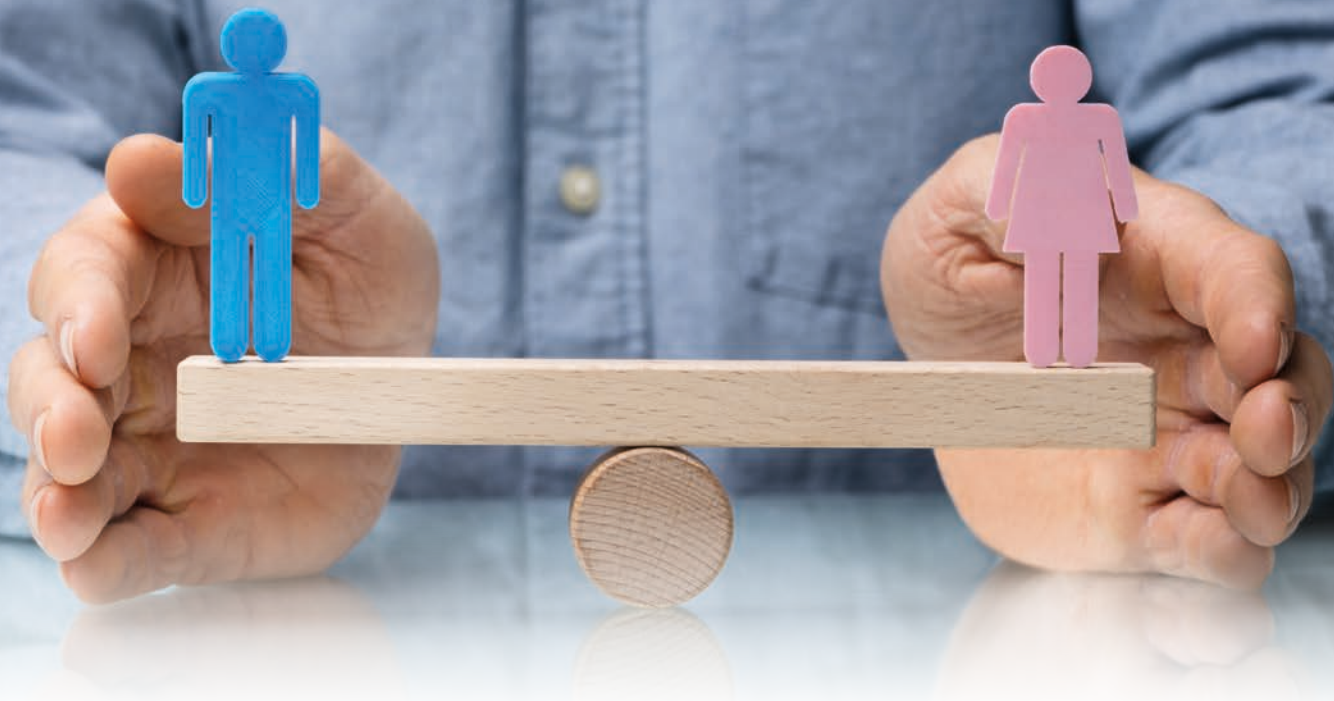




5 GENDER
EQUALITY



**Achieve gender equality and
empower all women and girls**



EU internal action

Overview and challenges

Achieving gender equality is a major priority for the EU. It is a fundamental value enshrined in the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The gendered impact of the COVID-19 crisis has continued. From the early days of the COVID-19 lockdowns, women's rights organisations noted a significant increase in reported cases of violence against women. As regards progress towards a gender-equal economy, the long-standing challenges related to women's participation in the labour market have continued. Women are still over-represented in lower paid sectors and occupations, and face constraints in professional choices linked to care responsibilities and gender stereotypes. The gender employment gap (10.6% in 2022) is mirrored in the gender pay gap (12.7% in 2021). The gender pension gap stands at 27.1%. With regard to gender balance in decision-making, women continue to be outnumbered by men in decision-making bodies in the political and economic spheres. Regarding women in politics, the proportion of seats in national parliaments held by women has decreased, from 33.1% in 2021 to 32.5% in 2022. Progress in improving female representation on corporate boards and in business leadership positions remains uneven across the EU but improved steadily in the reporting period. In 2022, around 32.2% of the board members of the EU's largest publicly listed companies were women, compared to 22.2% in 2015.

Despite these challenges, the EU has made considerable progress on measures to achieve SDG 5 since 2015, with significant legislative and policy developments that have the potential to become game changers for gender equality.

Key initiatives

The EU has a wide range of policies in place, covering different aspects of SDG 5. This section provides an overview of some of the most recent and relevant initiatives.

The [2020-2025 gender equality strategy](#) sets the current framework for EU action to promote gender equality in the EU. The strategy is based on three main pillars: (1) freedom from gender-based violence and gender stereotypes; (2) thriving in a gender-equal economy; and (3) leading equally throughout society. The strategy takes a dual approach of gender mainstreaming combined with targeted measures and intersectionality as a cross-cutting principle supporting its implementation. A task force on equality was set up in 2019 to mainstream gender and other equality considerations into all EU policy areas. It includes representatives of all the Commission's Directorates-General and the European External Action Service and supports the work of the first EU Commissioner for Equality.

The Commission aims to lead by example in the field of gender equality: the first female President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen leads the first gender-balanced College of Commissioners (2019-2024).

The [proposal for a directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) adopted in March 2022 aims to improve the prevention of violence, increase protection of and support for victims and facilitate access to justice.

The [Digital Services Act](#) adopted in July 2022 will help to remove illegal content and protect women online.

The [pay transparency directive](#) adopted in April 2023 seeks to empower workers by providing concrete tools to claim their

2030 targets and trends at EU level

Target and policy reference

Inclusive high employment rate

Halve the gender employment gap, to achieve the target employment rate of 78% of the population aged 20 to 64 by 2030.

The [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#)

Increased women's participation in digital transformation

Europe's digital transformation, guided by the [Digital Compass](#), pursues the EU target of 20 million employed ICT specialists, with convergence between women and men, by 2030.

Gender parity of 50% at all management levels of the European Commission by the end of 2024.

Trends

The [EU employment rate](#) for men of working age was 80.0% in 2022, exceeding the rate for women (69.4%) by 10.6 percentage points.

There is still a severe gender balance issue, in particular between women and men with more advanced ICT skills, with only 19% of ICT specialists and one in three science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics (STEM) graduates being women. This may affect the way digital solutions are devised and deployed. (Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), 2021.

As of September 2022, the share of women in management functions is 43.4% at senior management level, 46.6% at middle management level and 45.9% overall. This represents a significant increase compared to 2019, when the share of women was 36.6% at senior management level and 41.5% at middle management level.

More details on indicators and trends for SDG 5 can be found in the statistical and analytical annex and Eurostat's monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs.

right to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. The Directive will strengthen the application of the equal pay principle by giving employers greater responsibility for implementing this.

The [directive on adequate minimum wages for workers](#) adopted in October 2022 will help reduce the gender pay gap and increase gender equality, as women are almost twice as likely to earn the minimum wage as men.

In November 2022, the co-legislators agreed on the EU's [gender balance on corporate boards legislation](#). By 2026, large listed companies should aim to have at least 40% of their non-executive director positions or 33% of their non-executive and executive director positions held by members of the under-represented sex – for the time being, this refers overwhelmingly to women.

In September 2022, the Commission adopted the [European care strategy](#) to promote high quality, affordable and accessible care services across the EU and support Member States in improving the situation for care receivers and the people caring for them. This will help increase gender equality and promote women's participation in the labour market. One of the strategy's deliverables is a recommendation to revise the 2002 Barcelona targets. It aims to encourage Member States

to increase participation in early childhood education and care to facilitate women participating in the labour market and improve the social and cognitive development of all children, but in particular children in vulnerable situations or from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Council adopted this recommendation in December 2022.

As of August 2022, the minimum standards for paternity, parental and carers' leave and rights set out in the [Work-Life Balance Directive](#) (adopted in 2019) had to be transposed by the Member States. These include the right to request flexible working arrangements, for example. The Commission is monitoring the implementation of the Directive in the Member States.

The Commission has also proposed to the Council to include [hate speech and hate crime in the list of EU-wide crimes](#), which would allow the Commission to propose legislation criminalising all forms of hate speech and hate crime on all prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sex or gender.

While the gender equality strategy focuses on actions within the EU, it is consistent with the EU's external policy on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Selected enablers

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) includes gender equality and mainstreaming as a specific objective. It promotes gender mainstreaming structurally under all its activities and it supports organisations and projects promoting gender equality by a dedicated biennial call for proposals. The latest edition of the call, in 2022, focused on (i) equal participation and representation of women and men in political and economic decision making and (ii) tackling gender stereotypes, including with accent on youth, and in advertising and the media, and awarded 21 national and transnational multi-beneficiary projects, financially supporting organisations in 21 EU Member States. Even though the projects have entered their implementation phase only recently, they are promising. As an example, the project “Rewriting the story: tackling media gender stereotypes in political and public life” will directly address barriers to the fair representation and portrayal of women and men in political life. Working with frontline journalists, news media managers, journalists’ unions and associations, gender experts, media self-regulatory bodies, women active in political life, academics and, crucially, the next generation of media professionals, the project will seek to initiate reforms in European media with regard to newsroom culture, policies and processes which improve the professional understanding and practices with regard to gender portrayal of women and men in political and public life.

In the 2021-2027 programming period more than 30 % (EUR 111 billion) of all Cohesion policy funding under ERDF, ESF+, CF and JTF will support gender equality through direct measures or gender mainstreaming. ⁽¹⁵⁾

Gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting principle of all Cohesion policy funds, including the [European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\)](#), under which the Member States have an obligation to programme targeted actions to promote gender-balanced labour market participation, equal working conditions, and a better work-life balance.

The regulation creating the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) (RRF) recognises women as one of the social groups that have been worst affected by the COVID-19 crisis. One of the RRF’s central objectives is to mitigate the social and economic impact of that crisis, particularly in relation to women. In line with the regulation, EU Member States should mainstream and promote objectives relating to gender equality throughout the process of preparing and implementing their recovery and resilience plans. Additionally, the regulation emphasises the importance of investing in robust care infrastructure, which is essential to secure gender equality and the economic empowerment of women. It allows more women to take part in paid work and therefore has a positive effect on GDP.

Gender equality is one of the central principles of Horizon Europe — the EU’s key funding framework programme for research and innovation. When drafting project proposals, applicants must pay attention to gender equality from different angles in terms of human resources (balance between women and men in the research teams) and content (analysing and taking into account the gender dimensions of the content of the projects). Despite progress being made on gender equality in research and innovation under the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, research and innovation organisations in the EU still need to better implement the EU’s gender equality objectives.

The proportion of women graduating in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, which are better paid and have better career prospects than many other disciplines, is persistently lower than that of men. The underrepresentation of women in physics, for instance, profoundly affects the growth and future of the field by contributing to a loss of potential talent and deprives industry of the intellectual contribution of women with a physics background. The thesis of a project financed under the Horizon Europe’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, “Physics departments’ culture, structure and gender inequality”, is that measures taken to increase representation will be effective only when they address the underlying hidden structures of the physics culture that contribute to gender inequality. The outcomes of this work will empower physics departments internationally to move beyond generic strategies and to implement tailored action plans to address gender imbalance by ongoing, collaborative self-reflection.

Another example of an EU-funded project on gender equality is the ‘reducing the employment gender gap in the Hungarian labour market’ project, supported by the Structural Reform Support programme under the call for 2019. A high and growing gender employment gap is persistently reported in Hungary, despite improvements in economic conditions. The employment rate is particularly low among women in the 25-39 age group who are raising children under the age of 3 years. The project aims to research and analyse the barriers to gender equality in employment and subsequent policy development through exchanges of best practice and stakeholder consultations that would help close the gender gap.

Stakeholder engagement

The EU has a dedicated agency for gender equality, the European Institute for Gender Equality ([EIGE](#)), located in Vilnius, Lithuania. EIGE works with [EU, national, and international institutions and organisations](#) to ensure EIGE’s gender equality expertise and resources have the maximum impact on EU policies. EIGE works to follow and understand the specific needs of its key stakeholders.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Explore the gender equality planned investments in <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/datastories>

For example, in October 2022, EIGE held its first [Gender Equality Forum](#). The forum gathered high-level EU and national political decision-makers, practitioners and members of civil society to exchange views on the most pressing issues affecting progress in gender equality.

Open public consultations are instrumental during the preparation of major initiatives, such as the care strategy, to support the development of high-quality, achievable proposals by allowing interested parties to provide input and suggestions on the key challenges to be tackled by the initiative.

In July 2022, the Commission launched the [EU Award for Gender Equality Champions](#), a new prize that recognises academic and research organisations that have achieved outstanding results in implementing gender equality measures.

Multi-level approach

SDG delivery implies ambitious action at all levels. Good practices in implementing SDG 5 include:

- ▶ Portugal launched its national strategy for equality and non-discrimination for 2018-2030, to promote women's rights and eliminate discrimination. The strategy will

be implemented through three action plans, focusing on: equality between women and men; preventing and combating violence against women and girls; and combating discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual characteristics.

- ▶ In Cyprus, to enforce the right to equal pay for the same work or work of equal value, a target of 300 inspections was set for 2021. These inspections are preventive, aiming to provide information to employers and employees on the applicable legislation and practical guidance for employers regarding compliance, but they also seek to identify cases of pay discrimination.
- ▶ At sub-national level, the La Rioja region in Spain adopted a specific law against gender-based violence. It promotes the inclusion of victims of gender-based violence in the labour market and set up a care network to ensure victims receive the care they need until they recover. The region works on education via a general communication campaign and training for specific audiences such as trade unions, and future professionals in the field of health, social services and education. La Rioja also created an inter-department responsible for integrating gender equality in all policies.

EU external action

Global trends

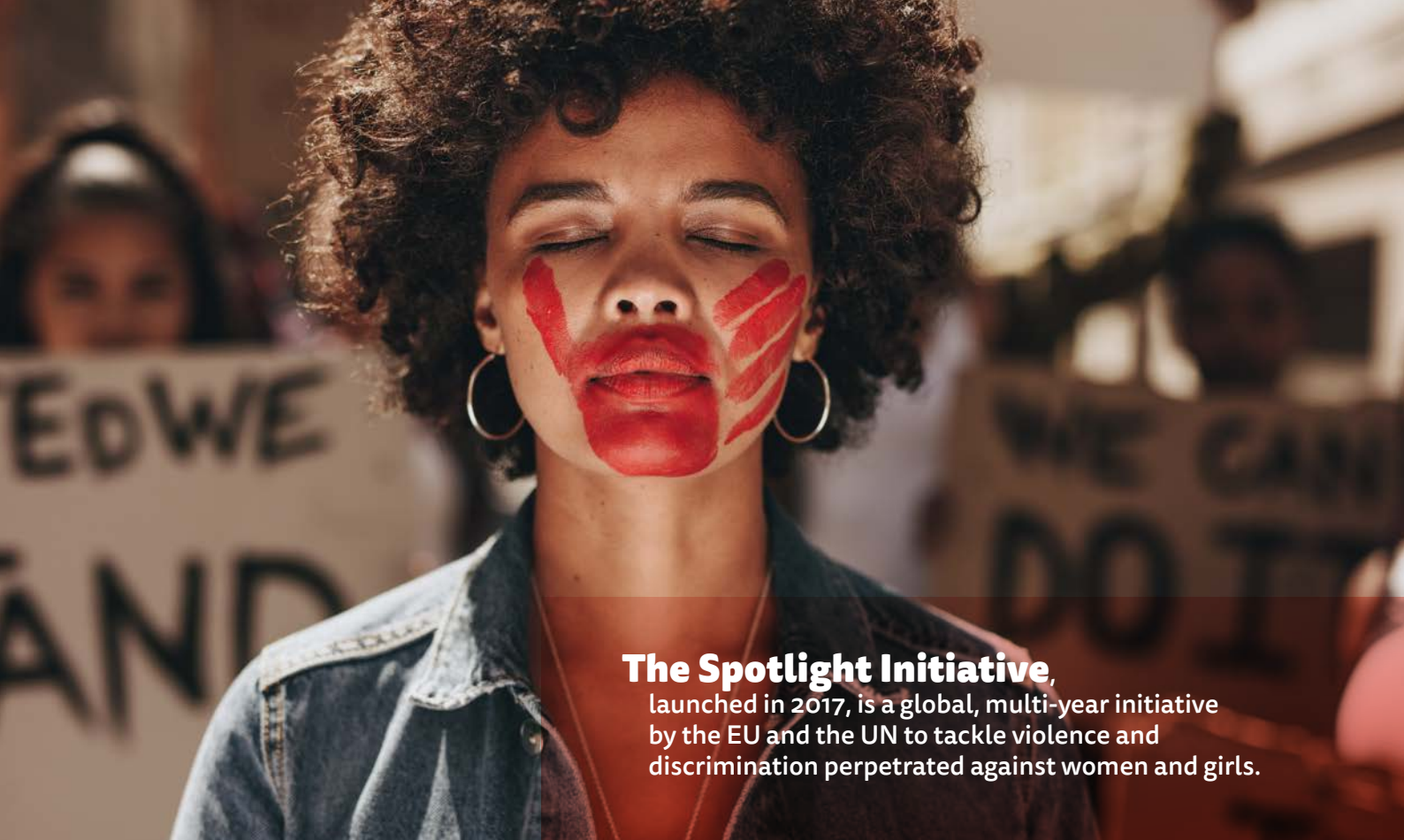
Instability, fragility, conflict, climate change, environmental degradation, migration, forced displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic all exacerbate gender inequality and threaten the progress that has been made. Deep-rooted inequalities persist, including in access to basic services, and gender-based violence remains widespread. Some legal frameworks continue to be discriminatory. Civil society organisations, including women's rights organisations, are facing shrinking civil, civic and democratic spaces. However, women increasingly take part in shaping global transformations, showing that positive change is possible.

Internal/external coherence including policy coherence for development

EU external actions mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment to pursue worldwide its own internal objectives, as illustrated in the context of trade. In the WTO, the EU has been a strong proponent of the 2017 Buenos Aires Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment and is active in the WTO Informal Working Group on trade and gender. In 2022, the EU funded a project by the International Trade Centre that will help to apply a gender lens to the WTO's work.

Trade and sustainable development chapters in EU bilateral trade agreements contain commitments to implementing fundamental ILO conventions on non-discrimination in employment. In June 2022, the EU concluded negotiations on a comprehensive trade agreement with New Zealand that includes, for the first time for the EU, a dedicated article within the trade and sustainable development chapter promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and a gender focus in the Parties' trade and investment relationship. The modernised EU-Chile trade agreement includes a dedicated trade and gender equality chapter and was politically concluded in December 2022.

Under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), the EU monitors beneficiary countries' respect of the principles of core international conventions, including those promoting women's rights and gender equality. As one of its core values, the EU consistently promotes gender equality and women's empowerment across its internal and external actions, including its international partnerships, using gender mainstreaming, targeted actions, or political and policy dialogues with partner countries. The Commission is implementing its [gender action plan III 2021-2025](#) (GAP III), adopted in November 2020, which is aligned with internal action in the EU 2020-2025 gender equality strategy and sets its external priorities for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.



The Spotlight Initiative, launched in 2017, is a global, multi-year initiative by the EU and the UN to tackle violence and discrimination perpetrated against women and girls.

Main policy orientations and initiatives for external engagement

The five pillars around which the GAP III priorities are set are the following:

- (i) Making engagement on gender equality more effective as a cross-cutting priority for EU external action, including the commitment to having 85 % of new EU external actions contributing to SDG 5 by 2025 and to increase funding for gender-focused actions by requiring at least one such action per country.
- (ii) Promoting, together with EU Member States, strategic EU engagement at multilateral, regional and country level, including through country-level implementation plans, of which 129 have been developed so far.
- (iii) Focusing on key areas of engagement, including the elimination of gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment, leadership and participation, and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, taken further within the framework laid down in the [European Consensus on Development](#) ⁽¹⁶⁾.
- (iv) Leading by example, by establishing gender-responsive and gender-balanced leadership at top EU political and management levels.
- (v) Reporting and communicating on results.

⁽¹⁶⁾ See paragraph 34, 2017 European Consensus on Development.

Among the initiatives with a particular focus on gender equality and combating violence, the [Spotlight Initiative](#), launched in 2017, is a global, multi-year initiative by the EU and the UN to tackle violence and discrimination perpetrated against women and girls. By 2019, 90 % of the EU's initial funding of EUR 500 million had been allocated and 12 countries had started implementing Spotlight programmes, most of them as part of the Spotlight Initiative Africa regional programme (SIARP). When the COVID-19 crisis hit the world in March 2020, the Spotlight Initiative was able in the first 6 months to boost prevention measures, strengthen services for survivors of violence and address the acute needs of women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination. The EU also works with other partner organisations in countering gender-based violence.

The EU ensures that gender and age considerations are taken into account in all its humanitarian aid operations. To ensure an effective and quality response, humanitarian action caters for the differentiated needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys, while supporting their active participation. Supporting the prevention and response to gender-based violence is a priority. In 2022, the EU funded targeted humanitarian actions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence with approximately EUR 41.2 million. In addition, the EU continues to support the global initiative "Call to Action on the Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies", a global, cross-stakeholder initiative with more than 100 members, which aims to drive structural change in the humanitarian system to address gender-based violence. In addition, EUR 23.5 million went to targeted sexual and

reproductive health services. In April 2023, the EU published its latest assessment report on its gender-age marker, showcasing that, for projects starting in 2021, 96 % of all EU humanitarian aid ‘strongly’ or ‘to a certain extent’ integrated gender and age considerations.

The principle of empowering women to boost prosperity is also at the heart of the gender strategy adopted in 2016 by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB’s policy of ‘protect, impact, invest’ embeds gender equality and women’s economic empowerment in all its activities both inside and outside the EU.

EU and Member States external financial support for SDG implementation and results

There are two main sources of information to track support for SDG 5 and gender equality. As for all SDGs, EU support for SDG 5 can be estimated where this specific SDG field is highlighted in projects reported to the OECD-DAC. In addition, the tagging of the OECD policy marker on gender equality identifies actions that contribute to gender equality as a policy objective, which provides useful information in relation to SDG 5. The assessments made in preparing this review indicate that there is scope to increase the consistency between these complementary and related reporting tracks.

In 2021, EU institutions reported to OECD commitments of EUR 5.4 billion in projects contributing to SDG 5. The largest share of the EU contribution was made by projects focusing on SDG 5 as a significant objective, clearly underlining the cross-cutting nature of SDG 5. This SDG has been mostly associated with interventions where the main SDG was SDG 16, SDG 8, SDG 13 and SDG 4. A smaller share of the EU contribution comes from projects that focus on SDG 5 as the main SDG, where it is closely interlinked with other SDGs such as SDG 16, SDG 3, SDG 4 and SDG 6. When taking into account also other official flows, private funds mobilized through public intervention and support to international public goods, the Total Official Support to Sustainable Development (TOSSD) of the EU to SDG 5 amounted to EUR 5.9 billion in 2021.

For EU institutions, the data on the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker for 2021 shows that overall, the number of gender-responsive (marked G1 using the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker) and gender-targeted (marked G2) actions amount to 70 %. In total, EUR 9 263 million were committed to actions marked G1 and G2. In 2021, 4 % of new actions amounting to EUR 243 million targeted specifically gender equality (market G2). Support for SDG 5 is projected to increase even further, with the commitment in the 2021-2027 EU multiannual financial instrument NDICI-Global Europe to mainstream gender in at least 85 % of all new actions,

including 5 % of actions with gender equality as a principal objective.

Collectively, the EU and the Member States that reported on SDGs to the OECD in 2021 contributed EUR 10.7 billion to SDG 5. EU and Member States flows to SDG 5 predominantly focused on projects in Africa (39 %) and Asia (21 %).

When it comes to the policy marker on gender equality, the EU and Member States reported EUR 36.8 billion to the OECD in projects with gender equality as a significant or principal objective in 2021. These projects account for 43 % of new actions adopted in 2021.

Examples of EU actions (with a focus on Global Gateway and Team Europe initiatives)

Some of the key gender transformative actions recently adopted by the EU in support of SDG 5 include the ‘Breaking the Glass Ceiling’ programme in Tanzania, which aims to help increase freedom from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres, promote women’s economic empowerment, including to benefit from green and digital opportunities, and enhance equality in public participation, leadership and decision-making. The ‘Empower Women Prosperous Nepal’ programme is another example, and it particularly tackles negative social and gender norms, in order to support Nepal’s human development.

The Commission and 10 EU Member States are working with African partners to develop a regional Team Europe initiative (TEI) in sub-Saharan Africa to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, taken further within the framework laid down in the 2017 European Consensus on Development ⁽¹⁷⁾, with a particular focus on adolescent and young women. The promotion of the same theme by non-governmental organisations for vulnerable adolescents is also supported by the Commission focusing on promotion by non-governmental organisations for vulnerable adolescents in 16 African countries from 2022. The Commission is also a long-standing partner of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), including by providing support for the UNFPA Supplies Partnership.

In Ethiopia, careful gender and age disaggregation is ensured in all humanitarian response operations. Most nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and health protection actions focus on women and children. For example, particular focus is given to girls’ education. In South Sudan, through various partners, sexual and gender-based violence survivors are assisted both preventively and responsively, with health, psychosocial, legal and/or livelihood issues.

⁽¹⁷⁾ See paragraph 34, 2017 European Consensus on Development.



In the Western Balkans and Türkiye, since 2017 the EU funded programme “Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye” supports women and girls who are survivors of violence. The programme, which is implemented by UN Women, builds capacities and provides financial support to a wide network of women’s rights organisations and service providers, aiming at the prevention and protection of women, in accordance with the standards in the Istanbul Convention. More widely in the enlargement region, many countries have adopted or amended their relevant legislation with the aim of converging with the EU *acquis* and international standards on gender equality and anti-discrimination. Special gender equality bodies have been set up, and national strategies and action plans have been adopted. Collection and reporting of gender equality data has improved through cooperation with EIGE, which has led to the publication of the [gender indexes](#) reports in Serbia (2016, 2019, 2021), North Macedonia (2019), Albania (2020), Montenegro (2020) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2022).

Decent work and young women’s entrepreneurship have been supported by 21 EU funded actions in the framework of the European Training Foundation (ETF), to support change in Mediterranean and Eastern Partnership countries (including Armenia, Ukraine and in conflict-affected areas of Georgia). In 2020, over 6 million women throughout the world were supported, especially in public and private investment for women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion. In 2021, the EU launched its support for the economic empowerment of women in partner countries, in partnership with Germany and the Tony Elumelu Foundation, supporting 2 500 African

women entrepreneurs. Thanks to EU support, new signatories to the Women’s empowerment principles (WEPs) increased to 500 new companies in Asia in 2020 (from 170 in 2019), and over 4 000 companies in Latin America (from 2 000 in 2017). This considerably improved gender-sensitive business culture and practices in the private sector, contributing to a level playing field for EU companies.

In the Neighbourhood East, the action [for EU4Gender Equality ‘Challenging gender stereotypes and practices in the EaP countries’](#) adopted in 2019, has funded a project in cooperation with UN Women and UNFPA aiming at strengthening equal rights and opportunities for women and men through shifting social perceptions, increasing men’s participation in caretaking and actions to prevent gender-based violence. Another project is working to increase the knowledge base and use of gender analysis in decision-making and reforms by governments and EU delegations to deliver effective and equal results for all.

In Morocco, the EU contributed to SDG 5 through budget support programmes and the provision of blended finance for an EBRD programme in support of women in business.

Actions by the EU and its Member States are mutually supportive and are coordinated to ensure complementarity and a positive impact in support of the SDGs. In addition to acting together with the EU through joint programming and Team Europe Initiatives, Member States carry out their own projects in support of the 2030 Agenda including SDG 5, such as the following illustrative initiatives.

By means of illustration, in Tanzania, Ireland funded and launched a 'social institutions and gender index', which is a dataset and reference point for formal and informal norms and practices around gender equality and discrimination. It also built the capacity of the national bureau of statistics to measure and understand these issues.

The Dutch SDG 5 Fund, for example, is one of the world's largest funds for the promotion of equal rights for women and girls in all their diversity, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, with EUR 500 million to be allocated for strengthening local capacity building in the area of lobby and advocacy over the 2021-2025 period. It is complemented by gender diplomacy and gender mainstreaming and a feminist foreign policy.

Finland has supported long-term work to change structures, norms and attitudes that maintain gender inequality in Nepal. Since 2016, a project related to menstrual hygiene has produced long-term results. Girls and women, who had previously to sleep in a cattle shed during menstruation, without access

to the water points in their communities, now freely use water points and toilets in households. Changes in societal attitudes have reduced discrimination and generational shame around menstruation.

Austria, via its development bank OeEB, has been providing long-term financing to the Kashf Foundation in Pakistan, whose funds are used to finance local micro and small enterprises owned by women. OeEB's credit line has allowed the Kashf Foundation to open up to 155 further branches, thus reaching more women in a country with one of the highest gender gaps in the world.

Women's rights are strongly defended by Estonia, including with its call during the COP26 conference in November 2021 for greater involvement of women in leading the fight against climate change. Estonia's new Data for the Environment Alliance' global initiative, which aims to make high-quality environmental data easily accessible for all those in need, also aims to reduce the gender gap considering the availability of information and technology.

Looking ahead

The Conference on the Future of Europe, in line with the objectives of SDG 5, showed broad support to the continued promotion of gender equality across the array of EU policies, ranging from digital literacy to sports, and emphasised the need to take a gendered perspective on policy assessment, data collection, monitoring and EU funding activities. Calling for inclusive labour markets, people stressed the need to address the gender pay gap, women's representation in senior positions and support for women entrepreneurs in the business environment and women in STEM. Participants voiced support for the implementation and transparent monitoring of the EU gender equality strategy.

The EU is committed to implementing SDG 5 through implementing the [2020-2025 gender equality strategy](#). To this end, the Commission is currently negotiating with co-legislators on its proposal [on combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) and implementing other key initiatives set out in the strategy.

The EU is committed to gender mainstreaming in all pending, planned and future initiatives. Implementing another core component of the gender equality strategy, the EU will continue to include a gender equality perspective in all areas of policymaking, including through the Commission's task force on equality. For example, EIGE will support the EU's policy work with research into gender issues in relation to the European Green Deal. The resulting data will be made available in EIGE's 2023 gender equality index and will be used

to mainstream gender into the 'Fit for 55' package. Other examples of gender mainstreaming include the EU's strategic framework on health and safety at work for 2021-2027 and the EU's strategy on combating trafficking in human beings (2021-2025). Gender mainstreaming will also continue in the EU's budget and funding programmes.

On the external side, the EU will continue to take action to accelerate the implementation of SDG5 globally. This includes through the roll-out of a range of multiannual indicative programmes where gender equality is a shared priority and through mainstreaming this priority across its actions. By 2025, there will be a commitment for at least one action in each country focusing on gender equality as a principal objective. A tangible contribution to SDG5 (and other interlinked SDGs) will be made by developing the Global Gateway strategy, taking a Team Europe approach, which will actively integrate gender equality. The EU will furthermore continue to mainstream gender and age considerations in its humanitarian actions and will continue to provide targeted funding to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies, and to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services.

