

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2020/2040(INI)	Procedure completed
The gender dimension in Cohesion Policy		
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Regional Development	 VANA Monika	05/12/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 BENJUMEA BENJUMEA Isabel	
		 CUTAJAR Josianne	
		 CSEH Katalin	
		 ANDROUËT Mathilde	
		 FITTO Raffaele	
		 PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Women?s Rights and Gender Equality	 DÜPONT Lena	18/05/2020
European Commission	Commission DG Justice and Consumers	Commissioner BRETON Thierry	

Key events			
16/04/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/04/2021	Vote in committee		

05/05/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0154/2021	Summary
07/06/2021	Debate in Parliament		
08/06/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/06/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0276/2021	Summary
08/06/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2040(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/9/02631

Documentation gateway

Committee opinion		PE655.668	11/11/2020	EP	
Committee draft report		PE660.209	12/11/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE662.029	14/12/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0154/2021	05/05/2021	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0276/2021	08/06/2021	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2021)531	23/09/2021	EC	

The gender dimension in Cohesion Policy

The Committee on Regional Development adopted an own-initiative report by Monika VANA (Greens/EFA, AT) on the gender dimension in cohesion policy.

This report highlights the need for political commitment to gender equality at European, national and local levels, and for greater recognition by national and local stakeholders of the multi-level benefits of gender equality, which give it an economic and social dimension.

The role of cohesion policy in promoting gender equality

Members stressed the importance of cohesion policy in promoting equality between people and between regions, including gender equality, and in implementing the European strategy for gender equality. They recommended that Member States take gender equality measures into account in the process of designing and validating programmes and identify, for each programming phase, priority areas that contribute to gender equality and sustainable development.

The report stressed the need to adopt a gender equality strategy with clear ambitions and objectives at national and regional level and to develop awareness raising programmes on the benefits of gender equality and equal opportunities for socio-economic growth and sustainable development. It called for increased skills, training and capacity building for managing authorities and implementing partners on the gender dimension of the Structural Funds.

According to Members, programme stakeholders and monitoring committees should be provided with clearer indicators on the effectiveness of programmes when it comes to the implementation of the gender perspective in concrete projects, especially in ERDF interventions, given the potential of the ERDF/Cohesion Fund to bridge the gap that women still face, especially with regard to female entrepreneurship and the digital sector.

Furthermore, part of the Cohesion Policy funds should be dedicated to support women in poverty, women at risk of poverty, single mothers, women with disabilities and women victims of violence.

Impact of the COVID-19 crisis

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the key role played by public services, social infrastructure and the care sector in ensuring social and economic resilience. It has further highlighted the role played by women as primary carers in formal and informal settings and the value this creates for society: 80% of all care in the EU is provided by informal, often unpaid, carers, 75% of whom are women.

Members called on Member States to prioritise the funds available under cohesion policy for care provision to meet the growing demand for care facilities, but also to effectively tackle the gender gap in employment, the resulting pay and pension gaps and labour market segregation.

Cohesion policy should also be used to support equal access to training and employment for women and men, to implement positive action to bridge the gender digital divide and to support the just, green and digital transitions.

Gender equality in post-2020 cohesion policy

Members called for the introduction of clear and concrete targets and requirements on gender equality objectives and for greater opportunities and equality between men and women to be introduced in all post-2020 programmes, with specific and interdisciplinary measures to be translated into all operations. A national strategy for gender equality with clear general and specific objectives could underpin interventions under cohesion policy.

The gender dimension in Cohesion Policy

The European Parliament adopted by 390 votes to 82, with 212 abstentions, a resolution on the gender dimension in cohesion policy.

Members considered that gender mainstreaming should be implemented as a horizontal principle in all EU programmes, activities, measures and actions, as well as in all EU-funded projects and policies, including cohesion policy.

The role of cohesion policy in promoting gender equality

Parliament stressed the importance of cohesion policy in promoting equality between people and between regions, including gender equality, and in implementing the European strategy for gender equality. It recommended that Member States take gender equality measures into account in the process of designing and validating programmes and identify, for each programming phase, priority areas that contribute to gender equality and sustainable development.

Members stressed the need to adopt a gender equality strategy with clear ambitions and objectives at national and regional level and to develop awareness raising programmes on the benefits of gender equality and equal opportunities for socio-economic growth and sustainable development. It called for a strengthened work-life balance strategy to promote gender equality.

Members also called for increased skills, training and capacity building for managing authorities and implementing partners on the gender dimension of the Structural Funds.

Programme stakeholders and monitoring committees should be provided with clearer indicators on the effectiveness of programmes when it comes to the implementation of the gender perspective in concrete projects, especially in ERDF interventions, given the potential of the ERDF/Cohesion Fund to bridge the gap that women still face, especially with regard to female entrepreneurship and the digital sector.

Part of the Cohesion Policy funds should be dedicated to support women in poverty, women at risk of poverty, single mothers, women with disabilities and women victims of violence

Impact of the COVID-19 crisis

The COVID-19 crisis has underlined the crucial role played by public services, social infrastructure and the healthcare sector in ensuring social and economic resilience. It has further highlighted the role played by women as primary carers in formal and informal settings and the value this creates for society: 80% of all care in the EU is provided by informal, often unpaid, carers, 75% of whom are women.

Members called on Member States to prioritise the funds available under cohesion policy for care provision to meet the growing demand for care facilities, but also to effectively tackle the gender gap in employment, the resulting pay and pension gaps and labour market segregation.

Cohesion policy should also be used to support equal access to training and employment for women and men, to implement positive action to bridge the digital gender gap and to support the just, green and digital transitions.

Gender equality in post-2020 cohesion policy

Welcoming the addition of gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting priority of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and as a cross-cutting principle of the new Common Provisions Regulation, Parliament recommended:

- the introduction of clear and concrete targets and requirements on gender equality objectives and for greater opportunities and equality between men and women to be introduced in all post-2020 programmes, with specific and interdisciplinary measures to be translated into all operations;
- the development of a national gender equality strategy with clear objectives and targets to underpin cohesion policy interventions;
- the introduction of ex-ante and ex-post gender impact assessments as part of Member States' evaluations of how funds are spent and whether gender equality objectives are actually met;
- the introduction of sex-disaggregated data collection methods in the Member States in order to be able to properly analyse the differences between men and women;
- strengthening the criteria for gender mainstreaming at the project selection stage by giving a higher scoring and requiring more concrete actions.

Given that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a surge in reported cases of domestic violence, Members called on the Council to ratify the Istanbul Convention and on the Commission and Member States to allocate funding under cohesion policy and implement programmes to prevent and combat violence against women.

