

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003599/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(17 September 2025)

Subject: Combating gender stereotypes to advance gender equality in the EU

The European Institute for Gender Equality warns that persistent gender stereotypes continue to undermine progress towards gender equality across the EU. Its report of 28 August 2025 entitled ‘Perception to policy: Dismantling gender stereotypes in the European Union’ shows that, despite improvements, stereotypes remain embedded in cultures, institutions, relationships and behaviours, shaping self-image and life choices for both women and men.

These patterns reinforce structural inequalities. In 2024, men’s employment rate was 81% compared to 71% for women, with women nearly three times more likely to work part-time. The gender pay gap stood at 12% and the pension gap at 25%. Social perceptions also play a role, with 36% of women and 46% of men believing that men earn more because their jobs are ‘more demanding’. Alarming, stereotypes remain strong among younger men, with 43% of those aged 15-24 believing that a man’s main role is to earn money.

The European Institute for Gender Equality calls for urgent action, including gender-sensitive education from early years, more diverse leadership models, pay transparency, support for mental health and fairer sharing of family responsibilities.

In the light of the above:

What additional measures does the Commission plan to strengthen its policies for dismantling entrenched stereotypes and accelerating gender equality across the EU?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(17 December 2025)

The Commission has taken action to analyse and tackle gender stereotypes.

In 2023, the Commission ran the #EndGenderStereotypes campaign ⁽¹⁾. The Commission released two Eurobarometers on gender stereotypes (2024) and organised mutual learning seminars with Member States on topics that cover gender stereotypes, to promote the exchange of good practices.

The Commission funds projects addressing gender stereotypes through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) and Erasmus+ programmes.

The Gender Equality Index of the European Institute for Gender Equality will in 2025 analyse gender stereotypes in each domain of the Index.

The Roadmap for Women’s Rights ⁽²⁾, presented by the Commission in March 2025, stresses the role that gender stereotypes play in society and recognises that advancing women’s rights requires strong institutional mechanisms and gender mainstreaming, including the design and use of digital tools mindful of gender equality, bias and gender stereotypes. Building on the Roadmap, the Commission plans to adopt a new Gender Equality Strategy in 2026.

In particular, addressing gender stereotypes through the European Education Area strategic framework and the Union of Skills is crucial for tackling gender segregation in studies and career choices, and gender gaps in education and training limiting girls and boys opportunities and the EU’s growth and innovation potential.

The Commission will enhance this work through initiatives such as the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Strategic Plan, the Basic Skills Action Plan, the forthcoming EU Teachers and Trainers Agenda, the Education and Training Monitor, EU funding and guidance supporting national reforms in education and skills.

⁽¹⁾ https://end-gender-stereotypes.campaign.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/roadmap-womens-rights_en;
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/declaration-principles-gender-equal-society_en.