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ReGEM

Regional Gender Equality Measurement in the EU

Jean Monnet Project Regional Gender Equality Measurement in the EU/ ReGEM

Presentation of the Project

Enrico di Bella (University of Genoa)
Academic coordinator of the project



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

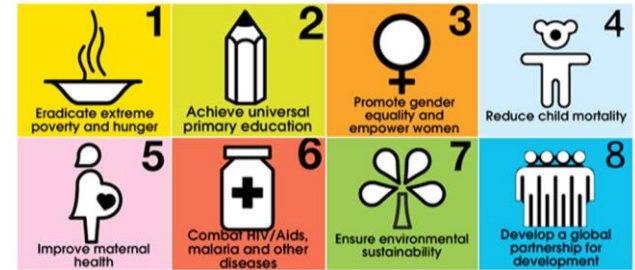


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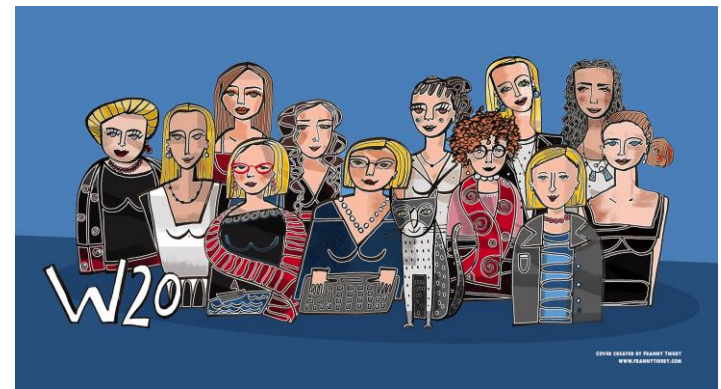
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Origins of the project

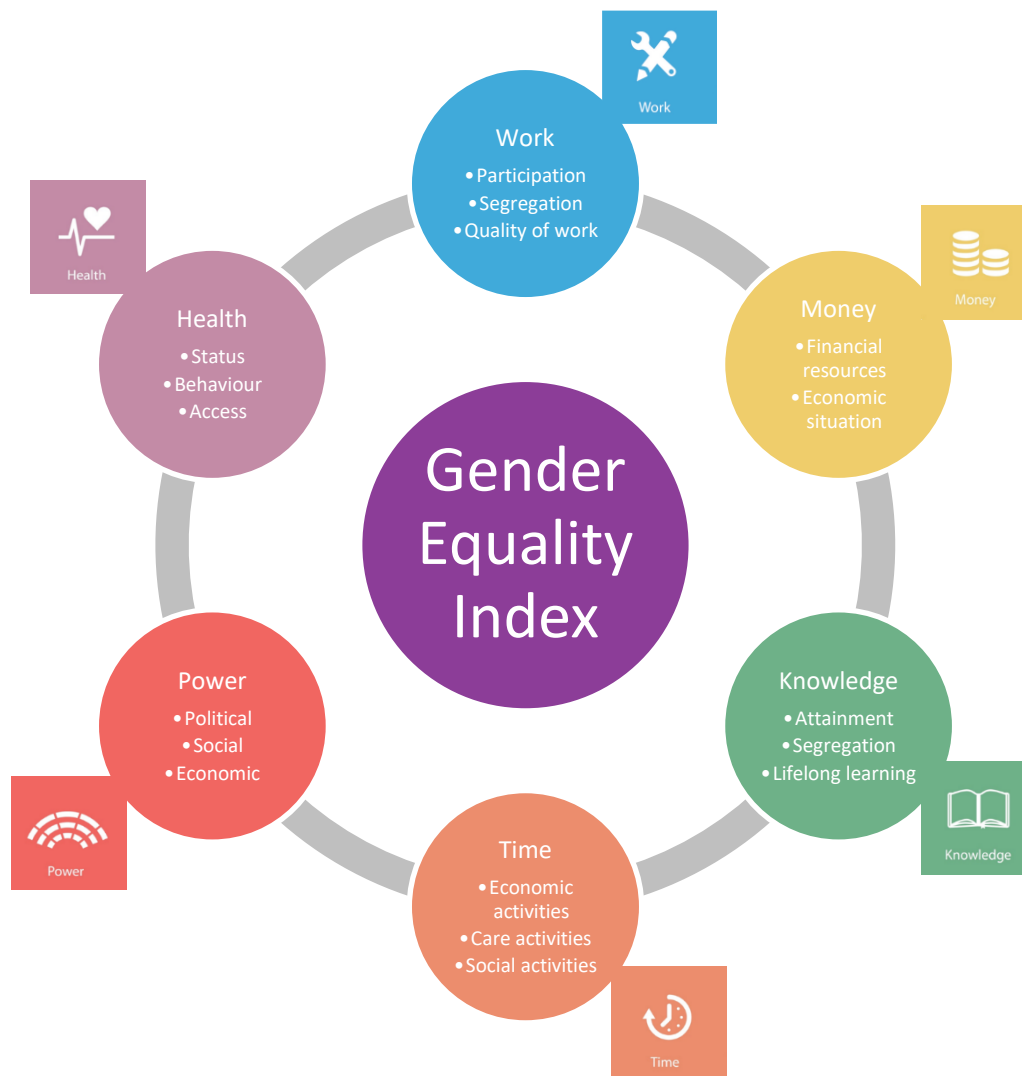
The starting point



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The starting point



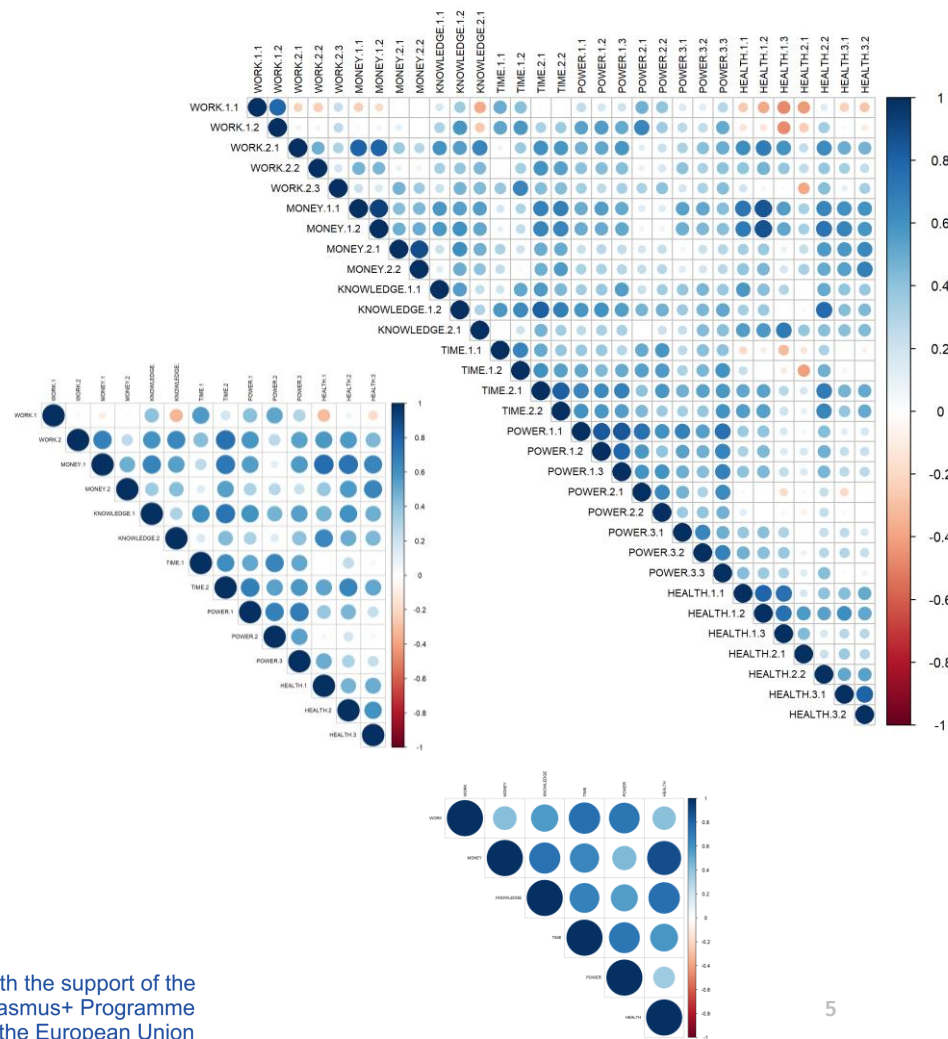
- 6 core domains
- 2 add. domains
- 14 sub-domains
- 31 indicators
- 6 years (2005, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020)

The starting point



Indicator	Sub-domain	Domain
1. Full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate	Participation	Work
2. Duration of working life		
3. Employed in education, human health and social work		
4. Ability to take time off for personal or family matters		
5. Career Prospects Index		
6. Mean monthly earnings	Financial resources	Money
7. Mean equivalised net income	Economic situation	
8. Not at-risk-of-poverty		
9. S20/S80 income quintile share	Attainment and participation	Knowledge
10. Population with tertiary education		
11. Formal or non-formal education and training		
12. Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts	Segregation	
13. Caring for children or grandchildren or older or people of disabilities	Care activities	Time
14. People doing cooking and/or housework	Social activities	
15. Sporting, cultural or leisure activities		
16. Voluntary or charitable activities	Political	Power
17. Share of ministers		
18. Share of members of parliament		
19. Share of members of regional assemblies		
20. Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies	Economic	
21. Share of board members of central bank		
22. Share of board members of research funding organisations	Social	
23. Share of board members in publicly owned broadcasting organisations		
24. Share of members of highest decision-making body of the national Olympic sport organisations		
25. Self-perceived health	Status	Health
26. Life expectancy		
27. Healthy life years		
28. Smoking and harmful drinking	Behaviour	
29. Physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables		
30. Unmet needs for medical examination	Access	
31. Unmet needs for dental examination		

Gender Equality Index



The starting point

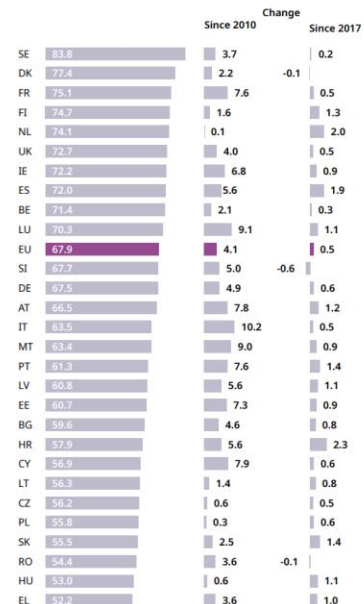


Gender Equality Index 2020 Key findings for the EU



Progress on gender equality in the EU since 2010

With 67.9 out of 100 points, the EU has a long way to go before reaching gender equality. The Gender Equality Index score has increased by only 4.1 points since 2010 and 0.5 points since 2017. At this pace of progress – 1 point every 2 years – it will take more than 60 years to achieve gender equality in the EU. We need to speed up.



Best performance

The EU is closest to gender equality in the domain of health (88.0 points), especially in access to health services. The second-highest score is in the domain of money (80.6 points).

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domain of power (53.5 points), especially in economic decision-making. The second-lowest score is in the domain of knowledge (63.6 points). Gender segregation in tertiary education is the main obstacle.

Biggest improvement

The EU's score in the domain of power has improved the most since 2010 (+ 11.6 points), despite having the lowest score. This improvement is driving the overall increase in the Index score. Without gains in power, gender equality would be barely progressing.

A step backwards

Since 2010, the EU's score has decreased in the domain of time (- 0.6 points), which measures the distribution of housework and caring responsibilities. These inequalities could widen in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Explore the EU's Index results



About the Index

Each year, we score the EU Member States and the EU as a whole to see how far they are from reaching gender equality. The Index uses a **scale of 1 to 100, where 1 is for total inequality and 100 is for total equality**.

The scores are based on the gaps between women and men and levels of achievement in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and **their subdomains**. **Two additional domains** are included in the Index but do not have an impact on the final score. The domain of intersecting inequalities highlights how gender inequalities manifest in combination with age, (dis)ability, country of birth, education and family type. The domain of violence against women measures and analyses women's experiences of violence. The Index is composed of **31 indicators**. The Gender Equality Index 2020 also includes a **thematic focus on digitalisation and the future of work**.

The most recent reference period for data used in the 2020 Index is January 2020. The EU aggregate refers to the EU-28 and includes the United Kingdom because during the reference period the United Kingdom was a Member State.

A first approach to regional analysis of Gender Equality



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Genova University Press

Alaimo L.S., di Bella E., Maggino F., Nanni G. (2021). Misurare l'uguaglianza di genere. Un'analisi regionale per l'Italia. Genova University Press.

A first approach to regional analysis of Gender Equality

REGIONAL STUDIES
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2020.1836341>

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Proposing a regional gender equality index (R-GEI) with an application to Italy

Enrico di Bella^a, Lucia Leporatti^b, Luca Gandullia^c and Filomena Maggino^d

ABSTRACT

Gender equality represents a central topic of our society, and its study is gaining increasing attention in the international panorama. During the last 20 years, various indicators aiming at measuring gender equality have been proposed, but there are no systematic experiences of indicators tailored for a subnational analysis. We propose a regionalization of the most complete and detailed gender equality indicator, the gender equality index (GEI) of the European Institute on Gender Equality, choosing Italy as a case study. The results show how a regionalized approach to gender equality is necessary to set priorities and target regional policy actions.

KEYWORDS

equality; gender; gender equality index; Italy; regional studies

JEL C4, D63, J16, P48

HISTORY Received 13 February 2019; in revised form 24 September 2020

INTRODUCTION

Over the last century, the issue of gender equality has become increasingly important, in both the academic and institutional debates. Between the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st, the attention towards gender equality boosted in the international debate because of the increasing efforts devoted to reach gender equality in every part of the world and because of the problems related to its measurement.¹ 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' has been identified by the United Nations (UN) as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. Gender gaps are responsible for significant losses of economic growth, human development and, more generally, of sustainable development (Kabeer & Narali, 2013; Moothouse, 2017; Proleta, 2017). Effective policy-making to achieve gender equality requires the availability of sets of indicators to describe and monitor the phenomenon and to act conscientiously. As Stiglitz et al. (2007) noted in famously, 'what we measure affects what we do'. Therefore, it is of

absolute relevance to grasp the whole complexity of the 'gender equality' social construct. Despite the effort devoted to the identification of proper indicators of gender gaps (e.g., European Institute on Gender Equality (EIGE), 2017a; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2017; World Economic Forum (WEF), 2017), a relatively unexplored topic concerns the evaluation of gender inequality at the subnational level (Kher et al., 2017). As pointed out by Duncan (1995), ignoring the subnational gender disparities may lead to misleading conclusions: already in the 1990s most European countries experienced regional gender disparities and the processes producing this inequality are generally at a subnational level (e.g., regional disparities in terms of economic development or cultural values). A regional analysis of gender equality is a crucial task for the correct measurement of a country's social progress. National policies aimed at reducing gender gaps can be better targeted to those regions more in need of improvements, and local policy actions aimed at reducing gender inequalities can be better tailored on the weaknesses of each region. This perspective is even more interesting in countries characterized



di Bella E., Leporatti L., Gandullia L., Maggino F. (2021). Proposing a regional gender equality index (R-GEI) with an application to Italy. *Regional Studies*, 55(5): 962-973

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¹ Supplemental data for this article can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2020.1836341>

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Main issues moving from a national to a regional level

1. Assessment of the original GEI indicators → e.g.: sample size
2. Adjustment and substitution of the original GEI indicators to accommodate the regional perspective → e.g. 'percentage of women ministers or having a seat in parliament'

National level

31 EIGE indicators

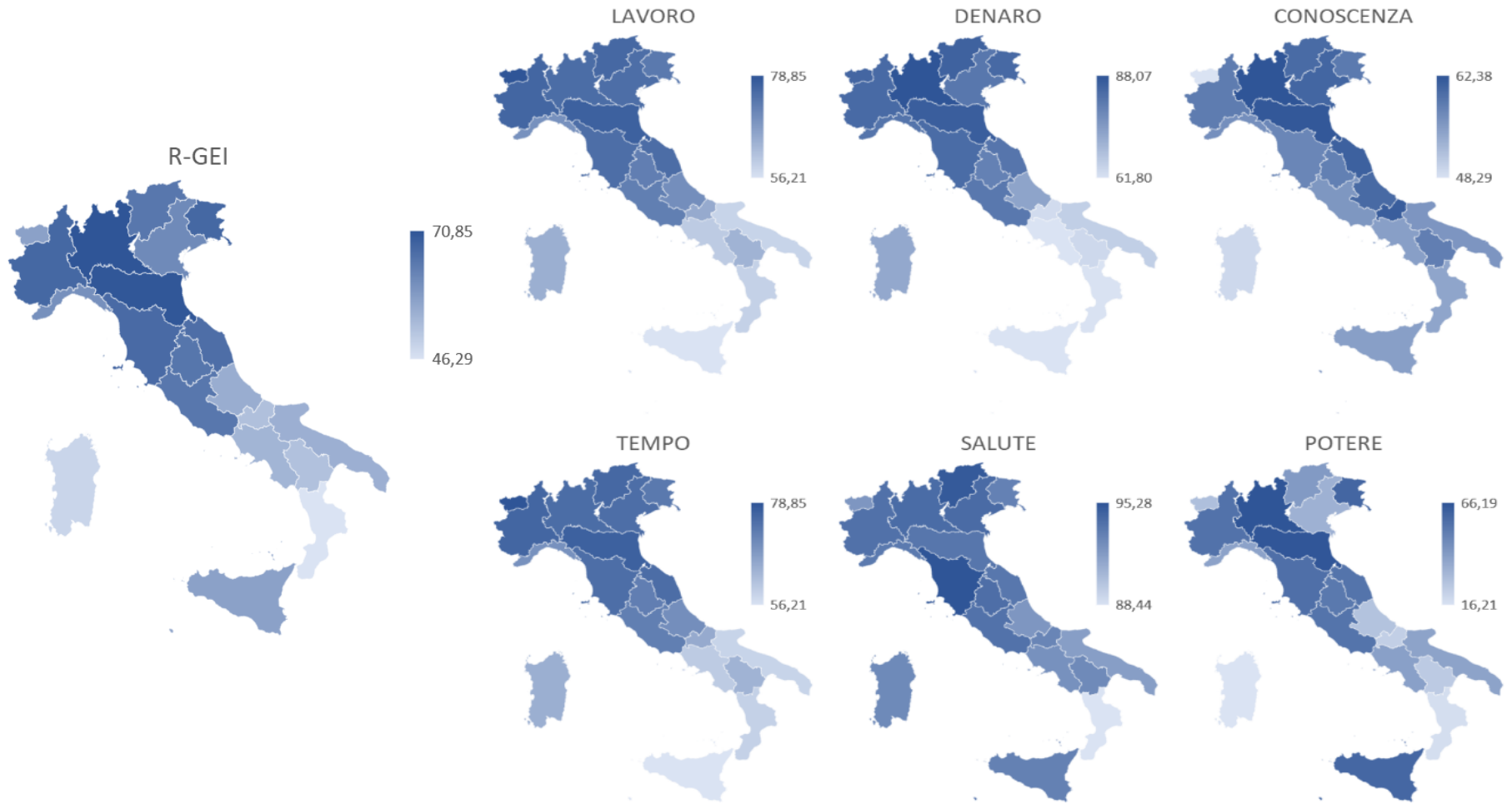
Regional level

10 matching EIGE

14 close to EIGE

7 missing

A first approach to regional analysis of Gender Equality





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Project rationale and expected outputs

Goals

1. Assessment of the actual availability of data at NUTS2 (regional) level in four major EU countries (Italy, France, Spain and Germany), covering a total of 98 regions.
2. Assessment of the reliability and stability of the Regional ranking according to different composite indicators approaches.
3. Construction of socio-economic proximity matrix of the regions of these four countries, to define clusters of homogeneous regions and, for each region, the regions closest to it (nearest neighbors).

Expected results

1. assessing the evolution of inter- and intra-national territorial inequalities in a diachronic perspective by building a regional gender equality indicator for the countries considered;
2. comparing the levels of gender equality between the regions of the countries involved by identifying relative positions of the regions with respect to clusters homogeneous in socio-economic characteristics;
3. assessing the effects of European integration policies in mitigating regional gender inequalities with particular regard to cross-border regions and the persistence of subnational disparities such as Northern/Southern Italy, Southern/Northern France, Western/Eastern Germany and Northern/Southern Spain.

Staff

- Enrico di Bella (Academic Coordinator) - University of Genoa, Italy
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- Pedro López-Roldán (Staff Member) - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
- Luca Gandullia (Staff Member) - University of Genoa, Italy
- Monica Penco (Staff Member) - University of Genoa, Italy
- Christian Suter (Staff Member) - University of Neuchatel, Italy

Research Activities

1. Data Collection at Regional Level in the four EU countries (Italy, Spain, France and Germany)
2. Gender responsive local fiscal policies
3. Sociological analysis of Regional Gender Disparities in the study regions
4. The effects of different composite indicators building procedures on the ranking of Regions
5. Closest Neighbours for benchmark definition and good practices identification

Events

- Promotional Event (today)
- Workshop 1 (Spain/Switzerland – Autumn 2021): Regional Gender Equality in Europe I: the Regional Gender Equality database
 - Presentation of the Regional Gender Equality database
 - Preliminary outline of regional disparities in gender equality in Europe
 - Preliminary results on responsive local fiscal policies (Italy and Spain)
 - Definition of further work for the sociological discussion of the results
- Workshop 2 (Switzerland/Spain – Spring 2022): Regional Gender Equality in Europe II: a sociological analysis
 - Consistency results of the comparison of different composite indicators techniques for the definition of synthetic gender equality indicators.
 - Preliminary results on responsive local fiscal policies (France and Germany)
 - Regional Gender Equality in the Mediterranean Regions: first results
 - Regional Gender Equality in the Northern Regions: first results
 - Who's my neighbour? The results of the closest neighbour analysis

Events

- Final Event (Genoa, Italy, May 2022)
 - The R-GEI index: a regional analysis of Gender Equality in Italy
 - Territorial differences in Europe: a sociological outline
 - Local fiscal policies for gender equality
 - Statistics for policy making: the effects of formulas on rankings
 - Statistics for policy making: who's my closest neighbour
 - Presentation of the web-site

Specific Activity

- Teaching: Gender equality in the EU: from a national to a regional perspective (12 hrs)
 1. Gender equality and Gender Equity: definitions and differences
 2. European Actions for Gender Equality
 3. Measuring Gender Equality:
 - The WEF's Global Gender Gap Index
 - The UN's Gender Development Index
 - The UN's Gender Equality Index
 - The EIGE's Gender Equality Index
 4. The value of Regional Analysis: European Actions of Cohesion Policy
 5. Regional Analysis of Gender Equality for policy making in the UE

Main deliverables

- Open access international book: *Measuring Gender Equality. A regional analysis in some EU countries*"
- Website with interactive cartograms (regem.unige.it)



Program of the conference



JEAN MONNET PROJECT

ReGEM

Regional Gender Equality Measurement in the EU

Promotional Event

14th May, 2021

9.15 Opening of the zoom session

9.30 Welcome to Participants

Prof. E di Bella, University of Genoa, Academic Coordinator of the Project

Prof. F. Mastrogiovanni Vice Rector for Internationalisation, University of Genoa

Prof. D. Preda Director of the Department of Political Sciences, University of Genoa

10.00 Presentation of the ReGEM Project

E. di Bella, University of Genoa, Academic Coordinator of the Project

10.20 The EU and Gender equality actions

S. Fachelli, Pablo de Olavide University, Seville, Spain

10.40 Gender equality as a Sociological Issue

P. López-Roldàn, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain

11.00 Break

11.20 Gender equality and local fiscal policies

L. Bonazzi, University of Genoa

11.40 Measuring Gender Equality

C. Suter, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland

12.00 The need of a regional analysis of gender equality

F. Maggino, University of Rome "La Sapienza"

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