

# Growth and gender equality: policy implications

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# Gender as an economic issue

- A new perspective: for years equality seen only as a human right and/or social issue
- Gender matters in economics :from household economics to macroeconomics (late 1960s – 1990s)
- Economics of gender: International Association of Feminist economics; Gender and macroeconomics GEM
- A two way street: growth has an impact on equality; but also equality affects growth
- Policy implications: equality as „smart economics” presented by Sweden during the EU Presidency 2009

# Economic gains: macro and micro levels

- Benefits could be calculated in terms of higher profits of firms (micro-level) and GDP growth (macro-level)
- In EU -27 GDP growth could be higher with gender equality in the economy from 14 (Slovenia) to 40-45% points (Greece, Malta, Netherlands); Polish GDP would be higher by 21 % points (*Lofstrom 2011* estimates at equal participation rates, wages, types of employment)
- Companies with mixed boards (women) have higher profits and returns on investments up to 56% (*Mc Kinsey Report 2010; Credit Suisse 2012*)

# Equality and GDP/capita 2012

(Hozer-Kocmiel; Ruminska-Zimny 2013)

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# Key arguments

- Common sense in ageing societies and as a response to the crisis
- Women as the main source of new labour accross Europe (except migration): links jobs - fertility
- Diversity matters for innovation and creativity (new ideas in production, services, management)
- Returns on investments in women's education

**Mężczyźni też  
mogą tworzyć  
naukę.**

# From individual success to systemic inclusion

- Individual successes – Josephine Cochran (1886; inventor of a washing machine); prof. Agnieszka Zalewska, President of world organization for nuclear research CERN in Geneva (2013)
- Nobel Price Winners : 826 are men and only 43 women (5%) in all categories including literature
- Elinor Ostrom: the only woman who received a Nobel Prize in economics (2009; work on commons)
- This is despite high share of women in research and science in Europe including Eastern and Central Europe (over 50% of all researchers; EU average 33%)

# Strategies and gender

- Marginalized in strategies: Europe 2020, EU BSR; Investing in Europe's Future 2010; national/local strategies 2014-2020
- Congress of Polish Women analyzed regional strategies in 8 voivodship 2014-2020; no gender perspective in SWOT, objectives, success indicators; consequences for operational programmes and funding
- Mainstreaming principle (also „core value”) but outside priorities intelligent growth, innovation, competitiveness
- A horizontal priority in EU regional policy -- but only 8% of gender related projects had specific strategy, budget and quantified targets (2000-2006)



# Gender, innovation and sustainable development in BRS

- Framework for 4 helix partnership and cooperation in BSR: the region which include most advanced countries in terms of gender equality
- WINNET Center of Excellence and WRC: research and practice
- Policy impact at macro (policy framework); meso (institutions; sectoral policies) and micro (firms) levels

# Challenges

- Advancing policy oriented research on links between gender, innovation and sustainable development in a view to include a gender perspective in strategies and policies at all levels
- Defining a gender sensitive framework for building innovative economy based on BSR experience
- Raising awareness, establishing 4 helix partnerships and policy dialogue at regional, national, local levels
- Identifying gender dissagregated indicators of success

# Thank you

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