

The gender-related side of Cohesion Policy

Pablo Casas¹, Tryfonas Christou¹, Abián García Rodríguez¹, Tillmann Heidelk², Marie Lalanne¹, Nicholas Lazarou¹, Philippe Monfort², and Simone Salotti*¹

¹European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) Seville, Spain

²European Commission, DG REGIO, Bruxelles, Belgium

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Abstract

EU legislation increasingly call for the inclusion of a gender dimension in all EU policies that are suitable to embed such consideration. The commitment of the EU in reducing gender inequality has brought institutions to develop mechanisms that effectively implement this gender dimension in their policies. Cohesion Policy (CP) is one of these interventions that account for a gender dimension in the 2021-2027 programming period. We manage to tag fields of intervention to simulate the impact of CP on gender equality across EU regional labour markets.

This exercise brings novelty from different perspectives, to the best of our knowledge. First, it is the first impact assessment at the EU level on gender equality of a policy which reducing gender inequality is not the main target. Second, this is the first EU impact assessment of a gender-related policy at the regional level. Last, the model used in this analysis constitutes the first spatial computable general equilibrium model targeting EU regions with a gender dimension. In the model, we consider a 10 sectors division in each of the 235 EU NUTS2 regions.

CP increases gender equality across EU labour markets, since it effectively decreases the Gender Activity Gap, the Gender Employment Gap and the Gender Wage Gap. However, this overall increase in gender equality masks wide regional heterogeneity, with some regions improving their prospects more than others. We dig into these different outcomes in different geographical locations wondering if CP brings convergence on the gender equality situation across EU regional labour markets.

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Keywords: computable general equilibrium modelling, regional economics, gender economics.

*Corresponding author: Simone Salotti (email: simone.salotti@ec.europa.eu). The views expressed are purely those of the authors and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.