

## WIIT PARIS 2014 : WOMEN'S ISSUES IN TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORT EQUITY TEA - Tuesday, 15/04/2014, 15h30-16h30

### “RESPONSIVENESS AND INCLUSIVENESS OF THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM – THE GENDER DIMENSION”

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#### Legislative framework

Gender balance issue is an overarching theme reflected in all the main policy documents originating from the European Union:

- Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Employment
- Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
- Strategy for equality between women and men for 2010 to 2015
- EU goal of 75 % employment by 2020
- Structural Funds Regulation
- European Research Area partnership for excellence and growth
- Transport White Paper 2011
- Horizon 2020 - Articles 14: Gender as a cross-cutting issue across H2020 priorities; Art. 16: gender equality and gender dimension at all stages of research cycle; Art. 31 & 32: Gender in monitoring and evaluation

#### Horizon 2020 gender integration objectives

In Horizon 2020, **three objectives** underpin the Commission’s activities on gender equality:

1. Gender balance in decision-making
2. Gender balance in research teams
3. Gender dimension in R & I content

#### Transport specific issues

Women mobility is different in terms of means of transport, distance travelled, purpose, timing, safety and security issues – aspects taken into account in the last decades in transportation research and planning, but efforts are still to be made to achieve **gender-inclusive transport**.

During the past 50 years, the role of women in our societies constantly evolved - wider access to employment with a significant impact on female mobility patterns. The analysis of this impact should conduct to a more responsive transport system, adapting to particular needs, and to stronger,

evidence based transport policies. The European Commission Implemented EU policies aiming to strengthen equal opportunities - research has been funded ranging from identifying barriers, toolkits to build gender capacity, to supporting policies that promote employment of women in the transport sector.

### **Axes of gender related issues in transportation:**

#### **1. Equal access and empowering through adapted transport**

- differences in the use of the transport system mainly lie in unbalanced gendered relations in the family and social life as well as in the professional one;
- an inclusive transport system entails more equity covering among other elements gender;
- to mainstream the gender issues, gender equality policies in the transport sector need to be developed and implemented first at national level.

#### **2. Safety issue dealt with in a gender neutral manner**

Safety issues and their gender dimension can be envisaged under different angles:

- biological and educational background impact on risk taking
- specific ergonomics for vehicles and transport infrastructure

#### **3. Security aspects in transport**

- women are a vulnerable passenger category to certain security threats that determine their mobility choices
- current measures based on ICT applications certainly contribute to improving the security and accessibility enabling progress towards more 'tailor made' efficient transport services
- involving women more actively into the planning, design, and decision making process - achieving a more inclusive transport policy making

#### **4. Impact of women mobility for transport sustainability**

- **Horizon 2020** - Starting the 1<sup>st</sup> of January this year, the European Commission runs the world largest collaborative programme for research and innovation - Horizon 2020 that is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, the Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. The 3 pillars are funding excellence, enhancing European competitiveness in a globalised market, and of course tackling the major societal challenges, such as achieving of a smart, sustainable and inclusive European transport system by the end of the decade.
- The overarching priority of supporting a sustainable and inclusive transport system also covers the gender dimension.
- sustainability encompasses a wide spectrum of activities offering opportunities for more equity

- the development of ICT services and products contributes to the sustainability of tomorrow's mobility

## **5. Gender equality vis-à-vis employment**

- access to employment might be hindered, hampered, or influenced by equal access to mobility between men and women

- statistics show a different architecture and patterns in terms of type of jobs between men and women - women tend to earn less, they are less employed than men in absolute numbers, and are employed on part time jobs more than men

- women are subject to less stable working hours and access to efficient and adaptive transport means is crucial

- working in *transport sector* - the working conditions, lower wages, working hours, sexism, risk of violence and harassment, mentalities and stereotypes are factors hampering women access to careers in transport

- still few women access managerial positions in transport policy and planning - lack of women involvement in transport planning has consequences in terms of adaptability/responsiveness of the transport system to women's mobility needs

- women working in *research sector* –institutions employing women scientists need to work further on their acceptance of the accommodations required to balance work and family obligations

- the European Commission considers it is a priority to reverse this trend and to support diversity and equal opportunities, to make the sector more appealing.

## **Conclusions**

- the level of gender issues mainstreaming is rather low and we are still confronted with gender-blind transportation research and planning – there is not sufficient awareness, not sufficient training and not sufficient integration of gender issues in research

- On the European Commission side, we are making a continuous effort through policies and through work programmes' implementation to further integrate and mainstream the gender dimension into research

- Socio-economic research undertaken under transport work programmes supports the definition and implementation of transport policy includes an equity component, analysing trends, behaviours and needs of specific populations – women, elder, disabled.

- successful mainstreaming of the gender issues passes through an active involvement of all key actors, helping to identify gender bias and to find solutions allowing integration of gender aspects in research contributing to a more efficient transport system.