**Promoting Gender Equality in Europe through its measure: the European Gender Equality composite indicator**

**Anne Laure Humbert, Anna Rita Manca, Ligia Nobrega, Irene Rioboo Leston, Jolanta Reingarde**

**European Institute for Gender Equality**

Enhancing equality within society is one of the values on which the European Union has been founded. This paper discusses the methodological issues associated with the construction of the European Gender Equality Index EIGE, the European Institute for Gender Equality, will release in 2013. The GEI reflects inequality gaps which affect differently the life of women and men at work or in other areas. The measure of gender equality is not an easy task and it requires coherence among conceptual, analytical and empirical decisions. The construction of the Gender Equality composite indicator is based on transparency in its methodological steps. In particular the aim of this paper is to explain the basis for the most important analytical and conceptual decisions made in constructing the GEI related to the use or not of outcomes, the advantages or disadvantage of using different analytical measures of gender equality, the availability of harmonised data for the 27 Member States and the presence of statistics gaps. This exercise shows a flexible way of measuring gender equality proposing a system of indices which include a core index calculated on five basic dimensions (work, money, power, knowledge and time) and a three satellite indices, harm, health and aggravating factors. The final result gives a tool of monitoring gender equality in Europe to be used for policy purposes.