EDI Abstract

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Our paper examines the role of the European Union in measuring gender equality, at work, and elsewhere at the supranational level. The EU Gender Equality Index will be published by EIGE in 2012/13 and will look at measuring the equality gap between women and men in the 27 member states. While this is not in itself a process leading to change in itself, the GEI will provide a frame of reference that will allow for international comparisons to be drawn out over time. Because, it will make gender inequalities more visible, change will hopefully ensue. Currently, it is difficult to measure gender inequality at work because of the lack of tools available to do so. A common conceptual framework, linked to the use of harmonized data indicators will provide the opportunity to measure change over time. This paper is based on a thorough analysis of EU policies and academic literature on the concept of gender equality. For the purpose of the paper, particular links with the area of work are drawn out. The areas of the GEI conceptual framework specifically related to the work area will be presented. The paper will conclude with an outline of the future development planned on the EU GEI.