

OUR WORK

Publications, Projects, Conferences

- “Women’s Health in Europe - Facts and Figures”
- Cancom website on women and cancer
- “Discrimination against Women and young Girls in the Health Sector” Report for the European Parliament Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee
- Expert advisor DG Sanco-funded project Women and Heart Disease
- CanLib: Health Portal on Women’s Health with special emphasis on disadvantaged and ethnic minority group’s health information needs
- DG Sanco funded research project ENGENDER in collaboration with Karolinska Institute
- DG Information Society and Media funded project ISAC6+ providing Health Information to Citizens, in collaboration with Girona University
- Collaborating Partner in the European Partnership Action Against Cancer focusing on Prevention.

Advocacy

- Campaigning for a gender-mainstreaming approach in the EU Framework Research Programmes
- Advocating for inclusion of gender and healthy ageing in the Community Health Strategy and in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- Campaigning to include women in biomedical research and clinical trials
- Campaigning to make tobacco control programmes gender-sensitive and create awareness in women about smoking’s negative impact on cancer, CVD and osteoporosis
- Advocating for improving health literacy of women and their families, including marginalised and hard to reach groups.

EXPERT ADVISORY BOARD



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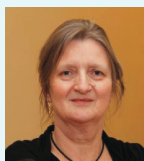
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Setting the agenda in Women’s Health



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MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

Today, Europeans are in better health than ever before; but good health for all is far from a reality. The gap across the EU between the healthy and the less fortunate is widening.

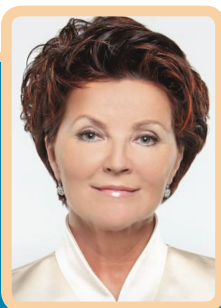
Good health still depends on where you live, how well informed you are, what you do and how much you earn. The poor, the socially excluded and minorities are particularly disadvantaged.

European society is undergoing significant demographic, social and economic changes. The impact of these changes on society at large and for women in particular has not yet been fully explored nor understood. If Europe wants to guarantee a high level of health protection, health policy must keep pace with these changes.

Jolanta Kwásniewska

Former First Lady of Poland

Founder and President of the Foundation Communication without Barriers



WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1996, the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH) is a non-governmental organisation aiming to **promote gender equity** in public health, research and social policies across Europe.

In striving to achieve the highest standard of health for all, our society's health policies must recognise that women and men - due to their biological differences, their access to resources and their gender roles - have different needs and are faced with different obstacles and opportunities. This requires a gender-sensitive approach.

The EIWH uses evidence-based arguments to influence the policy environment. Over the years, we have worked closely with the European Commission, Member States and the World Health Organisation to place gender-mainstreaming on the health and research agenda.

An Expert Advisory Board guides EIWH policies and activities.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- to promote **health throughout the life-span** in women, men and children
- to ensure **quality and equity in health** and research policy, treatment and care for all
- to draw the attention of policy makers to the **obstacles that face vulnerable and disadvantaged socio-economic groups** in obtaining a desirable health status
- to empower **individuals to play an active part in being fully engaged in their own health**
- to campaign for **sex and gender-specific bio-medical and socio-economic research**
- to make this a **priority for the European Union and its Member States**



JOIN US - TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The European Institute of Women's Health warmly invites you to join our multi-disciplinary network dedicated to ensuring that women's health and gender mainstreaming are kept at the top of the EU and Member States policy agenda.

Membership of the EIWH is free:

all we need is your experience and commitment.

As a member you will have the opportunity to contribute to key health policy and position papers, research programmes and reports on many critical aspects of women's health. You will also be able to share ideas, information, expertise and work across related disciplines, countries and cultures.

CONTACT US

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WOMEN'S HEALTH IN EUROPE

There is a growing understanding of gender as a key determinant of health, and an appreciation that gender is as important as the social, economic or ethnic background of any individual.

Europe has the highest proportion of older women in the world. There are now about three women for every two men between the ages of 65 and 79, with over twice as many women over the age of 80.

Although women live longer than men, the extra years often carry with them chronic illness, disability and dependence.

Cancer causes a quarter of the deaths in European women, and is the second main cause of death in older people after heart disease.

Recent findings suggest that many women experience heart disease differently and their diagnosis is often delayed; improved prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies are needed.

Policies for promoting the health of women across the lifespan to avoid chronic diseases in later years have not yet been introduced in any systematic way in the European Union.