



# Gender Mainstreaming in the parliamentary work of the LIBE Committee<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

[This study](#) examines the integration of [gender mainstreaming](#) activities into the legislative and non-legislative work of the LIBE Committee as well as in the external representation outside the EP in the 2021-2022 period, in which both achievements and obstacles were analysed. It also provides recommendations for enhancing gender mainstreaming practices and intersectional approach in the LIBE work.

## 1. Concept and Importance of Gender Mainstreaming

Since 1997, the process of gender mainstreaming has been part of the [European Parliament's agenda](#); leading to the official [adoption of a gender mainstreaming policy strategy in 2003](#). Gender mainstreaming involves the systematic consideration of gender perspectives in all areas of policy, legislation, and organizational practice, optimizing the use of resources more effectively. It aims to address gender disparities and promote equality, ensuring that women's and men's needs are equally considered in policy outcomes.

## 2. LIBE'S Action Plan Implementation Strategies

The LIBE Committee aims to include a gender perspective and gender mainstreaming in all activities, with the formal [adoption of a Gender Equality Strategy and an Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming](#). It seeks to integrate an intersectional perspective of gender in its organization, legislative and non-legislative work, and external representation. LIBE committee is committed to systematically mainstreaming gender in both its internal and external operations.

## 3. Supporting gender mainstreaming in EP

The **main political bodies** for gender equality in the EP are the FEMM Committee, the Gender Mainstreaming Network (GMN), and the High-Level Group for Gender Equality and Diversity (HLG). The **administrative structures** include the Equality, Inclusion, and Diversity Unit (EIDU), Equality and Diversity Coordinators, and the Committee on Equal Opportunities and Diversity (COPEC).

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the briefing paper refers to a shortened version of an existing Study and refers to the composition of the EP structures and the LIBE Committee of the 9th legislature.



## 4. Procedural Aspects of Decision-Making

The composition and roles within the EP and its committees can impact the influence of women and men in parliamentary work. Each committee has coordinators from political groups to ensure balanced representation and decision-making. Rapporteurs, who are essential for the legislative process, are required to prepare legislation, policy proposals, initiative reports, and opinions for the committees. In 2022, in LIBE women made up 44% of rapporteurs and 51% of shadow rapporteurs.

## 5. The LIBE Committee

The LIBE Committee consists of 69 members, with women slightly outnumbering men (37 women, 32 men). Women constitute 57% of appointed rapporteurs and are over-represented in non-legislative acts, asylum and refugees, gender-based violence, the Multiannual Financial Framework, and social economy reports. Men dominate in public health, cybersecurity, cooperation and agreements and acts of judicial cooperation. They also represent the majority of shadow rapporteurs in procedures relating to the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and to financial supervision, transparency and data protection. Examples of LIBE acts with a gender perspective include reports on [gender-based violence](#) and [Hungary's compliance with EU values](#). **Gender and intersectionality** are addressed in 12% of legislative reports and 44% of non-legislative reports. Three acts directly focus on **gender-related issues**, such as combating [cyber violence](#) and [intersectional discrimination](#).

## 6. The LIBE Committee acts and its Gender Representation

The LIBE Committee adopted 103 acts, legislative and non-legislative procedures, with 34 integrating a gender perspective across 16 policy areas, including cybersecurity and fundamental rights. Reports include those on [racial justice equal rights for persons with disabilities](#), and [combating human trafficking](#). These reports emphasize the Committee's commitment to incorporating gender and equality perspectives in its legislative and non-legislative work. The LIBE Committee aims to achieve gender balance in leadership roles and integrate gender perspectives into all aspects of its work, including reports, opinions, amendments, and questionnaires. The committee also prioritizes gender budgeting analysis and training on gender mainstreaming and intersectional discrimination for all members and staff. The LIBE Committee has the third largest female representation in the EP, though men dominate power and decision-making roles while women are over-represented in supporting positions. The gender distribution among coordinators, advisers, and staff is nearly balanced.

## 7. Reports with a high, medium and low level of incorporation of gender perspective

In 2021-2022, the LIBE Committee adopted three reports with a **high level** of incorporation of gender perspective, including on combating [human trafficking](#) and [racial justice](#). It also adopted 16 acts with a **medium level** of incorporation of gender perspective, such as reports on [civil society](#) and [disability protection](#). Additionally, 12 reports and opinions presented a **low level** of incorporation of gender perspective, including on [democracy, equal treatment in employment](#), and [AI](#) in criminal law.

## 8. Intersectional Approach in Acts

The LIBE Committee identified 23 rights-sensitive factors intersecting with gender, with disability being the most frequently considered, followed by migrant status, race, gender identity, gender expression or sex

characteristics. The analysis of 14 acts showed a high incorporation of these intersectional issues, especially in three acts dedicated to gender-related topics, each addressing eight or more rights-sensitive factors. The LIBE Committee's analysis shows varying levels of **intersectional gender mainstreaming** across its reports and opinions. **High-level of incorporation** of the intersectional approach to GM is evident in reports on [cyberviolence](#), [gender-based violence](#) and [intersectional discrimination](#). **Low-level of incorporation** is seen in reports on [Hungarian compliance with EU values](#), [legal labor migration](#), and the [EU Agency for Fundamental Rights](#), as well as in opinions on [employment equality](#). **Medium-level incorporation** of the gender perspective is found in reports on [civil society](#), [equal rights for persons with disabilities](#), and on [EU Drugs Agency Regulation](#).

## 9. Inclusion Levels

Reports and opinions dedicated to gender-related issues in the LIBE Committee present a **high level** of incorporation of the intersectional approach, addressing eight or more rights-sensitive issues. Acts with **medium** levels of gender perspective incorporation generally represent lower levels of intersectional approach. Acts with **low** levels of gender perspective also tend to integrate intersectional approaches minimally.

## Conclusions

Even though, LIBE Committee has been progressing, through a Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan, varying levels of gender perspective incorporation indicate that there is still room for improvement in addressing gender mainstreaming consistently, in both internal and external procedures. The study identifies several challenges in LIBE's Action Plan implementation, such as lack of specific targets and detailed steps for achieving objectives.

While gender-disaggregated data is highlighted, other essential measures for effective gender mainstreaming are missing. The integration of intersectional approaches in legislative and non-legislative work needs improvement, as does the overall gender balance within the committee, which is influenced by political group decisions. Additionally, gender mainstreaming is not yet fully embedded in the EP's culture, with a lack of expertise and awareness among members and staff.

Furthermore, it is necessary to improve the intersectional approaches to gender mainstreaming, specifying some fundamental rights-sensitive factors, and including detailed intersectional discrimination commitments. Nevertheless, it is significant to define gender-sensitive indicators, increase female rapporteur participation, and promote better public debate and collaboration in order to strengthen gender equality in LIBE's work.

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