

Voice of the People

Manuscript
EU and women
TVP3, Poland

Team:

Reporters: Edyta Strub and Monika Kwasigroch

Camera: Dariusz Aniołkowski

Editor: Jacek Obłój

Duration: 7'35

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TC: 0:05 (*the survey*)

There are no equal rights for women. They earn less, they stop working for a while after having children, etc. Besides, at the same time men start their careers and they get advantage over women who stay at home. It's pretty evident as we refer to work. Women earn less than men.

TC: 0:34 (*the survey*)

Women work harder than men. First they go to work and after work they come back home to clean, to cook and so on. No matter what you say, men's life is a bit easier.

TC: 0:51 (*the survey Question*)

Being a part of the European Union cannot change anything. All right, the borders have opened and we can travel whenever we want, but what has it changed in women's rights?

TC: 1:01 (*Answer*) *Mr. Piotr Wolski – the European Information Centre*

The question of equal rights for women was introduced into the European policies at the very beginning. The first regulation made its way into the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community. That regulation states that no economic discrimination is allowed, in other words, men and women have to get the same pay for the same work. Many rulings of the European Court of Justice were based on that regulation. Further regulations were introduced only in 1997 by means of the Treaty of Amsterdam. Anyway, they are very important because they deal with the policy of equal opportunities.

TC: 1:57 (*the survey*)

Nothing has been done about it.

TC: 2:00 (*the survey*)

As regards work and pay, they cannot be compared with the ones men have. However, as far as the rights are concerned, we are equal, more or less.

TC: 2:15 (*the survey Q*)

I would like to know: How joining the European Union will change my job opportunities?

TC: 2:18 (An.) *Mrs. Elżbieta Kruszyńska – a member of the Local Council in Police*

I can tell you about my personal experience. It's hard to generalize, but statistical surveys say that women earn less than men and it's more difficult for them to find a job. Maybe it doesn't apply to all the fields, but statistically women's situation is a bit worse. We can take a look at unemployment indexes, the level of salaries and the areas where women are unemployed. Women look for a job much longer than men. This is what happens in our country. So, there is much to be done to give them equal opportunities.

TC: 3:15 *Mrs. Justyna Osuch – The School of Economics of Western Pomerania*

One of the main purposes of the European Union is to give equal opportunities to its citizens. It means there can't be any differences because of age, sex, social status or disability. Anyway, there are different aspects of the term "equal opportunities". Sex is one of the most discussed topics as far as equal rights are concerned. Most of the European funds are connected with the labour market development. This is why equal rights for both sexes are frequently identified with equal rights at the labour market. The Union supports many actions which are meant to eliminate sex discrimination from the labour market.

TC: 4:05 (*the survey*)

I don't know what discrimination is. Now I am a senior citizen engaged in some activities. I do what I like.

TC: 4:16 (*the survey Q*)

I am a resourceful person and I'm doing quite well. However, I would like to know how the women in other EU countries are doing?

TC: 4:26 (An.) *Mrs. Małgorzata Jacyna-Witt – a member of the Local Council in Szczecin*

Women's position in Poland is not different from the position of women living in other countries which have recently joined the European Union. Certainly, the women from the so-called "old Europe" are better-off, because they've had much more opportunities to take part in public and economic life. They've made their way into those fields. As far as Poland and other "new European" countries are concerned, we have the greatest number of resourceful women.

TC: 5:04 (*the survey*)

Women are discriminated. Maybe it's not a common practice, but it often happens.

TC: 5:12 (*the survey Q*)

I think there are few women in politics. I would like to know how the European Union will change anything about it?

TC: 5:17 (An) *Mrs. Małgorzata Jacyna-Witt – a member of the Local Council in Szczecin*

There are many European programmes which tend to give equal opportunities to everybody. Anyway, one should be aware that even within the European Union women have not equal statuses. They always earn a bit less. It varies from country to country by 10-40%, just like in Poland. We should change it. Anyway, it's not going to be a revolution, more like an evolution. We have access to many European programmes. There is a very good programme called FEMME and conducted by Marta Hozer. It's a good opportunity for the women who carry on economic activities and for those who want to make a good start.

TC: 6:08 (*the survey*)

There are no equal rights at work. Women get lower salaries for the same work.

TC: 6:19 (*the survey Q*)

I hope women's rights will be included in legal regulations, just like it happens all over the world. Those rights should be respected in Poland, shouldn't it?

TC: 6:35 (An.) *Mrs. Justyna Osuch – The School of Economics of Western Pomerania*

Women get instruments which allow them to be more competitive at the labor market by means of different programmes. They must compete against men. Those activities are subsidized by the European Social Fund. We can count on two kinds of subsidies. The first one is the Communitarian Initiative EQUAL, which provides subsidies for the cross-border projects. They are thought to create a new, innovative approach to the problem of discrimination. One of the main topics is the discrimination of women at the labour market. The second kind of subsidies is meant for smaller, and by no means less important, projects. Those projects are nationwide. They are subsidized by national and communitarian funds. Such projects are meant to support initiatives connected with equal rights promotion at local markets.