

About GEMMA



GEMMA is a European project that aims to bring together different actors, such as policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media, active in the fields of Gender and Migration. Since migration—closely linked with the issue of gender—is one of the most significant global issues of our age, a closer and more intensive dialogue of these actors is needed in Europe to tackle the complex challenges arising from gender and migration effectively.

GEMMA wishes to facilitate this multilateral dialogue. To achieve this, during the 28 months of the project the partners have launched a number of services aimed at policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media. Please visit [the project website](#) to learn more about the GEMMA services.

GEMMA is supported by the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) of the European Union.



European Conference on Gender and Migration Policy

GEMMA organised a major event in 2010: the **“European Conference on Gender and Migration Research Policy”** took place on 18 June in Rome.

The conference aimed at facilitating the dialogue among all actors working in the field of Gender & Migration in Europe: policy-makers, researchers, civil society organizations who take decisions, investigate and act at different levels in order to strengthen social cohesion. The event capitalized the knowledge generated by European research projects dealing with Gender & Migration and hoped to draw new cooperation paths between the parties involved in such process: Policy-makers, Researchers and Civil Society Organisations.

Conference Programme

The conference brought together **all stakeholders under one roof** including researchers, policy makers and civil society to discuss the **challenges and benefits of mutual cooperation**. They **discussed their priorities for the future**: Policymakers outlined key policy areas, researchers explained the future trends that could shape new policies, while civil society organisations offered a perspective based on their experience of working in the field.

The conference was divided into three main units:

“Gender and Migration: An overview of current EU policy” invited policy makers from the ministry level (including the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation representing the current presidency) as well as representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission’s DG Research.



The session **“Challenges and opportunities of cooperation among researchers, civil society and policy makers”** first presented the results and recommendations of a series of 10 workshops organized in the frame of the GEMMA project in Austria, France, Hungary, Italy and the United Kingdom where research findings from European projects were presented serving as the basis of discussion among the three stakeholder groups mentioned above. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion with representatives of research, civil society, and policy making coming from the five GEMMA countries to discuss the ways and outcomes of their cooperation as a result of the project, together with recommendations for a better, sustainable cooperation in the future.

The closing session **“Drawing up an action plan for future cooperation”** included, again, civil society representatives from the national (Italy, Austria) and international ([OSCE](#), [IOM](#)) level with policy makers and researchers in the audience — invited to interact with the panel — with the aim to discuss how to implement the recommendations and how to continue a more intensive dialogue among stakeholders.

All through the programme a great emphasis lay on including of the audience in the debate. Therefore all the three panel discussions incorporated an ample questions-and-comments session during which all participants of the conference were encouraged to comment or ask.



GEMMA Documents

During the conference a number of key documents, prepared during the previous two years of the project, were distributed, along with citing or mentioning them in the debate. The documents included:

EU Priorities on Gender and Migration

Crossing National Results on Gender and Migration

Policy review: Synthesis of European Projects on Gender and Migration

GEMMA Synthesised Policy Briefs: Policy Assessment and Policy Recommendations (16 projects analysed)

Reports on the Civil Society Dialogue Workshops

Reports on the Policy Dialogue Workshops

All these documents, most of them available in English, French, German, Italian and Hungarian, can be downloaded from the [“GEMMA Documents”](#) section of the GEMMA website.





Conference Results

Following the conference, a Conference Appraisal Document is being prepared by the organisers that gathers the recommendations and lists the results presented at the conference. Some key excerpts from the document:

In the European Parliament, political ideas are often not backed up by scientific evidence, thus emphasising the need for support from researchers in the law making process, especially when dealing with gender issues, increasingly regarded as one of the main priorities. In fact, as shown by a Eurobarometer survey: “for European citizens, indisputably, priority number one is gender equality and human rights”.

Useful results should lead to prominent initiatives, foster a wide dissemination activity and decision about how to exploit them both for society and for policy makers at EU, national and regional level to implement new laws and regulatory measures. The Commission has expressed its concern on strengthening dialogue amongst all stakeholders and special actions have been undertaken to link researchers with policy makers. This gap could be reduced by a multifaceted approach:

- granting incentives to researchers to shift scientific attention to relevant social problems;
- building partnerships and building long-term exchange fora for a sustainable dialogue between scientists and policy makers;
- assuring strong accountability and putting development issues on focus of science research.



Issues raised at research level in the Italian context, for example, have stressed the lack of research focus on gender and migration on themes linked to intersectionality, trans-nationalism and transculturation, whereas the link between researchers and policy makers does not include a two-way dialogue. In this respect, one of the main questions on developing partnership is whether or not formation and dissemination activities of researchers meet the needs and challenges faced by the community and policy makers.

The researcher-policy maker dialogue should be based on critical basis. In particular, researchers should not only address policy makers' questions and problems but raise new questions extending beyond existing agendas and priorities so as to engage in a two-way dialogue and confrontation. This approach will guarantee not only the pursuit of evidence-based research but also the possibility of going beyond political principles, values and ideology applied to policy makers' demands.

Updated information about the conference is available [at the project website](#).



The GEMMA consortium at the conference

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