

## **Female participation in recent economic growth: how, who and where?**

Topic: Structural change and dynamics II

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European economies, in their recent process of economic growth, have experienced significant structural changes mainly linked to trade opening, greater economic integration and development of high technology industries and services. All this has meant, in general, an increase in the participation of women in economic activity. However, economic and social indicators tell us about the existence of a labour and wage gender gap, which is especially pronounced in some Mediterranean countries such as Spain. The objective of this paper is to explore the role played by the female employment on economic growth from an input-output perspective. More specifically, taking Spain as starting point, and extending the analysis to other European economies, we are particularly interested in studying how the model of growth, the different sectoral specialization and trade structure have resulted in a certain composition and distribution of female labour. More specifically, we study the extent to which countries have tended to a higher concentration of female employment in primary sectors, if such employment is concentrated at the beginning or the end of the vertically integrated production chain and therefore may be more susceptible to offshoring, we calculate feminization indexes by sectors (Seguino, 2000) and finally, we relate these structures with the process of expansion and internationalization of demand. In summary, we try to analyze to what extent the evolution of female labor gaps is explained by these structural factors. The work aims to be a first approach to gender issues using analytical and theoretical tools of input-output analysis.