CONTENTS

Preface	3
Introduction	7
Executive Summary	11
Chapter 1: Gender and Education in Europe: A Literature Overview	15
1.1. Opposing perspectives on gender and sex differences	15
1.2. Role of feminism	16
1.3. Gender and conceptions of equality in relation to education	20
1.4. Sex differences research	22
1.5. Cross-national studies of achievement	23
1.6. Social factors which influence girls' and boys' performance and behaviour	24
1.7. Gender themes in current educational practice	26
1.8. Conclusion	32
Chapter 2: Gender Patterns in International Assessment Surveys	33
2.1. Average gender gaps in achievement	34
2.2. Factors influencing achievement and gender gaps	40
Chapter 3: Legislative and Policy Frameworks for Gender Equality in Education	45
3.1. Defining gender equality in legislative frameworks	46
3.2. Main aims of gender equality policies in primary and secondary education	50
3.3. Gender mainstreaming and the monitoring of gender equality policies	53
Chapter 4: Gender Equality and the Organisation of Schools: Curriculum, Guidance and School Climate	57
4.1. Inclusion of gender in the curriculum	57
4.2. Challenging traditional career choices through vocational guidance	61
4.3. Evaluation of school books and teaching materials	65
4.4. The hidden curriculum: gender equality policies on school climate, gender-based violence and harassment	67
4.5. Raising awareness among parents of gender equality issues	70

Chapter 5: Gender Patterns in Educational Attainment	73
5.1. Falling behind in school	73
5.2. Repeating a school year	76
5.3. School drop-out and completion of upper secondary education	77
5.4. Gender patterns in national tests and examinations	79
5.5. Disadvantaged groups amongst males and females	80
5.6. Policy responses to gender differences in attainment	81
Chapter 6: Co-Education and Single-Sex Settings	85
6.1. Single-sex schools	85
6.2. Single-sex classes	87
Chapter 7: Teachers, School Heads and Gender Issues	89
7.1. The feminization of the teaching profession	89
7.2. Strategies for improving the gender balance among teachers and schools heads	91
7.3. Gender as a topic in teacher education	94
Chapter 8: Gender Equality Policies in Higher Education	97
8.1. Horizontal segregation	97
8.2. Vertical segregation	102
Conclusion	109
Gender equality concerns targeted by European countries	109
Possible measures for tackling gender inequalities	110
Glossary	115
Table of Figures	119
References	121
Annexes	135
Acknowledgements	137