Women, Business and the Law 2014 Fact Sheet: OECD High-Income Economies

In high-income OECD economies most recent reforms have focused on parental leave regimes and retirement and pensions. Over the past two years the following reforms occurred:

Belgium extended parental leave.

Belgium and Finland raised pensionable ages.

Hungary lifted restrictions on employing women in industries that could have detrimental effects on their physical condition or development, instead providing employment protections for all workers.

Israel passed legislation lowering the age of free compulsory education for children from 5 to 3.

Italy introduced one day of paternity leave on an experimental basis for 2013 to 2015. It also increased and equalized retirement and pensionable ages for women and men.

The Netherlands, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom raised caps for small claims cases.

Norway extended paid parental leave and increased parental leave reserved for fathers to 14 weeks.

The Slovak Republic increased the share of paid salary during maternity leave to 65%.

Slovenia removed restrictions on women working at night.

The United Kingdom adopted the Employment Equality (Repeal of Retirement Age Provisions) Regulations, phasing out pensionable ages for men and women.

About the Women, Business and the Law Report series:

Women, Business and the Law measures how laws, regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women’s incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. It analyzes legal differences on the basis of gender in 143 economies, covering six areas: gaining access to institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, and going to court. The project provides a clear picture of gender gaps based on legal differences in each economy, but it does not capture the full extent of the gender gap, nor does it indicate the relative importance of each aspect covered. This year’s report was published by Bloomsbury Publishing. For more information, please visit: wbl.worldbank.org. Join us on Facebook: wbl.worldbank.org/Facebook

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