

Gender Equality Index 2017: Belgium



The Gender Equality Index 2017 assesses the progress and challenges in achieving gender equality across the European Union from 2005 to 2015. Using a scale from 1 (full inequality) to 100 (full equality), it measures the differences between women and men in key domains of the EU policy framework (work, money, knowledge, time, power and health). The Index also measures violence against women and intersecting inequalities. These are satellite domains and are part of the framework of the Gender Equality Index, but do not have an impact on the overall score. Intersecting inequalities show how gender intersects with age, education, family composition, country of birth and disability. The Gender Equality Index provides results for each domain and sub-domain for the EU and its 28 Member States (1).

Progress in gender equality in Belgium, 2005-2015

In the Gender Equality Index 2017, Belgium achieved a score of **70.5 out of 100** which is an increase of 4.3 points. This score is above the EU28 average of 66.2 and progress is consistent with the EU28 average. Belgium's score card has dropped one spot and now stands in seventh place.

The score in the domain of **money** in Belgium is high and on the rise, showing a good gender equality performance, especially in earnings and income. Its score is the second highest for the domain of money in the EU28.

The biggest improvement took place in the domain of **power**, largely because women took up more decision-making positions in the economic sector. However, it remains the domain with the lowest score for Belgium.

The situation in the domain of **health** has remained stable. There is still room for improvement in the area of health indicators.

Gender equality has progressed in the domains of **work** and **knowledge**, at a slightly faster pace than in the EU28. However, Belgium could improve the participation of women and men in the labour market to boost the self-employment share (up to the average EU28). In the domain of knowledge, Belgium's level of gender equality is very high, close to a relatively low level of segregation in study fields.

The greatest challenges are in the domain of **time**, which has dropped 9 points. There is slightly less to the unequal division of time between women and men for both unpaid and paid activities.



14 Change in score from 2005 to 2015

(1) The Gender Equality Index 2017 is based on the data of Gender Equality Indicators for Europe from Survey, European Health Interview Survey, EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Europe for days of household (European Quality of Life Survey, European Working Conditions Survey), EU Gender Equality Indicators (EIGE) and EU Gender Equality Index of the Commission. Higher figures indicate better gender equality. The use of phrases in this document for data on intersecting inequalities (age, education, family composition, country of birth and disability) is either direct or indirect gender equality.

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Gendergelijkheidsindex 2017: België

NL (PDF, 329.79 KB)

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