

Statistical brief: gender balance in largest listed companies

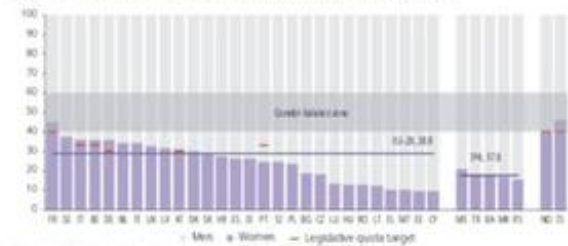


The persistent gender imbalance amongst key decision-makers in large corporations remains a cause for concern and further targeted action. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) biannually monitors the situation in the largest listed companies in each of the 28 EU Member States and in five of the EU candidate and potential candidate countries that receive support from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA beneficiaries), as well as in Iceland and Norway.

In the EU women hold fewer than three in 10 board seats in large corporations

In October 2015, the share of women on boards of the largest publicly listed companies registered in the Member States reached 28.8%, a new all-time high. However, this still means that more than seven in 10 board members are men. Hence, 45.2% women is the only Member State to have at least 40% of each gender at board level within its largest companies. Women account for at least a third of board members in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden (Figure 1), but elsewhere they remain a minority. Notably in Estonia, Greece, Cyprus and Malta, men still hold at least nine out of 10 board seats. Outside the EU, large companies in Iceland and Norway, for example, are gender balanced (at least 40% of each gender), but in the IPA beneficiaries women hold on average just 17.6% of board-level positions and none of the five countries covered in this brief has achieved even 25% women in such positions.

Figure 1. Share of women and men on the boards of the largest listed companies, % (October 2015)



Source: EIGE's Gender Statistics Database.
 (1) 100% target of larger listed companies covers the nationally registered subsidiaries of the main listed entity of the 2015 sample in each country except for all companies in EU candidate and potential candidate countries for EU accession (Estonia, Greece, Cyprus and Malta) and for Iceland and Norway. The data sample covers 102 the representative companies in EU, 10 large companies in EU candidate and potential candidate countries, 100 publicly listed companies in IPA beneficiary and 10 publicly listed companies in Iceland and Norway. The data is based on the most recent available information on board composition as of 31 October 2015. The data is based on the most recent available information on board composition as of 31 October 2015.

The persistent gender imbalance amongst key decision-makers in large corporations remains a cause for concern and further targeted action. EIGE biannually monitors the situation in the largest listed companies in each of the 27 EU Member States, United Kingdom and in five of the EU candidate and potential candidate countries that receive support from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA beneficiaries), as well as in Iceland and Norway.

Further information

- [Gender Statistics Database: Women and men in decision-making](#) →
- [Statistical brief: gender balance in politics](#) →



Downloads



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