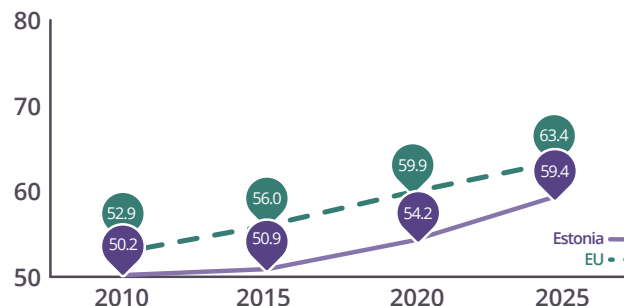
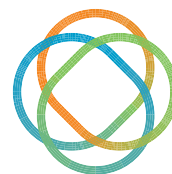
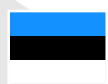




Estonia scores 59.4 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index. Estonia holds the 15th position in the EU ranking. This is due to low performance in the domains of knowledge (20th) and power (22nd). The Gender Equality Index score has increased by 8.5 points since 2015 and by 5.2 points since 2020. This increase is mainly due to improvements in the domain of power.

Estonia is improving in gender equality over time yet is performing lower than the EU. The scores show an increasing distance from the EU average.



¹ The Gender Equality Index has been reviewed in 2025 (see About the Index below). The domain of time is calculated with the 2024 EIGE CARE survey. Index 2025 uses 2024 data for the most part and traces progress from a short-term (2020–2024) and longer-term (2015–2024) perspective. Greece and Romania have the same scores. Their position in the ranking is determined statistically based on the second decimal place of the Index score.

Best performance

Estonia achieves its highest rank (4th) in the domains of money and time, with a score of 82.9 points and 74.4 points, respectively. This result for the domain of money is mainly due to the score of 90.0 points in financial resources (1st position). For the domain of time, the high result is mainly given by the subdomain of social activities (82.4 points, 3rd in the EU).

Most room for improvement

The **most room for improvement** for Estonia is the domain of power, in which it records 21.9 points. This result places Estonia at the 22nd position in the EU.

Biggest improvement

Estonia has its **biggest improvement** in the domain of power, which has increased by 7.7 points since 2020. This rise is largely driven by a gain of 18.1 points in the subdomain of political power.

A step backwards

A **step backwards** is observed in the domain of health, which has declined by 1.2 points since 2020. This decrease is mainly due to a drop of 2.5 points in the subdomain of health status.

Explore Estonia's Index results

						Change since	Change since
		2010	2015	2020	2025	2015	2020
Index		50.2	50.9	54.2	59.4	8.5	5.2
Work		77.6	69.4	74.3	76.5	7.1	2.2
	Participation	91.5	87.4	88.6	89.7	2.3	1.1
	Segregation and quality of work	65.7	55.2	62.3	65.2	10.0	2.9
Money		75.5	77.4	78.9	82.9	5.5	4.0
	Financial resources	80.7	87.1	91.1	90.0	2.9	-1.1
	Economic situation	70.6	68.9	68.2	76.3	7.4	8.1
Knowledge		46.6	47.1	50.4	50.7	3.6	0.3
	Attainment and participation	66.5	59.1	62.5	66.0	6.9	3.5
	Segregation	32.7	37.5	40.7	39.0	1.5	-1.7
Time		71.5	71.5	74.4	74.4	2.9	0.0
	Care activities	62.0	62.0	67.2	67.2	5.2	0.0
	Social activities	82.4	82.4	82.4	82.4	0.0	0.0
Power		11.1	12.7	14.2	21.9	9.2	7.7
	Political	21.9	28.3	27.8	45.9	17.6	18.1
	Economic	6.3	7.4	8.4	13.9	6.5	5.5
	Social	9.8	9.8	12.2	16.5	6.7	4.3
Health		81.2	81.3	88.0	86.8	5.5	-1.2
	Status	83.9	84.0	92.2	89.7	5.7	-2.5
	Behaviour	78.7	78.7	84.1	84.1	5.4	0.0

Explore Estonia's performance by indicator

		Estonia		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work	Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89, 2023) ¹			
		55	67	44	59
		Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2024)			
		42	41	35	39
	Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (% , 15-74, 2024)			
Money		28	72	20	81
		Managerial positions (% , 15-74, 2024)			
		40	60	35	65
		Low paid workers (% , 16+, 2024)			
		32	27	28	16
Knowledge	Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2024)			
		19485	22779	23000	29960
		Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2024)			
		6		25	
	Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64, %, 2024) ²			
Time		78	133	70	152
		In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (% , 16+ employed population, 2024)			
		16	21	16	13
	Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 30-34, 2024)			
		57	35	50	39
Power		Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (% , 25-34, 2024)			
		22	31	27	34
	Segregation	Graduated in tertiary education in EHW (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Art (tertiary students) (% , 2023)			
		83	17	75	25
		Graduated in tertiary education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (% , 2023)			
Health		42	58	34	66
	Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (% , 16-74, 2024)			
		31	16	41	20
		Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (% , 45-64, 2019)			
		20	16	20	13
Health		Housework chores every day (% , 16-74, 2024)			
		53	39	59	33
	Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (% , 16-74, 2024)			
		29	41	30	43
		Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (% , 16-74, 2024)			
Health		14	15	13	17
	Political	Share of ministers (% , 2024)			
		43	57	35	65
		Share of members of parliament (% , 2024)			
		29	71	33	67
Health		Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2024) ³			
		29	71	32	68
	Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies (% , 2024)			
		14	86	34	66
	Social	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic most popular sport organisations (% , 2024)			
Health		16	84	23	77
	Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+, 2024)			
		56	60	66	71
		Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (% , 65+, 2023)			
		38	43	44	50
Health	Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 16+ population, 2019)			
		79	55	73	56
		People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 16+ population, 2019)			
		35	35	38	43

EU-LFS, EU-SILC, European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), Eurostat health statistics, EIGE's CARE survey, EIGE, Gender Statistics Database, WMID.

¹ FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week.

² Median of the annual earnings expressed as a percentage of a partner's earnings for coupled women and men in employment and in working age.

³ Share of members in local municipalities for BG, EE, IE, CY, LT, LU, MT, SI.

Women's employment rate is among the highest in the EU

The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate¹ in Estonia is 55 % for women and 67 % for men. The percentage for women is one of the highest in the EU. A wide gender gap exists among foreign-born people, individuals with low levels of education and couples with children.

Vertical and horizontal segregation in Estonia decreased

In Estonia, 28 % of information and communications technology (ICT) specialists are women. Women account for 40 % of managerial positions. Over the last decade, the share of women increased by 6 percentage points among ICT specialists, and it increased by 9 percentage points within managerial positions.

Low-pay gender disparity exceeds the EU average

In Estonia, 32 % of women are low-paid workers compared to 27 % of men. Both percentages are above the EU average.

The gender pension gap is the lowest in the EU

In Estonia the men's average gross pension is 6 % higher than that of women. This is the lowest gender pension gap in the EU.

Gender disparities in earning are narrowing

In Estonia, women living in couples earn on average 78 % of their partner's earnings, while men earn 33 % more than their partner. This represents an improvement since 2015, when women earned 66 % of their partner's earnings. Gender differences in earnings are particularly wide among younger people, couples with children and couples where at least one partner has a low level of education.

Tertiary education graduates increased over the last decade

In Estonia, 57 % of women aged 30–34 have completed tertiary education, compared to 35 % of men. The percentages for both genders have increased since 2015.

The share of women in STEM fields is one of the highest in the EU

In Estonia, 83 % of graduates in EHW fields (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities, and the Arts) are women. However, around two out of five STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) graduates are women — one of the highest shares in the EU. There has been no relevant change in the last decade.

¹ The FTE employment rate measures working hours comparatively, even though people may work different numbers of hours per week.

Women bear a greater burden of care and domestic tasks

In Estonia, 31 % of women with children aged 0–11 spend more than five hours per day on childcare, compared to 16 % of men. Women are also more likely to carry out daily housework, with 53 % doing so compared to 39 % of men. The gender gap is particularly wide among couples with children.

Women's representation among ministers increased

Women hold 43 % of senior and junior ministerial positions, an increase of 2 percentage points since 2023. They occupy 29 % of parliamentary seats, as well as 29 % of seats in local municipalities, with no change since 2023.

Estonia does not have gender quotas for parliament, nor for listed quoted companies.

Women's share in largest quoted companies increased but is still low

The proportion of women on the boards of the largest listed companies is 14 %. This share has risen by 3 percentage points since 2023.

Gender balance among sport organisations' boards remains low

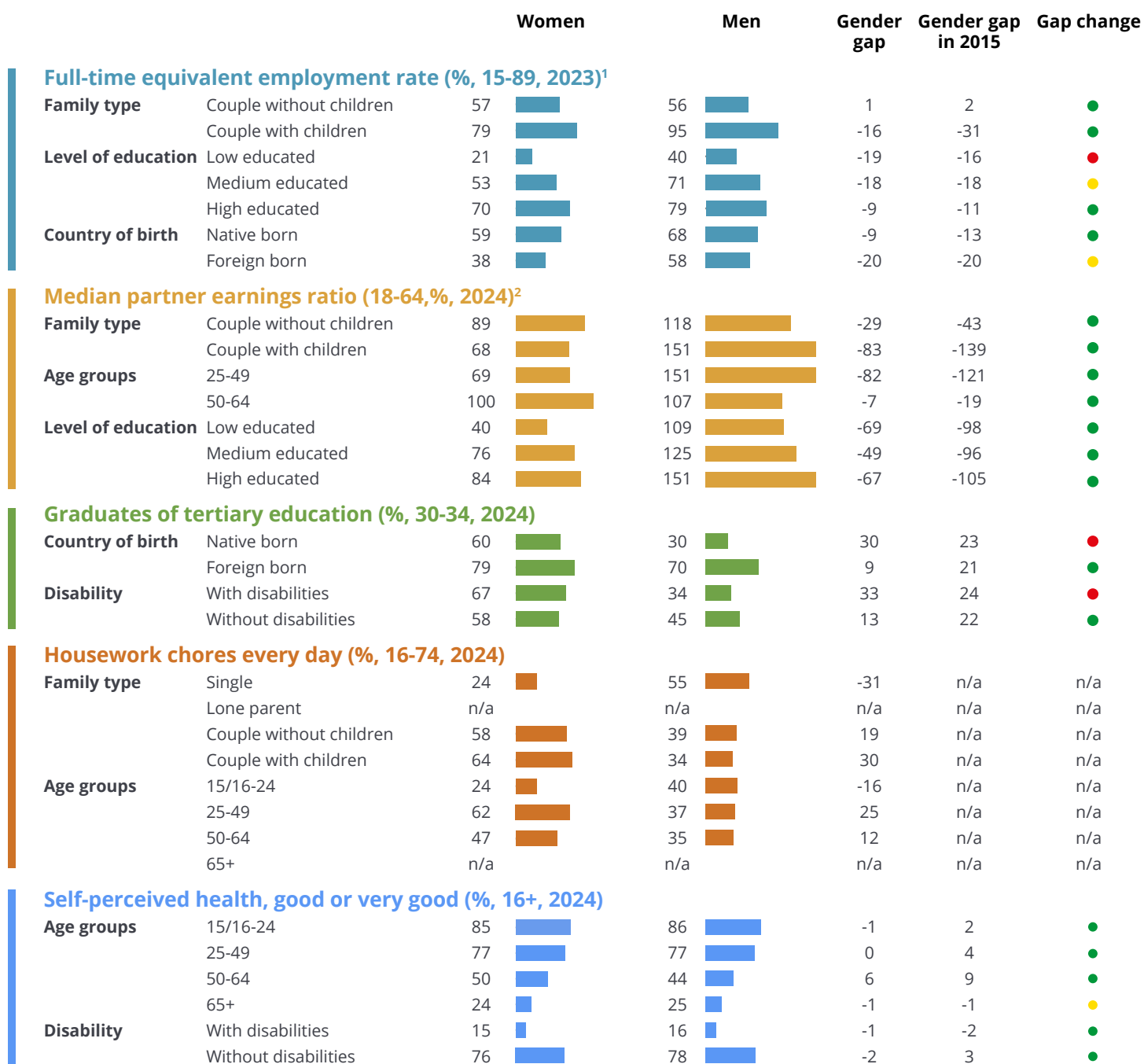
Women account for 16 % of members on the highest decision-making bodies of the 10 most popular national Olympic sports organisations.

Men rate their health slightly better than women

In Estonia, 56 % of women and 60 % of men rated their health as 'good' or 'very good'. Since 2020, self-perceived health has remained stable for women but declined slightly for men (– 1 percentage point). Levels are particularly low among people with disabilities.

At age 65, women are expected to spend 38 % of their remaining life in good health, compared to 43 % for men. This share has increased by 2 percentage points for women and 4 percentage points for men since 2020.

Explore intersecting inequalities



● gender gap decreased (< -1 p.p.)

● no change (gender gap increases/decreases between -1 and 1 p.p.)

● gender gap increased (> 1 p.p.)

Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), EIGE CARE survey.

¹ FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week. Family type is based on the relationships between the members of households. Children are only those economically dependent household members (i.e. aged below 18).

² Median of the annual earnings expressed as a percentage of a partner's earnings for coupled women and men in employment and in working age.

Violence against women

Violence against women is one of the additional domains of the Gender Equality Index. The 2024 edition of the composite indicator on violence against women is calculated on the basis of the EU-GBV survey on violence against women. The 2024 composite measure scores are not fully comparable with scores calculated in 2017.

Estonia's score for the domain of violence is 29.3 points¹, which is lower than the EU average.

The score for the subdomain of prevalence is 18.6 points, the subdomain of severity is 43.2 points and the subdomain of disclosure is 26.2 points.

- In Estonia, 33 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since the age of 15. This is 2 percentage points higher than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- Some 54 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- Around 26 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone.

The **Istanbul Convention** is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

Estonia signed the Istanbul Convention in December 2014 and ratified it in October 2017. The Convention entered into force in Estonia in February 2018.

The European Council approved the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention on 1 June 2023.

¹ More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024. Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.

Violence against women

	Estonia Women	EU Women
Physical and/or sexual violence		
1 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (% , 18-74, 2021)	33	31 e
18-29	37	35 e
30-44	37	35 e
45-64	33	31 e
65-74	24	24 e
severe limitations	45	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	32	30 e
some	40	40 e
some or severe	41	41 e
no limitations	30	28 e
intimate partner violence	22	18 e
non-partner violence	21	20 e
2 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months (% , 18-74, 2021)	2	3 e
Femicide		
3 Women victims of intentional homicide by intimate partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2022)	:	:
family member	:	:
current or former partner	:	:
Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation		
4 Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (% , 18-74, 2021)	54	57 e
intimate partner violence	67	72 e
non-partner violence	34	37 e
5 Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months (% , 18-74, 2021)	40 u	37 e
6 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from one or several types of perpetrators (non-partner, current partner or former partner) (% , 18-74, 2021)	34	31 e
Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else		
7 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (% , 18-74, 2021)	26	31 e
intimate partner violence	24	31 e
non-partner violence	34	38 e

EU-GBV survey on violence against women (Statistics | Eurostat (europa.eu))

Italy, the data based on Victimisation survey 2022-2023 (Le molestie: vittime e contesto – Anno 2022-2023 – Istat); women aged 18-70.

Femicide, Eurostat (crim_hom_vrel)

e: EIGE's estimation

u: low reliability (estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%)

d: definition differs

: not available

Gender stereotypes in Estonia

The Gender Equality Index 2025 present data on gender stereotypes across the EU and key findings alongside public perceptions of gender roles in each domain. The data shows how deeply engrained gender norms continue to influence our daily lives, choices and opportunities.

		Estonia		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Gender stereotypes					
1	Men earn more than women because their jobs are more demanding (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	56	68	36	45
2	If childcare services are not available, mothers should stay at home with the child and fathers should prioritise their job (% , 16-74, 2024) <i>Agree or strongly agree</i>	29	52	33	42
3	A man's most important role is to earn money (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	54	58	40	45
4	Women should make most of the decisions on how to run a household (% , 16-74, 2024) <i>Agree or strongly agree</i>	28	33	36	38
5	A university education is more important for a boy than for a girl (% , 15+, 2017/22)¹ <i>Disagree or strongly disagree</i>	91	88	92	88
6	Women and men are treated in the same way at school / university (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Agree</i>	67	68	66	69
7	It is good for family wellbeing when fathers and mothers equally share parental leave (% , 16-74, 2024) <i>Agree or strongly agree</i>	75	73	82	78
8	Overall, men are naturally less competent than women to perform household tasks (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	46	43	49	48
9	Men are more ambitious than women in politics (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	64	69	46	48
10	Soft skills often attributed to women are important for being a good leader (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	61	52	65	61
11	Men are better treated by medical staff (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Agree</i>	12	7	22	16
12	Women and men are treated in the same way by medical staff (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Agree</i>	71	71	67	70
13	A man controlling his wife's finance is acceptable (% , 18+, 2024) <i>Acceptable</i>	39	61	26	46
14	If women share intimate pictures of themselves with someone, they are at least partially responsible if the image is shared online without their consent (% , 18+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	65	65	42	45

Special Eurobarometer 545 on Gender Stereotypes
EIGE' CARE survey II
2017-2022 European Value Study 5, World Value Survey 7
Flash Eurobarometer 544 on Gender Stereotypes - Violence against women

e: EIGE's estimation

u: low reliability (estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%)

d: definition differs

: not available

EIGE's calculations, based on microdata

¹ 23 European countries out of 27 answered the question.

Men are more ambitious than women in politics

In Estonia, 64 % of women believe that men are more ambitious than women in politics, while 69 % of men share this view. Both percentages are above the EU average.

Men consider it acceptable to have control over their wife's finances

In Estonia, three out of five men believe that controlling a wife's money is acceptable, compared to two out of five women. This belief is particularly widespread among younger men.

Victim-blaming stereotypes about online image sharing persist

In Estonia, 65 % of both women and men believe that a woman is at least partially responsible if her intimate images are shared without her consent. These percentages are higher among older age groups.

About the Index

The Gender Equality Index, first launched in 2013, has become a cornerstone of gender monitoring in the European Union. More than a decade has passed since its first release and during this time, it has served as a valuable tool for benchmarking progress, identifying persistent gaps and supporting evidence-based policymaking across Member States. In 2025, the Index underwent a comprehensive review to strengthen its alignment with current EU policy priorities, integrate new data and update its methodology.

The Gender Equality Index measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and is composed of 27 indicators. Scores range from 0 to 100, where 0 reflects complete gender inequality and 100 represents full equality.

Two additional domains are included in the Index, but do not impact a country's final score. The domain of intersecting inequalities highlights how gender inequalities manifest in combination with age, disability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women measures, monitors and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

Given the changes introduced to the Index, the entire time series has been reconstructed, applying the updated methodology to past years to ensure full comparability over time. Each indicator has been recalculated annually using the most recent data available for that specific year. As a result, the Index time series have been updated and the time series published up to 2024 will no longer be used. This revision preserves the accuracy of historical data while allowing consistent trend analysis under the new methodology.

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their effort to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

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