European Institute for Gender Equality

FAQs

General questions about the Gender Statistics Database

What is the overall purpose of the Gender Statistics Database?

The Database is a comprehensive knowledge centre for gender statistics and information on various aspects of (in)equalities between women and men. Its main purposes are:

- To build a comprehensive collection of sex-disaggregated data, presented in accordance with EU's political priorities
- To provide statistical evidence on the progress towards gender equality in EU Member States and beyond
- To act as a valuable resource for anyone working for the advancement of gender equality.

What are gender statistics and why do we need them?

According to the United Nations manual, gender statistics are '*statistics that adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all areas of life*'. Accurate sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data helps track the impact of policies and reveals where more can be done to close gender gaps. This definition of gender statistics is in line with the BPfA definition adopted at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 1995), which asked nations to 'ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society'. This data can be used to compare women and men on key socio-economic indicators, e.g. educational attainment, labour market participation, health outcomes or access to decision- making positions.

The Database primarily aims to gather statistics that are:

- sex-disaggregated and/or directly reflect gender issues (such as childcare spending and provision)
- based on concepts and definitions that adequately reflect gender diversity
- collected using methods that account for social and cultural factors that may induce

gender biases in the data.

What gender equality issues are covered?

The Database includes over 2000 indicators on key gender equality topics. It provides detailed information on:

Progress towards gender equality under several monitoring frameworks (EU policies and strategies, Gender Equality Index and Beijing platform for action)

A broad range of gender-sensitive topics (Thematic areas)

Gender equality in decision-making (Women and Men in Decision Making) and Violence against women (Gender-Based Violence).

EU policies and strategies	Thematic areas	Beijing Platform for action	Gender Equality Index	Women and men in decision-making	Gender-based violence	Gender mainstreaming
• European Pillar of Social Rights • Barcelona Strategy	• Work and Labour market • Research, science, digital society • Education, training and skills • Demography and migration • Fertility and reproductive rights • Health and mortality • Living conditions • Time use • Public opinion	• Women and poverty • Education and training of women • Women and health • Violence against women • Women and armed conflict • Women and the economy • Women in power and decision-making • Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women • Human rights of women • Women and the media • Women and the environment • The Girl Child	• Gender equality index scores and data for underlying indicators	• Politics • Public administration • Judiciary • Business and finance • Social partners and NGOs • Environment and climate change • Media • Education, science and research • Sports • Transport • Covid-19	• Physical violence • Sexual violence • Psychological violence • Economic violence • Intimate partner violence • Female genital mutilation • Trafficking • Attitudes and perceptions • Support services • Statistical capacity and availability of data • Costs of Violence	• Contextual indicators • Gender equality in policies and decision making

What are the key data sources used?

The data sources of the Gender Statistics Database can be divided into three main groups:

1   Data collected directly by EIGE from relevant EU and national sources:

Women and men in decision-making

Gender-based violence.

Gender-mainstreaming

2 Indicators to monitor progress towards the achievement of gender equality, computed by EIGE from a range of sources:

> Gender Equality Index
>
> Beijing Platform for Action.

3 Indicators collected from key EU-level data sources. The main EU data sources are listed in the table below. The Database also contains indicators computed from other EU-level data.

Data Source	Data collection
Eurostat	Administrative data on a range of themes
	EU Labour force survey (EU-LFS)
	European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC)
	Structure of earnings survey (SES)
	Community statistics on information society survey (CSIS)
	European health interview survey (EHIS)
	Adult education survey (AES)
	Eurostat-UNODC data collection on crime and criminal justice
Eurofound	European working conditions survey (EWCS)
	European quality of life survey (EQLS)
	Living, working and Covid-19 survey
EU Commission	EU Labour Market Policies database (LMP)
	She figures
	Data collection on trafficking in human beings in the EU
EU Fundamental Rights Agency	Survey on gender-based violence against women
Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)	WAVE reports

How is the Database updated?

The Database is **updated on a rolling basis as soon as new data becomes available**. See the two tables below for an overview of release dates.

The timely update of the Database guarantees access to the latest available data and metadata and highlights data gaps.

Overview of release dates by data source

Institution	Data collection	Release calendar
Indicators from EU level data sources		
Eurostat	Eurostat online database	Release calendars for the Eurostat indicators included in the Gender Statistics Database are published on the Eurostat website at this link. Updates on the Gender Statistics Database follow within a few weeks from the Eurostat updates
Eurofound	European working condition survey (EWCS)	See here for information on data release. Updates on the Gender Statistics Database follow within the same year of the micro-data release
	European quality of life survey (EQLS)	See here for information on data release. Updates on the Gender Statistics Database follow within the same year of the micro-data release
European Commission	Labour market policies (LMP) database	Data are collected annually from administrative sources, as explained here. Updates on the Gender Statistics Database follow within a few weeks from the updates in the original source
	Eurobarometer special surveys	One-off data collection
	Women in science database (She figures)	One-off data collection without further updates (latest available year is 2012)
	Women against violence in Europe (WAVE) reports	The Gender Statistics Database is updated as soon as possible once new reports become available (see https://www.wave-network.org/ for further information)

	Data collection on trafficking	Data collection without fixed release calendar
EU Fundamental Rights Agency (EU-FRA)	Survey on gender-based violence against women	One-off data collection without further updates (data only for 2012)

Indicators computed by EIGE based on secondary data

EIGE	Gender Equality Index	New data are released annually
	Beijing platform for action	Regular data collection.

Indicators from EIGE's primary data collections

EIGE	Intimate partner violence	Data collection without a fixed release calendar
	Female genital mutilation	Data collection without a fixed release calendar
	Women and men in decision-making	See below for detailed release dates

Indicators from other data sources

HBSC research network	Survey of health behaviour in school aged children (HBSC)	One-off data collection without further updates
IPPF (WHO)	Sexuality and education in Europe	One-off data collection without further updates (data for 2003 or 2006 only)

Overview of release dates for the indicators on women and men in decision-making

Indicator	Release calendar
Parliaments and assemblies	

Regional assemblies, presidents and members by region (all indicators)	December every year. Updates on regional elections are disseminated quarterly in March, May and September
Parliamentary bureaus and committees	
Parliamentary bureaus presidents and members	September every year
Parliamentary committees: presidents and members	Septemver every year
European Parliament: president and members	Quarterly releases as follows: Q1 March, Q2 May, Q3 September
National parliaments: presidents and members	Quarterly releases as follows: Q1 March, Q2 May, Q3 September
Regional assemblies: presidents and members	Full data collection in December every year. Updates following regional elections are disseminated quarterly in March, May and September.
Local/Municipal councils: mayors and other leader and members	Every two years in July/ August
Governments and other political executives	
Regional executives: presidents and members by region (all indicators)	Full data collection in December every year. Updates following regional elections are disseminated quarterly in March, May and September
European Commission presidents and commissioners	Quarterly releases as follows: Q1 March, Q2 May, Q3 September, Q4 December
National governments: presidents and prime ministers	Quarterly releases as follows: Q1 March, Q2 May, Q3 September, Q4 December
National governments: ministers by seniority and function	Quarterly releases as follows: Q1 April, Q2 June, Q3 September, Q4 December
Regional executives: presidents and members	Full data collection in December every year. Updates following regional elections are disseminated quarterly in March, May and September
Political parties (all indicators)	June every year

Advisory committees (all indicators): European Committees	Quarterly releases as follows: Q1 March, Q2 May, Q3 September, Q4 December

Public administration

Senior administrators at European level (all indicators)	July every year
Senior administrators at national level	November every year
Heads of monitoring/audit bodies	
European Court of Auditors: presidents and members	July every year
European Ombudsman	July every year
Supreme audit organisations: presidents	June every year
Judiciary (all indicators)	August every year

Business and finance

Business (all indicators)	May (B1) and November (B2) every year
Finance	
European financial institutions: presidents and members	July every year
Central banks: governors, deputy/vice-governors, and members	July every year

Social partners and NGOs

Social partners	
European social partner organisations: presidents, executive heads and members	August every year

National social partners: president, deputy/vice-president, executive heads and members	November every two years
NGOs	
European NGOs: presidents and members	August every year
Environment and climate change (all indicators)	December every year
Media (all indicators)	July every year
Education, science and research	
National academies of science: presidents and members of the highest decision-making body	Every two years in March
Research funding organisations: presidents and members of the highest decision-making body	April every year
Sports (all indicators)	November every year
Transport (all indicators)	December every year
COVID 19	
EU level (all indicators)	August every year
Parliamentary committees dealing with health	September every year
Scientific advisory committees for COVID-19	August every year
National ministries dealing with COVID-19/health: ministers and administrators by seniority	December every year

What quality criteria must data meet to be included in the Database?

EIGE has adopted the quality assessment and assurance framework of Eurostat's European Statistical System (ESS) to evaluate data quality. Thus data quality is assessed against the quality evaluation principles outlined in the European Statistics Code of Practice. These can be divided into three broad blocks according to their focus:

institutional environment

statistical processes

statistical output.

The Database often presents data collected by well-established EU data providers that satisfy the first two blocks, which means that the 'statistical output' block is the most important one for ongoing database updates and maintenance. The principles to evaluate the quality of statistical outputs consist of data relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, and accessibility and clarity.

New data can be included in the Database only when it complies with these principles.

General questions about database functionalities

How do I search for data on specific gender related issues?

You can search the Database in three main ways:

1. The Database tree

The Database tree is on the main page of the Database and includes seven main entry points:

One entry point that focuses on monitoring the achievement of EU policies and strategies

A general entry point containing a large number of indicators on a broad range of issues: 'Thematic areas'

One entry point focusing on EIGE's Gender Equality Index

One entry point containing the data on women and men in decision-making

One entry point containing the data on gender-based violence.

One entry point on gender mainstreaming

The entry points are divided into themes and sub-themes that can be browsed by clicking on the relevant entry point. For example, to search data on women and men at risk of poverty, click on the entry point 'Thematic areas' to view a list of its themes. Then click on the theme 'Living conditions', then 'At risk of poverty' and select its sub-theme 'General indicators'. Within this sub-theme, there are several 'at-risk-of-poverty rate' indicators.

2. The basic search function

On the Database homepage, the search box appears below the heading 'Browse Gender Statistics'. In this search box you can type the topic you want to find data on, or a phrase related to it. This will show all themes, sub-themes and indicators related to the search term.

3. The advanced search function

To search data, click on the button in the right top corner of the Database homepage. The text search function allows you to specify a search phrase (i.e. people at risk) which returns a list of indicators containing the exact or similar phrase matches. Use quotes to search for exact phrase match (e.g. "people at risk"). It is also possible to search by drop-down lists of keywords, source organisations, statistical activities and data type.

Advanced search →

When viewing data, how can I select years and countries?

Countries and years, and other relevant data dimensions (such as gender or age group) can be chosen by changing the data filter settings. This can be done in three quick steps:

1   Select the filter(s) that you want to change, either from a drop-down list of possible categories (i.e. time period, countries, units or age groups) or by ticking or un-ticking relevant tick-boxes (i.e. gender).
2   Click on the apply button at the bottom of the filter setting box.

This changes the way the indicator is displayed, to show only data for the new filter settings.

How can I view data for the same country over multiple years?

By default, the Database presents data in a bar chart, which shows data values for a range of countries in the same year. To display data over multiple years for one or more countries, you can use a **line chart:**

1 Click on the field called 'Horizontal Bar Chart' on the top of data display.

2 Select the countries and years you want to display in the line chart (see question above for more detail on how to do this).

Questions about women and men in decision-making data

How can I access the women and men in decision-making data and what decision-making areas are covered?

The data on women and men decision-making can be accessed under the database entry point 'Women and men in decision-making'. The data covers key decision-making positions in the following areas:

Politics consists of data on parliaments/assemblies at European, national and regional levels; parliamentary bureaus and committees; local/municipal councils; governments and other political executives; political parties and advisory committees.

Public administration covers senior administrators at national and European level; and heads of monitoring/audit bodies.

Judiciary data focuses on national courts (supreme, administrative, constitutional), national public prosecutors and European courts.

Business and finance presents data on largest listed companies, European financial institutions and central banks.

Social partners and NGOs covers data on social partners at the EU and national levels and the European NGOs.

Environment and climate change topic includes bodies associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and environment decision-making bodies in EU institutions and at national level.

Media consists of data on national public broadcasters and media regulatory authorities.

Education, science and research focuses on national academies of science and research funding organisations.

Sports includes statistics on women and men in highest decision-making bodies of national sports federations, National Olympic Committees (NOCs), European Confederations of sports, as well as ministers and administrators in ministries dealing with sports.

Transport includes statistics on women and men in key decision-making positions with competences in transport at the national and European levels.

COVID-19 includes statistics on women and men in key decision-making positions with competences in COVID-19 and/or health at national and European levels.

Where can I find information about the data collection methodology and coverage of

the women and men in decision-making data?

Each indicator under the women and men in decision-making entry point is accompanied by comprehensive reference metadata, which follows the Eurostat SMDX Metadata Structure (ESMS). The metadata contains:

Detailed information related to data collection methodology, including geographic coverage, positions covered and their definitions, data release calendar, data quality issues, and data sources and collection methods.

Where relevant, detailed mapping tables (in pdf) that summarise positions and/or organisations covered by the indicator is made available.

Each indicator is also accompanied by a summary dataset description, which highlights key information from the detailed metadata.

This information can be accessed by selecting the metadata box located at the top of the data display (see metadata for central banks) and scrolling down through the page.

Detailed information by indicator is also available in the full data collection methodology for the women and men in decision-making data

Can I view statistics on women and men in decision-making as a headcount, rather than as a percentage?

Yes, this is possible by selecting the corresponding unit of measurement (number of persons – headcount) in the data filter settings. This can be done in three quick steps:

1. Launch the indicator you would like to view e.g., Central banks: governors, deputy/vice-governors, and members.
2. From the filter menu located at the top of the data display, click the filter for "Unit of measurement", and select the 'Number of persons (headcount)' unit from the drop-down list.
3. Click the "Apply" button at the right hand side of the filter setting box.

This changes the data display so that it shows data in absolute numbers (headcount) rather than percentages.

When viewing an indicator on women and men in decision-making, can I choose the decision-making positions covered?

Yes, this is possible by selecting desired position in the filter settings, following a similar approach to the question on unit of measurement above. This can be done:

1. Launch the indicator you would like to view e.g., Central banks: governors, deputy/vice-governors, and members.
2. From the filter menu located at the top of the data display, click the filter for "Position", and select the desired position from the drop-down list.
3. Click on the "Apply" button at the right hand side of the filter setting box.

Questions about data on violence against women

What are the main sources of data on gender-based violence in the Gender Statistics Database?

EIGE collects and disseminates data on gender-based violence from various sources in the Gender Statistics Database. Broadly, data collected in those sources can be grouped in two types, survey data and national administrative data.

Important sources of survey data in EIGE's Gender Statistics Database are the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) survey on violence against women, Eurobarometer special surveys that include questions on gender-based violence, and Eurofound's European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS).

National administrative data in EIGE's Gender Statistics Database is obtained from various national sources, such as the police and judiciary data. These data register offences, prosecutions, numbers of perpetrators and number of victims, amongst others. As definitions of crimes and data collection methodologies differ between Member States, these data are not comparable.

EIGE's Gender Statistics Database also displays national administrative data compiled by Eurostat on trafficking in human beings, data from the joined Eurostat - UNODC project, and data from the Women Against Violence (WAVE) reports on women's support services in Europe.

What information about gender-based violence does the Database cover?

Information about gender-based violence includes a wide range of topics:

Incidence of different forms of violence (physical, sexual, psychological, and economic). This can include national administrative data (such as data on the number of offences of a particular form of violence reported to the police) and survey data (for example, asking respondents whether they have been a victim of a particular type of violence in their lifetime).

Data on specific offences, such as Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This data has been collected from national administrative sources and surveys and been compiled by EIGE through its studies on violence against women.

Statistics on trafficking in human beings, such as information on the victims, the traffickers, prosecutions and convictions, collected by the European Commission.

Data on the estimated annual costs of gender-based and intimate partner violence in the EU, based on compiled administrative data.

Perceptions of gender-based violence which are predominantly informed by survey data sources, asking respondents their opinion and perceptions of violence as a social issue.

Availability, awareness, use and quality of services for victims of gender-based violence.

Some topics include many indicators, (e.g. on the incidents of physical and sexual violence) as this data is more systematically collected by national institutions such as the police and is readily available. Other topics, such as economic and psychological violence are less extensively covered in the database as national data is more limited in these areas.

Why does data from different data sources on gender-based violence differ, for example in the case of number of femicides?

The data included under gender-based violence in the Gender Statistics Database comes from different sources. Survey data comes from different surveys, and national administrative data comes from different national institutions (e.g., national statistical offices, police and judiciary). While these sources may all collect data on the same topic, they use different methodologies, and this affects the comparability of results.

For example, in the case of femicide, the data comes from the joint Eurostat-UNODC data on intentional homicide which follows different methodologies and definitions than the national sources. Similarly, different surveys may formulate the questions differently or have different target populations, which could lead to different estimates.