

Factsheet: Gender equality in parliaments across the EU and the European Parliament in 2019



Gender Mainstreaming
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What is EIGE's Gender-sensitive Parliaments tool?
A gender-sensitive parliament is one which ensures that there are no barriers to women and men participating equally and having equal influence over decision-making. Parliaments should serve as positive examples of gender-equal workplaces, promoting this principle both internally and externally through gender-sensitive laws and policies.
The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) Gender-sensitive Parliaments tool monitors and assesses gender sensitivity in the organisation and working procedures of parliaments by analysing the proportions, internal positions of women and men. The tool also allows for an assessment of how parliamentary operations, actions and legislative decisions impact and promote gender equality. The general version of the tool is available to anyone, while an in-depth version is available for national and regional parliaments.

The tool in action
Between April and June 2019, EIGE collected information to complete the general version of the tool for the national parliaments of all 28 EU Member States and the European Parliament, based on publicly available data. Information was collected across five areas, each dedicated to measuring a specific aspect of gender sensitivity in parliaments. The main findings for each of these areas are presented in this factsheet.
These results show the strengths and weaknesses of parliaments in terms of their gender sensitivity and can serve as a benchmark to help track and analyse progress in enhancing gender equality in parliamentary work over time.

Area 1: Do women and men have equal opportunities to ENTER the parliament?
The European Parliament has achieved its most gender-balanced composition to date, with the share of women MEPs having increased from 36% in 2014 to 41% following the 2019 elections, surpassing both the world and EU averages for national parliaments. However, the European Parliament does not apply an EU-wide gender quota for its electoral system, instead relying on Member State measures to achieve a gender balance in the Parliament.
Despite this positive progress, on average women still represent less than one third of MEPs in EU national parliaments. A larger proportion of women candidates (34% than elected female MPs (29%) suggests that women are disadvantaged as candidates, with men occupying the top positions on party lists, as well as 'safer' or 'honorary' seats. Furthermore, most Member States do not apply a system-wide quota to their national electoral system – only 10 Member States apply system-wide quotas (BG, DE, EL, ES, FR, GR, IT, PL, PT, SI).

Figure 1: Women members of national parliaments, EU-28 (2018) and European Parliament (2014 and 2019)

Country	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
BE	41.4	41.4
BG	41.4	41.4
CY	41.4	41.4
DE	41.4	41.4
DK	41.4	41.4
EE	41.4	41.4
ES	41.4	41.4
FR	41.4	41.4
GR	41.4	41.4
HR	41.4	41.4
IT	41.4	41.4
LT	41.4	41.4
LU	41.4	41.4
LV	41.4	41.4
MT	41.4	41.4
NL	41.4	41.4
PL	41.4	41.4
PT	41.4	41.4
RO	41.4	41.4
SK	41.4	41.4
SI	41.4	41.4
TR	41.4	41.4
UK	41.4	41.4
EU Average	36.0	41.0
World Average	29.0	29.0
EU Average	29.0	29.0
EU-28	29.0	29.0
EU-27	29.0	29.0
EU-26	29.0	29.0
EU-25	29.0	29.0
EU-24	29.0	29.0
EU-23	29.0	29.0
EU-22	29.0	29.0
EU-21	29.0	29.0
EU-20	29.0	29.0
EU-19	29.0	29.0
EU-18	29.0	29.0
EU-17	29.0	29.0
EU-16	29.0	29.0
EU-15	29.0	29.0
EU-14	29.0	29.0
EU-13	29.0	29.0
EU-12	29.0	29.0
EU-11	29.0	29.0
EU-10	29.0	29.0
EU-9	29.0	29.0
EU-8	29.0	29.0
EU-7	29.0	29.0
EU-6	29.0	29.0
EU-5	29.0	29.0
EU-4	29.0	29.0
EU-3	29.0	29.0
EU-2	29.0	29.0
EU-1	29.0	29.0

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[Access the gender-sensitive parliaments toolkit](#)



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