

Gender Equality Index 2015: Estonia



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The Gender Equality Index is a unique measurement tool that synthesises the complexity of gender equality into a user-friendly and easy-to-understand measure. Based on the EU policy framework, it assists the monitoring of progress in gender equality across the European Union over time.

The Gender Equality Index consists of six core domains (work, money, knowledge, time, power and health) and two satellite domains (violence and interacting inequalities). The Gender Equality Index assigns scores for Member States between 1 for total inequality and 100 for full equality. It measures gender gaps between women and men as well as takes into account the country context and the different levels of achievement of Member States in various areas. A high overall score reflects both small (or absent) gender gaps and a good situation for all (e.g. high involvement of both women and men in employment).

The Gender Equality Index 2015 measures how far (or close) the EU and its Member States were from achieving gender equality in 2005, 2010 and 2012. It provides results for each domain and subdomain. It also presents the first attempt to calculate a composite measure for violence against women.

Progress in gender equality in Estonia since 2005

With an increase in the score by 4.5 points, progress in Estonia has been marginal. The country has a score of **49.8 out of 100** — still less than halfway towards full gender equality — and remains behind the average of the EU 28 Member States.

Significant challenges persist in some areas. In the domain of money, women still earn on average 29 % less than men. In the domain of power, women remain widely under-represented in both political and economic spheres. Gender imbalance in decision-making positions hinders women's democratic representation in society.

The domain of work shows signs of improvement with better working conditions for both women and men, although the gender gap in employment slightly increased. In the domain of knowledge, the number of women with a tertiary education degree became significantly higher than the number of men, but a strong segregation of study fields along traditional gender lines hinders the achievement of gender equality in education. In the domain of time, the situation in Estonia improved remarkably. Since 2005, more men have been caring for their children or other dependants and carrying out domestic tasks, resulting in more equal sharing of time between women and men at home. The gender equality score in the domain of health progressed with regards to access to services and overall health status. However, differences in health-related behaviours of women and men will be added to the Gender Equality Index in the future to provide a more complete picture of gender equality in health.



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This publication summarises the main results of the [Gender Equality Index 2015 for Estonia](#). It presents scores for 2005, 2010 and 2012, allowing for an assessment of the progress made in the pursuit of gender equality in Estonia over time.

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