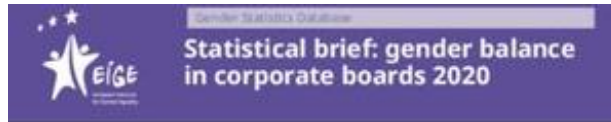


# Statistical brief: gender balance in corporate boards 2020



## Statistical brief: gender balance in corporate boards 2020

The persistent gender imbalance among key decision-makers in large corporations and financial institutions remains a cause for concern. Each year, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) monitors gender balance in central banks and European financial institutions, and does so on a biannual basis in the largest listed companies in the EU Member States. Despite continued political and media attention, pressure from shareholders and an increasing body of knowledge showing the performance benefits of gender-balanced decision-making, women remain substantially under-represented in corporate boardrooms.

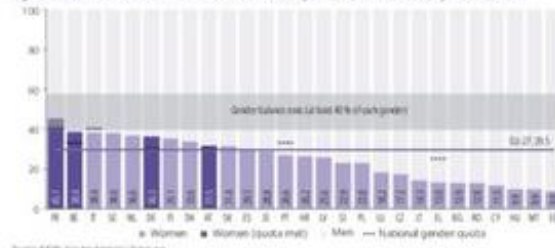
The updated gender equality strategy of the European Commission (March 2020) provides for a framework for cooperation with EIGE. This includes an ongoing idea collection and analysis of trends in gender balance among key decision-makers in large corporations and financial institutions in Europe, available in EIGE's Gender Statistics Database. The latest update, in October 2020, covers 113 publicly listed companies (75, 66% of which were registered in Member States).

### Women remain heavily outnumbered by men in large corporations

In October 2020, the share of women on the boards of the largest publicly listed companies registered in the Member States reached 29.3%, yet another all-time high and an increase of 0.6 percentage points, just since the last update in April 2020.

France is the only Member State in which the largest listed companies have at least 40% of each gender at board level. Belgium, Italy and Sweden all have around 38% women, while women account for at least one third of board members in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland.

Figure 1. Presence of women and men on boards of companies, %, October 2020, by Member State



Source: EIGE's Gender Statistics Database.  
 (1) Information compilation: In line of EIGE's Gender Equality Strategy (2019-2024) 100, available at <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-strategy>.  
 (2) Publicly listed companies that are active in the stock exchange. The largest companies in each country are taken in by the number of employees. 66% of the sample (75 companies) is included by the national authorities (France, which covers the largest companies by market capitalisation, and the majority of Member States). 36% companies registered in the country concerned are included in the national database developed by Member States. All data are in percentage.

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[Gender Statistics Database: Women and men in decision-making](#)



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## Metadata

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