



The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

## Progress in gender equality

With 67.8 points out of 100, Malta ranks 14th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 2.4 points below the score for the EU as a whole.<sup>1</sup>

Since 2010, Malta's score has increased by 13.4 points, which is one of the highest increases among the EU Member States. One driver of this change has been an improvement in the domain of power (+ 24.4 points). Since 2020, Malta's overall score has increased by 2.2 points, mainly due to improvements in the domains of knowledge (+ 4.9 points) and power (+ 4.9 points). However, the country's overall ranking has fallen by one place, due to faster progress being made by other Member States.

[1] The Gender Equality Index 2023 has been affected by certain changes in EU-wide surveys and through the use of the most up-to-date sources. For the first time, it benefits from EIGE's survey data on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities carried out across the EU in 2022, and from new data from the 2021 EWCTS survey (Eurofound). Regulation (EU) 2019/1700, which came into force from 1 January 2021, also introduced some changes into the EU-LFS. These methodological changes will affect nine indicators included in the domains of work, knowledge and time, together with their respective scores, as well as the overall Index and the analysis of intersecting inequalities using the respective indicators.

An analysis has been carried out of the possible impact that these changes may have had on the Index and on the interpretation of the corresponding time series. Despite the break in time series that the changes entail, the time series analysis can be considered adequate (see Index 2023 report).

		Change since	
		2010	2020
SE	82.2	2.1	-1.7
NL	77.9	3.9	0.6
DK	77.8	2.6	0.0
ES	76.4	10.0	1.8
BE	76.0	6.7	1.8
FR	75.7	8.2	0.6
LU	74.7	13.5	1.2
FI	74.4	1.3	-1.0
IE	73.0	7.6	-1.3
AT	71.2	12.5	2.4
DE	70.8	8.2	2.1
<b>EU</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>
SI	69.4	6.7	1.9
IT	68.2	14.9	3.2
<b>MT</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>
PT	67.4	13.7	4.6
BG	65.1	10.1	4.4
LT	64.1	9.2	3.5
PL	61.9	6.4	4.2
LV	61.5	6.3	0.1
HR	60.7	8.4	0.0
CY	60.7	11.7	3.4
EE	60.2	6.8	-0.8
SK	59.2	6.2	3.2
EL	58.0	9.4	4.6
CZ	57.9	2.3	0.7
HU	57.3	4.9	3.1
RO	56.1	5.3	2.4

## Best performance

Malta's highest ranking (3rd among all Member States) is in the domain of work, in which it scores 80.0 points. Since 2020, the country has risen two places due to an increase in score of 3.0 points. Within this domain, Malta performs best in the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work (76.5 points), in which it has ranked 2nd among all EU countries since 2010.

## Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities in Malta are strongly pronounced in the domain of power (45.3 points), in which the country ranks 19th. Despite an increase in its score for this domain of 4.9 points since 2020, Malta's ranking for this domain has remained the same, due to faster progress being made by other Member States. The country has the greatest room for improvement in the sub-domain of political decision-making, in which Malta scores 39.8 points and ranks 22nd. Malta also ranks especially low (18th place) in the sub-domain of social decision-making, with a score of 57.1 points. Although the country's score for this sub-domain has increased by 3.7 points since 2020, Malta has fallen one place in this sub-domain since last year's Index.

## Biggest improvement

Since 2020, Malta has improved notably in the domain of knowledge (+ 4.9 points), moving the country's ranking for this domain up from 9th place to 4th. An improvement in the sub-domain of segregation (+ 5.7 points) has been the key driver of this change. As a result, the country's ranking for this sub-domain has moved up from 4th to 2nd place. Malta has also improved in the sub-domain of attainment and participation (+ 4.1 points), in which it scores 72.3 points and has ranked 14th since 2020.

## A step backwards

Since 2020, Malta's score has decreased in the domain of time (- 4.8 points), resulting in a drop in its ranking for this domain from 13th to 24th place. This is the second-largest drop in the ranking for this domain among all EU countries. Despite an increase of 8.6 points in the sub-domain of care activities (77.6 points), Malta's score in the sub-domain of social activities has fallen by 14.3 points to 45.5 points. Malta's ranking for this sub-domain has dropped 13 places, and currently stands at 24th place.

## Convergence

Upward convergence in gender equality describes increasing equality between women and men in the EU, accompanied by a decline in variations between Member States. This means that countries with lower levels of gender equality are catching up with those with the highest levels, thereby reducing disparities across the EU. Analysis of convergence patterns in the Gender Equality Index shows that disparities between Member States decreased over the period 2010–2021, and that **EU countries continue their trend of upward convergence**.

Looking more closely at the performance of each Member State, patterns can be identified that reflect a relative improvement or slipping back in the Gender Equality Index score of each Member State in relation to the EU average.

Malta is **catching up** to other Member States. This means that its Gender Equality Index score was initially lower than the EU average, but has grown faster over time, reducing the gap. time.

# Explore Malta's Index results

	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020
<b>Index</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Work</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Participation	58.6	63.2	68.9	73.1	76.9	79.8	81.2	83.7	25.1	2.5
Segregation and quality of work	72.3	73.7	73.1	73.5	74.0	73.9	73.0	76.5	4.2	3.5
<b>Money</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Financial resources	68.6	69.5	73.3	74.4	74.8	77.6	78.8	78.9	10.3	0.1
Economic situation	91.3	93.3	92.8	91.4	91.1	91.4	88.6	88.1	-3.2	-0.5
<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Attainment and participation	59.2	60.2	61.3	65.9	67.0	67.3	68.2	72.3	13.1	4.1
Segregation	72.3	73.0	69.5	65.8	67.3	63.2	62.3	68.0	-4.3	5.7
<b>Time</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>-4.8</b>
Care activities	49.7	57.9	69.0	69.0	69.0	69.0	69.0	77.6	27.9	8.6
Social activities	59.4	59.4	59.8	59.8	59.8	59.8	59.8	45.5	-13.9	-14.3
<b>Power</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Political	30.0	29.1	30.5	32.9	33.1	35.3	35.7	39.8	9.8	4.1
Economic	12.4	21.9	24.4	24.0	24.2	29.9	34.6	40.9	28.5	6.3
Social	24.5	24.6	27.5	42.2	44.2	49.8	53.4	57.1	32.6	3.7
<b>Health</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Status	93.8	95.3	95.6	96.2	95.8	96.4	95.8	94.7	0.9	-1.1
Behaviour	81.7	81.7	81.7	81.7	81.7	81.7	71.0	71.0	-10.7	0.0
Access	97.0	98.6	99.0	99.6	99.4	99.8	99.7	99.3	2.3	-0.4

# Explore Malta's performance by indicator

		Malta		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
<b>Work</b>					
<b>Participation</b>	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	49	68	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	33	41	34	38
<b>Segregation and quality of work</b>	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	31	11	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (% , 15+ workers, 2021)	45	51	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	69	67	62	63
<b>Money</b>					
<b>Financial resources</b>	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	2238	2662	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	21961	22656	20261	21221
<b>Economic situation</b>	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	18	15	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	21	20	20	20
<b>Knowledge</b>					
<b>Attainment and participation</b>	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)	26	23	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	20	18	19	18
<b>Segregation</b>	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	51	29	43	21
<b>Time</b>					
<b>Care activities</b>	People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	32	16	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	78	63	63	36
<b>Social activities</b>	Workers doing sporting, cultural or leisure activities outside of their home, at least daily or several times a week (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	22	42	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	5	6	11	15
<b>Power</b>					
<b>Political</b>	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	20	80	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	28	72	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2022)**	26	74	30	70
<b>Economic</b>	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (% , 1st semester 2023)	16	84	33	67
	Share of board members of central bank (% , 2022)	27	73	28	72
<b>Social</b>	Share of board members of research funding organisations (% , 2022)	40	60	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (% , 2022)	33	67	38	62
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (% , 2022)	10	90	20	80
<b>Health</b>					
<b>Status</b>	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)	70	76	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2021)	84	81	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	69	69	64	63
<b>Behaviour</b>	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	73	58	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	22	22	38	43
<b>Access</b>	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	2	1	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	2	1	5	5

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

\*\* MT: Local municipalities

\*\*\* EU: EIGE estimation

**Source:** Eurostat (education statistics, European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), EIGE (Survey on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities, Women and Men in Decision-Making).

# Explore intersecting inequalities

				Gender gap		Gap change
		Women	Men	2014	2021	
<b>Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*</b>						
Family type	Couple without children	41	46	-14	-5	●
	Couple with children	69	98	-42	-29	●
Level of education	Low educated	24	54	-36	-30	●
	Medium educated	60	72	-14	-12	●
	High educated	80	88	-8	-8	●
Country of birth	Native born	43	64	-27	-21	●
	Foreign born	76	92	-22	-16	●
<b>At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)</b>						
Age groups	15/16-24	12	13	-1	-1	●
	25-49	13	11	2	2	●
	50-64	17	15	1	2	●
	65+	30	26	0	4	●
Disability	With disabilities	30	24	-7	6	●
	Without disabilities	15	13	2	2	●
<b>Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)</b>						
Age groups	15/16-24	18	12	7	6	●
	25-49	43	34	2	9	●
	50-64	15	18	-3	-3	●
	65+	6	9	-5	-3	●
Country of birth	Native born	21	20	-1	1	●
	Foreign born	48	39	8	9	●
<b>People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)</b>						
Family type	Couple without children	16	3	6	13	●
	Couple with children	51	38	27	13	●
Disability	With disabilities	39	14	7	25	●
	Without disabilities	30	17	19	13	●
<b>Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)</b>						
Age groups	15/16-24	90	93	2	-3	●
	25-49	86	90	-2	-4	●
	50-64	64	65	0	-1	●
	65+	35	41	-7	-6	●
Disability	With disabilities	8	12	-2	-4	●
	Without disabilities	84	86	-2	-2	●

● gender gap decreased (< -1 p.p.)

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

● gender gap increased (> 1 p.p.)

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

Source: Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), EIGE's survey on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities.

# Violence

## A lack of evidence to assess violence against women

No score is given to Malta in the domain of violence, due to a lack of comparable EU-wide data.

## Femicide

In 2021, 720 women were murdered by an intimate partner, family member or relative in 17 EU Member States, according to official reports. Malta reported that no women were killed by an intimate partner, family member or relative in 2021.

**Source:** Eurostat, 2021

## Violence at a glance

### Intimate partner violence

In Malta, 26 % of women who have ever been in a relationship have experienced violence by an intimate partner during their adult life. In total, 15 % have experienced physical violence (including threats) or sexual violence, while 25 % have experienced psychological violence. Around 4 % have experienced intimate partner violence during the last 12 months, while 10 % have experienced it in the last five years.

**Source:** Eurostat, 2021

### Sexual harassment at work

In Malta, over a quarter of women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work. Up to 5 % of women have experienced sexual harassment at work in the last 12 months, while 11 % have experienced it in the last 5 years.

**Source:** Eurostat, 2021

## Istanbul Convention: state of play

The Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence. Malta signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2012, and ratified it in July 2014. The treaty entered into force in Malta in November 2014.

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

## EIGE/FRA survey on violence against women

The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) will carry out a survey on violence against women (VAW II) in eight EU Member States (CZ, DE, IE, CY, LU, HU, RO, SE), which will complement the Eurostat-led data collection on gender-based violence and other forms of interpersonal violence (EU-GBV) in the remaining countries. The use of a unified methodology will ensure the availability of comparable data across all EU Member States. Data collection will be completed this year, and the results will be used to update the domain of violence in the Gender Equality Index 2024, with its thematic focus on violence against women.

# Thematic focus

The Gender Equality Index 2023 focuses on the socially fair transition of the European Green Deal. Its thematic focus analyses the following aspects:

- **Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation**
- **Energy**
- **Transport**
- **Decision-making**

The data was collected through various surveys, such as the EIGE 2022 survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities, as well as other EU-wide surveys.<sup>1</sup> The EIGE survey focused on gender differences in unpaid care, including links to transport, the environment and personal consumption and behaviour.

## **Focus 2023: The European Green Deal**

### **Women in Malta are more likely than men to choose environmentally friendly options in childcare activities**

In 2022, 42 % of women, compared with 28 % of men, regularly chose environmentally friendly options in childcare activities, such as avoiding single-use items, buying second-hand goods, and educating the children under their care about environmental issues. Similarly, 23 % of women in Malta, compared with 18 % of men, regularly avoided animal products. This was lower than the EU average of 31 % for women and 23 % for men.

### **People with disabilities and people with low education in Malta struggle to keep their homes warm**

In 2021, 12 % of women with disabilities and 15 % of men with disabilities in Malta were unable to keep their homes adequately warm. Similarly, 11 % of women with low educational attainment and 11 % of men with low educational attainment experienced difficulties in keeping their homes warm. The gender gap in utility bill arrears was most pronounced among lone parents, with greater disadvantage being experienced by women. Around 12 % of lone mothers were in arrears on utility bills in 2021, compared with 7 % of lone fathers. These figures are likely to have risen with the ongoing energy crisis.

### **People in Malta are less likely than their counterparts elsewhere in the EU to opt for low carbon-emission modes of transport**

In 2022, 28 % of women and 24 % of men in Malta regularly opted for low carbon-emission modes of transport such as cycling, car-pooling or public transportation. This was well below the EU average (42 % and 41 %, respectively). Similarly, 75 % of women and 79 % of men listed a car among their three main means of transport. These percentages were above the EU average (66 % and 70 %, respectively), and are among the highest of all Member States.

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[1] The following sources were used: the EIGE survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities; the European Social Survey; Eurostat-LFS; EU-SILC; education statistics; and the EIGE's WiDM.

# Green Deal in Malta

	Malta		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
<b>Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation</b>				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (% ,15+, 2018)	n/a	n/a	62	61
<b>Avoiding animal products (% ,16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	23	18	31	23
Sometimes	31	27	43	41
Never	46	55	26	36
<b>Avoiding plastic single-use products (% ,16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	52	58	49	42
Sometimes	34	25	44	46
Never	14	18	7	11
<b>Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% ,16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	42	28	51	49
Sometimes	30	39	41	41
Never	29	33	8	10
<b>Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% ,16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	57	64	59	53
Sometimes	23	19	35	39
Never	20	16	6	8
<b>Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% ,15+, 2021)</b>				
Natural sciences and technologies	35	65	36	64
Natural sciences	54	46	56	44
Technologies	28	73	28	72
<b>Energy</b>				
<b>People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% ,+16, 2021)</b>				
65+	11	8	8	6
Low educational attainment	11	11	12	12
Single	9	10	10	9
Lone parents	12	7	12	11
Non-EU migrants	6	7	12	13
People with disabilities	12	15	12	11
<b>People with arrears on utility bills (% ,+16, 2021)</b>				
16-24	9	8	8	9
Low educational attainment	8	8	9	10
Single	9	10	10	9
Lone parents	12	7	12	11
Non-EU migrants	9	9	11	12
People with disabilities	8	7	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (% ,+15, 2022)	n/a	n/a	24	76
<b>Transport</b>				
<b>People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (% ,16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	28	24	42	41
Sometimes	24	24	39	41
Never	49	52	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% ,16-74, 2022)	75	79	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% ,16-74, 2022)	22	22	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% ,16-74, 2022)	15	13	46	43
Employed in the transport sector (% ,15+, 2022)	23	77	22	78
<b>Decision-making</b>				
Senior administrators in national ministries dealing with environment and climate change (% ,2022)	63	38	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% ,2022)	60	40	70	30

# About Index

The Gender Equality Index is a tool for monitoring progress in gender equality across the EU over time. It measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and is composed of 31 indicators. The Index uses a scale of 1 to 100, where 1 stands for total inequality and 100 for total 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, dis/ability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women monitors, measures and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

The Gender Equality Index 2023 also includes a thematic focus on the socially fair transition of the European Green Deal.

This year's edition of the Index includes a long-awaited update to the domain of time using the EIGE survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities.

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## EIGE's survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities

This EIGE survey focuses on gender differences in unpaid care in order to better understand how they impact the job opportunities, work-life balance, leisure and social activities of women and men. The survey aims to fill current data gaps and improve the capacity of the Gender Equality Index to capture changes in the domain of time in a more conceptually sound, coherent and regular way. The findings from this EIGE survey will contribute to monitoring the European Care Strategy and the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, as reducing the gender gap in care is a key objective of these strategies. The survey was carried out during the summer of 2022, and involved over 60,000 respondents aged 16-74 across the 27 EU Member States.

## European Institute for Gender Equality

We are an independent centre and the primary source for information on gender equality in the European Union. We contribute to making the European Union become a Union of Equality, where women and men, girls and boys in all their diversity are free to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to thrive, and can equally participate in and lead our societies.

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