

How gender equal is your parliament?

Find out with our gender-sensitive parliaments tool

In national parliaments across the EU, women make up less than a third of parliamentarians. This is bound to have an impact on parliamentary decisions. One way to balance the decision-making power in Europe is to have more gender-sensitive parliaments.

Parliaments not only make laws but they are also working places. Like other organisations, they have their own rules, customs and ways of working. These all need to consider the different needs of both women and men, who might have different opportunities to enter the parliament or influence decision-making.

A gender-sensitive parliament is not only about having a higher proportion of women. A good example of one would be a parliament that encourages more women to choose a career in politics and welcomes their rise to the top levels of decision-making across a wide range of portfolios.

A gender-sensitive parliament

- Respects and delivers on gender equality
- Has no barriers to women's full participation
- Includes both women and men in the parliamentary and support work
- Is aware that internal rules and norms may affect women and men differently
- Takes efforts to pursue gender equality both internally and externally through gender-sensitive policies
- Sets a positive example by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment among society both nationally and internationally



How can the tool help?

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has developed a tool to help parliaments assess their organisation and working procedures and see how gender sensitive they are ⁽¹⁾. To determine the level of gender equality in your parliament, you first need to collect facts. The tool can help you find out its strengths and weaknesses. With this knowledge, you will know what you would need to change to make your parliament more gender equal.

How does the tool work?

To assess the level of gender sensitivity you must answer a series of questions in five areas.



⁽¹⁾ The tool is based on a framework developed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



The tool determines how open and sensitive the bodies at local, regional, national, and European level are to gender equality. It analyses the number of women and men (both elected members of parliament and administrative staff), their roles and their positions. The tool also looks at how internal procedures and acts adopted by the parliament respect and promote gender equality.

You can also use the tool to carry out regular self-assessments in order to monitor changes in gender sensitivity over time.



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Who can use the tool?

If you work in a parliament with an administrative function or if you are a member of parliament then this tool is ideal for you. You can use either the **national parliaments** version or the **regional parliaments** version depending on your type of parliament. Users of the tool could include:

- parliament speakers
- women's caucuses
- gender-equality bodies
- political parties

If you work in a civil-society organisation then you can use the **general** version of the tool to raise awareness on gender equality in parliaments and within political parties. You can use it to pursue collaboration with parliamentary members, bodies and parties and to advocate for gender equality in political decision-making. If you work in academia and are interested in gender and politics, you can use the tool to research gender sensitivity in parliaments.

How to use the tool?

If you work in a parliament and would like to assess its gender sensitivity, you first need to create an account. We will send you the relevant questionnaire based on your login data. If you are a member of the public, then you can access the general version without having an account.

Once you have answered all the questions in each area you will get a gender-sensitive rating for your parliament. This way you can see where you are doing well and where you need to improve.

You can find more information about the tool, good practices and a list of useful resources on our website.

Access the tool on EIGE's gender mainstreaming platform: www.eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-sensitive-parliaments



European Institute for Gender Equality

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

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