

The Gender Equality Index 2017 examines the progress and challenges in achieving gender equality across the European Union from 2005 to 2015. Using a scale from 1 (full inequality) to 100 (full equality), it measures the differences between women and men in key domains of the EU policy framework (work, money, knowledge, time, power and health). The Index also measures violence against women and intersecting inequalities. These are satellite domains and are part of the framework of the Gender Equality Index, but do not have an impact on the overall score. Intersecting inequalities show how gender intersects with age, education, family composition, country of birth and disability. The Gender Equality Index provides results for each domain and sub-domain for the EU and its 28 Member States ⁽¹⁾.

Progress in gender equality in Latvia, 2005-2015

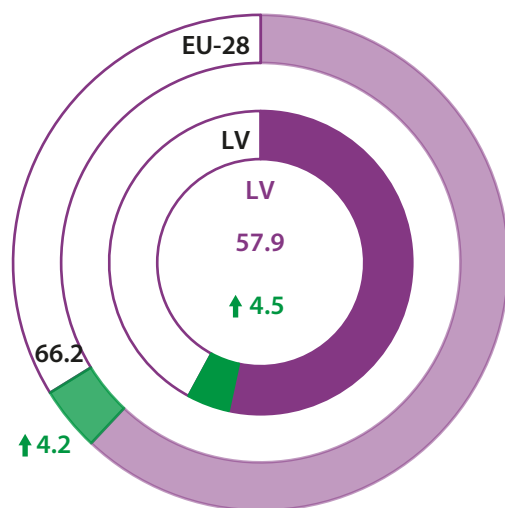
In the Gender Equality Index 2017, Latvia achieved a score of **57.9 out of 100**, which is an increase of 4.5 points. Progress is in line with the EU-28 average. Latvia's Index rank has moved up one position to 17th place. Latvia has progressed in all domains, mostly at a faster pace than in the other Member States.

The scores in the domains of **health** and **work** are the highest. Latvia has improved significantly in gender equality for access to medical and dental services. However, when compared with the rest of the EU-28, scores remain among the lowest. Latvia ranks better in the domain of work, with participation for women and men scoring the fifth-best position in the EU-28.

Latvia's performance in the domain of **time** is in line with the EU-28. The division of time in care activities places Latvia among the most gender equal countries in the EU-28 (second-best position), while there is more room for improvement in the area of social activities.

The greatest challenges are in the domains of **money** and **knowledge**, where Latvia ranks among the lowest in the EU-28. The economic situation of women and men has stagnated since 2005. Access to financial resources has improved but at a slightly slower pace than in the other Member States. Latvia's scores in knowledge are far below the EU-28 average. In the sub-domain of attainment and participation, Latvia's rank has dropped eight positions.

Progress in the domain of **power** is slow. Gender equality in decision-making remains a challenge in all areas. Only in the economic arena is the score above the EU-28 average.



↑↓ Change in score from 2005 to 2015

⁽¹⁾ The Gender Equality Index 2017 is based on the data of Eurostat (Education statistics, EU Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), of Eurofound (European Quality of Life Survey, European Working Conditions Survey), of EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (Women and Men in Decision-Making) and of the Fundamental Rights Agency's Violence Against Women survey. The year of reference is 2015 (2014 for data on intersecting inequalities). The age of the reference population for the indicators is either 15+, 16+ or 18+, depending on the source.

Work

In the domain of work, the score has slightly increased due to progress in the participation of women and men in the labour market and the subsequent narrowing of gender gaps.

The employment rate (20-64) is 71% for women versus 75% for men. The total employment rate is 72.5%, so Latvia has almost reached the national target of the Europe 2020 strategy (EU2020) (73%).

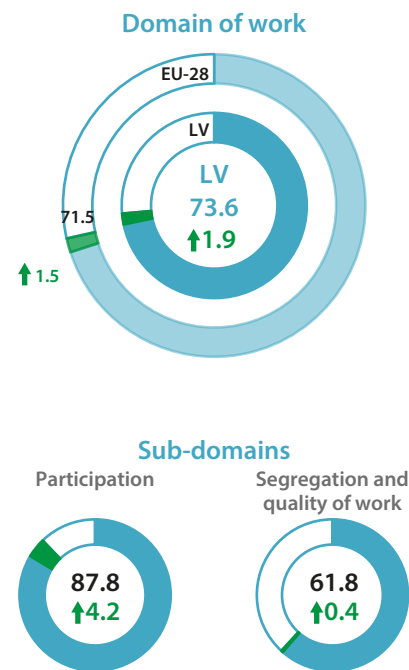
For both women and men, the employment rate decreases when the number of hours worked is taken into account. The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate of women is about 48%, compared to 60% for men.

The gender gap in the FTE employment rate is wider among young people and among women and men with a low level of education, always to the detriment of women. It is particularly wide among couples with children, for which the FTE employment rate is 69% for women compared to 87% for men.

11% of women work part-time, compared to 5% of men. On average, women work 38 hours per week, compared to 40 hours per week for men. 4% of working-age women versus 0.2% of working-age men are either inactive or work part-time due to care responsibilities.

Gender segregation in the labour market is a reality for both women and men. The situation remained the same between 2005 and 2015. Nearly 26% of women compared to 5% of men work in education, human health and social work activities. Gender segregation is greater among highly educated women and men aged 50-64.

Five times more men (30%) than women (6%) work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) occupations.



Money

The situation in the domain of money has improved. Gender equality has improved in earnings and income, but has not changed in terms of poverty and wealth distribution.

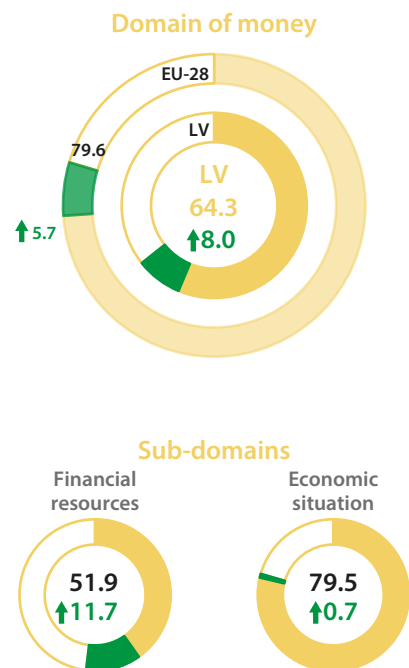
Mean monthly earnings of women and men have increased, but men continue to earn more than women. Women earn nearly 18% less than men each month.

Women and men with a low level of education, young women, women with disabilities and women aged 65+ have the lowest mean monthly earnings.

The population of women and men at risk of poverty has slightly increased. For women, the increase has been faster, and the gender gap has consequently widened. One in four women is at risk of poverty, compared to one in five men. Single women (43%), lone mothers (37%) and women with a low level of education (40%) face a higher risk of poverty.

For both women and men, the risk of poverty decreases as education level increases. Among people with a low level of education, 40% of women and 29% of men are at risk of poverty, but among those who have completed tertiary education, only about 8% of both women and men are at risk.

Inequalities in income distribution have not changed. Men earn more than women, and the gender pay gap is 17%. In 2012, the gender gap in pensions was 17% to the detriment of women. The EU-28 averages are 16% and 38%, respectively.



Knowledge

The score in the domain of knowledge has slightly improved.

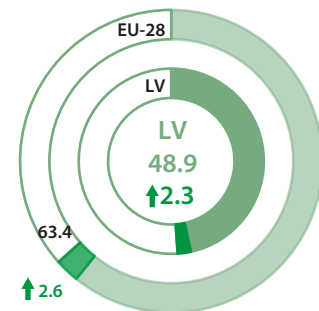
The number of tertiary graduates has increased significantly. More women than men have obtained a tertiary degree and the gap is getting wider. Every third woman, compared to every fifth man, has a university degree. Only among people aged 65+ is the share of graduates higher for men than for women (22% and 19%, respectively).

Persons with disabilities have a lower chance of finishing tertiary education, especially women. The difference between the share of graduates among women with disabilities and women without disabilities is 17 percentage points (p.p.), whereas it is 7 p.p. for men. Latvia has already met its national EU2020 target to have 34-36% of people aged 30-34 obtain tertiary education.

Participation in lifelong learning has decreased for both women and men. There are still more women than men participating in lifelong learning, although this gender gap has narrowed.

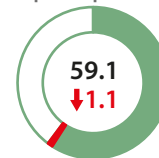
Gender segregation in knowledge remains a major challenge. 36% of women students, compared to only 14% of men students, are concentrated in the fields of education, health and welfare, humanities and arts, which are traditionally seen as 'feminine'. Latvia's score in knowledge segregation is the lowest in the EU-28.

Domain of knowledge

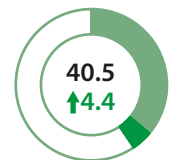


Sub-domains

Attainment and participation



Segregation



Time

Latvia's score in the domain of time has increased, largely due to the sharing of care activities, which has the second-highest score in the EU-28. The greatest challenge remains in the division of time for social activities between women and men.

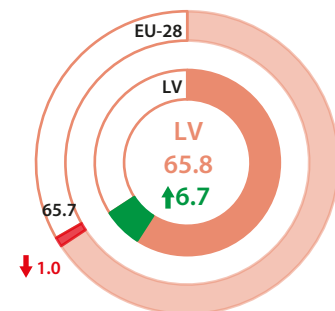
Women are slightly more likely to spend time caring for their family. 40% of women care for and educate their family members for at least 1 hour per day, compared to 38% of men. This gender gap is much smaller than in 2005. For both women and men, involvement in care responsibilities increases with their level of education. Among couples with children, women are much more involved (84%) than men (70%).

82% of women compared to 57% of men do cooking and housework every day for at least 1 hour. Among couples with children, the gender gap is bigger: 95% of women and 45% of men do cooking and housework.

Inequality in time-sharing at home also extends to social activities. 23% of men and 17% of women participate in sporting, cultural, and leisure activities outside the home. Among couples with children, 17% of women, compared to 33% of men, take part in these activities regularly. Participation in voluntary or charitable activities is slightly higher for women than for men.

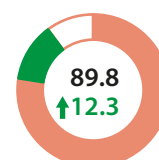
23% of children under the age of three and 82% of children between the age of three and school age are enrolled in childcare. Latvia has not met either of the two 'Barcelona targets', which are to have at least 33% of children below the age of three in childcare and 90% of children between the age of three and school age in childcare.

Domain of time

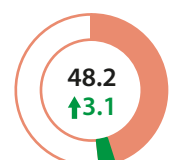


Sub-domains

Care activities



Social activities



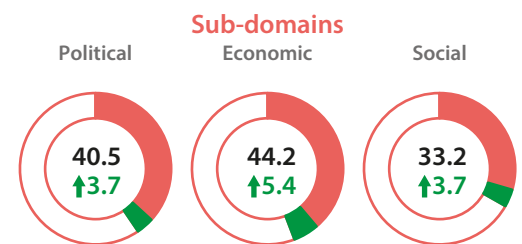
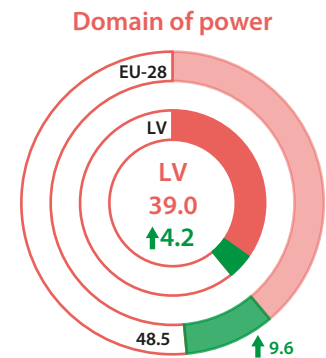
Power

The score in the domain of power has increased but at a slower pace than most EU-28 countries. It remains the domain with the lowest score, mostly due to a strong gender imbalance in the area of social power.

From 2005 to 2015, the representation of women on the corporate boards of publicly listed companies doubled to reach the 30% mark. However, women's representation on the board of the central bank slipped down to 21%.

A slight increase in the sub-domain of political power is due to the increased gender balance in the regional assemblies, where women represent 26% of members (21% in 2010). The presence of women members in the parliament remains the same as in 2005 (19%), but the share of women ministers rose slightly to 26%.

More than a third of board members of research-funding organisations are women. Women comprise 14% of members of the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations. The gender gap is even higher in the media sector, where only 7% of board members of publicly owned broadcasting organisations are women.



Health

The increase in the score of health is mainly driven by the sub-domain of access. The sub-domain of status has also improved, but to a lesser extent.

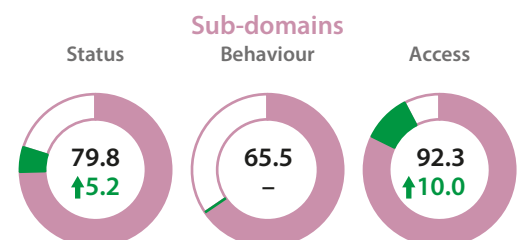
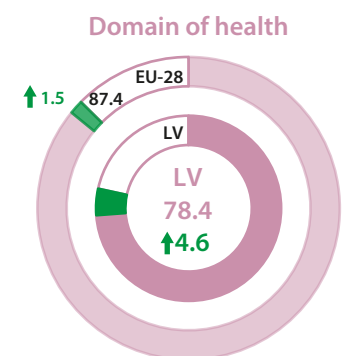
The sub-domain of status measures perceived health, life expectancy and healthy life years. All these indicators have progressed, both for women and for men, and the gender gaps have narrowed.

Around 40% of women and 50% of men rate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. Self-perceived health is lower among elderly women and men (8% and 9%, respectively) and women and men with disabilities (4% for both). Women and men in couples with children are more than twice as satisfied with their health compared to couples without children. Satisfaction with one's health decreases with age for both women and men. Women and men who were born in Latvia are more satisfied with their health than foreign-born women and men.

Women on average live nearly 10 years longer than men. In terms of healthy life years, the difference is much smaller (2 years), to the detriment of men.

Access to medical and dental services has improved for both women and men and the gender gap for unmet medical needs has narrowed. Women and men have similar access to medical services (88%) and dental services (84%).

More than half of men smoke and/or drink excessively, compared to less than a quarter of women. However, more men than women engage in healthy behaviour (doing physical activities and/or consuming fruit and vegetables).

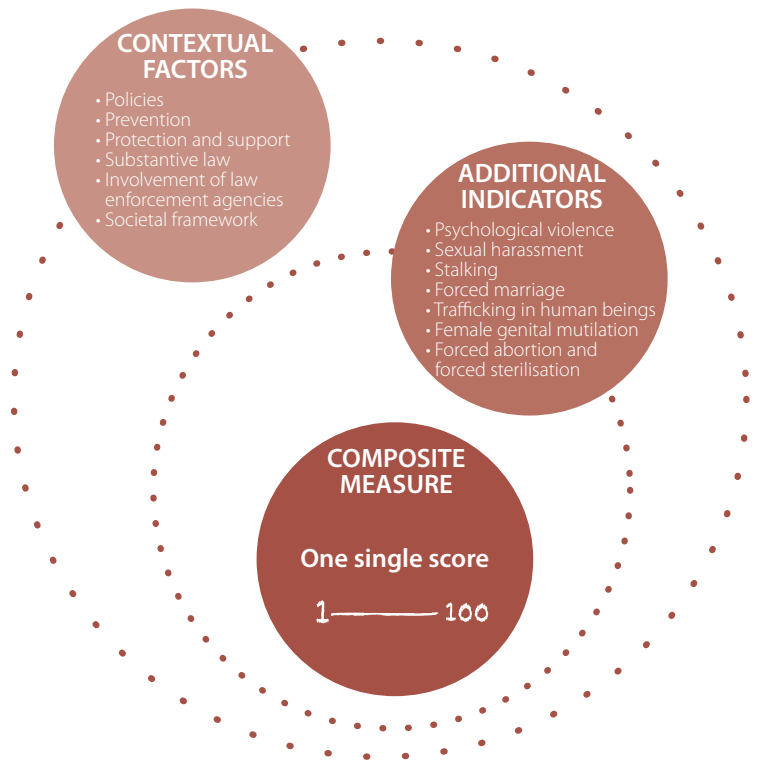


Violence

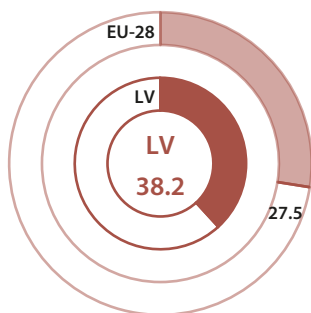
Violence against women is included in the Gender Equality Index as a satellite domain. This means that the scores of the domain of violence do not have an impact on the final score of the Gender Equality Index. From a statistical perspective, the domain of violence does not measure gaps between women and men as core domains do. Rather, it measures and analyses women's experiences of violence. Unlike other domains, the overall objective is not to reduce the gaps of violence between women and men, but to eradicate violence completely.

A high score in the Gender Equality Index means a country is close to achieving a gender-equal society. However, in the domain of violence, the higher the score, the more serious the phenomenon of violence against women in the country is. On a scale of 1 to 100, 1 represents a situation where violence is non-existent and 100 represents a situation where violence against women is extremely common, highly severe and not disclosed. The best-performing country is therefore the one with the lowest score.

Measurement framework of the domain of violence



Domain of violence



Latvia's score for the domain of violence is 38.2, which is higher than the EU-28 average.

In Latvia, 39% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.

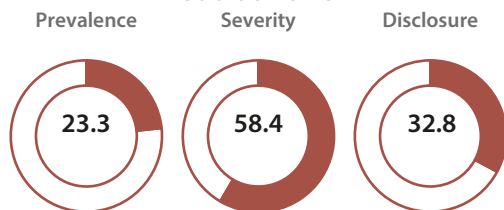
32% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone. This rate is higher than the EU-28 average of 13%.

84% of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 experienced health consequences as a result.

At the societal level, violence against women costs Latvia an estimated EUR 915 million per year through lost economic output, service utilisation and personal costs ⁽²⁾.

The domain of violence is made up of three sub-domains: **prevalence**, which measures how often violence against women occurs; **severity**, which measures the health consequences of violence; and **disclosure**, which measures the reporting of violence.

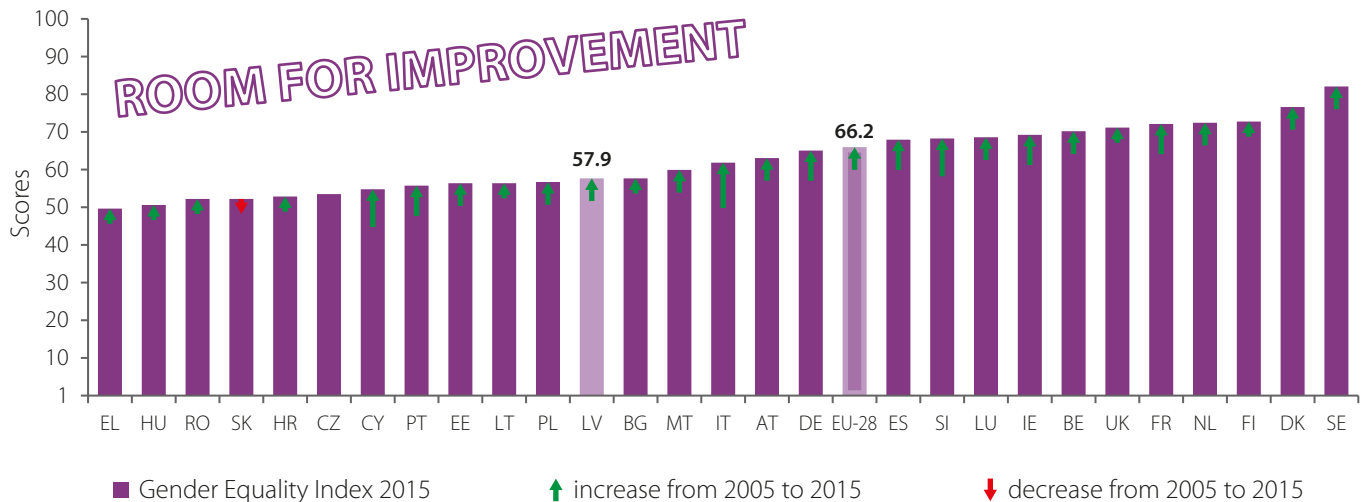
Sub-domains



⁽²⁾ This is an exercise done at EU level to estimate the costs of the three major dimensions: services, lost economic output and pain and suffering of the victims. The estimates were extrapolated to the EU from a United Kingdom case study, based on population size. EIGE, *Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2014, p. 142 (available at: <http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/MH0414745EN2.pdf>).

Unique features and benefits of the Gender Equality Index 2017

Results show that Latvia's Gender Equality Index score is below the EU-28 average, leaving considerable room for improvement, especially in the domains of knowledge and power. In order to reach full gender equality, a more targeted and holistic approach to gender equality is needed.



The Gender Equality Index:

- monitors progress in gender equality across the EU and over time;
- supports decision-makers in assessing how far Member States are from reaching gender equality;
- shows the different outcomes of EU and national policies for women and men;
- allows for meaningful gender analysis and comparison between different policy areas;
- supports the development and implementation of gender equality policies and legislation;
- increases awareness among decision-makers and the public of progress and challenges in implementing gender equality policies;
- highlights data gaps and calls for harmonised and comparable data that are sex disaggregated and available for all Member States.

Read more about the Gender Equality Index 2017

- Main report (2017)
- Main findings (2017)
- A snail's pace towards gender equality: fact sheet (2017)
- Methodological report (2017)
- Measurement framework of violence against women (2017)
- Intersecting inequalities (forthcoming)

Explore the Gender Equality Index and the full data for Latvia at <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index>

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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