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 Slovenia, 2005-2015

In the Gender Equality Index 2017, Slovenia achieved a score of **68.4 out of 100**, which is about eight points higher than its score for 2005. This score is approximately two points above the EU-28. Slovenia ranks 10th in the European Union. It has lost one position.

The gender equality score in the domain of **health** is the highest in Slovenia: it ranks 13th in the EU for health. The situation is relatively better in terms of access to medical and dental services, an area which holds the 3rd highest score in the Union.

The biggest improvement has taken place in the domain of **power**. All the indicators in the sub-domain of political power have significantly increased, along with the share of women on the board of the central bank, one of the elements of economic power. Slovenia’s score for economic power is the second highest in the EU-28.

Slovenia’s score in the domain of **money** has also increased, although to a lesser extent. Gender equality has improved in relation to the distribution of earnings and income. Slovenia has recorded the third highest score of EU-28 in the sub-domain of economic situation, which deals with the risk of poverty and the distribution of wealth throughout the population.

Slovenia’s scores in the domains of **work** and **time** have not progressed. While in the domain of work, this is the result of stalling in all the sub-domains, in the domain of time the situation has slightly improved with regards to the allocation of time for care activities but has deteriorated in relation to social activities. Nonetheless, Slovenia’s score in the sub-domain of social activities is the 4th highest in the European Union.

The domain of **knowledge** records Slovenia’s lowest score. Although the sub-domain of segregation has improved slightly, it remains a major challenge and Slovenia ranks 25th in the European Union here.

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Work

Gender equality in the domain of work has stalled, and segregation remains a major challenge.

The employment rate (20-64) is 65 % for women versus 73 % for men. The total employment rate is 69 %. Slovenia has not yet reached its national Europe 2020 strategy (EU2020) target (75 %).

The gender gap in the employment rate is bigger when the number of hours worked is taken into account. The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate of women is around 44 %, compared to 56 % for men.

Among women and men in a couple and with children, the FTE employment rate for women is 77 %, compared to 88 % for men. The gender gap is higher compared to that of couples without children (12 percentage points (p.p.) for couples without children and 1 p.p. for couples with children). The FTE employment rate increases and the relative gender gaps decrease as education levels rise.

14 % of women work part-time, compared to 8 % of men. On average, women work 38 hours per week, compared to 40 hours for men. 1.3 % of working-age women versus virtually no working-age men outside the labour market or work part-time due to care responsibilities.

Gender segregation in the labour market is a reality for both women and men. Nearly 26 % of women work in education, human health and social work activities (EHW) compared to 6 % of men. Approximately four times more men (35 %) than women (8 %) work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) occupations.

Money

The situation in the domain of money has improved. Gender equality has improved in the sub-domain of financial resources, but has stalled in the sub-domain of economic situation, which measures the poverty rate and income distribution.

Mean monthly earnings of women and men have increased and the gender gap has remained the same. Women earn around 9 % less than men per month.

The gender gap in earnings is higher among women and men in a couple with children and among people with middle and high levels of education, always to the detriment of women. Lone mothers and elderly women earn more than lone fathers and elderly men.

The population of women and men at risk of poverty has increased. The risk affects slightly more women than men (about 16 % and 13 %, respectively). 18 % of non-EU born women and 41 % of lone fathers are at risk of poverty.

Inequalities in income distribution have increased for women and slightly more for men. The gender pay gap is 8 % to the detriment of women. In 2012, women had lower pensions than men and the gender gap was 24 %. The EU-28 averages are above Slovenia’s values: 16 % and 38 % respectively.
Knowledge

The score in the domain of knowledge has slightly increased. Gender equality has improved regarding segregation but has stalled in relation to attainment and participation.

The number of tertiary graduates has increased significantly, mostly among women. 27% of women and 21% of men have a tertiary degree. The gap, to the detriment of men, has increased. Only among elderly people (65+) are there more men than women who have completed tertiary education.

Only 16% of women with disabilities have attained tertiary education, compared to 35% of women without disabilities. For men these shares are, respectively, 17% and 25%.

Slovenia has already met its national EU2020 target to have 40% of people aged 30-34 obtain tertiary education. The current rate is 43%.

Women’s and men’s participation in lifelong learning has decreased.

In Slovenia, gender segregation in knowledge remains a major challenge. 39% of women students are concentrated in the fields of education, health and welfare, humanities and arts, compared to only 16% of men.

Time

In the domain of time, the score has stalled. The situation has become more gender unequal in the sub-domain of social activities, whereas it has slightly improved in relation to care activities.

Women take on more responsibilities to care for their family. 35% of women care for and educate their family members for at least 1 hour per day, compared to 28% of men. This gender gap has decreased.

81% of women do cooking and housework every day for at least 1 hour, compared to only 28% of men. This gender gap decreased from 2005 to 2015, and the gender gap decreases as level of education increases. Among women and men in a couple without children, the gap is larger, with 96% of women and 19% of men doing cooking and housework daily.

Inequality in time-sharing at home partially extends to social activities. Men are slightly more likely than women to participate both in sporting, cultural, and leisure activities outside the home (43% and 41%, respectively), and in voluntary or charitable activities (22% and 18%).

37% of children under the age of three and 91% of children between the age of three and school age are enrolled in childcare. Slovenia has met both of the ‘Barcelona targets’, which are to have at least 33% of children below the age of three and 90% of children between the age of three and school age in childcare.
Power

The score in the domain of power has significantly increased, due to the improvement of gender equality in all sub-domains. The biggest change occurred in the representation of women in the decision-making positions of the areas of political and economic power.

The sub-domain of political power has improved. The percentage of women ministers increased from 9 % in 2005 to 41 % in 2015. Gender equality has also improved in parliament, with women reaching 27 % of seats in 2015, compared to 12 % in 2005.

Publicly listed companies have shown a slight increase in the percentage of women on their corporate boards: from 19 % in 2005 to 23 % in 2015. At the same time, representation of women has more than tripled among the board members of the central bank: from 16 % in 2005 to 40 % in 2015.

43 % of the members of the boards of research funding organisations are women. Women make up about 35 % of board members of publicly owned broadcasting organisations. In sport, women comprise just 6 % of members of the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations.

Health

The score in the domain of health has increased slightly.

Life expectancy has increased for both women and men. Women on average live just over 6 years longer than men. When it comes to healthy life years, however, the gender gap reduces to 1 year, to the detriment of women.

62 % of women and 68 % of men assess their health as ‘good’ or ‘very good’. The level of satisfaction about one’s health increases with the level of education; moreover, the gender gap is bigger among people with a low level of education and decreases as the level of education increases. Highly educated women and men share the same opinion about their own health. Native-born women are more satisfied (57 %) with their health than foreign-born women (49 %); the gap among men is marginal.

The score of the sub-domain of access shows no change. It remains very high, however, with virtually all women and men having access to medical and dental services. The gender gap is marginal.

46 % of men smoke or drink excessively, compared to around 28 % of women. At the same time, more men than women engage in healthy behaviour (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.

Slovenia’s score for the domain of violence is 22.4, which is below the EU average of 27.5.

In Slovenia, 22 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once since the age of 15.

8 % of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone. This rate is lower than the EU average of 13 %.

At the societal level, violence against women costs Slovenia an estimated EUR 0.9 billion 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.

\(^2\) 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 Slovenia’s Gender Equality Index score is slightly above the EU-28 average, leaving however considerable room for improvement, especially in the domain of knowledge. 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: factsheet (2017)
- Methodological report (2017)
- Measurement framework of violence against women (2017)
- Intersecting inequalities (forthcoming)