

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 <sup>(1)</sup>.

## Progress in gender equality in France, 2005-2015

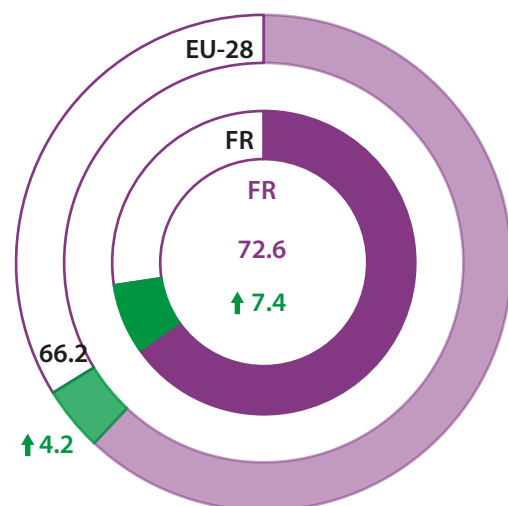
In the Gender Equality Index 2017, France achieved a score of **72.6 out of 100**, which is an increase of 7.4 points. This score is above the EU-28 score of 66.2, and progress is happening at a faster pace. France has moved up two places in the ranking, to reach fifth place.

The gender equality score in the domain of **money** is high and on the rise, showing good gender balance in access to financial resources. On the other hand, the situation concerning gender equality in poverty is stagnating.

The biggest improvement in France took place in the domain of **power**, to give the country the second-highest score in the EU-28. Women's representation in decision-making positions in the economic sphere is the highest for the EU-28.

The situation in the domain of **health** has remained stable, with the most room for improvement in the area of health behaviour. Concerning **work**, the situation in France has slightly improved. Segregation in the labour market remains a challenge.

The lowest scores are in the domains of **knowledge** and **time**. Gender equality has progressed in terms of attainment and participation in education and training, but segregation of study fields across traditional gender lines has worsened to a small degree. In addition, the allocation of time has become slightly more unequal, especially in social activities.



↑↓ Change in score from 2005 to 2015

<sup>(1)</sup> 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, greater participation of women in employment and decreasing gender gaps contributed to an increase in the score.

The employment rate (20-64) is 66% for women versus 73% for men. The total employment rate is 70%, and France has not yet reached the target of the Europe 2020 strategy (75%).

When the number of hours worked is taken into account, the full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate of women is about 41%, compared to 53% for men.

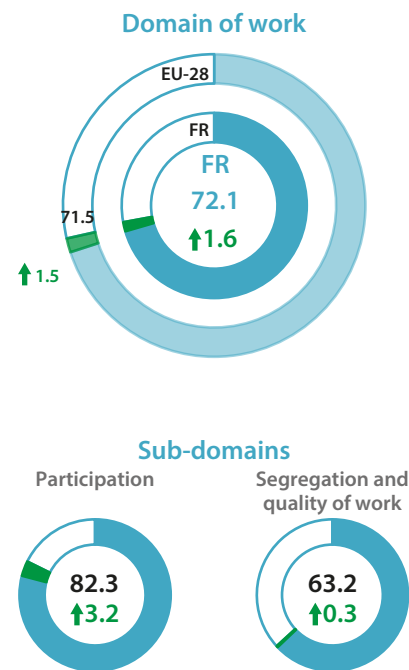
Among couples with children, the FTE employment rate for women is 66% compared to 85% for men. This gender gap of 19 percentage points (p.p.) is much higher compared to that of couples without children (3 p.p.).

The FTE employment rate is higher for men than for women aged 25-49 (81% versus 67%, respectively).

The FTE employment rate increases and the gender gap shrinks as education levels rise.

Nearly 30% of women work part-time, compared to 8% of men. On average, women work 34 hours per week, compared to 40 hours per week for men. 9% of working-age women versus 0.4% 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. Nearly 35% of women compared to 10% of men work in education, human health and social work activities (EHW). Five times more men (33%) than women (7%) work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) occupations.



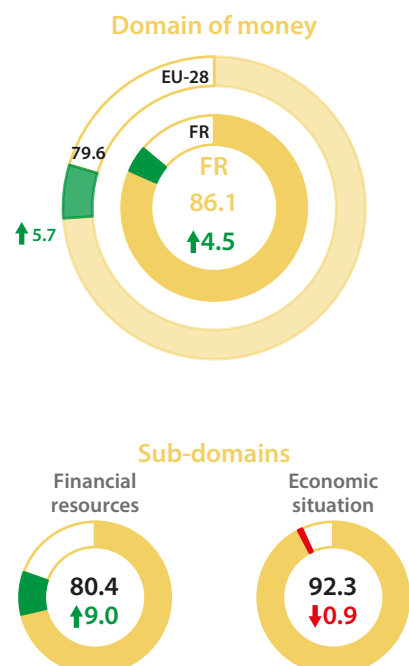
## Money

The situation in the domain of money has improved due to greater gender equality in earnings and income.

Mean monthly earnings of women and men have increased, with gender gaps remaining much the same. Women earn nearly 18% less than men per month. The gender gap in monthly earnings is much narrower among single women and men, and wider for lone parents. The gender gaps increase with age: men over 65 earn three times more than women in the same age group.

The population of women and men at risk of poverty has not changed. 13% of women and 12% of men are at risk of poverty. Among lone parents, the gender gap is greater: 36% of lone mothers are at risk of poverty compared to 22% of lone fathers. The risk of poverty rate decreases as education increases for both women and men.

Inequalities in income distribution have slightly increased. The gender pay gap is 16% to the detriment of women. In 2012, women had lower pensions than men and the gender gap was 36%. Both values are in line with the EU-28 average (16% and 38%, respectively).



## Knowledge

The increased score in the domain of knowledge is the result of a significant improvement in the levels of educational attainment and participation in education and training for women and men.

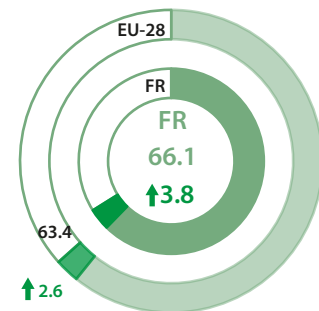
The number of tertiary graduates has increased. There are still more women than men holding a tertiary education degree (28 % and 26 %, respectively). However, the gender gap is slightly increasing, to the detriment of men.

In the 50-64 age group, there are more women than men graduates but this trend is reversed among people aged 65 and over.

The rate of participation in lifelong learning has increased for both genders (24 % for women and 22 % for men). The gender gap is wider than it was and more women than men are now participating in lifelong learning, whereas in 2005 there were more men compared to women.

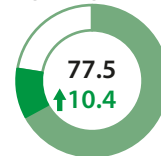
Gender segregation in study fields remains a major challenge. The gender gap in tertiary education in the fields of education, health and welfare, humanities and the arts has remained the same. 42 % of women students, compared to 22 % of men students, are concentrated in these fields, which are traditionally seen as 'feminine'.

### Domain of knowledge

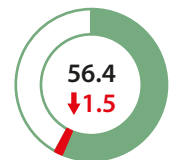


### Sub-domains

#### Attainment and participation



#### Segregation



## Time

In the domain of time, France's score has slightly decreased.

Women are more likely to spend time caring for their family. Nearly half of women versus around a third of men care for and educate their family members for at least 1 hour per day. This gender gap is wider than that of 2005.

The gender gap in caring persists among all age groups. Among people aged 25-49, 70 % of women compared to 51 % of men spend time on care activities on a daily basis. Among young people, 25 % of women compared to 3 % of men undertake care activities on a daily basis.

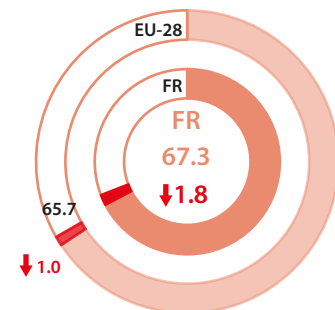
The gender gap in time spent on care activities is especially great among couples with children: women are more involved (88 %) than men (75 %).

80 % of women compared to only 36 % of men do cooking and housework every day for at least 1 hour. Among couples without children, women cook more than men (76 % versus 36 %, respectively). The gender gap is much wider in couples with children, where 87 % of women do cooking compared to 26 % of men.

Inequality in time-sharing at home also extends to social activities. Men are slightly more likely than women to participate in sporting, cultural and leisure activities outside the home. Participation in voluntary or charitable activities is also higher for men than it is for women.

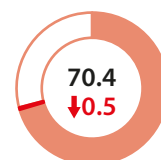
France has met both the 'Barcelona targets', which are to have at least 33 % of children below the age of three in childcare and 90 % of children between the age of three and school age in childcare. In France, the enrolment rates are 42 % and 90 %, respectively.

### Domain of time

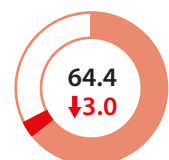


### Sub-domains

#### Care activities



#### Social activities



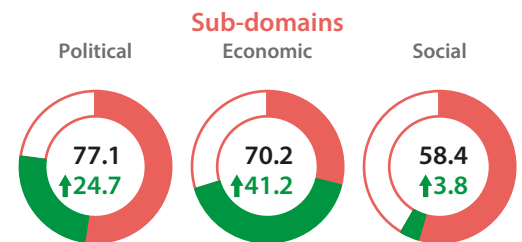
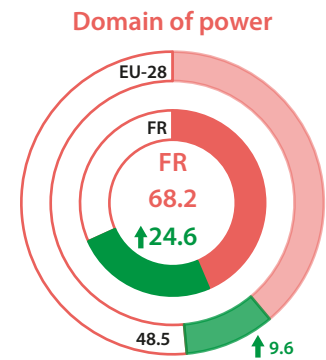
## Power

The score in the domain of power shows a marked increase thanks to a considerable rise in women's representation in economic and political power, although it remains one of the domains with the lowest score.

The share of women on the corporate boards of publicly listed companies has greatly increased, reaching 35% in 2015 compared to just 7% in 2005. Furthermore, while women comprised 24% of the members of the board of the central bank, they now hold 39% of these seats.

The increase in the sub-domain of political power is due to the increased gender balance in parliament (from 14% to 26% women members) and among ministers (from 21% to 48%).

More than one third of the board members of research-funding organisations (37%) and of the board members of publicly owned broadcasting organisations (35%) are women. The gender gap in decision-making in sport is wider — women comprise just 22% of the members of the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations.



## Health

France's score for health has remained stable. Access to medical and dental services is high and relatively gender equal, whereas there is room for improvement in the sphere of healthy behaviour.

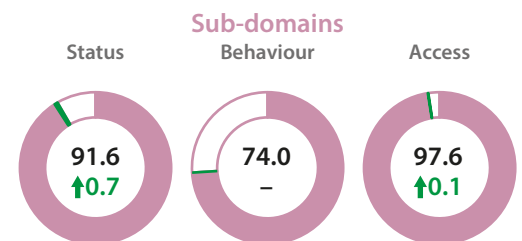
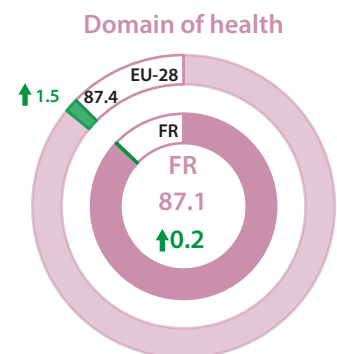
Life expectancy has increased for both women and men and the gender gap has narrowed. On average women live 6 years longer than men.

The gender gap in healthy life years is 2 years to the detriment of men and is decreasing.

70% of men and 66% of women rate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. There is a wider gender gap, to the detriment of women, among people with a lower level of education: only 50% of women with a low level of education compared to 60% of men with a low level of education evaluate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. Satisfaction with one's health increases with the level of education among women. Women and men share the same level of satisfaction about their health when they are in a couple; on the other hand, lone fathers and single men are more satisfied with their health than lone mothers and single women.

Access to medical and dental services has remained high and mostly unchanged. Lone mothers have higher unmet medical and dental needs compared to lone fathers.

About 46% of men engage in risk-enhancing behaviour (smoking and/or harmful drinking) compared to 30% of women. However, slightly more men than women (39% and 32%, respectively) engage in health-enhancing behaviour (doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables).

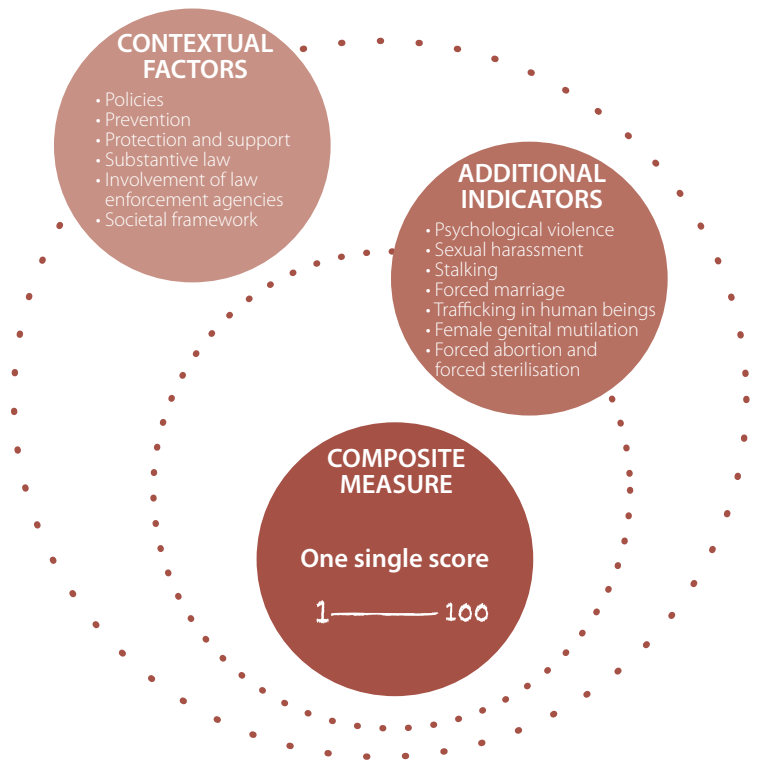


# Violence

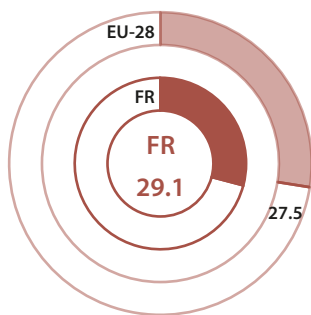
Violence against women is included in the Gender Equality Index as a satellite domain. This means that the scores of the domain of violence do not have an impact on the final score of the Gender Equality Index. From a statistical perspective, the domain of violence does not measure gaps between women 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



France's score for the domain of violence is 29.1, which is slightly higher than the EU average.

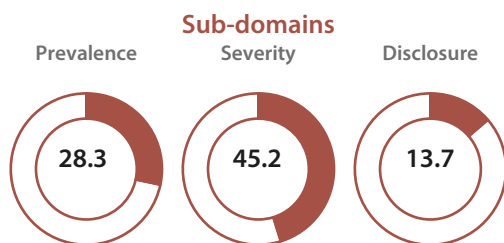
44% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. The EU-28 average is 33%.

In France, 11% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months. The EU-28 average is 8%.

15% 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 higher than the EU-28 average of 13%.

At societal level, violence against women costs France an estimated EUR 29 billion a year through lost economic output, service utilisation and personal costs <sup>(2)</sup>.

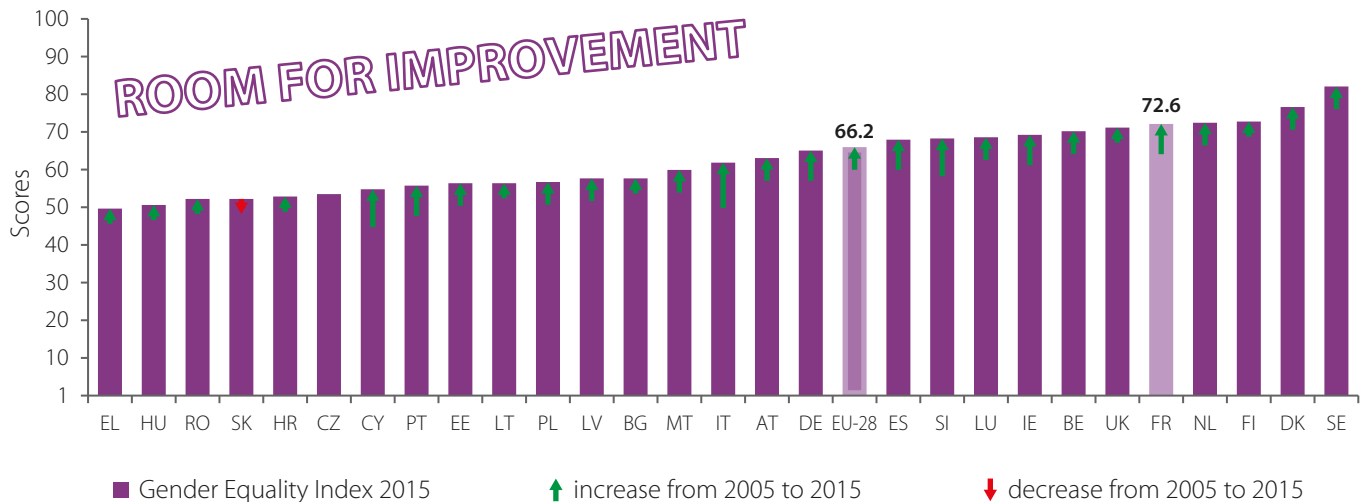
The domain of violence is made up of three sub-domains: **prevalence**, which measures how often violence against women occurs; **severity**, which measures the health consequences of violence; and **disclosure**, which measures the reporting of violence.



<sup>(2)</sup> 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 (<http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/MH0414745EN2.pdf>).

## Unique features and benefits of the Gender Equality Index 2017

Results show that France's Gender Equality Index score is above the EU-28 average, with room for improvement, especially in the domains of knowledge and time. In order to reach 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 France 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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