

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 Italy, 2005-2015

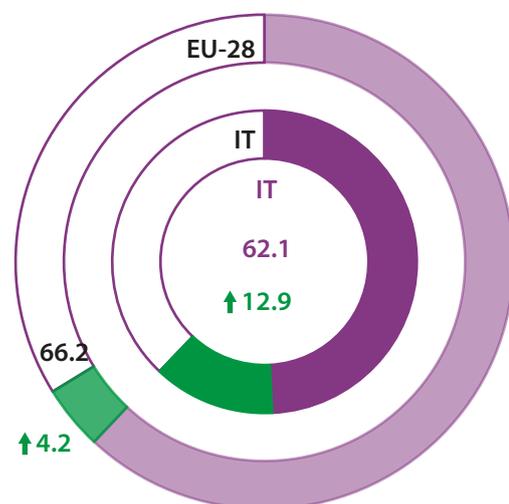
In the Gender Equality Index 2017, Italy achieved a score of **62.1 out of 100**, which is an increase of 12.9 points. This score is less than the EU-28 average of 66.2, but Italy has progressed the most out of all EU Member States. Italy has improved its Index rank by 12 positions, to reach 14th place.

All domains have improved, except the domain of time, which has gone down by 0.8 points. The fastest-progressing domains were **power** (+ 29.2 points) and **knowledge** (+ 7.3 points). Even though the score of power remains the lowest of all domains, the big leap forward in this area has brought Italy much closer to the EU average.

The situation in the domain of **money** has progressed, but the distribution of economic resources between women and men became more unequal. The domain of **work** has advanced with the duration of women's working lives catching up with men's. Progress remains slow due to persisting inequalities in women's and men's participation in the labour market and a gender-segregated workforce.

The domain of **health** shows a high score in Italy that has remained stable. Access to medical and dental services is high for both women and men, but the number of years women and men can expect to live in good health has decreased.

Along with 11 other Member States, Italy's score in the domain of **time** decreased, pointing to persisting inequalities in the household division of tasks between women and men.



↑↓ 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

The score in the domain of work has slightly increased, mostly due to narrowing gender gaps in the full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate and to an increase in the duration of women's working lives.

The employment rate (20-64) is 51% for women versus 71% for men. The total employment rate is 61%. This rate falls short of Italy's national Europe 2020 strategy (EU2020) target to have 67-69% of the adult population in employment.

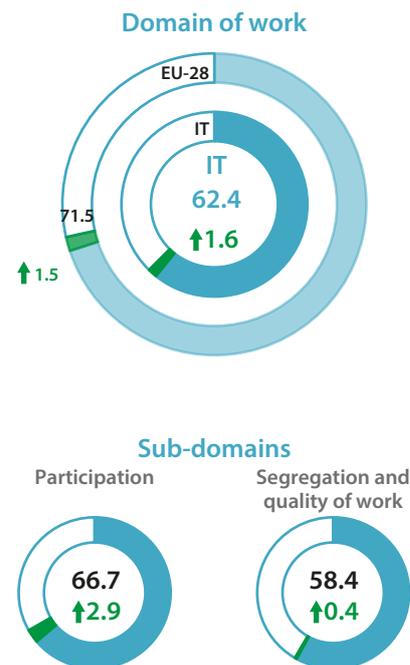
When the number of hours worked is taken into account, the FTE employment rate of women is 30%, compared to 50% for men. This employment rate has not progressed. In fact, for men the rate has decreased by 6 percentage points (p.p.).

The FTE employment rate increases as education levels rise. Gender gaps are narrower among highly educated women and men compared to people with a low level of education. Women with a low level of education have a 13% FTE employment rate, compared to 30% for women in general. Among couples with children, the FTE employment rate for women is 48% compared to 84% for men.

33% of women work part-time, compared to 9% of men. On average, women work 33 hours per week, compared to 40 hours for men. 10% 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. Nearly 25% of women compared to 7% of men work in education, human health and social work activities (EHW), with hardly any progress.

Five times more men (32%) than women (6%) work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) occupations.



## Money

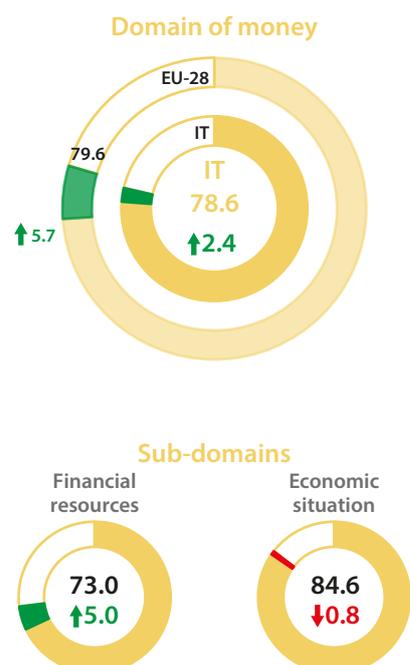
The domain of money has improved by 2.4 points. Gender equality has progressed in income but has regressed in earnings and in the distribution of wealth.

Mean monthly earnings of women and men have increased, but women still earn 18% less than men, and this gap has remained unchanged. Lone fathers earn 42% more than lone mothers.

The net income of women and men has also increased, with the gender gap decreasing slightly, to the detriment of women.

The population at risk of poverty has remained the same for women and has slightly increased for men. 20% of women and 17% of men are at risk of poverty. Lone mothers face a 38% risk of poverty and women and men born outside the EU have a 35% risk of poverty. For both women and men, the risk of poverty decreases as education levels rise.

Inequalities in income distribution have slightly increased for both women and men. The gender pay gap is 6%, to the detriment of women. In 2012, women had lower pensions than men and the gender gap was 33%. Both values are lower than the EU-28 average (by 16% and 38%, respectively).



## Knowledge

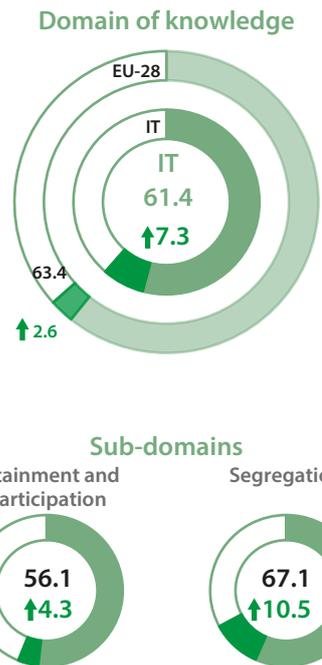
The score for the domain of knowledge has increased at a faster pace than the rest of the EU. This is due to significant gains in participation in the labour market and to a reduction in gender segregation.

The number of tertiary graduates increased, especially for women. 14% of women and 12% of men have a tertiary degree. Italy is close to its EU2020 target to have 26-27% of people age 30-34 obtain tertiary education. The rate stands at 25%.

6% of women and 8% of men with disabilities have attained tertiary education, compared to 14% of women and 12% of men in the general population.

The rate of participation in lifelong learning has progressed by 1 p.p. for both women and men.

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 arts has slightly decreased. More men (27%) studied these subjects in 2015 than in 2005 (22%). Despite this improvement, levels of gender segregation remain relatively high. 45% of women students are concentrated in these fields, which are traditionally seen as 'feminine'.



## Time

In the domain of time, Italy's score has decreased due to widening gender gaps in time spent on cooking and housework.

Women are more likely than men to spend time caring for their family. 34% of women have daily care responsibilities for an hour or more, as opposed to only 24% of men. The gender gap has narrowed.

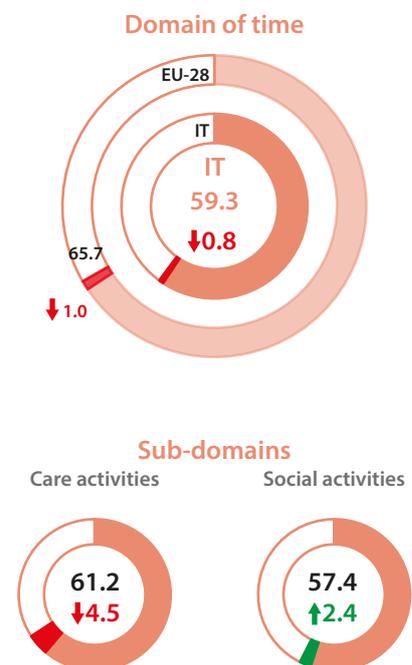
Among couples with children, 81% of women compared to 66% of men spend time on daily care activities. The gender gap in caring is higher among persons aged 25-49 (55% of women compared to 36% of men). Engagement in care activities tends to increase for both women and men as education levels rise.

81% of women compared to only 20% of men do cooking and housework every day for at least 1 hour. Among couples with children, the gender gap is 82 p.p.

Among people with a low level of education, the gender gap is particularly big, with women taking on a much greater share of domestic work. Women with a low level of education participate in these activities at a significantly higher level than women with a middle or high level of education.

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 higher for women than for men and increases with age and level of education. The level of engagement has increased slightly for both women and men.

Italy is close to meeting the 'Barcelona targets' of enrolling one third of children under the age of three in childcare (27%) and of having 90% of children between the age of three and school age enrolled (86%).



## Power

The domain of power shows a significant increase in score, and Italy has jumped from the lowest position in the EU to 13th place. Despite the increase, it remains one of the domains with the lowest score.

Gender equality in decision-making in the economic sphere has jumped by over 41 points and, in the political arena, has improved by almost 24 points.

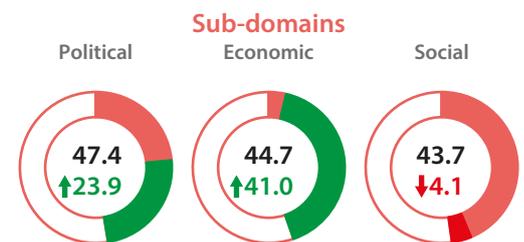
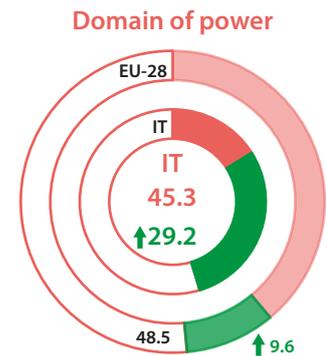
Gender balance in the parliament has grown, with the share of women members more than doubling from 12% in 2005 to 30% in 2015. In the government, women represent 27% of ministers, up from 13%.

The representation of women on the corporate boards of publicly listed companies has significantly increased, reaching 27% (up from 3%). While women were absent from the board of the central bank in 2005, they now hold 20% of the seats.

Almost one third of the board members of publicly owned broadcasting organisations are women.

When it comes to decision-making in research, women outnumber men as board members of research-funding organisations (70% of women compared to 30% of men). In the media sector, it is not as positive; women represent only 27% of the members of publicly owned broadcasting organisations. This share has decreased since 2012.

Decision-making in sport is even more unbalanced — women comprise just 8% of members of the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations.



## Health

In the domain of health, the slight rise in score is driven by an increase in self-perceived health and modest gains in life expectancy for women and men.

On average women live 5 years longer than men, but there is no difference in the number of healthy life years that women and men can expect to live (about 62 years). The number of healthy life years has dropped by 4 years for both women and men.

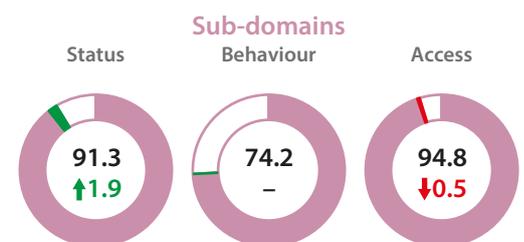
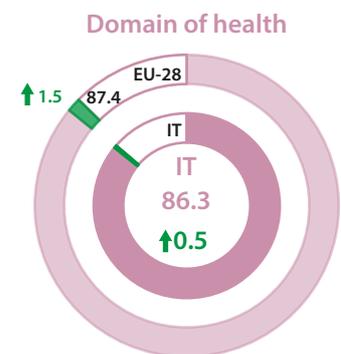
63% of women and 70% of men rate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. Women with a low level of education are less satisfied with their health compared to men in the same category. Almost half (47%) of the women with a low level of education compared to 59% of the men with a low level of education evaluate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. Satisfaction with health increases with education levels among women and men.

19% of women with disabilities and 23% of men with disabilities rate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. For women and men over 65 these percentages are 26% and 36%, respectively.

The majority of women and men are able to meet their medical and dental needs.

Women and men born outside the EU as well as lone parents have higher unmet dental needs than people born in Italy.

Over a third of men engage in risk-enhancing behaviour (smoking and/or harmful drinking) compared to around one fifth of women. However, slightly more men than women engage in healthy behaviour (doing physical activities and/or consuming fruit and vegetables).

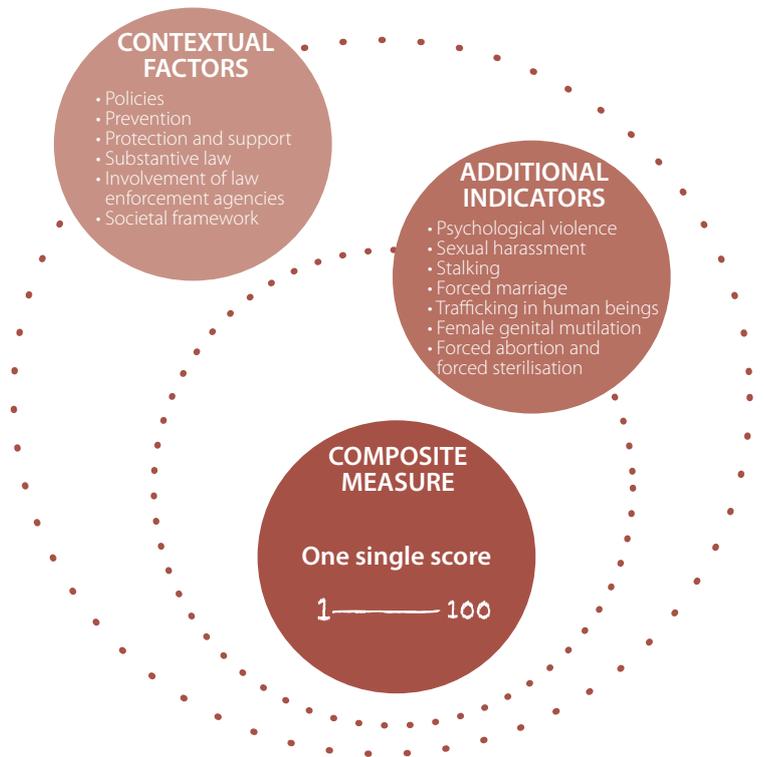


# Violence

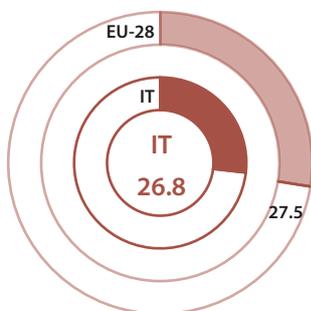
Violence against women is included in the Gender Equality Index as a satellite domain. This means that the scores of the domain of violence do not have an impact on the final score of the Gender Equality Index. From a statistical perspective, the domain of violence does not measure gaps between women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



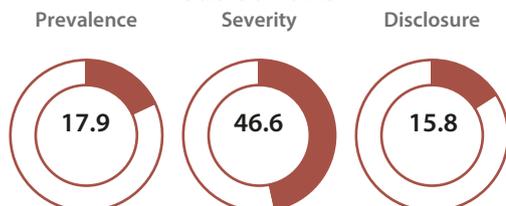
Italy's score for the domain of violence is 26.8, which is slightly lower than the EU average.

In Italy, 27% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.

In Italy, 15% of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence experienced by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone. This level is lower than the EU-28 average of 13%.

At societal level, violence against women costs Italy an estimated EUR 26 billion a year through lost economic output, service utilisation and personal costs <sup>(2)</sup>.

## Sub-domains

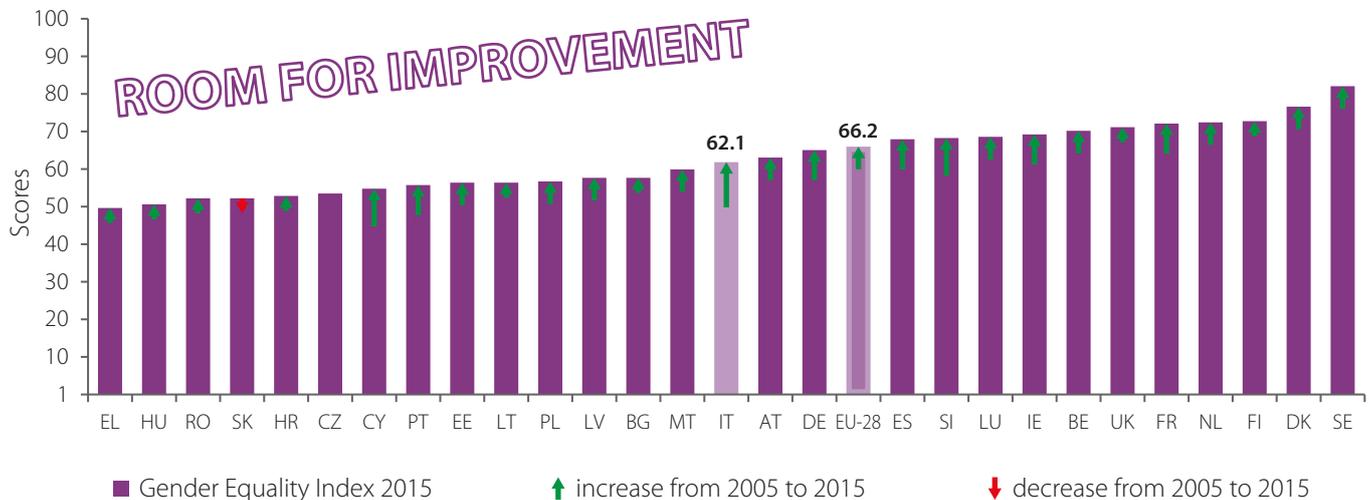


The domain of violence is made up of three sub-domains: **prevalence**, which measures how often violence against women occurs; **severity**, which measures the health consequences of violence; and **disclosure**, which measures the reporting of violence.

<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 Italy's Gender Equality Index score is slightly below the EU-28 average, with considerable room for improvement, especially in the domain of time. 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 Italy 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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Paper: MH-04-18-187-EN-C 978-92-9470-446-7 10.2839/079672  
PDF: MH-04-18-187-EN-N 978-92-9470-447-4 10.2839/062433