European Institute for Gender Equality

Gender Equality Index 2026

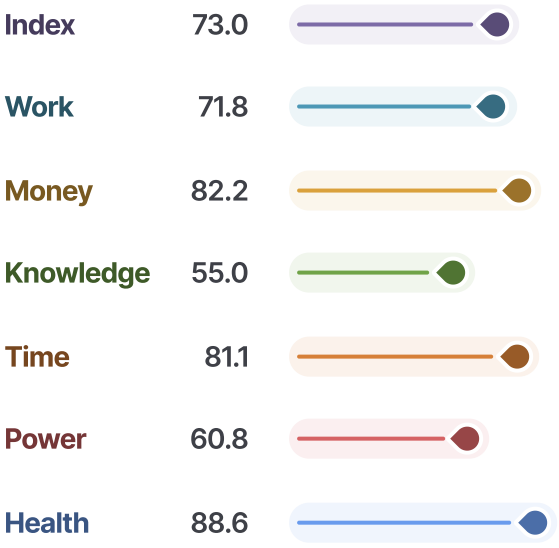
Denmark



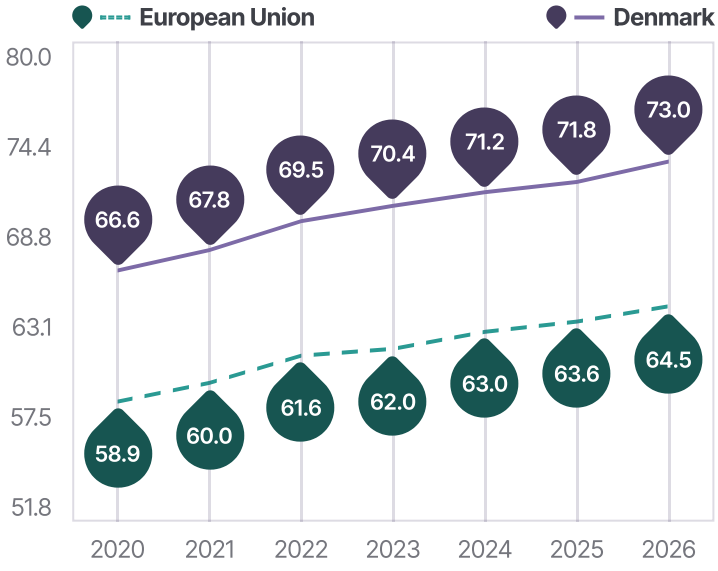
Denmark scores 73.0 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index, ranking 3rd in the EU. The score has increased by 6.4 points since 2020. Since 2025 its score has grown by 1.2 points, as a result of improvements in the domain of power, work, and health.

Denmark's Gender Equality Index score is improving at a faster pace than the EU average, placing it above the EU average.

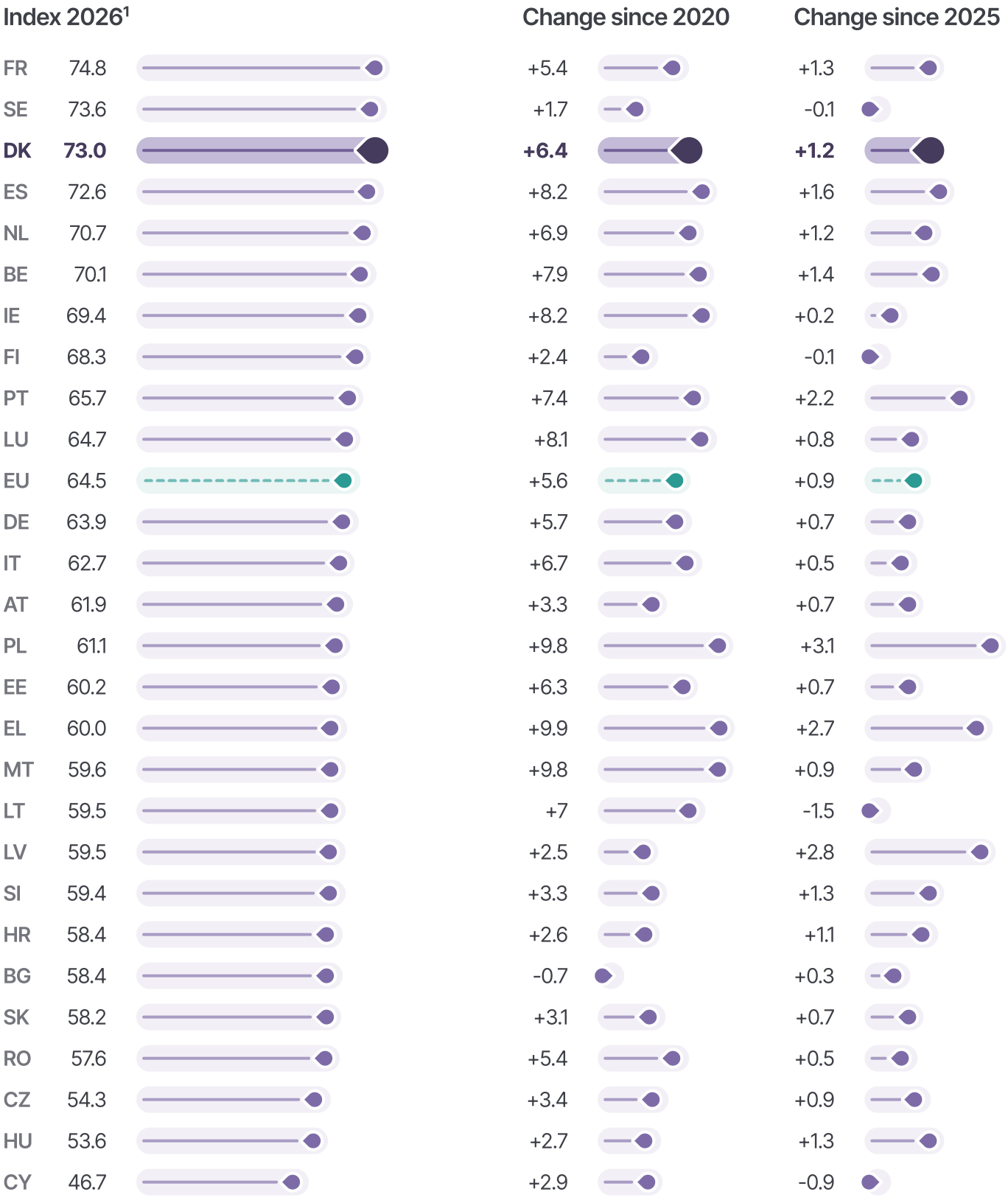
Scores (0-100)



Trend (2020 - 2026)



Compare countries



1. The Gender Equality Index has been reviewed in 2025 (see About the Index). For the Index 2026, data corrections and updates to the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) microdata carried out by several National Statistical Institutes affected a number of indicators included in the Index. As a result, the previous editions of the Gender Equality Index have been recalculated, and scores might be slightly different compared to the scores presented in the Index 2025. The Index is calculated every year by using N-1 data, for the overall time series. The Index 2026 is mostly based on 2025 data and traces progress from a short-term (2024–2025) and longer-term (2019–2025) perspective. The domain of time is calculated with the 2024 EIGE CARE survey. Lithuania/Latvia, and Croatia/Bulgaria have the same scores. Their position in the ranking is determined statistically based on the second decimal place of the Index score.

Progress in gender equality

Best performance

Denmark has its **best performance** in the domain of time, ranking 1st in the EU, with 81.1 points. This is mainly driven to the subdomain of care activities, which also ranks 1st and shows the narrowest gender gaps in childcare and housework chores in the EU. Denmark also performs particularly well in the subdomain of health status, ranking 1st with 98.1 points.

Most room for improvement

The **most room for improvement** lies in the domain of work, where Denmark ranks 16th in the EU with a score of 71.8 points. This result is due to the ranking of the subdomain of segregation and quality of work (19th position, 59.7 points).

Denmark records its lowest score in the domain of knowledge, at 55.0 points. However, it is still 14th in the EU.

Biggest improvement

Denmark had its **biggest improvement** since 2025 in the domain of power, where the score rose by 3.5 points. Progress in the subdomain of social power (+ 5.3 points) and in economic power (+ 3.2 points) has been the main reason for improvement.

A step backwards

A modest **step backwards** was recorded in the domain of knowledge, which fell by 0.3 points since 2025. This was mainly due to a 1.5-point decline in subdomain of attainment and participation. The domain of money also experienced a slight decrease of 0.2 points following a drop in the subdomain of economic situation (– 2.7 points).

Explore Denmark's Index results

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change since 2020	Change since 2025
Index	**66.6**	**67.8**	**69.5**	**70.4**	**71.2**	**71.8**	**73.0**	**6.4**	**1.2**
Work	**69.9**	**71.4**	**70.2**	**70.8**	**71.9**	**70.2**	**71.8**	**1.9**	**1.6**
Participation	86.2	86.4	86.4	87.7	88.3	87.5	86.4	0.2	-1.1
Segregation and quality of work	56.6	59.0	57.0	57.1	58.6	56.4	59.7	3.1	3.3
Money	**83.9**	**82.4**	**82.8**	**83.3**	**82.3**	**82.4**	**82.2**	**-1.7**	**-0.2**
Financial resources	88.3	89.8	89.0	90.0	89.0	84.5	87.0	-1.3	2.5
Economic situation	79.7	75.7	77.0	77.2	76.2	80.4	77.7	-2.0	-2.7
Knowledge	**54.7**	**56.3**	**54.1**	**53.6**	**53.0**	**55.3**	**55.0**	**0.3**	**-0.3**
Attainment and participation	69.5	73.2	69.3	65.4	65.4	70.1	68.6	-0.9	-1.5
Segregation	43.1	43.3	42.3	44.0	43.0	43.6	44.1	1.0	0.5
Time	**81.1**	**81.1**	**81.1**	**81.1**	**81.1**	**81.1**	**81.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Care activities	84.6	84.6	84.6	84.6	84.6	84.6	84.6	0.0	0.0
Social activities	77.6	77.6	77.6	77.6	77.6	77.6	77.6	0.0	0.0
Power	**37.9**	**40.7**	**47.9**	**51.8**	**55.8**	**57.3**	**60.8**	**22.9**	**3.5**
Political	59.5	58.7	58.1	70.5	76.1	74.9	74.2	14.7	-0.7
Economic	41.9	49.2	51.5	64.8	70.3	72.5	75.7	33.8	3.2
Social	21.8	23.3	36.8	30.5	32.4	34.7	40.0	18.2	5.3
Health	**86.8**	**87.8**	**88.4**	**86.7**	**86.1**	**87.5**	**88.6**	**1.8**	**1.1**
Status	94.2	96.3	97.6	94.0	92.5	95.5	98.1	3.9	2.6
Behaviour	80.1	80.1	80.1	80.1	80.1	80.1	80.1	0.0	0.0

Explore Denmark's performance by indicator

Work		Denmark Women	Denmark Men	EU Women	EU Men
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[2]	49	60	44	59
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2025)	41	45	35	40
Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (%, 15-74, 2025)	21	79	20	81
	Managerial positions (%, 15-74, 2025)	32	68	36	64
	Low paid workers (%, 16+, 2025)	27	23	37	29
Money					
Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2025)	43097	50891	25525	32079
	Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2025)	11		24	
Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64,%, 2025)[3]	76	136	73	147
	In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)	12	12	16	13
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%, 30-34, 2025)	65	48	51	40
	Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2025)	16	25	27	34
Segregation	Graduated in tertiary education in EHW (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Art (tertiary students) (%, 2024)	75	25	75	25
	Graduated in tertiary education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (%, 2024)	36	64	34	66
Time					
Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)	20	19	41	20
	Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (%, 45-64, 2019)	4	5	20	13
	Housework chores every day (%, 16-74, 2024)	49	36	59	33
Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	31	40	30	43
	Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	20	25	13	17
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (%, 2025)	36	64	32	68
	Share of members of parliament (%, 2025)	45	55	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2025)[4]	48	52	32	68
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies (%, 2025)	44	56	35	65
Social	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic most popular sport organisations (%, 2025)	29	71	26	74
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)	69	69	65	71
	Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (%, 65+, 2024)	55	57	48	54
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%, 16+ population, 2019)	62	43	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%, 16+ population, 2019)	66	60	38	43

Source: EU-LFS, EU-SILC, European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), Eurostat health statistics, EIGE's CARE survey, EIGE, Gender Statistics Database, WMID.

2. FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week
3. Median of the annual earnings expressed as a percentage of a partner's earnings for coupled women and men in employment and in working age
4. Share of members in local municipalities for BG, EE, IE, CY, LT, LU, MT, SI

Key highlights

Among the longest working lives in the EU both for women and men

The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate[5] is at 49 % for women and 60 % for men. The figure for women has fallen by 1 pp since the previous year. The gender gap is widest among people with low levels of education (19 pp) and narrows as education levels rise.

Women in Denmark spend an average of 41 years in employment, compared with 45 years for men. Both figures are well above the EU averages of 35 years for women and 40 years for men. Denmark therefore has some of the longest durations of working life in the EU.

Women's presence in managerial positions is increasing

Women account for 21 % of ICT (information and communications technology) specialists in Denmark, unchanged since the previous year. In management, 32 % of women are represented, below the EU average of 36 % but up by 4 pp since the previous year.

Women are more likely than men to be low-paid workers

In Denmark, 27 % of women and 23 % of men are low-paid workers[6]. Both figures are unchanged since the previous year. The gender gap is narrower than at the EU level, where 37 % of women and 29 % of men are low-paid workers.

The gender pension gap has narrowed sharply

Denmark's gender pension gap is 11 %, down by 5 pp since the previous year. It is now one of the smallest pension gaps in the EU.

In-work poverty has fallen to the same level for women and men

In Denmark, 12 % of both employed women and men living in single-adult or single-parent households are at risk of poverty. Both figures have decreased over the previous year, by 2 pp for women and 3 pp for men. This places Denmark as the only EU Member State without a gender gap in this category. In-work poverty is much higher among people aged 16–24, reaching 48 % for women and 50 % for men. The gender gap is widest within single-parent households (10 pp), at the disadvantage of single mothers.

Tertiary graduation among women continues to rise

In Denmark, 65 % of women aged 30–34 have completed tertiary education, up by 2 pp since the previous year, compared with 48 % for men. Among people aged 25–34, 16 % of women and 25 % of men have completed IVET (initial vocational education and training) studies. Both figures are below the EU averages of 27 % for women and 34 % for men.

5. The FTE employment rate measures working hours comparatively, even though people may work different numbers of hours per week.
6. Percentage of employed population receiving two thirds or less of the national median employee income, which covers gross employee cash or near cash income, gross non-cash employee income and employers' social insurance contributions.

Gender segregation across fields of study remains wide

Women make up 75 % of EHW (education, health and welfare, humanities and the arts) graduates and 36 % of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates in Denmark. Both women's shares have increased by 1 pp since the previous year.

Denmark records the best results in gender equality in care

In Denmark, 20 % of women and 19 % of men care for children aged 0–11 for more than 35 hours a week. This is the smallest gender gap in the EU.

The gender difference is also small for long-term care. Among people providing more than 20 hours of care a week, the figures are 4 % for women and 5 % for men. Denmark is the only EU country where the figure is lower for women than for men.

The gap is wider in daily housework. Daily housework chores are done by 49 % of women and 36 % of men, the smallest gender gap in the EU.

Women's representation in politics is close to parity in regional assemblies

Women hold 36 % of ministerial posts (+ 1 pp since the previous year) and 45 % of seats in parliament. In regional assemblies, women hold 48 % of seats. Despite a decline of 1 pp over the previous year, this share is close to parity and well above the EU average of 32 %.

> Denmark does not have gender quotas for parliament.

Women's presence on company boards is high

Women hold 44 % of board seats in Denmark's largest listed companies, one of the highest percentages in the EU and up by 1 pp since the previous year. Women's representation in the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations has also increased, reaching 29 %, up by 3 pp since the previous year. However, it remains below parity.

> As of December 2025, Denmark has notified complete transposition of the Directive (EU) 2022/2381 (Gender Balance on Boards Directive) into national law.

Gender equality achieved in self-perceived health

In Denmark, 69 % of both women and men rate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. The figure for women has increased 2 pp since the previous year, marking gender balance in self-perceived health. The gender gap remains wide among people in single-parent households at 18 pp, with single mothers reporting lower levels of good health.

Healthy life years at 65 have increased sharply, for both women and men. Women aged 65 and over can expect to spend 55 % of their remaining life in good health, against 57 % for men, up by 6 pp and 5 pp since the previous year. This is one of the smallest gender gaps in the EU.

Explore intersecting inequalities

Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[7]		Women	Men	Gender gap	Gender gap in 2019	Gap change
Household composition	Couple without children	29	36	-7	-5	🔴
	Couple with children	79	93	-14	-13	🔴
Level of education	Low educated	22	41	-19	-19	🟠
	Medium educated	49	63	-14	-12	🔴
	High educated	67	75	-8	-6	🔴
Country of birth	Native born	49	59	-10	-11	🟢
	Foreign born	56	69	-13	-15	🟢
In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	12	13	-1	0	🔴
	Single-parent household	13	3	10	-7	🔴
Age groups	15/16-24	48	50	-2	n/a	n/a
	25-49	15	11	4	-3	🔴
	50-64	7	9	-2	0	🔴
	65+	5	10	-5	-15	🟢
Country of birth	Native born	12	11	1	-3	🟢
	Foreign born	16	23	-7	12	🟢
Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2024)						
Country of birth	Native born	17	28	-11	-11	🟠
	Foreign born	11	10	1	-3	🟢
Disability	With disabilities	15	21	-6	3	🔴
	Without disabilities	12	20	-8	-9	🟢
Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)						
Household composition	Single-parent household	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Couple with children	21	15	6	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	20	19	1	n/a	n/a
	50-64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	57	56	1	0	🔴
	Single-parent household	57	75	-18	-4	🔴
	Couple without children	67	68	-1	-4	🟢
	Couple with children	81	81	0	-4	🟢
Age groups	15/16-24	81	83	-2	-1	🔴
	25-49	72	72	0	-2	🟢
	50-64	62	61	1	-4	🟢
	65+	55	53	2	-2	🟠
Disability	With disabilities	25	24	1	-2	🟢
	Without disabilities	86	83	3	-1	🔴

Source: Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), EIGE CARE survey.

🟢 gender gap decreased (<= -1 p.p.) 🟠 no change (gender gap increases/decreases between -1 and 1 p.p.) 🔴 gender gap increased (>= 1 p.p.)

7. FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week. Family type is based on the relationships between the members of households. Children are only those economically dependent household members (i.e. aged below 18).

Violence against women

Violence against women is one of the additional domains of the Gender Equality Index. The composite indicator on violence against women was calculated on the basis of the EU-GBV survey on violence against women[8].

Due to data limitations the composite measure of violence could not be calculated for Denmark, but data can be found at indicator level, when available[9].

- In Denmark, 48 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. This is 17 pp higher than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- In Denmark, 49 % of women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from several types of perpetrators (current partner, former partner and/or non-partner).
- At age 13, 18 % of girls in Denmark report being cyberbullied, against 13 % of boys. By age 15, the pattern reverses, with 11 % of girls reporting cyberbullying against 13 % of boys[10].
- In Denmark, 11 % of women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work via social networks or messaging apps[11].

The **Istanbul Convention** is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

Denmark signed the Istanbul Convention in October 2013 and ratified it in April 2014. The Convention entered into force in Denmark in August 2014.

The European Council approved the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention on 1 June 2023.

8. The calculations of the composite measure in 2024 differ in several ways from the calculations carried out in 2017 due to slight differences in methodologies between the FRA EU wide survey on violence against women of 2012 and the EU-GBV survey (wave 2021). For more details, see EIGE (2025). Gender Equality Index 2024: Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities. Publications Office.
9. More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024, Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.
10. Based on HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)
11. Based on EU-GBV Survey (2021 wave)

Violence against women

Physical and/or sexual violence	Denmark Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**48**	**31 e**
18-29	61	35 e
30-44	54	35 e
45-64	45	31 e
65-74	27	24 e
severe limitations	70	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	47	30 e
some	58	40 e
some or severe	59	41 e
no limitations	44	28 e
intimate partner violence	26	18 e
non-partner violence	38	20 e
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**4**	**3 e**

Femicide	Denmark Women	EU Women
Women victims of intentional homicide by current or former partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2024) [12]	:	**0.4**
family member	:	0.4
current or former partner	:	:

Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation	Denmark Women	EU Women
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	:	**57 e**
intimate partner violence	:	72 e
non-partner violence	22	37 e
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	:	**37 e**
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from one or several types of perpetrators (non-partner, current partner or former partner) (%, 18-74, 2021)	**49**	**31 e**

Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else	Denmark Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (%, 18-74, 2021)	:	**31 e**
intimate partner violence	:	31 e
non-partner violence	56	38 e

12. Data for the EU and for RO not disagregated by perpetrators. Data for Finland from 2023.

Cyberviolence	Denmark Women	Denmark Men	EU Women	EU Men
13-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [13]	18	13	19 e	16 e
15-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [14]	11	13	15 e	14 e
	Women		Women	
Ever-working women who have experienced sexual harassment at work via social network and messages (%, 18-74, 2022)	11		7 e	

Source:
- EU-GBV survey on violence against women (Statistics | Eurostat (europa.eu))
- Italy, the data based on Victimisation survey 2022-2023 (Le molestie: vittime e contesto – Anno 2022-2023 – Istat); women aged 18-70.
- Femicide, Eurostat (crim_hom_vrel)
- HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)

Legend:
- EU: EIGE's estimation
- u: low reliability (estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%)
- d: definition differs
- e: estimated
- : not available

13. EU: EIGE estimation, unweighted average of the 27 Member States BE: unweighted average of Flemish Belgium and French Belgium data.
14. EU: EIGE estimation, unweighted average of the 27 Member States BE: unweighted average of Flemish Belgium and French Belgium data.

Parental leave

The Gender Equality Index 2026 focuses on parental leave as a key policy tool for promoting gender equality, supporting families and promoting children's well-being. Well-designed parental leave can help parents reconcile work and family life, support a more equal division of care responsibilities and strengthen participation in the labour market. It also supports children's early development by enabling parents to spend time with them during the first years of life. Although parental leave is available in all EU Member States, rules on access and benefits vary considerably[15].

The analysis looks at who is eligible for parental leave and its related benefits.

Employed women and men are all equally eligible for statutory parental leave, but a gender gap opens for its related benefits

All employed women and men in Denmark are eligible for statutory parental leave. Among the same employed population, however, 14 % of women and 11 % of men are not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits.

Exclusion from parental leave benefits is markedly wider in the overall population

Looking at the overall population in Denmark, 23 % of women and 16 % of men are not eligible for parental leave benefits, both higher than among the employed population. Unemployment or inactivity accounts for 50 % of excluded women and 43 % of excluded men, while unmet employment conditions account for 49 % of excluded women and 56 % of excluded men. Self-employment accounts for the rest.

Parental leave or its related benefits are used mostly by women

Women account for 54 % of people receiving publicly administered parental leave benefits or publicly administered paid parental leave in Denmark.

No gap between well-paid leave and publicly subsidised childcare in Denmark

In Denmark, there is no gap between the maximum duration of well-paid leave and the age at which children gain a universal right to early childhood education and care.

15. The analysis uses a static microsimulation to estimate how many potential parents would be eligible for parental leave across the EU. Country-specific eligibility rules are applied to representative survey data. The analysis covers people aged 20–49 and focuses on formal eligibility rather than actual take-up. It distinguishes between eligibility for job-protected parental leave (the statutory right to take time away from work while keeping a job) and eligibility for parental leave benefits (the financial compensation received during that leave). In countries where the eligibility conditions for leave and benefits are identical, the two measures produce the same results. However, where eligibility criteria differ, benefit eligibility is often broader than leave eligibility, as entitlement to financial support may extend to individuals who are not in employment. To reflect these differences, eligibility rates were simulated separately for the employed population (leave entitlement) and for the overall population (benefit entitlement). It uses 2024 data from the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). For more details, see Gender Equality Index 2026: Making parental leave work (EIGE, 2026).

Parental leave

Parental leave	Denmark Women	Denmark Men	EU Women	EU Men
1. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave (%, 20-49, 2024) [16]	**0**	**0**	**8**	**11**
2. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave by reason for ineligibility (%, 20-49, 2024)				
Self-employment	0	0	71	76
Unmet employment conditions	0	0	20	16
Unmet residency requirement	0	0	8	8
3. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits (%, 20-49, 2024)	**14**	**11**	**4**	**4**
4. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits (%, 20-49, 2024) [17]	**23**	**16**	**18**	**13**
5. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits by reason for ineligibility, (%, 20-49, 2024) [18]				
Unemployement or inactivity	50	43	:	:
Self-employment	1	1	:	:
Unmet employment conditions	49	56	:	:
Unmet residency requirement	0	0	:	:
6. Recipients/users of publicly-administered parental leave benefits or publicly-administered paid parental leave (%, 2023) [19]	**54**	**46**	**:**	**:**
	Gap		**Gap**	
7. Gap between well-paid childcare leave and ECEC place guarantee (years, 2024/2025) [20]	**0**		**:**	

Source: • EU-LFS, EU-SILC • OECD Family Database • Eurydice

Legend:
- Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: the analysis uses a static microsimulation to estimate how many potential parents would be eligible for job-protected parental leave (the statutory right to take time away from work while keeping one's job) and eligibility for parental leave benefits (the financial compensation received during that leave).
- Indicators 2, 5, 6: figures rounded to whole numbers, sum may not add up to 100 %
- : not available

16. Sweden applies a one-year residency requirement for EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA nationals, which was simulated but resulted in extremely small numbers, rounded to zero (0).

17. Sweden applies a one-year residency requirement for EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA nationals, which was simulated but resulted in extremely small numbers, rounded to zero (0).

18. 'EU-27' average excluded due to the results being unrepresentative as the figure covers only the subset of Member States with a non-negligible ineligible population to decompose by reason, excluding countries with near-full eligibility and unmet employment conditions and unmet residency requirements will be conflated.

19. DK, SE and PT do not make a distinction between the different leaves, therefore their numbers also include users of maternity and paternity leave. For BE and CZ, data is an average of users/recipients in each month of the given year. For LU, data refer to recipients of the first (right after birth) and second parental leave (before 6th birthday). For EE, data refer to recipients of shared parental benefits (jagatav vanemahüvitis). For FI, data refer to recipients of the sharable parental allowance plus the paternity allowance after the parental allowance period. For DE, data include both recipients of 'Elterngeld' and 'ElterngeldPlus'. PL and FI latest data for 2021; DK latest data for 2022. Data is not available for other countries.

20. Well-paid leave' is defined as leave compensated with an earnings-related payment equivalent to 66 % of earnings or above. The measure combines maternity, paternity, and parental leave, and reflects the continuous well-paid period achievable from birth if leave is taken full-time, in one uninterrupted period, by one or both parents in sequence.

About the Index

The Gender Equality Index, first launched in 2013, has become a cornerstone of gender monitoring in the European Union. In 2025, the Index underwent a comprehensive review to strengthen its alignment with current EU policy priorities, integrate new data and update its methodology.

The Gender Equality Index measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and is composed of 27 indicators. Scores range from 0 to 100, where 0 reflects complete gender inequality and 100 represents full equality.

Two additional domains are included in the Index, but do not impact a country's final score. The domain of intersecting inequalities highlights how gender inequalities manifest in combination with age, disability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women measures, monitors and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

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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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Publications Office
of the European Union

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