European Institute for Gender Equality

Gender Equality Index 2026

Croatia

58.4

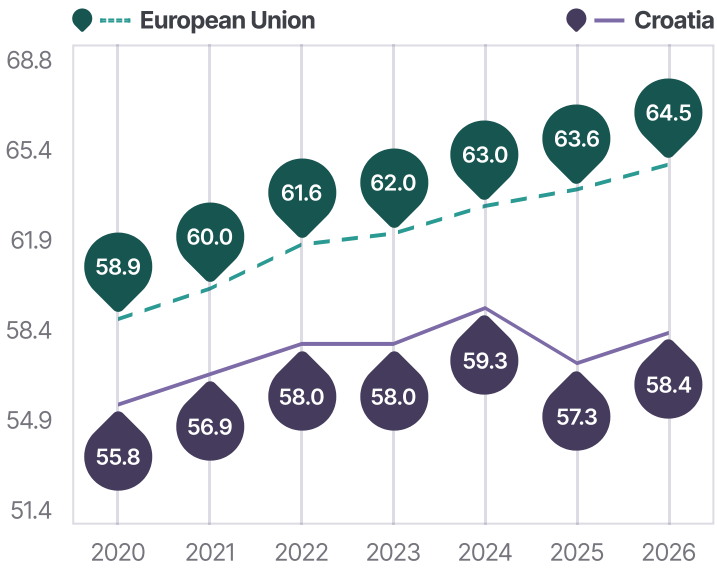
Croatia scores 58.4 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index, ranking 21st in the EU. The score has increased by 2.6 points since 2020, and by 1.1 points since 2025. This recent increase is mainly due to improvements in the domains of work, money and knowledge.

Croatia's score remains below the EU average, a position it has held throughout the years. The gap has widened, as the EU average has improved at a faster pace, although it narrowed slightly over the previous year.

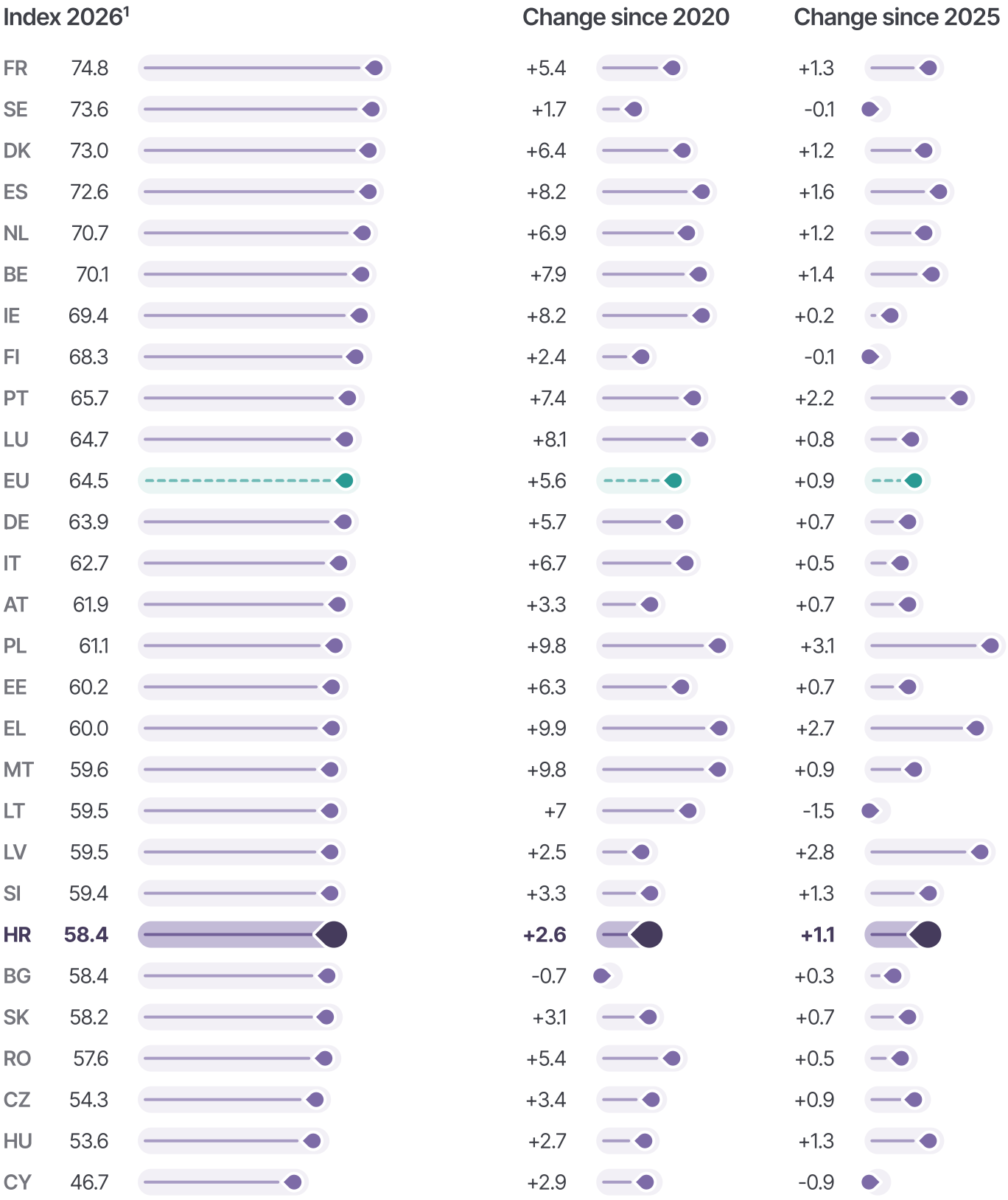
Scores (0-100)

Index	58.4
Work	71.1
Money	83.0
Knowledge	53.3
Time	69.6
Power	22.8
Health	83.6

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

The domain of money is where Croatia achieves its **best performance**, ranking 4th in the EU with 83.0 points. This is driven by the subdomain of economic situation, which also ranks 4th with 82.5 points. It reflects one of the narrowest gender disparities in partner earnings in the EU.

Most room for improvement

The domain of power shows the **most room for improvement**, with Croatia ranking 23rd in the EU and scoring 22.8 points, its lowest domain's score. This result is due to the subdomain of social power, which ranks last in the EU, with 7.4 points.

In addition, the subdomain of health status within the domain of health ranks 23rd in the EU with 86.1 points.

Biggest improvement

The **biggest improvement** since 2025 is in the domain of work, which gained 1.9 points. This is mainly due to the subdomain of segregation and quality of work (+ 2.6 points), while the subdomain of participation rose by 0.6 points.

The domain of money has also gained 1.6 points, mainly due to financial resources (+ 2.3 points). The largest gains among all subdomains were in economic power (+ 9.9 points) in the domain of power and attainment and participation (+ 6.4 points) in the domain of knowledge.

A step backwards

Croatia has recorded no step backwards in any domain since 2025. At subdomain level, segregation has fallen by 2.0 points, within the domain of knowledge. The subdomain of social power has also declined by 1.5 points, despite an overall improvement in the domain of power.

Explore Croatia's Index results

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change since 2020	Change since 2025
Index	**55.8**	**56.9**	**58.0**	**58.0**	**59.3**	**57.3**	**58.4**	**2.6**	**1.1**
Work	**67.5**	**67.0**	**67.8**	**62.8**	**65.0**	**69.2**	**71.1**	**3.6**	**1.9**
Participation	82.8	82.0	82.7	84.1	85.4	87.4	88.0	5.2	0.6
Segregation and quality of work	55.0	54.7	55.6	46.9	49.6	54.8	57.4	2.4	2.6
Money	**79.3**	**76.1**	**78.1**	**82.4**	**78.5**	**81.4**	**83.0**	**3.7**	**1.6**
Financial resources	75.3	71.5	76.4	79.0	78.1	81.2	83.5	8.2	2.3
Economic situation	83.6	80.9	79.7	86.0	78.9	81.5	82.5	-1.1	1.0
Knowledge	**52.3**	**53.2**	**53.9**	**52.4**	**53.1**	**51.9**	**53.3**	**1.0**	**1.4**
Attainment and participation	65.6	68.7	69.9	65.3	66.8	62.4	68.8	3.2	6.4
Segregation	41.7	41.2	41.6	42.1	42.1	43.3	41.3	-0.4	-2.0
Time	**69.6**	**69.6**	**69.6**	**69.6**	**69.6**	**69.6**	**69.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Care activities	61.1	61.1	61.1	61.1	61.1	61.1	61.1	0.0	0.0
Social activities	79.3	79.3	79.3	79.3	79.3	79.3	79.3	0.0	0.0
Power	**19.5**	**22.2**	**23.6**	**24.8**	**27.5**	**21.8**	**22.8**	**3.3**	**1.0**
Political	26.9	31.0	39.7	40.2	37.0	35.0	36.9	10.0	1.9
Economic	30.9	33.0	31.9	35.2	42.1	33.3	43.2	12.3	9.9
Social	9.0	10.7	10.4	10.8	13.4	8.9	7.4	-1.6	-1.5
Health	**83.9**	**85.5**	**85.8**	**83.5**	**85.9**	**83.1**	**83.6**	**-0.3**	**0.5**
Status	86.8	90.1	90.7	85.9	91.0	85.0	86.1	-0.7	1.1
Behaviour	81.2	81.2	81.2	81.2	81.2	81.2	81.2	0.0	0.0

Explore Croatia's performance by indicator

		Croatia		EU	
Work		Women	Men	Women	Men
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[2]	47	56	44	59
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2025)	34	36	35	40
Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (%, 15-74, 2025)	18	82	20	81
	Managerial positions (%, 15-74, 2025)	32	68	36	64
	Low paid workers (%, 16+, 2025)	38	33	37	29
Money					
Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2025)	20144	23378	25525	32079
	Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2025)	19		24	
Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64,%, 2025)[3]	87	123	73	147
	In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)	17	12	16	13
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%, 30-34, 2025)	55	36	51	40
	Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2025)	41	57	27	34
Segregation	Graduated in tertiary education in EHW (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Art (tertiary students) (%, 2024)	78	22	75	25
	Graduated in tertiary education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (%, 2024)	38	62	34	66
Time					
Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)	38	33	41	20
	Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (%, 45-64, 2019)	38	21	20	13
	Housework chores every day (%, 16-74, 2024)	65	27	59	33
Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	32	42	30	43
	Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	14	12	13	17
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (%, 2025)	19	81	32	68
	Share of members of parliament (%, 2025)	34	66	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2025)[4]	31	69	32	68
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies (%, 2025)	32	68	35	65
Social	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic most popular sport organisations (%, 2025)	7	93	26	74
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)	66	71	65	71
	Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (%, 65+, 2024)	34	43	48	54
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%, 16+ population, 2019)	71	55	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%, 16+ population, 2019)	25	30	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

Highly educated women have higher employment rates than men

The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate[5] is 47 % for women and 56 % for men. The rate for women rose by 2 pp since the previous year, while that for men rose by 1 pp. The gender gap is among the narrowest in the EU. It reaches 12 pp among those with medium levels of education at the disadvantage of women, while they are ahead of men by 5 pp among highly educated people.

Women spend on average 34 years in employment, against 36 years for men, both without changes since the previous year. Both durations are among the shortest in the EU, and the gender difference is among the narrowest.

Fewer women in ICT, but more in management

Women account for 18 % of ICT (information and communications technology) specialists, down 4 pp since the previous year. Among managerial positions, women's share is 32 % (+ 4 pp).

The gender pension gap remains below the EU average

The gender pension gap stands at 19 %, without changes since the previous year. It remains below the EU average of 24 %.

The gender disparity in median partner earnings ratio is the smallest in the EU

Women in couples earn 87 % of their partner's income (+ 2 pp since the previous year), the highest level in the EU. Men in couples earn 23 % more than their partner (– 7 pp). The gender disparity of 36 pp is the smallest in the EU, narrowed by 9 pp over the previous year.

Women face a higher risk of in-work poverty, but the pattern reverses in single-parent households

In Croatia, among employed people living in single-adult or single-parent households, 17 % of women and 12 % of men are at risk of poverty. The figure for women did not change since the previous year, while that for men fell by 3 pp. The pattern reverses in single-parent households, where 21 % of women are at risk against 31 % of men.

IVET completion rates are among the highest in the EU

In Croatia, 55 % of women aged 30–34 are tertiary graduates, compared with 36 % of men. The figure rose by 3 pp for women and by 6 pp for men since the previous year. The gender gap is one of the widest in the EU. Among people aged 25–34, 41 % of women and 57 % of men have completed IVET (initial vocational education and training) studies, down 1 pp and 5 pp respectively over the previous year. Both levels are among the highest in the EU but the gender disparity is one of the widest, reaching 21 pp among people born in the country.

5. The FTE employment rate measures working hours comparatively, even though people may work different numbers of hours per week.

Study fields remain strongly gender segregated

Women account for 78 % of EHW (education, health and welfare, humanities and the arts) graduates, without changes since the previous year. They also account for 38 % of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates, down by 1 pp.

Wide gender gaps in long-term care and housework, but a small gap in childcare

Childcare for children aged 0–11 for more than 35 hours a week is provided by 38 % of women and 33 % of men. This is the highest level in the EU for men, and one of the narrowest gender gaps.

Among people aged 45–64, 38 % of women and 21 % of men provide long-term care for more than 20 hours a week. Both are among the highest levels in the EU, and the gender disparity is the widest.

Daily housework chores are done by 65 % of women and 27 % of men. The gender difference is almost the widest in the EU.

Leisure time and voluntary work show narrow gender gaps, with women ahead in voluntary work

In Croatia, 32 % of women and 42 % of men spend more than 8 hours a week on leisure activities. The 10 pp gap is narrower than at EU level (13 pp).

Voluntary, charitable or political activities involve at least once a week for 14 % of women and 12 % of men. The level for men is among the lowest in the EU.

Women hold few ministerial posts compared with the EU

Women account for 19 % of ministers (+ 3 pp since the previous year), among the lowest shares in the EU. Women hold 34 % of seats in parliament, without changes over the previous year. In regional assemblies, women's share is 31 % (+ 1 pp).

> Croatia has introduced legal quotas for parliament's candidates, requiring at least 40 % representation of the under-represented gender in each election.

Croatia has the EU's lowest share of women on sports boards

Women hold 32 % of board seats among the largest listed companies (+ 5 pp since the previous year). In the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations, they hold 7 % of seats (– 2 pp), the lowest share in the EU.

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

A wide gender gap in self-rated health among people living alone

'Good' or 'very good' health is reported by 66 % of women and 71 % of men. The percentage rose by 2 pp for women and by 1 pp for men since the previous year. The gender gap widens to 16 pp in single-adult households, to the disadvantage of women. The pattern reverses in single-parent households, where 86 % of single mothers report good health, compared with 73 % of single fathers.

Women aged 65 and over can expect to spend 34 % of their remaining life in good health, against 43 % for men. The percentage rose by 4 pp for women and by 5 pp for men. Both figures are among the lowest in the EU, and the gender gap is among the widest.

Explore intersecting inequalities

Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[6]		Women	Men	Gender gap	Gender gap in 2019	Gap change
Household composition	Couple without children	31	28	3	-1	🔴
	Couple with children	85	95	-10	-13	🟢
Level of education	Low educated	9	19	-10	-10	🟠
	Medium educated	50	62	-12	-12	🟠
	High educated	75	70	5	3	🔴
Country of birth	Native born	47	57	-10	-12	🟢
	Foreign born	41	52	-11	-13	🟢

In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	15	11	4	0	🔴
	Single-parent household	21	31	-10	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	18	13	5	1	🔴
	50-64	16	11	5	1	🔴
	65+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Country of birth	Native born	18	12	6	0	🔴
	Foreign born	14	10	4	18	🟢

Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2024)						
Country of birth	Native born	41	62	-21	-19	🔴
	Foreign born	47	64	-17	-27	🟢
Disability	With disabilities	52	69	-17	3	🔴
	Without disabilities	45	61	-16	-16	🟠

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	52	46	6	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	40	30	10	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	33	49	-16	-14	🔴
	Single-parent household	86	73	13	16	🟢
	Couple without children	53	46	7	2	🔴
	Couple with children	92	90	2	5	🟢
Age groups	15/16-24	96	96	0	1	🟢
	25-49	91	90	1	3	🟢
	50-64	65	64	1	0	🔴
	65+	28	34	-6	-4	🔴
Disability	With disabilities	15	16	-1	1	🟠
	Without disabilities	85	87	-2	-3	🟢

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.)

6. 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[7].

Due to data limitations the composite measure of violence could not be calculated for Croatia, but data can be found at indicator level, when available[8].

- In Croatia, 25 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. This is 6 pp lower than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- In Croatia, 48 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- In Croatia, 36 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone.
- In 2024, 0.65 women out of 100 000 inhabitants were victims of intentional homicide by a current or former partner (0.25), or a family member (0.40).
- At age 13, 20 % of girls and 18 % of boys report being cyberbullied. By age 15, the pattern reverses, with 15 % of girls against 19 % of boys[9].
- In Croatia, 12 % of women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work via social networks or messaging apps[10].

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

Croatia signed the Istanbul Convention in January 2013 and ratified it in June 2018. The Convention entered into force in Croatia in October 2018.

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

7. 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.
8. More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024, Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.
9. Based on HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)
10. Based on EU-GBV Survey (2021 wave)

Violence against women

Physical and/or sexual violence	Croatia Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**25**	**31 e**
18-29	33	35 e
30-44	28	35 e
45-64	24	31 e
65-74	18	24 e
severe limitations	19 u	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	26	30 e
some	14	40 e
some or severe	15	41 e
no limitations	28	28 e
intimate partner violence	13	18 e
non-partner violence	19	20 e
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**5**	**3 e**

Femicide	Croatia Women	EU Women
Women victims of intentional homicide by current or former partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2024) [11]	**0.65**	**0.4**
family member	0.4	0.4
current or former partner	0.25	:

Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation	Croatia Women	EU Women
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**48**	**57 e**
intimate partner violence	77	72 e
non-partner violence	24	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)	**33**	**31 e**

Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else	Croatia Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (%, 18-74, 2021)	**36**	**31 e**
intimate partner violence	30	31 e
non-partner violence	49	38 e

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

Cyberviolence	Croatia Women	Croatia Men	EU Women	EU Men
13-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [12]	20	18	19 e	16 e
15-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [13]	15	19	15 e	14 e
	Women		Women	
Ever-working women who have experienced sexual harassment at work via social network and messages (%, 18-74, 2022)	12		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

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

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

All women and men in employment are eligible for parental leave and related benefits

Employed women and men in Croatia are all equally covered by parental leave and its related benefits.

The same applies for the overall population, with no exclusion from parental leave benefits recorded for both genders.

A five-year gap separates well-paid leave from guaranteed childcare in Croatia

Families face a five-year gap between the end of well-paid parental leave and the point at which a childcare place is guaranteed.

14. 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	Croatia Women	Croatia Men	EU Women	EU Men
1. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave (%, 20-49, 2024) [15]	**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)	**0**	**0**	**4**	**4**
4. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits (%, 20-49, 2024) [16]	**0**	**0**	**18**	**13**
5. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits by reason for ineligibility, (%, 20-49, 2024) [17]				
Unemployement or inactivity	0	0	:	:
Self-employment	0	0	:	:
Unmet employment conditions	0	0	:	:
Unmet residency requirement	0	0	:	:
6. Recipients/users of publicly-administered parental leave benefits or publicly-administered paid parental leave (%, 2023) [18]	:	:	:	:
	Gap		**Gap**	
7. Gap between well-paid childcare leave and ECEC place guarantee (years, 2024/2025) [19]	**5**		:	

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

15. 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).

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. '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.

18. 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.

19. 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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