EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Elena Anchevska | 26 April 2024 | 22nd SEDEC Commission Meeting
Gender-sensitive parliaments in the EU: state of play and practical tools for advancing gender equality
In assemblies across the EU, women only account for 36% of the members at regional and 35% at local/municipal level.

Figure 1. Share of women in regional assemblies and local councils in EU Member States (member), 2023

Source: EIGE, Gender Statistics Database.
Gender parity in the European and national parliaments is a crucial ambition but remains a distant goal.

- Gender balance has been achieved in the European Parliament. National parliaments lag behind as women still account for one in three MPs.

- Persistent vertical and horizontal segregation remains an issue both at EU and Member State level.

**European Parliament:**
- 29% Women among committee chairs in the EP
- 40% Women amongst MEPs from whom the chairs are selected
- 45% Women amongst vice-chairs

**National parliaments in the EU:**
Overall representation deficit of just 4% (29% women committee chairs vs. 33% women MPs), but significant differences amongst countries.

Figure 2. Share of women members in the single/lower house of national parliaments and in the EP by Member State, quota threshold for candidate lists for national and European elections, 2023

Source: EIGE, Gender Statistics Database.
Room for improvement for parliaments to better deliver gender equality in:

**Working conditions**
- Working conditions for MPs often not family-friendly.
- More could be done to combat gender-related inappropriate behaviours.

**Gender mainstreaming**
- Most national parliaments are yet to mainstream a gender perspective into their practices and outputs (e.g., by applying gender budgeting, gender impact assessment and adopting gender equality action plans).

**Gender-sensitive legislation**
- Not all national parliaments have gender equality parliamentary committees with legislative functions. Less than half of the gender equality parliamentary committees have oversight functions.

**Infrastructure & communication**
- Parliaments need to better ensure that physical spaces are gender-responsive (e.g., childcare facilities) and that communicate with the public and relevant stakeholders about gender equality (e.g., through dedicated events).
What can parliaments do to advance gender equality?

Check out EIGE’s Gender-sensitive Parliaments toolkit to assess how gender-sensitive your parliament is and then establish a gender equality action plan as a next step towards achieving a gender-sensitive parliament.
Let’s talk

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come in for a chat!