

# WOMEN IN POLITICS

Local and European Trends



Local & Regional  
Europe



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## Abbreviations

**CEMR:** Council of European Municipalities and Regions

**LGBTQI+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and other gender and sexual identities

**EIGE:** European Institute for Gender Equality

**CoR:** European Committee of the Regions

**Congress:** Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

**EU:** European Union

**EP:** European Parliament

**MEP:** Member of the European Parliament

**UCLG:** United Cities and Local Governments

**CoE:** Council of Europe

**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme

**VAWP:** Violence Against Women in Politics

**GBVAW:** Gender-Based Violence Against Women

**IPU:** Inter-Parliamentary Union

**UK:** United Kingdom

**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organisations

**NWCI:** National Women's Council of Ireland



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# FOREWORD

**A**s the President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), and only the second woman to hold this position since its founding, it gives me particular pleasure to introduce the most recent update of CEMR's study on women's representation in political life. This latest publication comes at a critical juncture, amidst a troubling decline in the number of women participating in political spheres across the European political landscape. Despite significant strides towards gender equality, the representation of women in politics is in jeopardy. This regression is not just a setback for gender equality; it threatens the very foundation of our democratic values. Women bring their own distinct perspectives and solutions to the political discourse, and diminishing their presence undermines the diversity of representation that is vital not only for inclusive and equal governance, but for effective policymaking.

Individuals that enter politics do so for a variety of reasons: out of a desire to contribute to society, to improve the lives of people, from a strong sense of duty to serve their community or to represent the needs of specific societal groups. When entering politics, people already expect a tough work environment as being under the constant scrutiny of the public eye can be very demanding, regardless of gender; but it should never become a negative experience specifically due to one's gender.

Equally troubling has been the recent surge in violence directed at women in politics. This issue transcends national boundaries and requires a concerted effort and response from all levels of government, as well as civil society and international organisations. Politicians, especially women, are increasingly subjected to threats, harassment and physical violence. Recent trends confirm this and highlight a stark reality: not only are fewer women stepping into political roles, but those who do are met with untoward levels of hostility and aggression. This violence is not just physical; it manifests as online abuse, psychological intimidation and is exacerbated by systemic obstacles that undermine their targets' ability to serve effectively.

This ever more untenable atmosphere chips away at the foundation of our democratic institutions in addition to discouraging women from entering the political sphere. When women are silenced or pushed out of political life, the population as a whole loses out on the diverse perspectives and ideas that are crucial for robust policymaking. Moreover, the normalisation of such violence sets a dangerous precedent that risks dissuading future generations of women from aspiring to leadership roles.

Yet, amidst these challenges, there is hope. Across Europe, numerous initiatives and movements have risen to confront and combat this violence. Local governments, civil society organisations and international bodies have been collaborating more than ever to create safer and more supportive environments for women in politics. The resilience and determination of women leaders who continue to serve despite these adversities inspire us all and underscore the importance of our mission.

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions and its members must act decisively and collectively to reverse these troubling trends. This includes implementing stronger protections for women in politics, fostering a culture of respect and equality and holding perpetrators of violence accountable. CEMR is committed to working with all stakeholders to drive change and progress in this area and we look forward to seeing how the new European Commission responds to this challenge in its upcoming mandate. Together, we can pave the way for a more just and equal political climate free from the fear of violence, one in which women's contributions are honoured and acknowledged.



**Gunn Marit Helgesen**  
President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CEMR RECOMMENDATIONS

**T**he Council of European Municipalities and Regions “Women in Politics: Local and European trends” study examines the state of women’s representation in local and regional governance across Europe from 2019 and 2024. The study highlights the gradual increase in women’s political participation at various level of government but underscores that significant gender disparities remain, particularly in leadership roles.

The study will draw attention to the topic of violence against women in politics, which can be a significant barrier to their political engagement. Despite advances in certain nations, gender equality in politics is still a long way off.

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## HEADLINE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **DEVELOP AN EU REGULATORY FRAMEWORK** that ensures the equal representation of women, particularly those from marginalised and intersectional backgrounds, across all political bodies.
- **ENHANCE ACCESS TO FUNDING** for female and minority candidates for campaign purposes, ensuring a more even playing field for everyone.
- **PROVIDE EU-FUNDED PROGRAMMES** to local and regional governments for the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data.
- **ESTABLISH AN EU-WIDE PLATFORM** that brings together multiple levels of governance and diverse stakeholders to foster dialogue, share best practices, and conduct collaborative research on overcoming barriers to women’s political participation.



# INTRODUCTION

**T**he representation of women at the subnational level of politics across Europe remains a critical aspect of the broader discourse on gender equality. As we look towards 2025, it is clear that enhancing women's political participation and representation is not only a matter of principle but also essential to the strength and resilience of democratic institutions. Political systems that reflect the diversity of their people are better suited to meeting the requirements of all residents. However, achieving this goal still calls for vigilance and perseverance, as made plain by the probability that the new European Commission will be less gender-balanced than earlier mandates. This development reflects a broader tendency that risks jeopardising the tremendous progress made in recent decades to ensure the equal representation of women in political life.

Women in all their diversity bring unique points of view and experiences to the discussions.

The importance of addressing gender inequality in politics extends well beyond just the numbers; it is crucial for the advancement of female leaders, thereby ensuring that the full wealth of women's experiences informs and enriches governance and decision-making processes. Women in all their diversity bring unique points of view and experiences to discussions, all essential to inclusive and responsive policymaking. However, despite significant advances at the local level, women continue to be underrepresented in various political spheres, particularly in leadership positions, which reinforces existing power structures and limits the opportunity for change. Women from marginalised and intersectional backgrounds, such as women of colour, women with disabilities, LGBTQI+ women, as well as those from economically challenged communities, confront specific

barriers that further compound the issues of political underrepresentation.

The situation is exacerbated by the growing issue of violence against women in politics, a phenomenon that deters many women from entering or remaining in public life. Violence, whether physical, psychological or economic, is frequently used to silence women and discourage them from seeking political positions. This type of violence can take many forms, including threats, harassment, and increasingly cyberviolence, all of which add to the chilling effect that prevents women from taking on leadership roles.

The territorial dimension of European politics makes it even more critical that this issue be addressed urgently. Local and regional governments' close proximity to citizens means they are often more directly involved in providing essential public services at the subnational level. Increasing the representation of women at these levels of governance can therefore have a profound impact on improving the quality of life for all citizens. Yet, data from the present study shows that women's representation at the local level still lags behind that of men, even in countries that are often seen as leaders in gender equality.

As Europe moves forward, it becomes evident that promoting gender equality in politics through an intersectional perspective is both a moral obligation and a practical necessity if we are to improve democratic governance on the continent. However, for this to happen, concerted efforts are needed to address the barriers that prevent women from participating fully in political life, including the growing prevalence of violence against women in politics. We hope this study will prove helpful in this respect by exploring the current state of women's representation at the local and subnational levels in Europe, examining the factors contributing to the underrepresentation of women and, lastly, by offering recommendations on how to foster a more inclusive and equitable political landscape in the future.



# METHODOLOGY

## GEOGRAPHICAL AND TEMPORAL SCOPE

Our scope covered the different levels of government – local, intermediate, regional, national and European – between 2019 and 2024.

This study's findings are based on the situation at the local, intermediate, regional and national levels in the 41 countries where CEMR has members:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Despite our extensive research and requests made to the pertinent institutes of national statistics, we were not always able to acquire all the necessary data. Thus, we cannot provide reliable data on the situation of women in the following cases:

- Germany: the executive body at the intermediate level in 2023,
- Israel: the local level (except for the number of women mayors) in 2023,
- Moldova: the regional level in 2023,
- Ukraine: the executive body at the intermediate level, as well as for the lower house.

The absence of this information affects the calculation of any progress. To keep matters simple for the purposes of a comparative study, it was decided to subtract the data in question from the 2024 average.

At the European level, we looked at all 27 EU member countries for our analysis of the European Parliament and the European Committee of the Regions. For the Congress of the Council of Europe, we analysed their 46 member countries.

The terms "Europe" and "European average" refer to the

**41**

countries taking part in this study

## DEFINITION OF THE POLITICAL OFFICES EXAMINED

Regarding the political bodies and offices chosen for analysis, given the absence of a common terminology in Europe for certain bodies or specific jobs, such as mayor, our study and research has retained the nomenclature used in CEMR's 2021 study, Territorial governance, powers and reforms in Europe<sup>1</sup>.

Accordingly, in the case of the office of mayor or president of a sub-national level, we took care to base our observations on the role of women in equivalent positions. In some countries, this is secured through an election (direct or indirect); in others, it is through appointment by a council of elected members.

## REFERENCES TO GROUPINGS OF COUNTRIES

For the purposes of this publication, the terms "Europe" and "European average" refer to the 41 CEMR member countries taking part in this study.

"European Union" refers to the 27 States that were members at the time of collecting data for the study.

To compare data across European regions, we grouped the countries into larger geographic categories: the Balkans, the Eastern bloc, the Nordic countries, the countries of North-Western Europe and the countries of Southern Europe<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). "Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe." 2021. [TERRI Report: Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe \(2021\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> The Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia

The Eastern bloc countries: Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine

The Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

The countries of North-Western Europe: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom

The countries of Southern Europe: Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye



It is important to note that the use of these country groupings facilitated the measuring of regional trends, but that they are not necessarily indicative of an individual country's particular situation.

### ORIGINAL CEMR DATA COLLECTION

CEMR conducted an anonymous survey<sup>3</sup> to collect data on elected women's thematic portfolio attributions as well as any experiences of gendered violence encountered over the course of their political career. The survey was divided into five sections and sent to CEMR associations for further dissemination to their network of local elected officials. In total, 2 602 survey responses were received from 34 European countries.

The results presented in this study are based on the responses received between August 2023 and March 2024.

The anonymous online survey comprised a total of 32 questions, specifically tailored to local elected representatives. Its purpose was twofold: first, to identify the portfolios held by women elected at the local level by asking them directly to specify their areas of responsibility, using primarily the categorisations presented in the TERRI Report<sup>4</sup>; second, to gather data from across Europe regarding any incidences of violence they experienced.

This latter half of the questionnaire was designed to shine a light on incidents of violence against elected women at the local level, exploring several aspects surrounding these occurrences. It investigates, for instance, the reporting of such acts of violence to authorities, the reasons for any underreporting and potential consequences for perpetrators. Additionally, it looks at the impacts of these

acts of violence on the private and public lives of the elected women concerned. Through this online survey, we also assess the existence and perceived effectiveness of local initiatives aimed at supporting these women in coping with and addressing such challenges, individually and within their communities.

The complete questionnaire used in the online survey is available for reference<sup>5</sup>.

The online survey was disseminated with the support of our member associations and the assistance of selected partner organisations, such as the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and the European Committee of the Regions. Given the sensitivity of the topic being reported, the survey was designed to be anonymous to ensure respondents' privacy and confidentiality. Only individuals who expressed a willingness to discuss their personal experiences further and were comfortable sharing their contact information were provided with the opportunity to do so. This approach thus managed to uphold the integrity of the data collection process while respecting the participants' preferences and safeguarding their anonymity.

### DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

After collecting all the data, we conducted follow-up research to complete any missing information for the subnational and national levels (see bibliography for the complete list of sources). We gathered data from two different sources: the Gender Statistics Database of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the national statistical offices in Austria, Belgium, Italy, Moldova, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The data used to leverage EIGE's findings was that published in its Gender Statistics Database, which provided valuable insights into the representation of women and men in decision-making roles.

Whenever data discrepancies were identified, a more extensive study was carried out using

<sup>3</sup> Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). Survey "Thematic portfolio attributions and experiences of violence." 2023-2024. [CEMR's survey on thematic portfolio attributions and experiences of violence.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). "Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe." 2021. [TERRI Report: Territorial Governance, Powers and Reforms in Europe \(2021\).](#)

<sup>5</sup> CEMR study: Women in Politics 2023-2024 questionnaire. <https://cemrcce.surveyparrot.com/s/wip-2023-2024---final/tt-sTM5TQeFxmEeD1wF5Mba>

It is worth noting that there is generally an annual turnover in CoR members of around 20%, primarily the consequence of local election dates and the varying duration of mandates in the different countries.



additional resources to ascertain the most verifiable figures. In the absence of a definitive conclusion, priority was given to the data collected by CEMR's member associations.

#### DATA AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

The *European Parliament* data was obtained from DODS People's online service and the European Parliament's website<sup>6</sup>. It pertains to women elected to the Parliament in the 2009 and 2019 elections (to observe changes over a ten-year period). This data does not include mention of any resignations and/or new appointments that have occurred following these elections.

The *European Committee of the Regions* (CoR) data was transmitted to us directly by this body through the intermediary of Diliانا Raeva, Administrator. CoR members are appointed by the Council of the EU for a five-year mandate. The current 7<sup>th</sup> CoR mandate runs from 26 January 2020 until 25 January 2025. Over the course of a mandate, there is an average yearly turnover of around 20% of

It is important to note that the national authorities' process for appointing CoR members differs from one Member State to another. Although the CoR does not exert any influence on the selection of members for appointment by its Member States, as the EU's assembly of local and regional representatives from all 27 Member States, the CoR fully adheres to promoting gender equality and women's political participation in its work, "with the ultimate aim being gender parity between CoR members", as stated in its Opinion<sup>7</sup> *A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025*. In the same spirit, with the initiative "For more women in politics", the CoR calls for better gender balance in politics at all levels of government, including at local and regional level.

We also obtained data directly from the *Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*, referred to as the Congress. The Congress consists of two chambers: the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. Upon reviewing the information received, we opted to use all the Congress data, without making any distinction between the two chambers.

To compare them, and to calculate the European averages, we opted to use a straightforward average of the proportions.

members, primarily the result of local election dates and the varying duration of mandates in the different countries. The Member State concerned notifies the Secretary-General of the Council in writing of the name of the member or alternate to be appointed as a replacement. Replacements may take place quickly or they may take some time, depending on the situation in each Member State.

Consequently, the totals used do not correspond to the official total number of CoR members/alternates (329 in both cases) since, on the date of reference, the Council had not yet appointed replacements for a number of members who had resigned or lost their mandate following local/regional elections in their respective Member States.

#### MEASURING PROGRESS

Regarding the 2019 and 2024 reference period used to track progress, specific results given are not necessarily a situational analysis corresponding to the exact years of 2019 and 2024. Owing to different electoral dates and to ensure our data's reliability, we worked with the figures obtained from the most recent elections with respect to our date of reference.

Despite the statistical accuracy of mathematically calculating figures according to a precise formula, this standard method for quantifying change and thus gauging any progress can sometimes lead to confusion and induce errors in understanding. We therefore chose to present any progression (or regression) by indicating the differences in proportions of elected women in percentage points, thereby also ensuring that all the analyses are formulated according to the same model.

<sup>6</sup> "DODS People"; n.d. <http://www.dodspeople.eu/>

<sup>7</sup> European Committee of the Regions. "Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions – A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025." 2020. OJ 2020/C 440/16 of 18.12.2020



## PROPORTIONS AND AVERAGES

We set out to assess the presence of women in politics at each level in Europe. To achieve this most effectively, the proportion of women at each level in each country was chosen as this basis. The absolute figures for mayors and presidents of subnational levels are listed in the individual country files.

Regarding our calculations of the European averages (for the 41 CEMR member associations) for comparison, we opted to use a straightforward average of the proportions. This was to ensure that each country would be on an equal footing, regardless of its geographical size and its total number of elected representatives. In other words, we examined the average share of women at each level of governance in Europe.

## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC METHODOLOGICAL CHOICES

Due to the specificities of each country's political structure, some methodological remarks are worth mentioning. We have listed them in detail below:

- **In Austria**, local elections in the nine regions are held on different dates. This is why the country figures used indicate different electoral dates.
- **For Belgium**, due to the specificities of the country's political structure, the data collection process involved multiple sources. While the data for the Flemish Region and the Brussels-Capital Region were provided by CEMR's members, the figures presented for Wallonia were obtained from secondary sources.
- **For Czechia**, we complemented the data provided by CEMR members with a secondary source to come up with the percentage of women mayors in the country.
- **Finland** transitioned from a single to a two-tiered subnational system in 2022. The local level now consists of municipalities while the regional level encompasses 21 wellbeing services counties (*hyvinvointialue*) and the Autonomous Region of the Åland Islands. There are also 18 regional councils (*maakuntavaltuustot*), which are statutory joint municipal authorities. The data for the regional level in Finland does include statistics from the counties (*hyvinvointialue*) and the Åland Islands, recognising their special status within the country, but does not take into account the regional councils (*maakuntavaltuustot*) since their representatives are not directly elected. With respect to executive roles, 7 municipalities have directly elected mayors (*pormestari*) while others are led by chief executives (*kunnanjohtaja*) who are public-service employees elected by the local councils. Data for this level encompasses both mayors and chief executives.
- **For Germany**, we treated the *Kreisfreie Stadt*, *Stadtkreis*, *Land* (Stadtstaaten Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg) and *Kommunalverband besonderer Art* as local level. Data for the intermediate level covers the *Landkreis and Kreis*. Since there are no uniform election dates for the local, intermediate and regional levels, the country figures represent the overall situation in June 2023.
- **For Israel**, the current regional geopolitical context limits the availability of up-to-date data on the gender composition of local and regional governments.
- **For Italy**, we considered *Presidente della provincia* and *Sindaco metropolitano* to be elected presidents and grouped *Presidente della provincia* and *Sindaco metropolitano* + *Consigliere* together for the total number of elected representatives for the Provinces. The data was collected from a secondary source, the Italian Ministry of the Interior.
- **In Latvia**, the regional level (*plānošanas reģions*) consists of planning regions that are not directly elected.
- **For Moldova**, we used data retrieved from a secondary source. It pertains to the latest local elections in the country, which took place in October 2019.
- **Our data for Poland** covers the most recent local elections in the country, which took place in 2018 since the elections initially planned for 2023 were postponed to the spring of 2024.
- **In Portugal**, data for the local level encompasses municipalities (*municípios*) and civil parishes (*freguesias*), making no distinction between them.
- **For Slovenia**, we received answers from both member associations, ZMOS and

The survey received  
**2 602**  
 responses from  
**34**  
 European countries



Skupnost občin Slovenije. The numbers for representatives elected to the local assembly (total) differed: 3382 (ZMOS) vs. 3339 (Skupnost občin Slovenije). Both associations provided data from the 2022 elections but used different sources, which might explain the divergence. It was decided to use most of the data provided by Skupnost občin Slovenije.

- **In Sweden**, the island of Gotland holds dual administrative status due to special historical and geographical characteristics. It functions as both a municipality and a region. Therefore, statistics from Gotland have been incorporated twice into the data collected for Sweden, at both the local and regional levels.
- **For Switzerland**, we used data provided by the Federal Statistics Office.
- **In Türkiye**, the data provided relative to the local level takes into account municipalities (*belediye*) and provinces (*il özel idaresi*) but not villages (*köy*).
- **In Ukraine**, the data collected reflects the government's composition immediately following the 2020 local elections. However, it should be noted that significant changes have occurred in recent years. The current geopolitical context of the country limits the availability of up-to-date data on the gender composition of local and regional governments.



## PART 1:

# THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN LOCAL POLITICS: INSIGHTS FROM EUROPE



## Women in local politics

Despite progress in many areas, women continue to be underrepresented in politics and local life. This underrepresentation becomes evident when examining the composition of subnational political bodies in Europe, ranging from the European Parliament to local councils. Parsing the latest data on gender equality in local life in Europe, we can better pinpoint which trends are ongoing and in what direction they are headed. For instance, are more women being elected? How many women mayors are there now? What changes have there been since 2019? Although significant progress has been made, more work needs to be done to advance towards true gender equality.

**C**EMR represents 100 000 European local and regional governments across Europe, stretching from Portugal to the Baltics, Iceland to Georgia, as well as Türkiye. We were thus able to collect comprehensive data on the position of women in politics, especially at the municipal and local level, thanks in large part to the invaluable assistance of all CEMR's national member associations. Data compilation can be difficult, and CEMR's unique position, with its vast network across 41 countries, makes this information all

the more valuable as it allows us to determine any trends, patterns and changes that have taken place in recent years.

### MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (OR EQUIVALENT)

In 2024, the average proportion of women local elected representatives reached 32%, compared to 29% in 2019. This average almost corresponds to the proportion of women today in the national parliaments in Europe (31.8%) but remains lower than the proportion of women in the European Parliament (38.5%).

### THE COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN 2024 ARE:

Iceland	50.4 %
Sweden	43 %
France	42.2 %
Albania	42 %

In 2019, the country with the highest numbers was Iceland (47.2%), followed by Sweden



## Local elected women

in % in 2024

> 40%
  30-40%
  20-30%
  < 20%

(43.1%), Ukraine (41.7%) and France (40.3%); whereas in 2008, the highest ranked country was Ukraine, followed by Latvia, Sweden and Norway.

Several countries, such as Finland, France, Spain and Sweden, have achieved parity in the European Parliament. At the local level however, only Iceland has very recently achieved parity, where the proportion of elected women has surpassed 50%.

The Nordic countries are among those with the highest number of women in local government, but the proportion remains lower when it comes to the number of Nordic women who are members of the European Parliament or their national parliaments.

Today, we can see that the number of countries in Europe that can affirm having elected more than 40% of women to local office has risen: Albania, Finland, France, Iceland, Norway, Spain and Sweden. In 2019, there were only four countries: France, Iceland, Sweden and Ukraine. In 2024, twenty countries have between 30% and 40% women on their municipal councils. Sixteen years ago, there were only seven (2008).

In 2024, there are seventeen countries where women account for 20% to 30% of the municipal councils (or equivalent). In five countries however, the proportion of women local elected representatives remains below 20%: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Romania and Türkiye. Nevertheless, this is fewer than in 2019, when there were seven countries, and 2008, with fourteen countries. In 2024, according to CEMR's analysis, no country falls below 10% representation in terms of women local elected representatives.

When it comes to upward trends in the proportion of women elected to local office, the biggest increase was still from 2008 to 2019, but gains have nonetheless been noted in most countries: in Georgia, the proportion rose from 13.4% to 23.7% (+10.3%); Germany too saw stronger numbers, going from 27% to 36.6% (+9.6%); and Moldova also experienced an upturn from 29% to 36.5% (+7.5%) in the number of women elected to public office in municipalities. Only two countries witnessed a decline in the proportion of women elected at local level. Both Latvia and Ukraine have continually undergone decreases, respectively from 42.3% in 2008, 34% in 2019 to 29.8% in 2024 for the former, and from 43% in 2008, 41.7% in 2019 to 37.2% in 2024 for the latter.

Average proportion of local elected women in Europe in 2019

**29.2%**

and in 2024

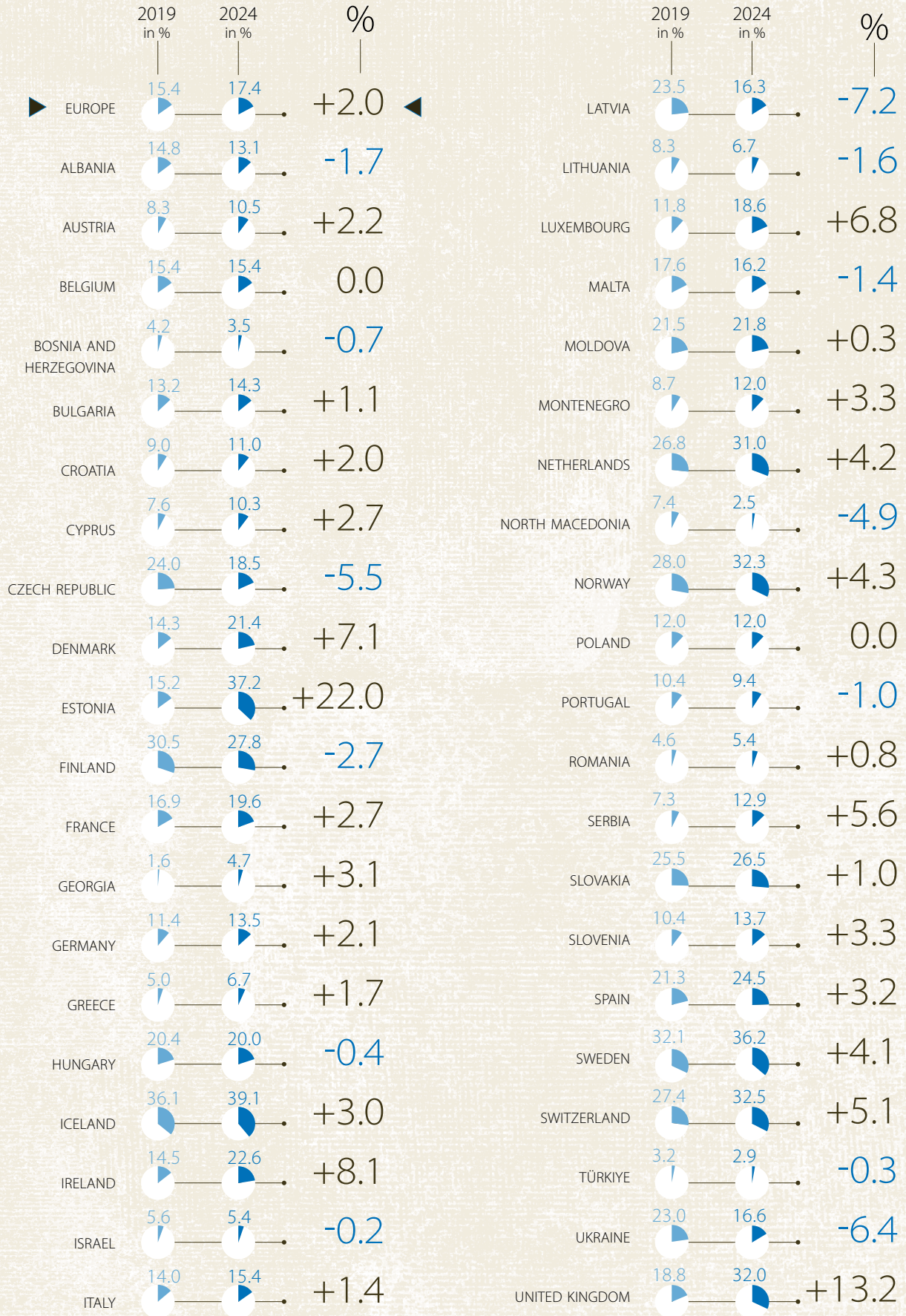
**32%**





# WOMEN MAYORS BY COUNTRY

in 2019 and 2024





### MAYORS (OR EQUIVALENT)

The proportion of women serving in local governments is an important indicator of the extent to which women's perspectives are represented and included in the day-to-day life of their community. The number of women who have been elected mayor is a significant gauge of how well they are doing as leaders, holding positions of political authority, establishing policy and exercising influence.

Yet, the percentage of women serving as mayors remains lower than that of elected female municipal councillors, and this notable gap still persists. In Europe, on average, there are 14.6% fewer women mayors than women municipal councillors (on average, women account for 32% of local officials elected today in Europe, but only 17.4% of mayors are women).

The countries that stand out regarding their number of women mayors are Iceland (39.1%), Estonia (37.2%) and Sweden (36.2%). On a promising note, compared to 2019, four more countries have moved beyond the 30% threshold (Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

There are 14 countries in Europe where more than 20% of the mayors are women, a gain of four countries over 2019. Among the countries that saw an increase in the percentage of female mayors of more than 10% in 2024, two in particular recorded significant progress: Estonia (from 15.2% to 37.2%) and the United Kingdom (from 18.8% to 32%).

In terms of proportions, three countries underwent a decrease in female mayors in 2024 compared to 2008: Finland, which dropped from 30.5% to 27.8%, the Czech Republic, where the proportion of women mayors decreased from 24% to 18.5%, and Latvia, which saw a decline from 23.5% to 16.3%.

Overall, women made up an average of 17.4% in 2024, which is an increase from 2019 (15.4%), but it remains lower than the average proportion of women elected to the municipal councils (32% in 2024 and 29% in 2019).

### INTERMEDIATE ASSEMBLIES (OR EQUIVALENT)

Of the 41 countries explored in the present study, seven countries possess an intermediate level. The data obtained from these countries would seem to indicate that gender parity among councillors has typically not progressed as far at the intermediate level as the local and regional levels.

Nonetheless, the percentage of female councillors at the intermediate level (31.1%) remains higher than that of female presidents (12.7%) at this same level. Moreover, there has undoubtedly been an improvement in both situations since 2019 given that the number of female presidents has increased from 9.4% to 12.7% (76 out of 602 positions).

### REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES (OR EQUIVALENT)

In Europe, 26 countries hold regional elections. Women have a strong representative foothold in some countries: Finland (53.3%), Denmark (50.2%), Sweden (49%), France (48.6%), Norway (46.8%), Spain (46.3%) and Belgium (46.2%). In seven other countries, women account for 30% to 40% of policy-makers elected at the regional level.

Nine countries have reached the 20% to 30% representational threshold of women elected to the regional level. Even though this is in fact the same number attained in 2019, the results appear different according to the country. Some countries saw an increase in the proportion of women, with Albania rising from 27.4% to 33.2% and Switzerland from 27.7% to 33.5%. However, other countries experienced a decrease, such as Latvia, falling from 20.2% to 11.6%. Finally, four countries have less than 20% elected women at the regional level.

It is worth noting here that, unlike the trends observed for the percentage of women mayors and local councillors, there are relatively fewer female presidents of regions than women elected to regional legislatures. There are some notable exceptions such as Finland, the country with the best outcome in 2024 for women regional councillors (53.3%), as well as regional presidents (61.9%).

The European average for women elected representatives at the regional level has reached 32.3% while the average for women regional presidents is now 23.3% (excluding Moldova).

There are  
**approx  
15,162\***  
women  
mayors in 2024

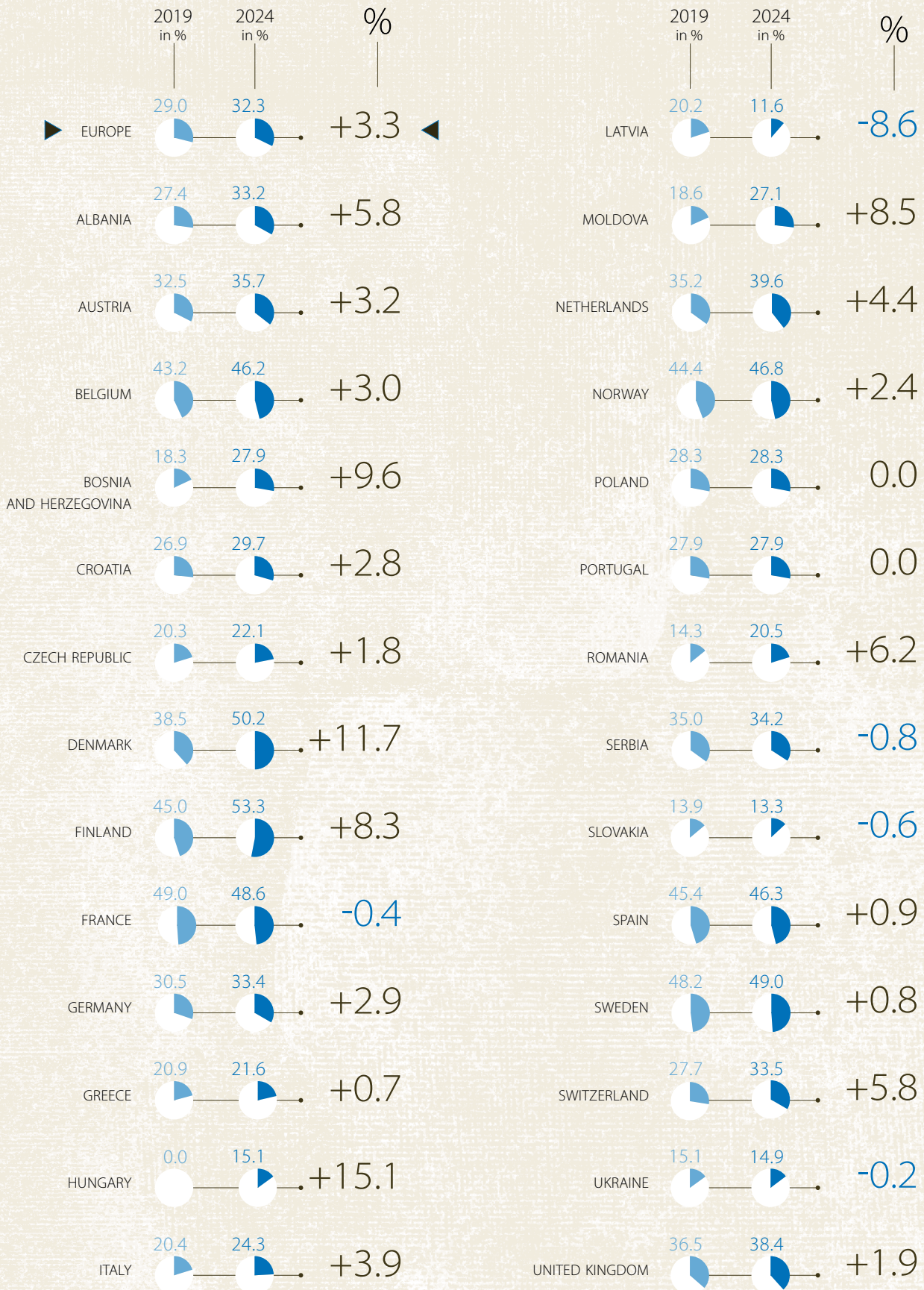
\*: The number is based on the data received from our member associations and through secondary sources





# WOMEN MEMBERS OF REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES

in 2019 and 2024



For those countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Turkey, the data does not apply.



In 2019, there were no female regional presidents in four countries: Belgium, Croatia, Portugal and Serbia. In 2024, an upward progression could be observed in most of these countries, with some women now exercising the office of regional president: 1 out of 5 in Belgium, 5 out of 21 in Croatia and 7 out of 45 in Serbia.

Using the proportion of women regional councillors in 2019 for comparison, progress could be observed in Albania (+5.8%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (+9.6%), Denmark (+11.7%), Finland (+8.3%), Moldova (+8.5%) and Romania (+6.2%).

Five countries witnessed a decrease in the number of women representatives in their regional assemblies: France (-0.4%), Latvia (-8.6%), Serbia (-0.8%), Slovakia (-0.6%) and Ukraine (-0.2%).

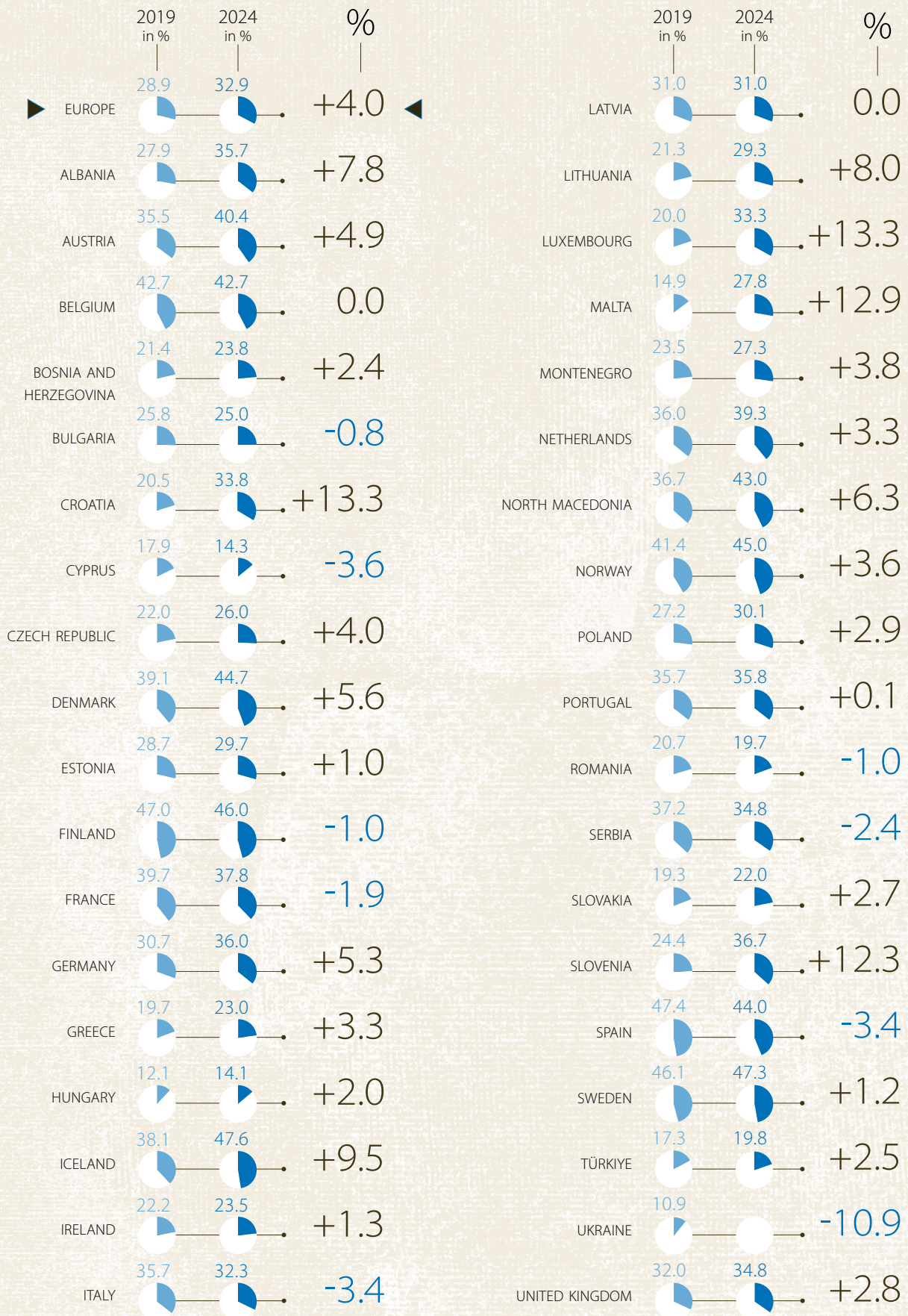






## WOMEN ELECTED TO LOWER HOUSE OR UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

% by country in 2019 and 2024







# Women in national politics

In 2024<sup>8</sup>, out of 44 countries in Europe, only 14 have an elected or appointed female chief executive<sup>9</sup>: Borjana Krišto, the Chairwoman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mette Frederiksen, the Prime Minister of Denmark; Salome Zourabichvili, the President of Georgia; Katerina Sakellariopoulou, the President of Greece; Halla Tómasdóttir, the President of Iceland; Giorgia Meloni, the Prime Minister of Italy; Vjosa Osmani, the President of Kosovo; Evika Siliņa, the Prime Minister of Latvia; Ingrida Šimonytė, the Prime Minister of Lithuania; Myriam Spiteri Debono, the President of Malta; Maia Sandu, the President of Moldova; Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, the President of North Macedonia; Nataša Pirc Musar, the President of Slovenia; and Viola Amherd, the President of Switzerland.

Average proportion of women elected to the lower or unicameral chamber in Europe in 2019

**28.5%**

and in 2024

**32.8%**

This section focuses on national parliaments as assemblies chosen by universal suffrage (i.e. by the people), highlighting the fact that, even though there may be more women in higher leadership positions, gender equality is not necessarily more evident at the national level than at the local level.

In 2024, on average, women account for 32.8% of members in parliamentary assemblies across Europe, up from 28.5% in 2019. This average is approximately equal to the percentage of women elected to local offices (32%) but significantly lower than the percentage of women in the European Parliament (38.5%).

From 2019 to the present, the percentage of women elected to the lower houses or to unicameral legislatures in each of the European countries has increased (from 28.5% to 32.8%), according to the data that we were able to collect.

Today, the eight European countries with the highest proportion of seats held by women in the lower or unicameral chamber are:

Iceland	47.6 %
Sweden	47.3 %
Finland	46 %
Norway	45 %
Denmark	44.7 %
Spain	44 %
North Macedonia	43 %
Belgium	42.7 %

In 2019, the top five countries in this regard were Spain (47.4%), Finland (47%), Sweden (46.1%), Belgium (42.7%) and Norway (41.4%).

In various Central and Eastern European and Balkan countries, there has been progress in the representation of women in national parliaments compared to 2019: Croatia rose from 20.5% to 33.8% (+13.3%), Slovenia rose from 24.4% to 36.7% (+12.3%), Malta rose from 14.9% to 27.8% (+12.9%) and North Macedonia rose from 36.7% to 43% (+6.3%).

Currently, the nations with the lowest proportion of women elected to the lower house or single chamber of parliament are Türkiye (19.8%), Romania (19.7%), Cyprus (14.3%) and Hungary (14.1%). In addition, we observed that there had been decreases in some countries in the percentage of women members of

<sup>8</sup> As of August 2024, when last checked and updated by CEMR.

<sup>9</sup> For this study, chief executive refers to president, prime minister or chairperson.



parliament in comparison to 2019: this was the case in Cyprus (-3.6%), France (-1.9%), Italy (-3.4%), Portugal (-0.1%) and Spain (-3.4%).

An analysis of our data showed that women have rarely held the highest position of president of the parliamentary chambers. In 2019, there were 10 female presidents in lower or unicameral chambers, a figure which remains unchanged in 2024. An unclear trend of stagnation seems to persist at the level of the upper chambers. Among the 14 countries under examination, the proportion of female presidents has not changed over the five years of the study (the number remains at 4 female presidents). We can thus confirm that gender parity in the legislature is still absent throughout Europe. Parity has not yet been achieved.





# Women in the European Parliament

What positions have women held in the EU's only directly elected legislative assembly over the past 72 years?

Since 1958, there have been thirty-two presidents of the European Parliament (EP). Three of them have been women: Simone Veil (1979–1982), Nicole Fontaine (1999–2002) and the Maltese MEP, Roberta Metsola, who first took office in January 2022 and was recently re-elected in July 2024. Between the years 1952, when the EP was established and consisted of the six founding member nations, and 1979, when the first elections by universal suffrage took place, only 31 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were women. By the latter date, EU membership had grown to nine countries. The proportion and total number of women MEPs have followed an upward trajectory over time.

Following the most recent European elections, which took place 6-9 June 2024, the proportion of women MEPs has dropped to 38.5%, whereas in 2019, it had risen to over 40.6%<sup>10</sup>. Despite this drop in the percentage of women MEPs, the EP level remains higher than the European average for the national parliaments and local and regional councils.

Average proportion of women members of the European Parliament in 2019

**40.6%**

and in 2024

**38.5%**

Although a fundamental value of the European Union, gender parity is not required of its member nations, which hold elections for the European Parliament in compliance with national laws. However, the EP does encourage the political parties to actively ensure that their selection processes are gender-balanced. Of the 27 Member States, 10 adopted legislation to encourage gender-balanced representation in the 2024 European Parliament elections<sup>11</sup>.

In the June 2024 European elections, the 27 member countries elected 278 women out of a total of 720 MEPs. While the percentage of women MEPs has steadily increased after each election since 1979, we are currently

witnessing a downturn in their numbers. This trend holds true across Member States. The spectrum ranges from countries that have managed to stay at or around parity to some that have undergone an increase in the proportion of their female MEPs, while others have seen a significant decrease. A drop in the percentage of women MEPs has been noticeable in the following countries in comparison to 2019: in Denmark (-12.9%), Estonia (-4.7%), Malta (-33.3%) and Slovenia (-16.7%). Only one country has achieved parity in 2024: Sweden with 55% of female MEPs.

For the 2014-2019 legislative term, 40.6% of the members of the European Parliament were women. The proportion of women elected has therefore decreased by 2.1%. In 2019, the countries that sent the highest number of women to the European Parliament, electing 50% or more women MEPs, were the following: Austria (50%), Finland (53.8%), France (50%), Latvia (50%), Luxembourg (50%), Malta (50%), Netherlands (50%), Slovenia (50%) and Sweden (55%).

It is noteworthy that even though we are witnessing a decrease in the proportion of female MEPs, the actual number of women elected to the European Parliament has in fact increased in most countries within the last 15 years. The Czech Republic and Slovakia both increased their number of women MEPs, respectively: from 4 out of 22 (2009), 7 out of 21 in 2019 to 8 out of 21 (2024) for the former, and from 5 out of 13 (2009), 2 out of 13 (2019) to 7 out of 15 (2024) for the latter.

<sup>10</sup> European Parliament. 2024 European Election Results. "MEPs Gender Balance by country 2024." September 6, 2024. <https://results.elections.europa.eu/en/mep-gender-balance/2024-2029/>.

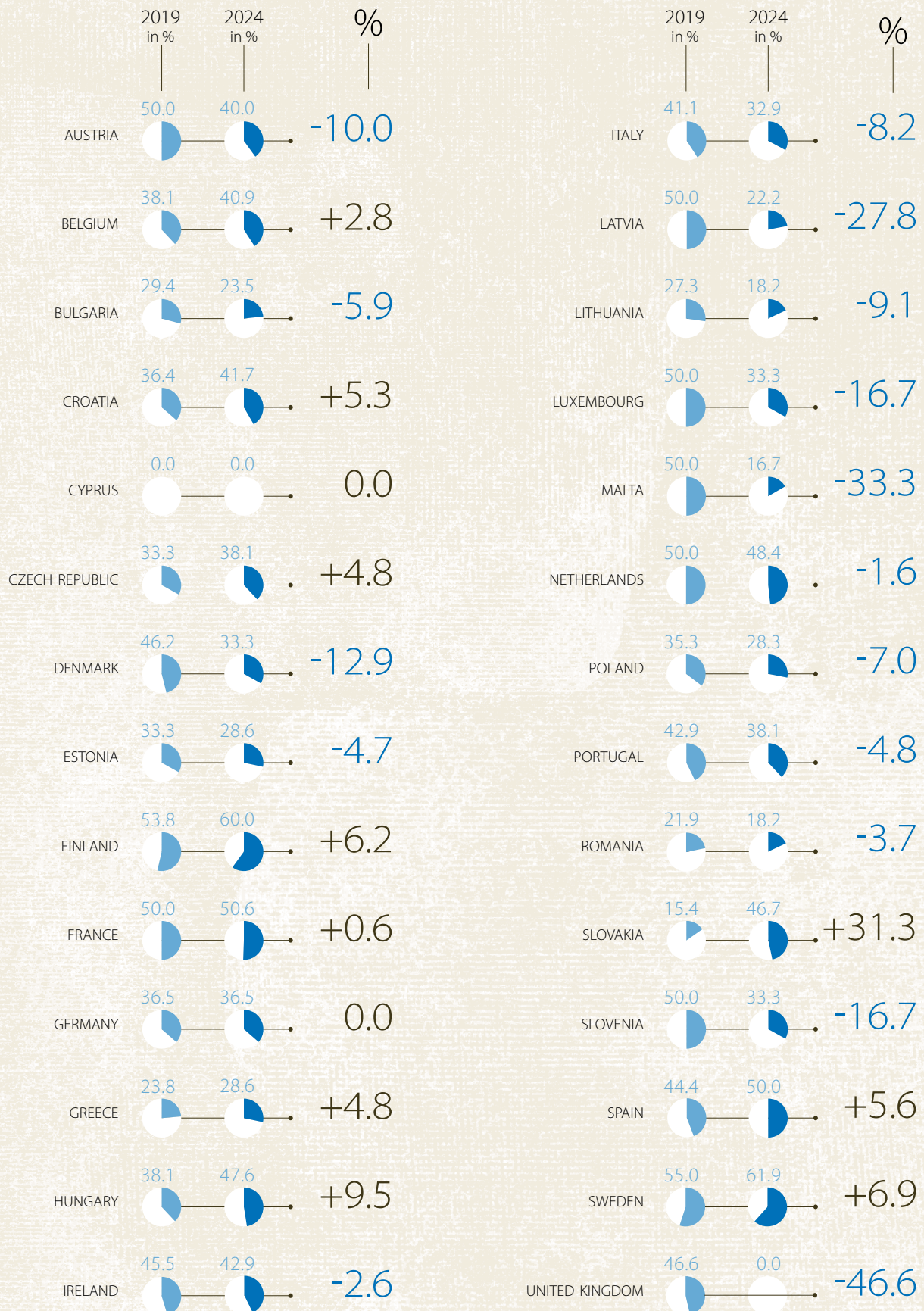
<sup>11</sup> Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain





## WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

% by country in 2019 and in 2024







# Women in the Committee of the Regions

Next, we examined how well women are represented in the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European advisory body established by the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht to represent local and regional governments in the 27 EU Member States.

**A**t the Dublin Conference in 1995, the elected women representatives of CEMR adopted a resolution addressing the newly formed Committee of the Regions, urging it to form a working group aimed at achieving gender parity when appointing members and having equality considered when selecting members. Under the leadership of Rosemary McKenna who, as the Chair of CEMR's Committee of women local and regional elected representatives, also oversaw a working group, this final goal became a reality within the CoR. However, parity among the delegates is still yet to be achieved. According to the latest figures shared by the CoR, only 27% of its delegates (members and alternates) are women. This percentage puts the EU's representative body of local and regional governments considerably behind the European Parliament (39%) and below the proportion of women elected at the local level (32%) and at the regional level (32.2%).

## OVERALL WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE CoR

When looking at both members and alternates for the entire delegation, the overall percentage of women's representation within the CoR can be seen to have increased by 2.8% since 2019 (27% of delegates are women). It is important to note that the nomination of CoR members is made by Member States. The CoR at its highest level has worked through the Council to encourage these to nominate female members.

**27%**

of delegates are women

This increase can be attributed to the substantial progress made in countries like Croatia, where the proportion of women rose from 9% (1 out of 11) to 22.2% women (4 out of 18), Luxembourg, where it increased from 45.4% women (5 out of 11) to 60% women (6 out of 10), and Estonia, which went from 0 women out of 12 in 2019 to 2 women out of 14 delegates.

However, in other States, the proportion of women has undergone an overall decrease: Austria, which fell from 30% (9 out of 30) to 25% (6 out of 24); Bulgaria, dropping from 25% (6 out of 24) to 15.8% (3 out of 19); and Lithuania, which went from 16.7% (3 out of 18) to 7% (1 out of 14). In 2024, it was noted that two countries, Greece and Malta, had no women at all in their delegations.

## FULL MEMBERS

In 2019, 21.6% of full CoR members were women; today, this figure has increased to 26.2%. In 2019, the three countries with the most women members (excluding alternates) were Finland (5 out of 9), Sweden (7 out of 13) and Germany (13 out of 24). In 2024, the delegations with the biggest share of women were France (12 out of 23), Ireland (5 out of 8), Luxembourg (2 out of 4), Netherlands (7 out of 12) and Sweden (6 out of 12).

Most national delegations show continued progress in 2024 compared to 2019. In the case of some countries, there were notable advancements: the Netherlands (+33%) and Ireland (+29.2%); but also France, Hungary and Romania, which could all report increases ranging between 14% to 16.7% in the number of their women delegates.

There were five countries that named fewer women to their delegation in 2024 than in 2019. The biggest notable decrease was in Germany, with a drop from 13 out of 24 in 2019 to 6 out of 23 in 2024 (a decrease of -28%),

In 2024, the delegation with the biggest share of women is Sweden (6 out of 12), Luxembourg (2 out of 4), Netherlands (7 out of 12), Ireland (5 out of 8) and France (12 out of 23).



and in Bulgaria, from 3 out of 12 to 1 out of 11 (-16%). There were also downswings in Cyprus, Finland and Austria, which showed declines ranging from 2.4% to 11% in the number of their women delegates.

Certain national delegations are conspicuous for having decided not to appoint any women. In 2019, eight countries' delegations were absent of any women members: Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal and Slovakia. Today, "only" five countries omitted to appoint any women members (Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Malta and Slovakia) and, alongside this result, we could observe an increase in the number of countries only nominating one woman member to their delegation since 2019 (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania, and Portugal).

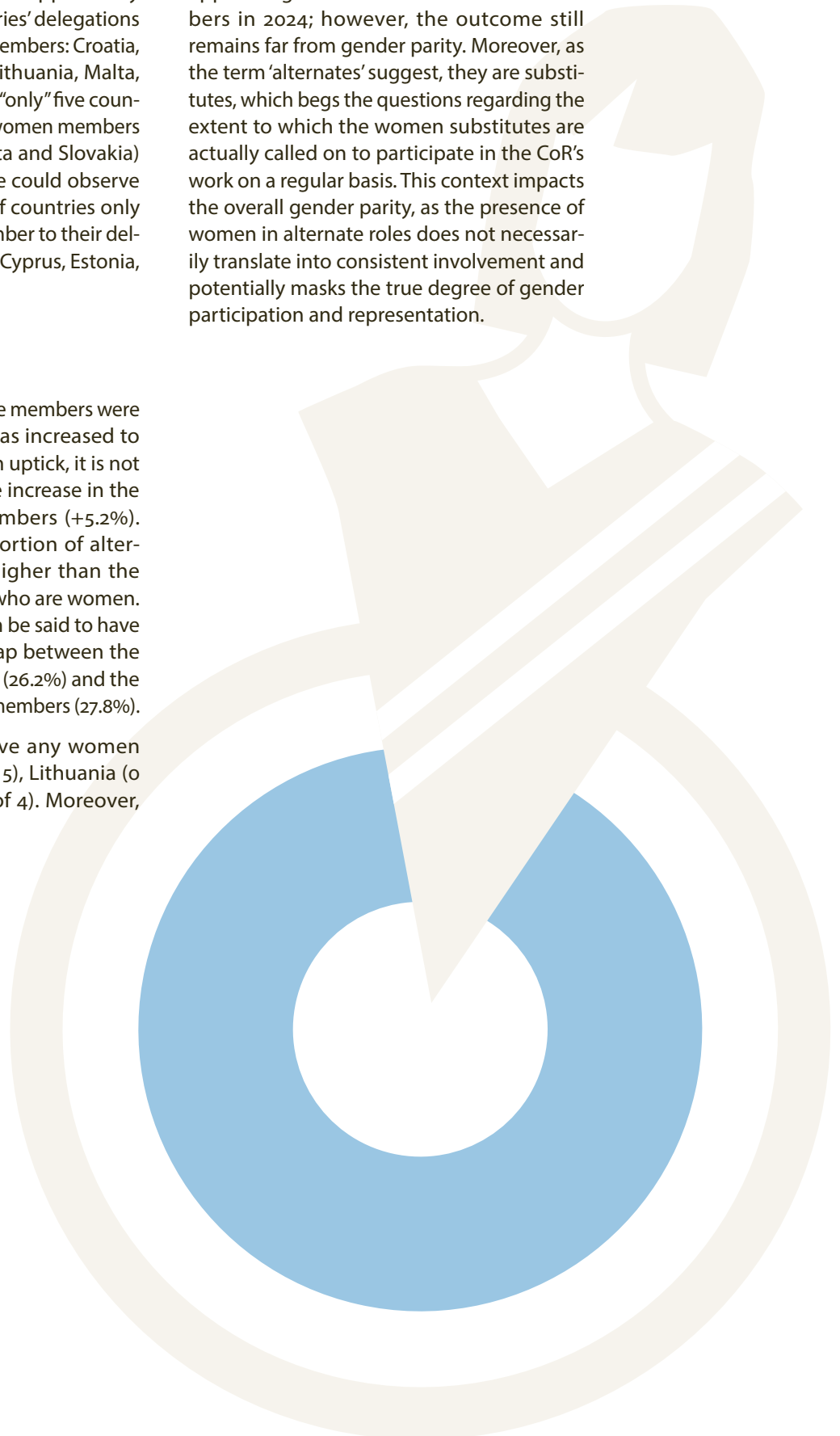
### ALTERNATE MEMBERS

In 2019, 26.9% of CoR alternate members were women; today, this figure has increased to 27.8%. While this is indeed an uptick, it is not as substantial (+0.9%) as the increase in the number of women full members (+5.2%). Overall, however, the proportion of alternate women members is higher than the proportion of full members who are women. Therefore, some progress can be said to have been made in closing the gap between the number of women members (26.2%) and the number of women alternate members (27.8%).

Three countries do not have any women alternates: Greece (0 out of 5), Lithuania (0 out of 5) and Malta (0 out of 4). Moreover,

four countries have only one woman alternate: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary and Slovenia.

It should be noted that the eight countries without women members in 2019 have attempted to make up for this omission by appointing women alternate or full members in 2024; however, the outcome still remains far from gender parity. Moreover, as the term 'alternates' suggest, they are substitutes, which begs the questions regarding the extent to which the women substitutes are actually called on to participate in the CoR's work on a regular basis. This context impacts the overall gender parity, as the presence of women in alternate roles does not necessarily translate into consistent involvement and potentially masks the true degree of gender participation and representation.





# Women in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

The 47 member nations of the Council of Europe have been entrusted with maintaining local and regional democracy, and the Congress has long been viewed as a committed and knowledgeable advocate of gender equality. Women accounted for 43% of the Congress' total representatives (members and substitutes) in 2019 and 37% in 2008. Nevertheless, we must look at whether the proportion of women participating in the work of the Congress has progressed over time.

The data points to the Congress as being the most egalitarian of all the institutions covered in this study. It is important to recall that the Congress passed a resolution regarding gender quotas as far back as 2008. It mandated that at least 30% of the underrepresented sex be represented in all delegations. In 2016, Gudrun Mosler-Törnström made history as the first woman to be elected President of the Congress<sup>12</sup>, further reinforcing the institution's commitment to gender equality and setting a precedent for female leadership. This legislation has therefore been in effect during any increase in the number of female representatives between 2008, 2019 and today. In 2024, we see that the percentage of women representatives in the Congress has reached 43.4%.

## MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

The proportion of women Congress members stands at 38.9% in 2024; this amounts to a slight decrease of 3.1% from 2019 (42%).

Countries have generally maintained their progress in ensuring that women are duly represented in the Congress and in its work. However, a small decrease in the number of female representatives from some countries

has been discernible since 2019: Finland (decrease from 3 women representatives to 1), Lithuania (2 to 1), North Macedonia (2 to 1) and Slovenia (2 to 0 women representatives). Nonetheless, even though women accounted for less than 30% of representative members in sixteen of the country delegations in 2008, there are currently only two countries that have less than 30% of women representative members in 2024. Moreover, 11 countries have achieved gender parity of 50% and over.

## SUBSTITUTES

Among the Congress substitutes, the proportion of women has once again decreased, falling from 44.5% in 2019 to 42% today. Regardless, the gap between the share of women among representative members and substitutes continues to narrow. Similar to the dynamics at play with the representatives, there has been a decrease in the number of female substitutes in some country delegations from 2019 to the present: Estonia (1 to 0 women substitutes), Lithuania (3 to 0), Moldova (2 to 1) and Sweden (4 to 2 women substitutes). Nonetheless, in 2024, there are only three countries that have less than 30% women representative members, whereas 17 countries have achieved gender parity of 50% and over in their number of women substitutes.

The proportion of women Congress members stands at

**38.9%**

in 2024;

The proportion of women among Congress substitutes is currently

**42%**

<sup>12</sup> Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. "Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, the first woman to be elected President of the Congress" 19 October 2016. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/congress/-/gudrun-mosler-tornstrom-the-first-woman-to-be-elected-president-of-the-congress>.





# Women in the Council of European Municipalities and Regions

More than forty years have passed since the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) first took up the cause of gender equality. At the behest of Fausta Giani Cecchini, the then Mayor of Pisa and later President of the province, CEMR put together the first-ever European conference of locally and regionally elected women representatives in Pisa in 1983. Together with two British women councillors, Doreen Fleming of the Fenland District Council and Josephine Farrington of the Lancashire County Council, all three helped pioneer the efforts to achieve gender-balanced representation within CEMR.

**C**EMR has long remained a strong advocate for gender equality. By organising numerous conferences (Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle (1986), Antwerp (1988), Heidelberg (1992) and Dublin (1995)), CEMR successfully highlighted the importance of increasing women's involvement in municipal politics. The Dublin conference assembled more than 600 women from 32 countries including, for the first time, many women elected representatives from the Central and Eastern European countries. In 1992, CEMR formed its Standing Committee for Equality, made up of local and regional elected women, which continues to actively address and promote issues for gender equality at the subnational level.

Over the years, CEMR has undertaken many projects to advance the position and presence of women in local politics, many of which are the heirs of the first beneficiaries of the Fourth Community Action Programme for equal opportunities. One such project was the "Town for Equality", which resulted in CEMR's publishing a manual of best practices for equality in European towns and the drafting of the European Charter for Equality for women and men in local life in 2006. It was a major undertaking involving numerous elected officials, specialists and CEMR members. All these contributions helped in establishing a truly European vision of gender equality at the local level, which led to the

creation of the Observatory of the European Charter for Equality in 2012.

With over 2 000 signatories in 36 countries across Europe, the Charter's success prompted elected officials, experts and CEMR members to update the European Charter for Equality in 2022, with the addition of nine new articles to ensure its continued utility and relevance for Europe's towns and regions.

The Charter's undeniable achievement, coupled with the strong commitment of CEMR's leadership, led to equality being promoted internally at the statutory level. CEMR's Policy Committee authorised the 2013 amendment of the organisation's statutes, which included a requirement that at least 40% of the underrepresented sex serve on the Policy Committee and at least 30% hold seats on the Executive Bureau and Financial Management Committee. Subsequent to the 2015 Rules of Procedure, CEMR is required to ensure a balanced representation of men and women on its statutory bodies. Additionally, all national delegations must contain a representation of both sexes that is proportionate to the number of seats available. A delegation's voting rights may be restricted if it disregards this regulation.

In 2024, 68 out of the 168 full members<sup>13</sup> of CEMR's Policy Committee—the organisation's governing body composed of national delegations designated by the national associations—are women, or 40.5%. In 2019, the Policy Committee was made up of 47 % women (65 out of 137 full members).

The CEMR Executive Bureau comes quite close to parity in 2024 with ten women and twelve men; these results notwithstanding, CEMR achieved perfect parity in 2019 with nine women and nine men. Leading our organisation however in 2024 is, its second woman president, Gunn Marit Helgesen, Councillor of Vestfold and Telemark from the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities.

In 2024,  
the Policy  
Committee was  
made up of  
**40.5%**  
women

<sup>13</sup> CEMR did not receive all nominations from the member associations at the time of writing, and therefore the number of female full members given is not final.



There is no doubt that CEMR will continue to strongly engage in the exchange of ideas on gender equality, diversity and intersectionality at all levels in Europe and on the international scene through its world organisation, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The data compiled in this study shows that Europe still has a long way to go in terms of parity at all levels. While we have progressed in the last 15 years, there remains a lot of uncertainty

regarding the representation of women in politics, especially with the rise of anti-feminist movements, accompanied by a lack of trust in democratic institutions and the rise of violence against women. CEMR intends to remain a driving force in the advancement of women's representation, particularly at the local level, ensuring that the progress already made continues on the right track.



## Portfolios

**Although women's representation at the local level has seen a significant increase or a certain constancy across Europe in recent years, existing data suggests that gender segregation persists in practice, such as in the allocation of local portfolios. Women politicians can find themselves curtailed, with their work limited to "softer/feminine" portfolios such as education, health, youth and social services<sup>14</sup>. In contrast, key policy areas such as security, defence and transport continue to be predominantly managed by men.**

**T**he top three portfolios held by women at the local level, according to the data compiled from our survey respondents' answers, are the following: culture and sports (43%), youth (40%) and finance, budget, economy (37%). The portfolios that were least likely to be held by women were: security (police forces) (7%), transport (9%) and civil protection (12%).

This trend of gender segregation in the allocating of portfolios not only reflects enduring stereotypes about gender roles but also restricts women's influence and opportunities to prove their capabilities in areas traditionally viewed as male-dominated, thereby perpetuating gender disparities.

<sup>14</sup> Annesley, Claire, Karen Beckwith, and Susan Franceschet. *Cabinets, Ministers, and Gender*. Oxford University Press eBooks, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190069018.001.0001>. Siklodi, Nora, Kenny William Ie, and Nicholas Allen. "From Gender Equity to Gendered Assignments? Women and Cabinet Committees in Canada and the United Kingdom." *Government and Opposition*, July 3, 2023, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1017/gov.2023.18>.



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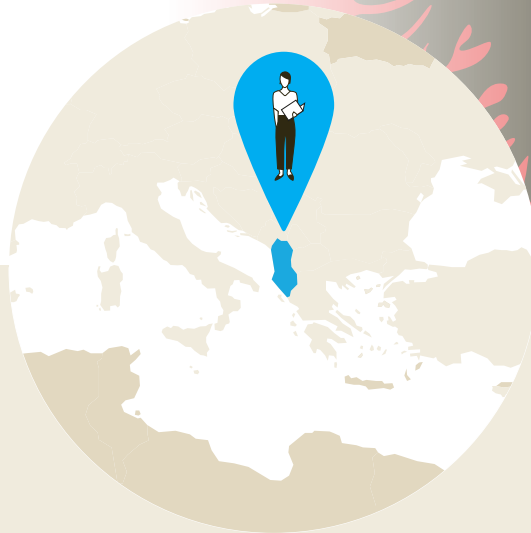
INFOGRAPHICS

# The role of women in politics in the 41 countries where CEMR has members





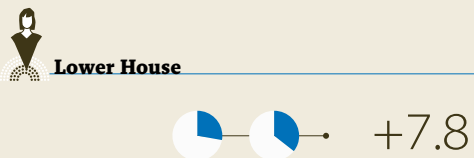
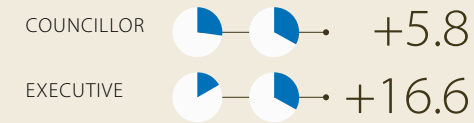
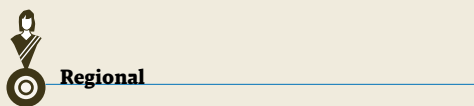
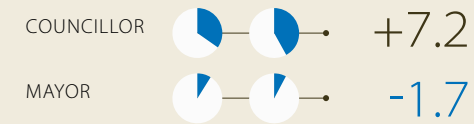
# ALBANIA



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1945

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

Portfolio	Count
OTHER	1
CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION	0
WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

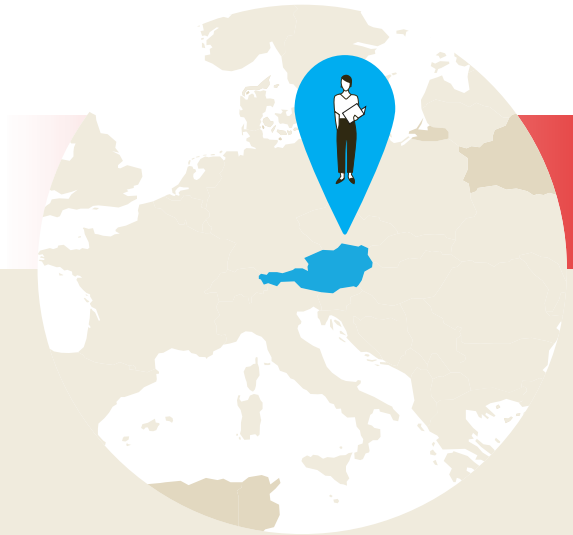
NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# AUSTRIA

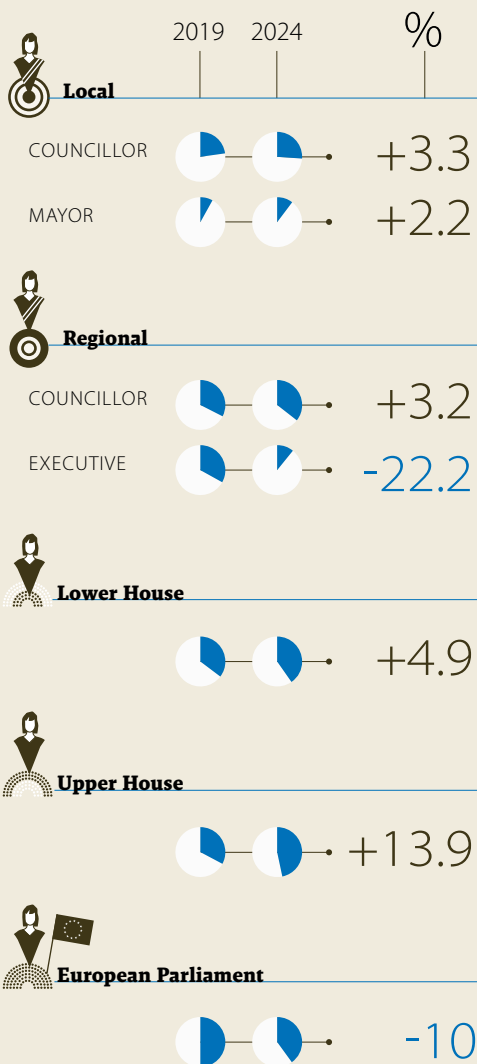
AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES (GEMEINDEBUND)  
 AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF CITIES AND TOWNS (STÄDTBUND)



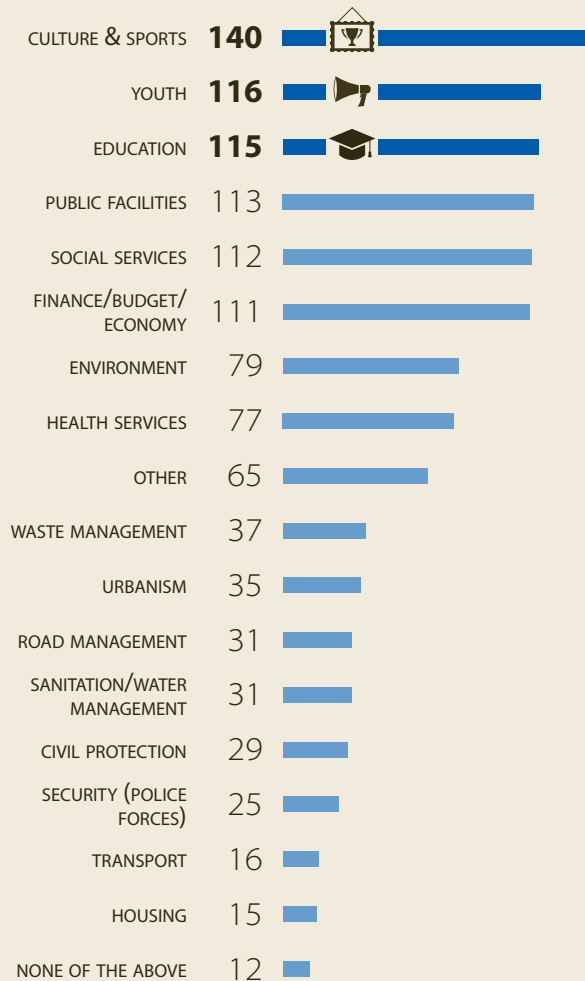
UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1918

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
 AUSTRIA  
 BELGIUM  
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
 BULGARIA  
 CROATIA

CYPRUS  
 CZECHIA  
 DENMARK  
 ESTONIA  
 FINLAND  
 FRANCE  
 GEORGIA

GERMANY  
 GREECE  
 HUNGARY  
 ICELAND  
 IRELAND  
 ISRAEL  
 ITALY

LATVIA  
 LITHUANIA  
 LUXEMBOURG  
 MALTA  
 MOLDOVA  
 MONTENEGRO  
 NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
 NORWAY  
 POLAND  
 PORTUGAL  
 ROMANIA  
 SERBIA  
 SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
 SPAIN  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 TÜRKIYE  
 UKRAINE  
 UNITED KINGDOM

# BELGIUM

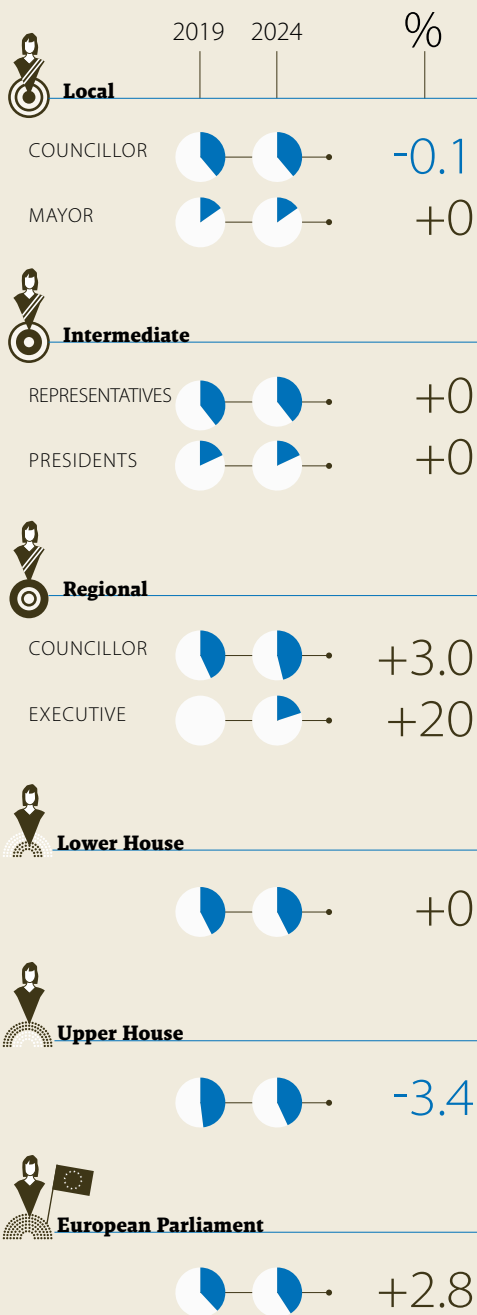
ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION (BRULOCALIS)  
 ASSOCIATION OF FLEMISH CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES (VVSG)  
 UNION OF CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF WALLONIA (UVCW)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1948

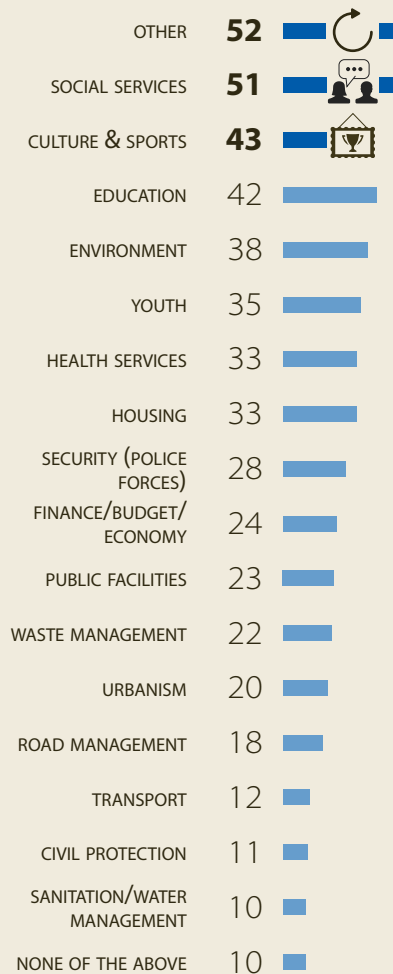


## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
 AUSTRIA  
 BELGIUM  
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
 BULGARIA  
 CROATIA

CYPRUS  
 CZECHIA  
 DENMARK  
 ESTONIA  
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GERMANY  
 GREECE  
 HUNGARY  
 ICELAND  
 IRELAND  
 ISRAEL  
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LATVIA  
 LITHUANIA  
 LUXEMBOURG  
 MALTA  
 MOLDOVA  
 MONTENEGRO  
 NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
 NORWAY  
 POLAND  
 PORTUGAL  
 ROMANIA  
 SERBIA  
 SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
 SPAIN  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 TÜRKIYE  
 UKRAINE  
 UNITED KINGDOM



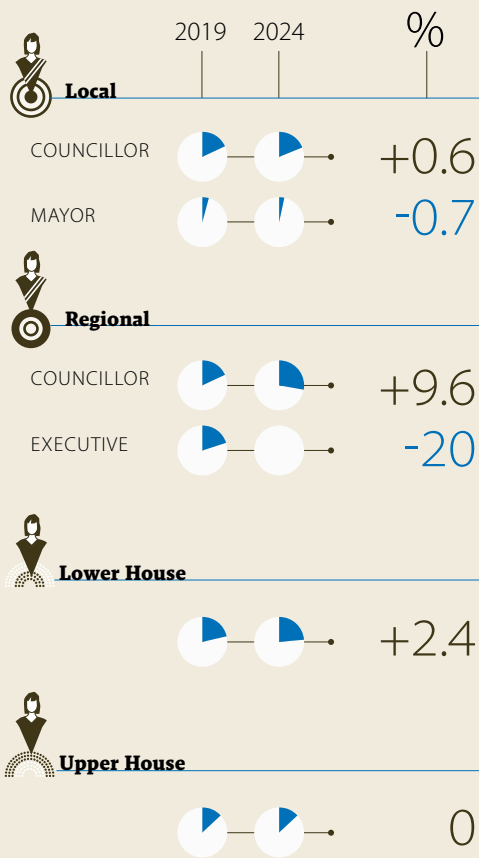
# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES OF THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (SOGFBIH)  
 ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA (ALVRS)  
 UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1945



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

### Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

HEALTH SERVICES	2	
ENVIRONMENT	1	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	1	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	1	
SOCIAL SERVICES	1	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
CULTURE & SPORTS	0	
EDUCATION	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
HOUSING	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
URBANISM	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
 AUSTRIA  
 BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
 BULGARIA  
 CROATIA

CYPRUS  
 CZECHIA  
 DENMARK  
 ESTONIA  
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 FRANCE  
 GEORGIA

GERMANY  
 GREECE  
 HUNGARY  
 ICELAND  
 IRELAND  
 ISRAEL  
 ITALY

LATVIA  
 LITHUANIA  
 LUXEMBOURG  
 MALTA  
 MOLDOVA  
 MONTENEGRO  
 NETHERLANDS

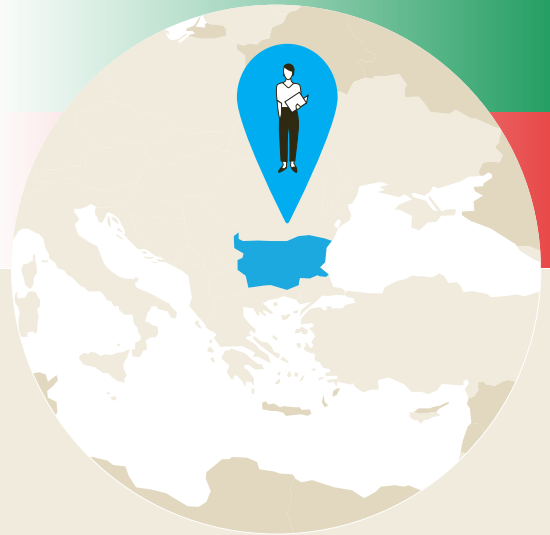
NORTH MACEDONIA  
 NORWAY  
 POLAND  
 PORTUGAL  
 ROMANIA  
 SERBIA  
 SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
 SPAIN  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 TÜRKIYE  
 UKRAINE  
 UNITED KINGDOM

# BULGARIA

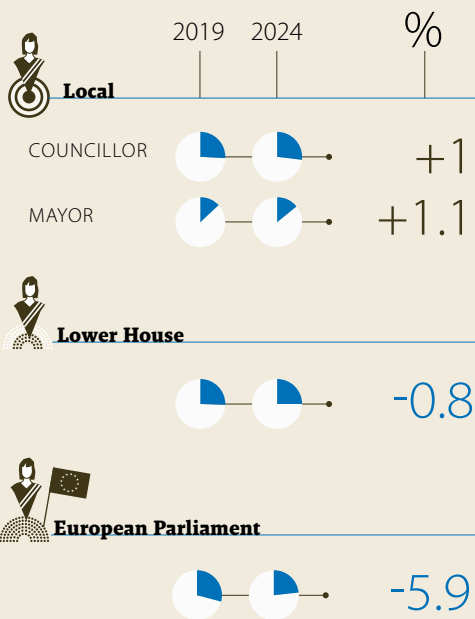
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA (NAMRB)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1944



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0
OTHER	0

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
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GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

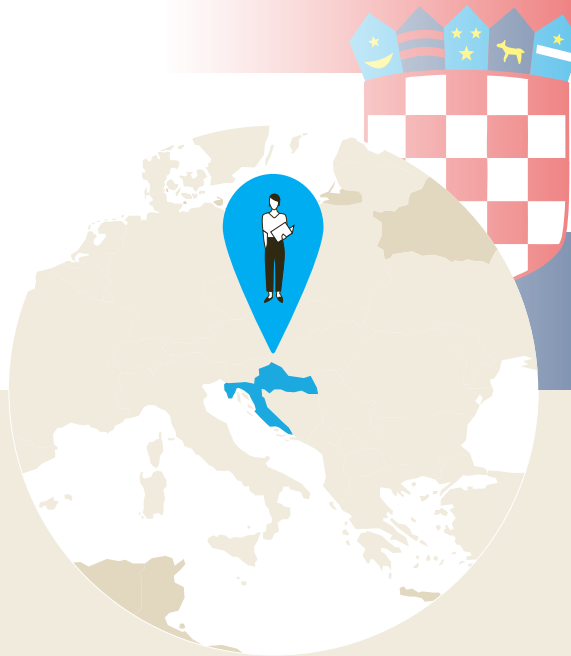
NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# CROATIA

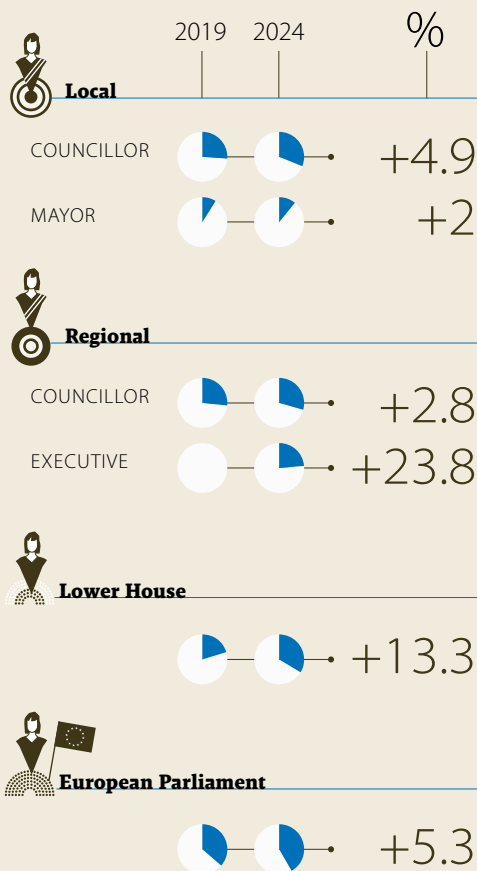
CROATIAN COUNTY ASSOCIATION (HRVZZ)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1945

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

EDUCATION	2	
CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
SOCIAL SERVICES	1	
YOUTH	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
ENVIRONMENT	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
HOUSING	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
URBANISM	0	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
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CROATIA

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SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# CYPRUS

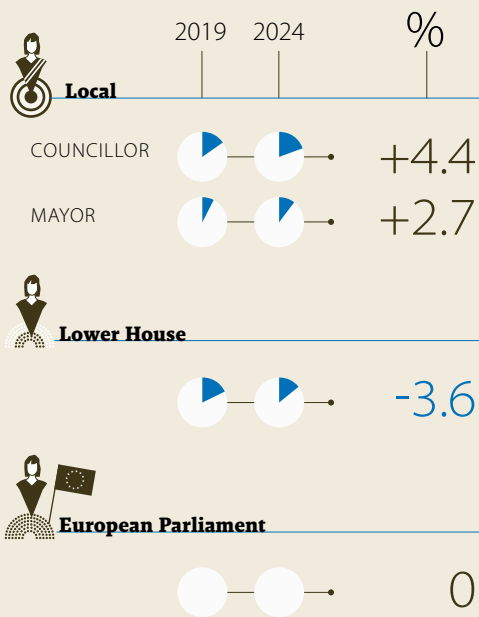
UNION OF CYPRUS MUNICIPALITIES (UCM)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1960

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
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ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# CZECH REPUBLIC

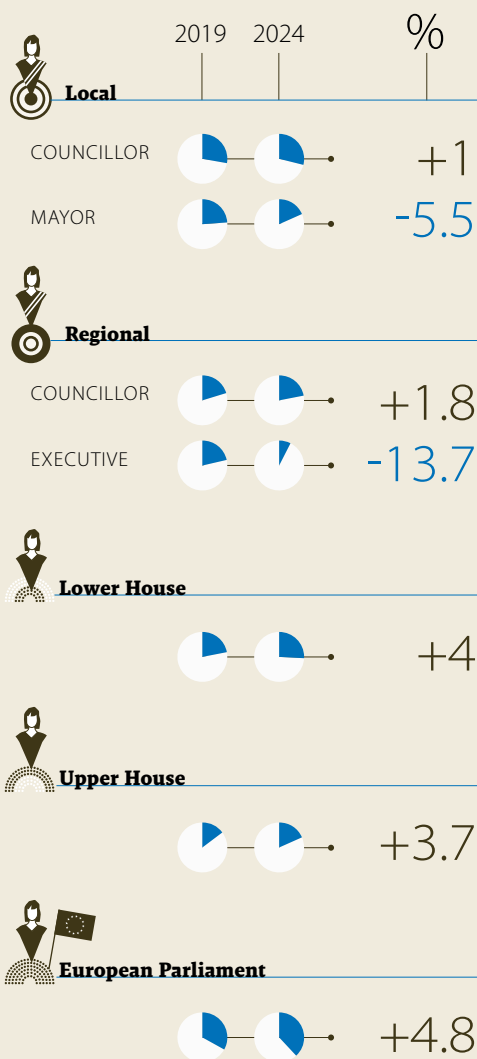
UNION OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC (SMO CR)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1920



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

ENVIRONMENT	2	
CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
HOUSING	1	
SOCIAL SERVICES	1	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
EDUCATION	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
HEALTH SERVICES	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
URBANISM	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
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SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# DENMARK

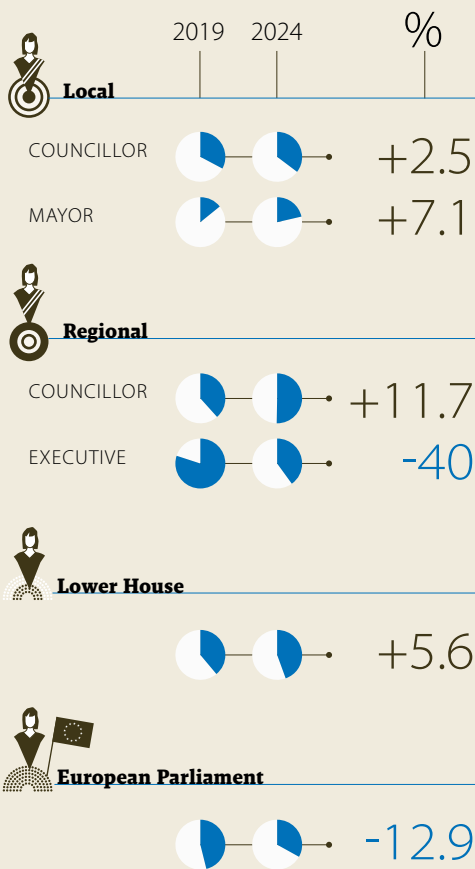
DANISH REGIONS (REGIONER)  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DENMARK (KL)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1915

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
ENVIRONMENT	1	
HOUSING	1	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	1	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	1	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	1	
TRANSPORT	1	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
EDUCATION	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
HEALTH SERVICES	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
SOCIAL SERVICES	0	
URBANISM	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources : Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
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GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
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MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# ESTONIA

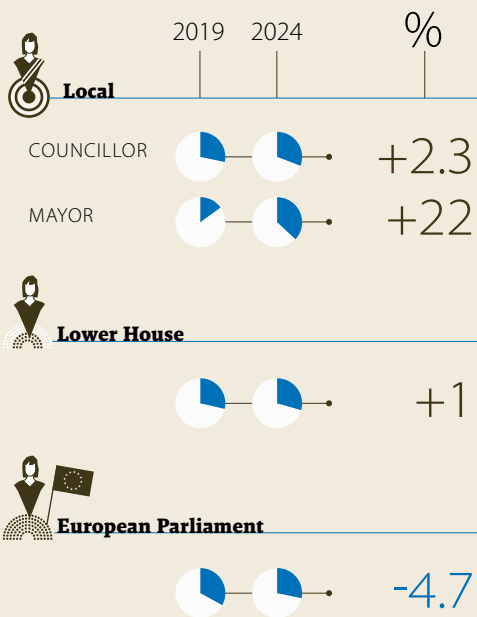
ASSOCIATION OF ESTONIAN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES (AECM)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1917

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CULTURE & SPORTS	4	
EDUCATION	4	
CIVIL PROTECTION	3	
ENVIRONMENT	3	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	3	
SOCIAL SERVICES	3	
YOUTH	3	
HEALTH SERVICES	2	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	2	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	2	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	2	
TRANSPORT	2	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	2	
HOUSING	1	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	1	
URBANISM	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
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HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
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NORTH MACEDONIA  
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SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# FINLAND

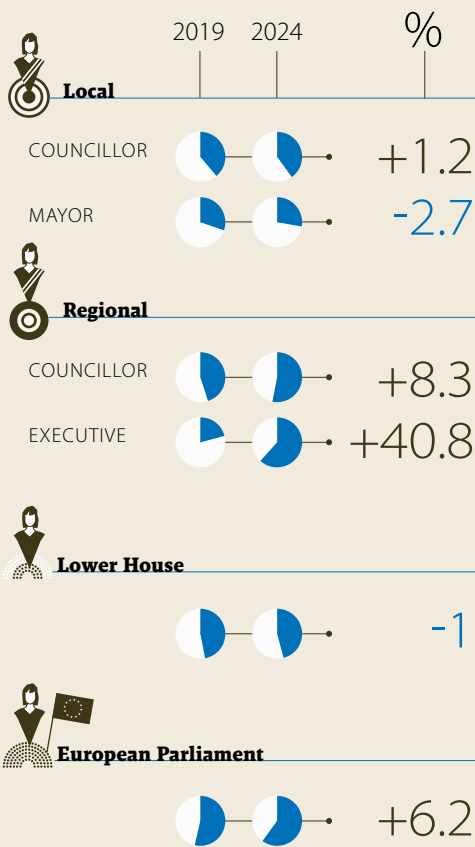
ASSOCIATION OF FINNISH LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES (AFLRA)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1918

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

EDUCATION	4	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	4	
CULTURE & SPORTS	3	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	3	
HOUSING	3	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	3	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	3	
URBANISM	3	
YOUTH	3	
ENVIRONMENT	2	
SOCIAL SERVICES	2	
TRANSPORT	2	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	2	
CIVIL PROTECTION	1	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
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IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
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LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

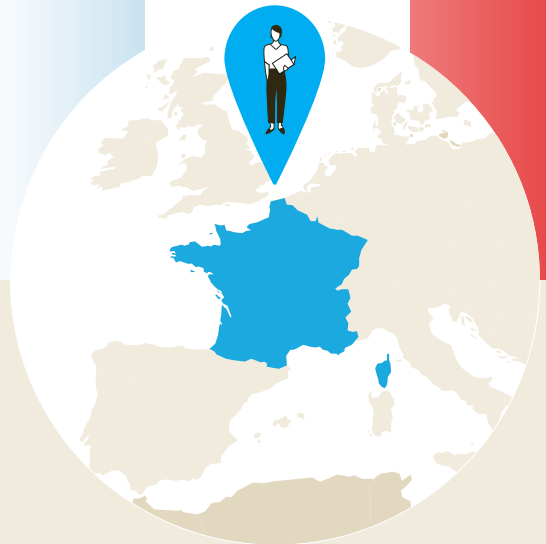
NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# FRANCE

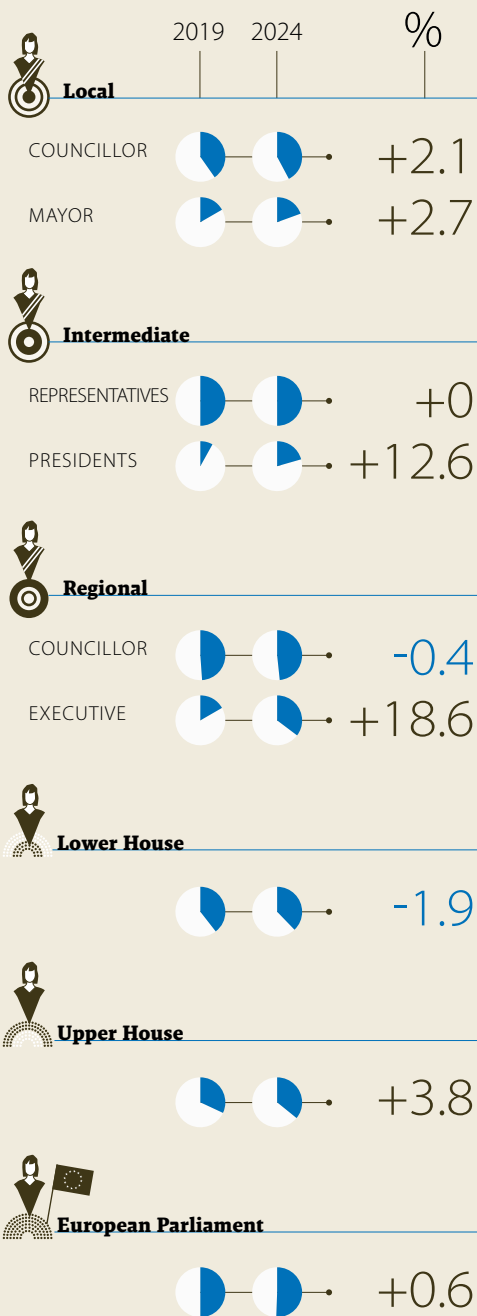
FRENCH ASSOCIATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS (AFCCRE)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1944

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
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TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# GEORGIA

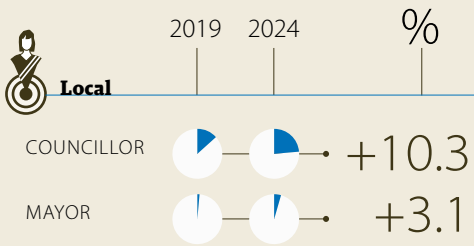
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF GEORGIA (NALAG)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1918

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	4	
CULTURE & SPORTS	4	
EDUCATION	4	
HEALTH SERVICES	4	
SOCIAL SERVICES	4	
ENVIRONMENT	3	
TRANSPORT	3	
URBANISM	3	
YOUTH	3	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	2	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	2	
HOUSING	1	
OTHER	1	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
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SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
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TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# GERMANY

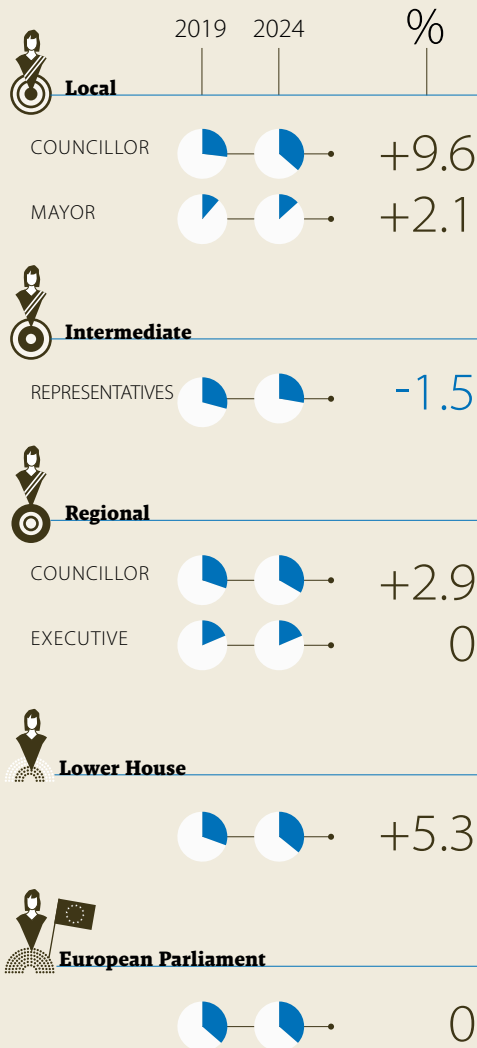
GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS (RGRE)  
 GERMAN COUNTY ASSOCIATION (DLT)  
 ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN CITIES (DST)  
 GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES (DSTGB)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1918

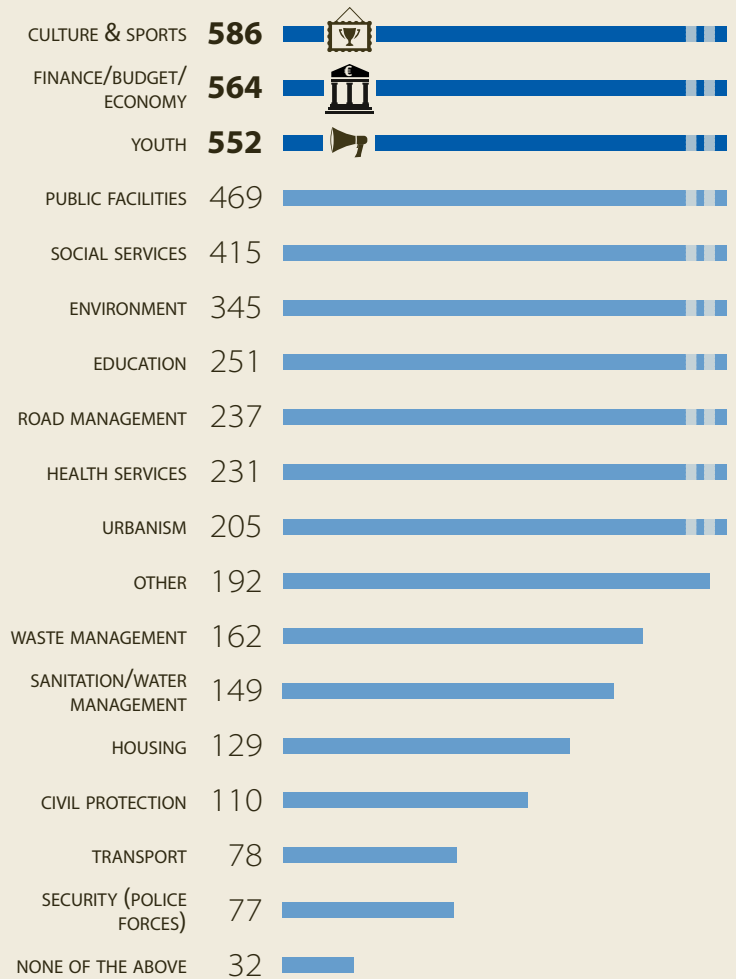


## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
 AUSTRIA  
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 SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
 SPAIN  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 TÜRKIYE  
 UKRAINE  
 UNITED KINGDOM

# GREECE

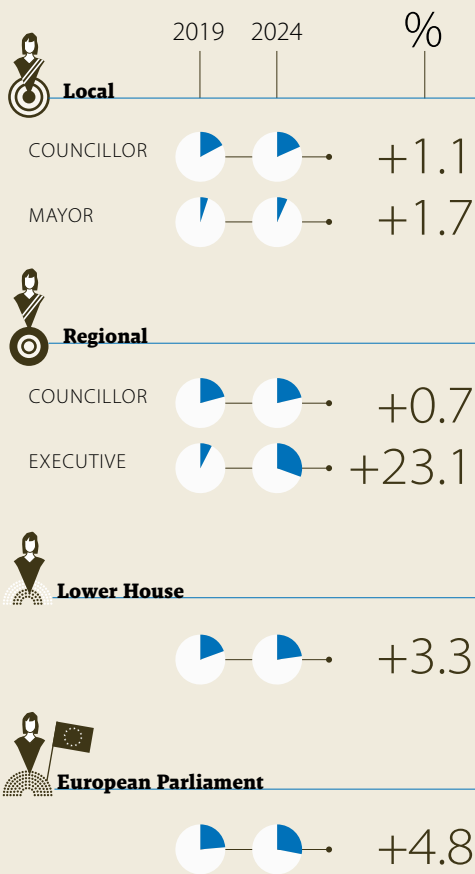
CENTRAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF GREECE (KEDE)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1952



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CULTURE & SPORTS	3	
YOUTH	3	
ENVIRONMENT	2	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	2	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	2	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	2	
SOCIAL SERVICES	2	
CIVIL PROTECTION	1	
EDUCATION	1	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
HOUSING	1	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	1	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	1	
TRANSPORT	1	
URBANISM	1	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	1	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# HUNGARY

HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (TÖOSZ)  
 ASSOCIATION OF CITIES WITH COUNTY RANK ((M)VSZ)  
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SMALL CITIES (KSZ)  
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HUNGARIAN MUNICIPALITIES (MÖSZ)  
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND SMALL VILLAGES (KÖSZ)  
 HUNGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGES (MFSZ)  
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ((MÖOSZ)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1945



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

### Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
 AUSTRIA  
 BELGIUM  
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
 BULGARIA  
 CROATIA

CYPRUS  
 CZECHIA  
 DENMARK  
 ESTONIA  
 FINLAND  
 FRANCE  
 GEORGIA

GERMANY  
 GREECE  
HUNGARY  
 ICELAND  
 IRELAND  
 ISRAEL  
 ITALY

LATVIA  
 LITHUANIA  
 LUXEMBOURG  
 MALTA  
 MOLDOVA  
 MONTENEGRO  
 NETHERLANDS

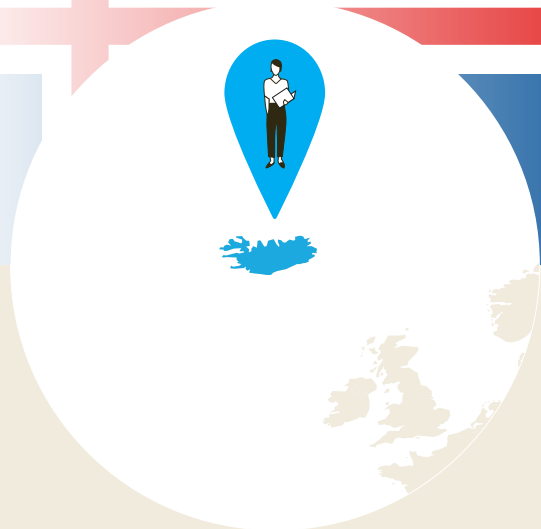
NORTH MACEDONIA  
 NORWAY  
 POLAND  
 PORTUGAL  
 ROMANIA  
 SERBIA  
 SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
 SPAIN  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 TÜRKIYE  
 UKRAINE  
 UNITED KINGDOM

# ICELAND

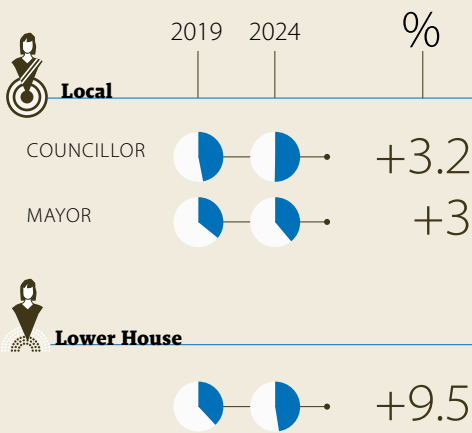
ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ICELAND (SAMBAND)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1915

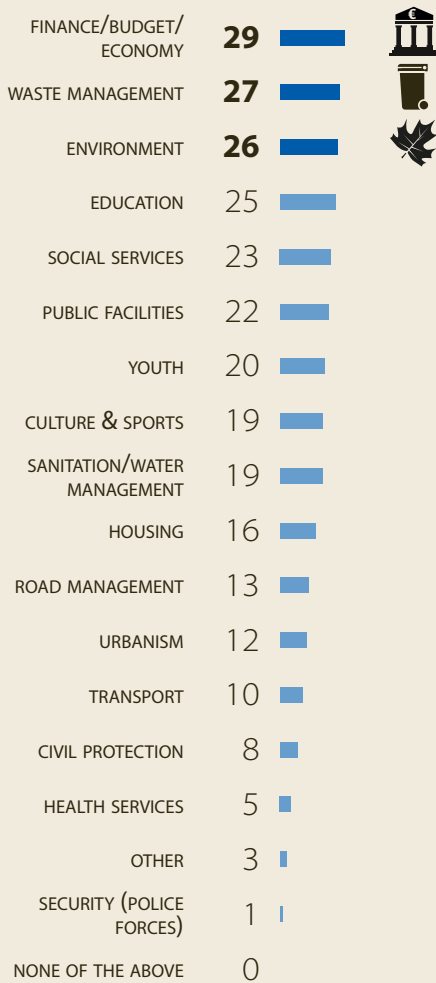


## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
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TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



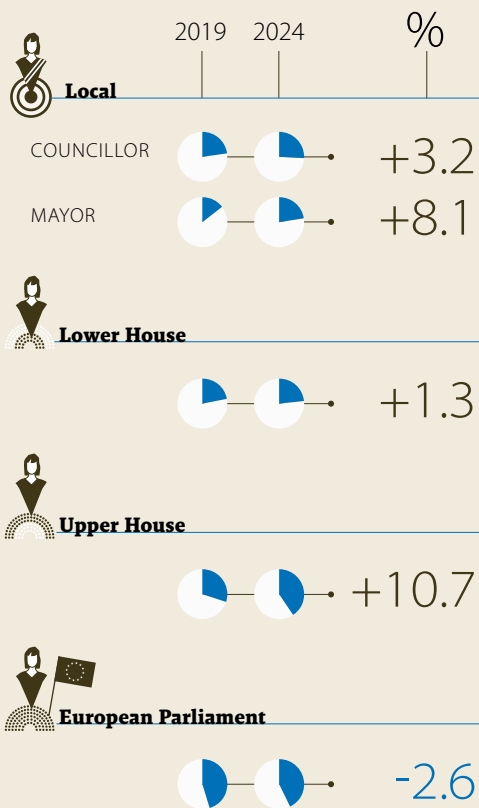
# IRELAND

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1922



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

HOUSING	5	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	5	
ENVIRONMENT	4	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	4	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	3	
URBANISM	3	
YOUTH	3	
CULTURE & SPORTS	2	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	2	
SOCIAL SERVICES	2	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	2	
CIVIL PROTECTION	1	
EDUCATION	1	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	1	
TRANSPORT	1	
OTHER	1	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
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MONTENEGRO  
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PORTUGAL  
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SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# ISRAËL

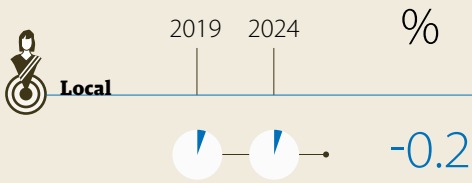
FEDERATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ISRAEL (MASHAM)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1918

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0
OTHER	0

Sources : Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAËL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
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MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
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ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# ITALY

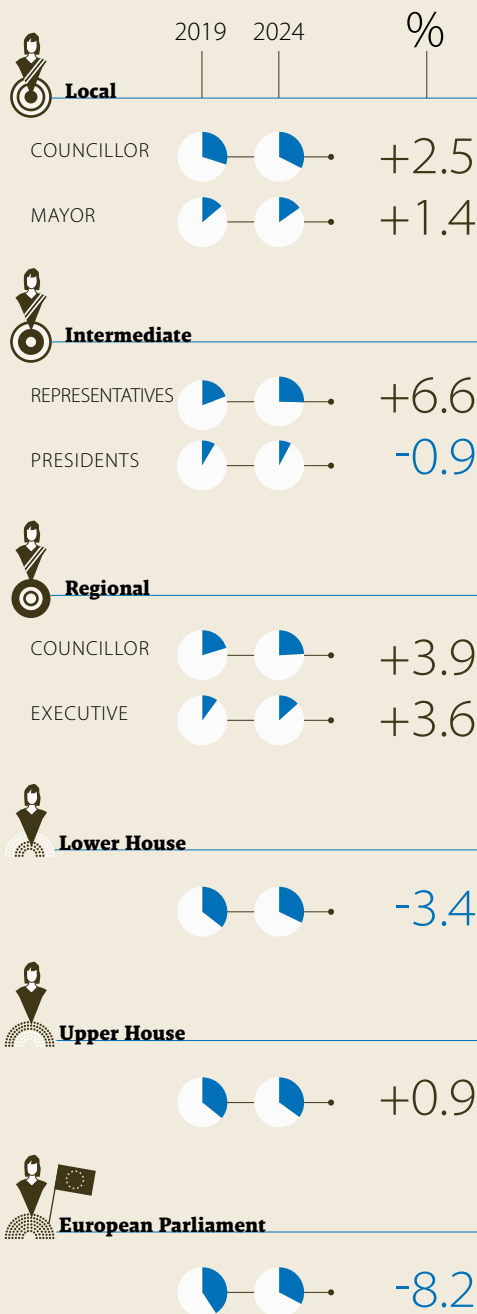
ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS (AICCRE)

## UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1945



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

### Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
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LATVIA  
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MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

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SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# LATVIA

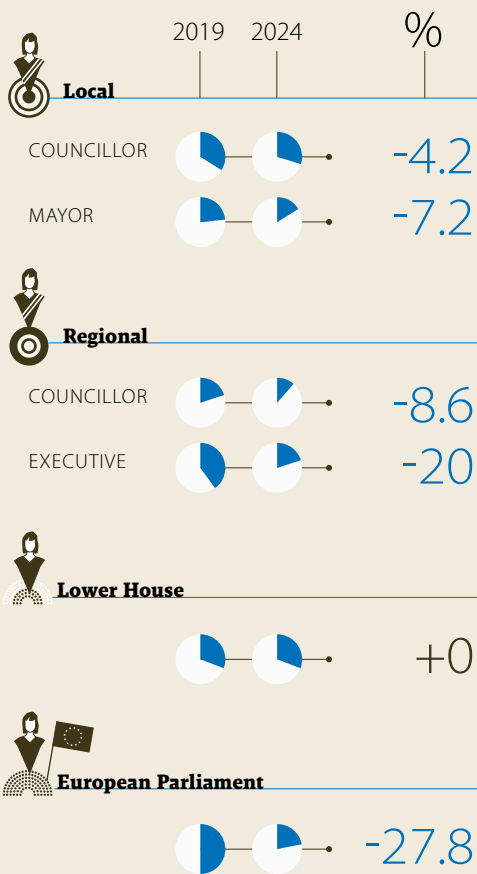
LATVIAN ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS (LPS)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1917

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	1	
CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
EDUCATION	1	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	1	
URBANISM	1	
ENVIRONMENT	0	
HEALTH SERVICES	0	
HOUSING	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
SOCIAL SERVICES	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

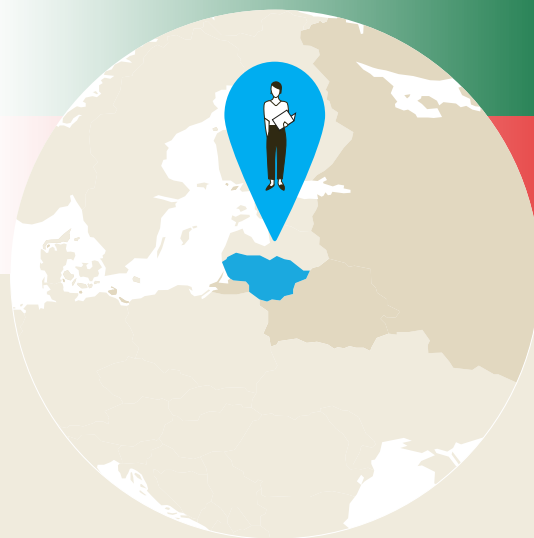
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PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# LITHUANIA

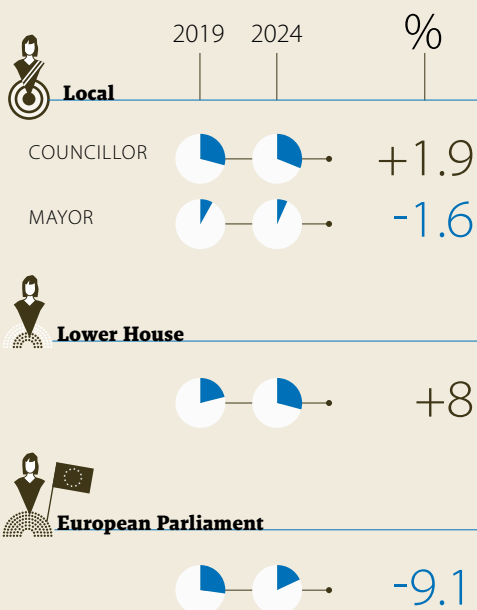
ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN LITHUANIA (ISLA)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1918



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

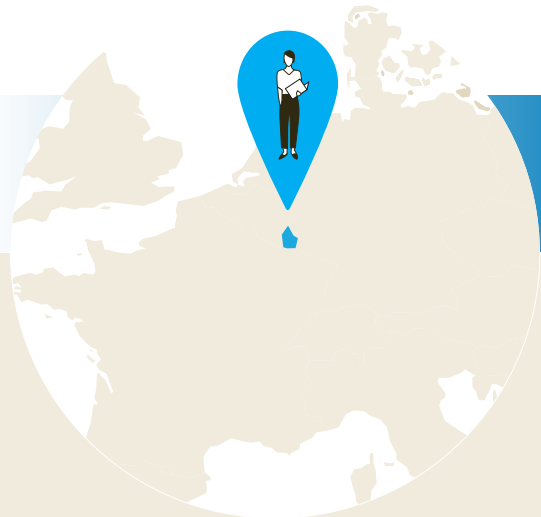
SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# LUXEMBOURG

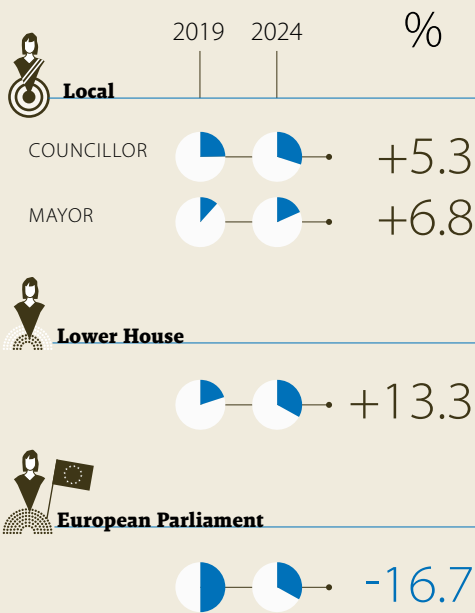
ASSOCIATION OF LUXEMBOURG CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES (SYVICOL)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1919



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

SOCIAL SERVICES	2	
CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	1	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
EDUCATION	0	
ENVIRONMENT	0	
HOUSING	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
URBANISM	0	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# MALTA

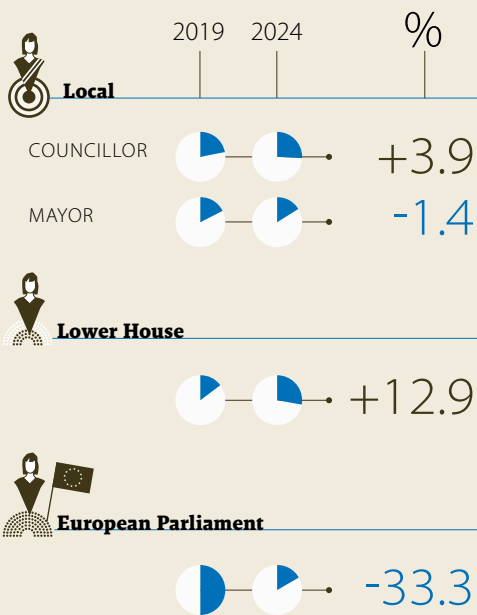
LOCAL COUNCIL'S ASSOCIATION (LCA)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1947



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

EDUCATION	2	
CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
YOUTH	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
ENVIRONMENT	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
HEALTH SERVICES	0	
HOUSING	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
SOCIAL SERVICES	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
URBANISM	0	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

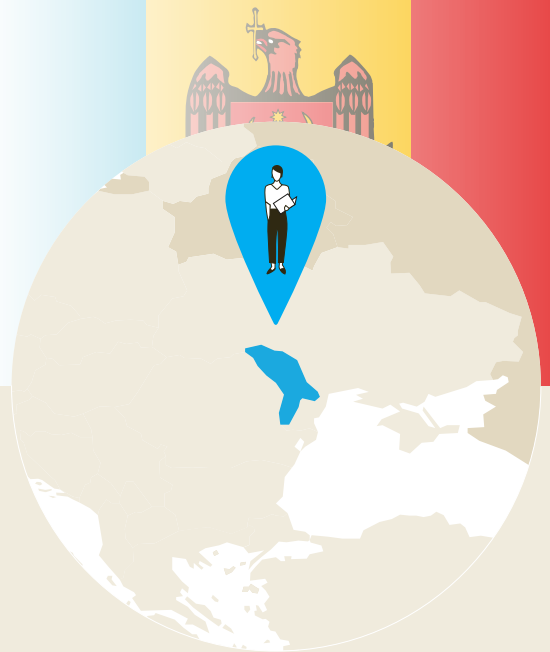
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NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# MOLDOVA

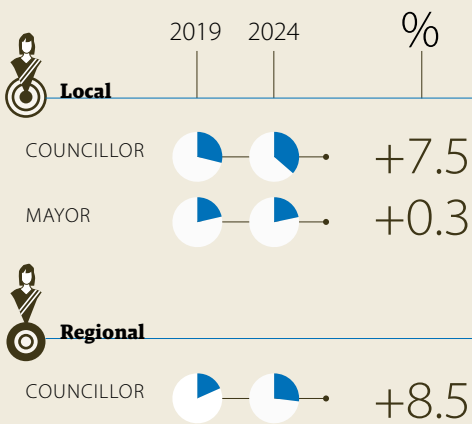
CONGRESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF MOLDOVA (CALM)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1993



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
EDUCATION	1	
ENVIRONMENT	1	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	1	
SOCIAL SERVICES	1	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
HEALTH SERVICES	0	
HOUSING	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
URBANISM	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
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HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
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MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
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TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

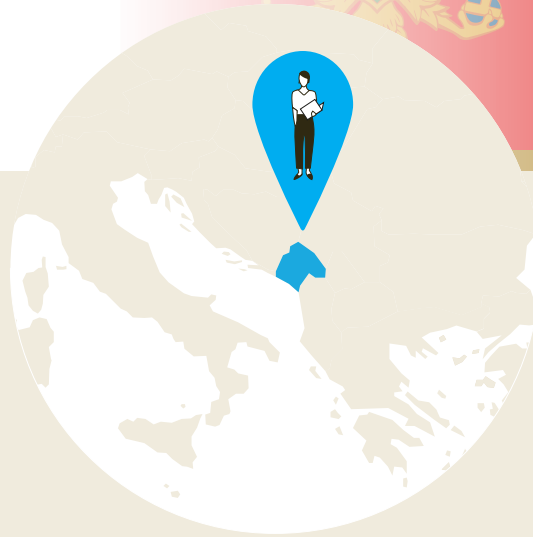


# MONTENEGRO

UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF MONTENEGRO (UOM)

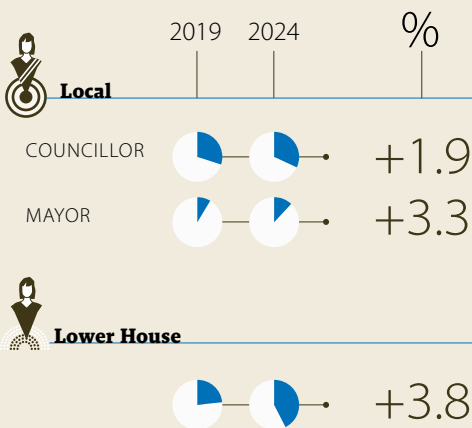


UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1946



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0
OTHER	0

Sources : Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
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SLOVAKIA

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TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# NETHERLANDS

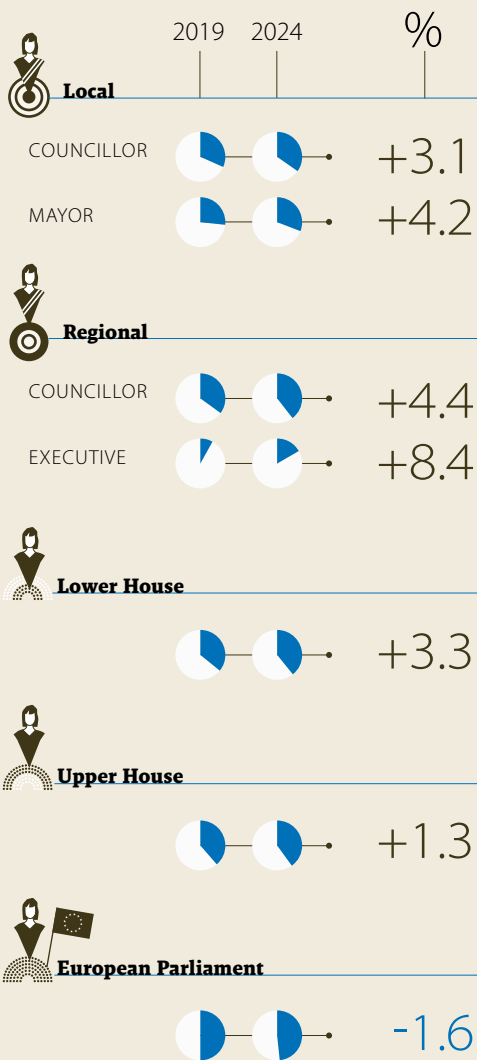
ASSOCIATION OF PROVINCES OF THE NETHERLANDS (IPO)  
ASSOCIATION OF NETHERLANDS MUNICIPALITIES (VNG)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1945

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

ENVIRONMENT	2	
URBANISM	2	
OTHER	2	
EDUCATION	1	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
HOUSING	1	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	1	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	1	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	1	
SOCIAL SERVICES	1	
TRANSPORT	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
CULTURE & SPORTS	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
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SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
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SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# NORTH MACEDONIA

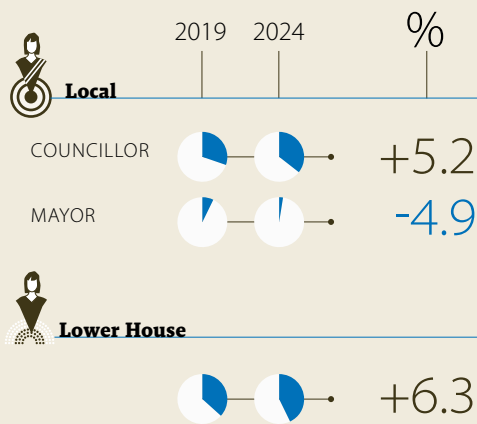
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA (ZELS)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1946



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0
OTHER	0

Sources : Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# NORWAY

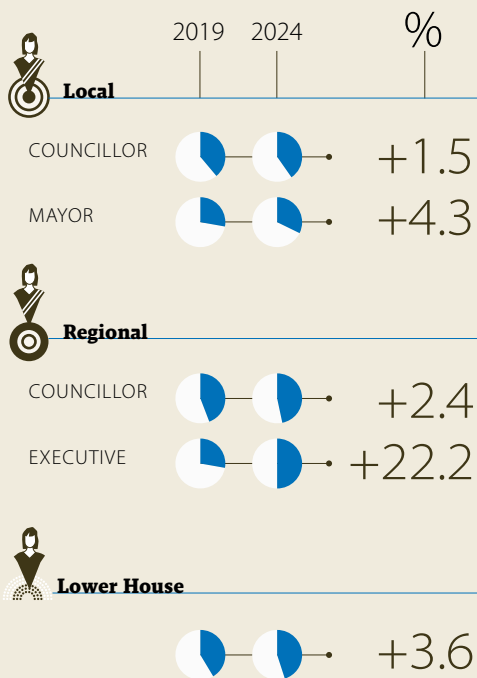
NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES (KS)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1913

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0
OTHER	0

Sources : Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# POLAND

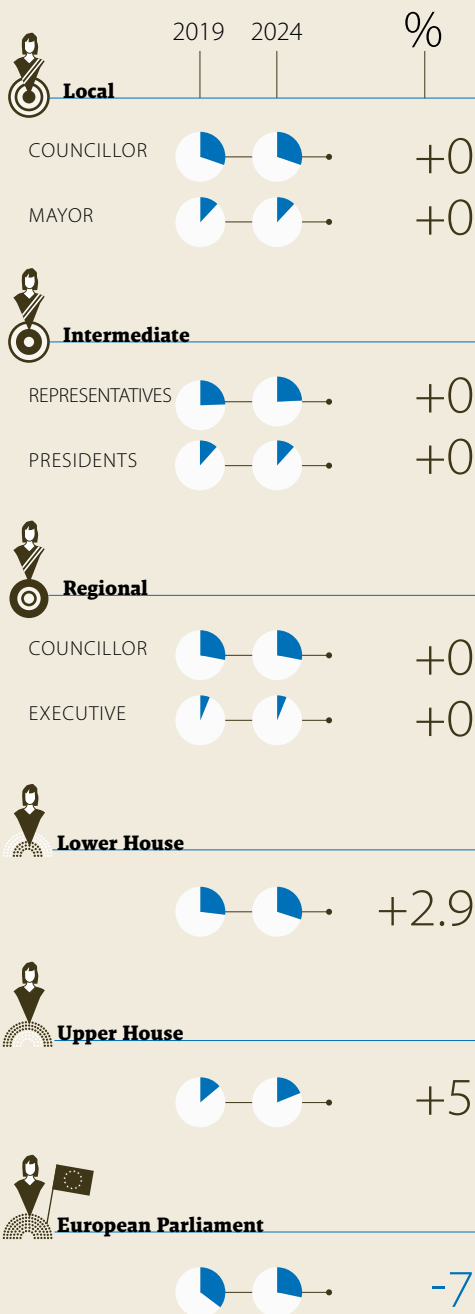
ASSOCIATION OF POLISH COUNTIES (ZPP)  
ASSOCIATION OF POLISH CITIES (ZMP)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1918



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

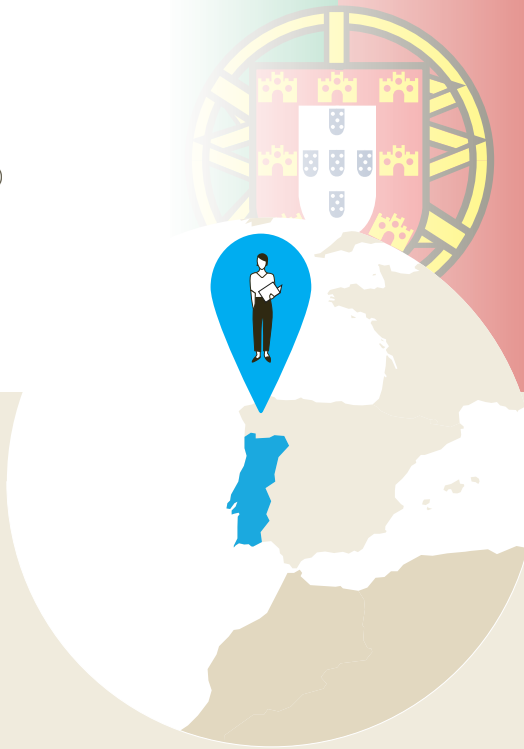
NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# PORTUGAL

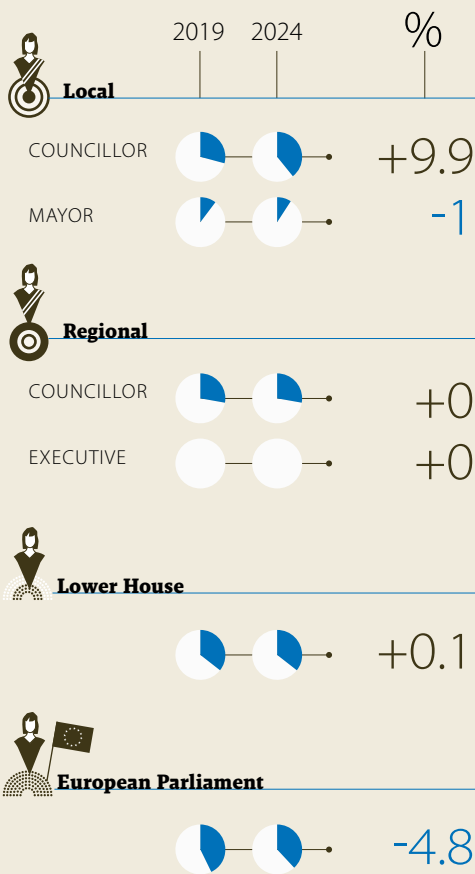
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PORTUGUESE MUNICIPALITIES (ANMP)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1976

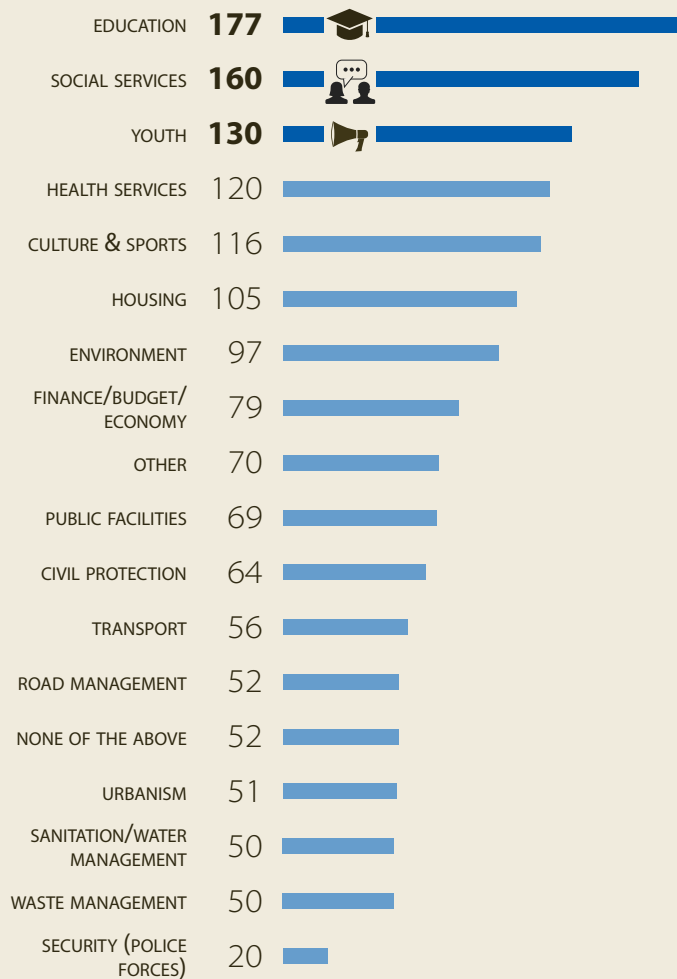


## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# ROMANIA

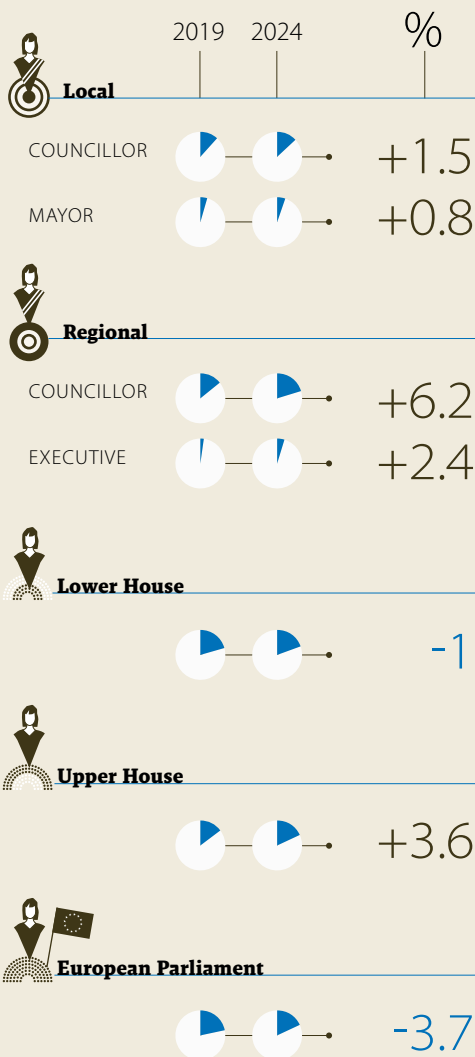
NATIONAL UNION OF COUNTY COUNCILS OF ROMANIA (UNCJR)  
 ROMANIAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION (AMR)  
 ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNES OF ROMANIA (ACOR)  
 ASSOCIATION OF ROMANIAN TOWNS (AOR)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1946



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

### Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
 AUSTRIA  
 BELGIUM  
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
 BULGARIA  
 CROATIA

CYPRUS  
 CZECHIA  
 DENMARK  
 ESTONIA  
 FINLAND  
 FRANCE  
 GEORGIA

GERMANY  
 GREECE  
 HUNGARY  
 ICELAND  
 IRELAND  
 ISRAEL  
 ITALY

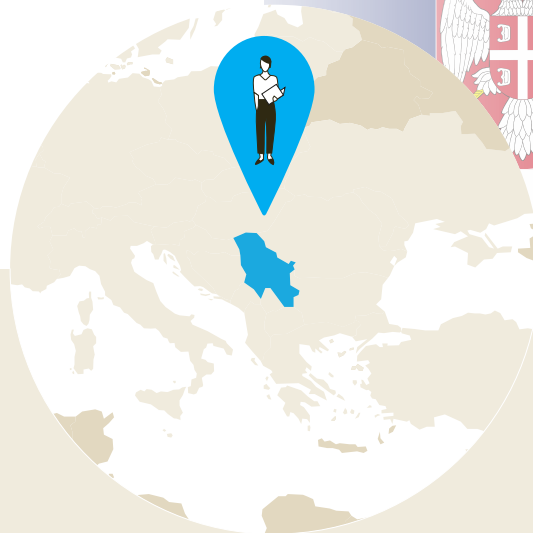
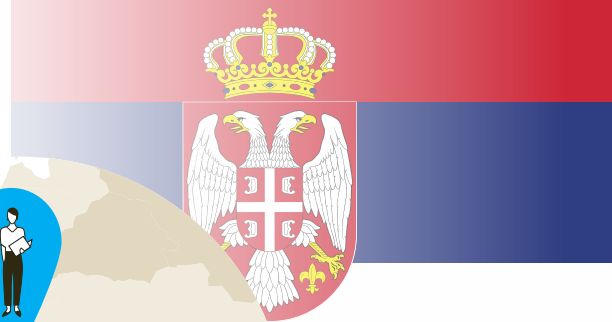
LATVIA  
 LITHUANIA  
 LUXEMBOURG  
 MALTA  
 MOLDOVA  
 MONTENEGRO  
 NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
 NORWAY  
 POLAND  
 PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
 SERBIA  
 SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
 SPAIN  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 TÜRKIYE  
 UKRAINE  
 UNITED KINGDOM

# SERBIA

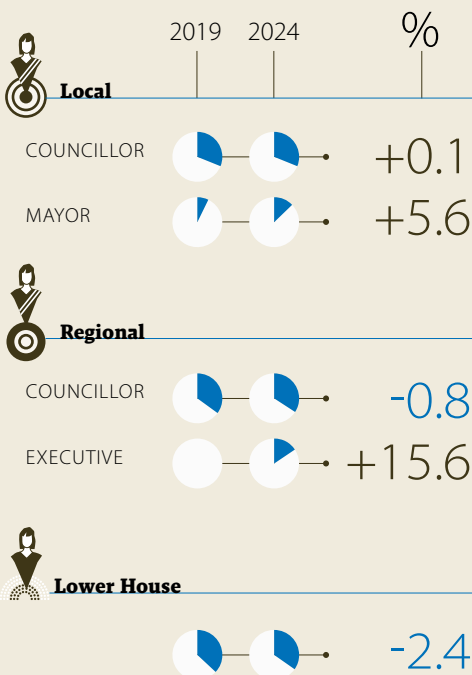
STANDING CONFERENCE OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF SERBIA (SKGO)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1945

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

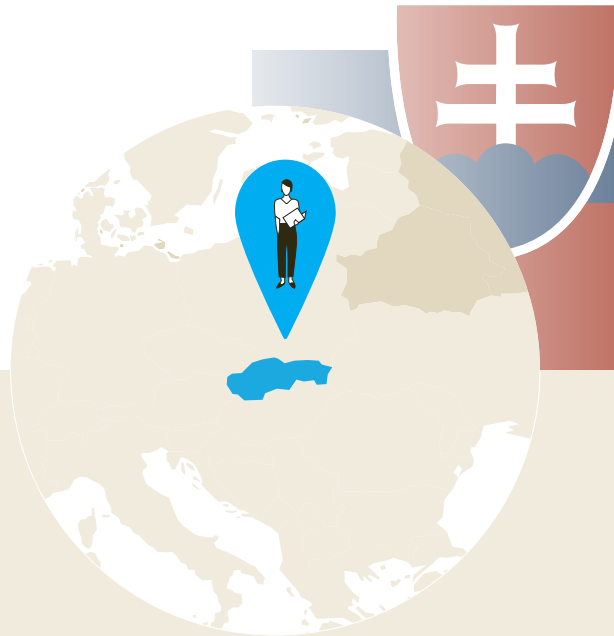
NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# SLOVAKIA

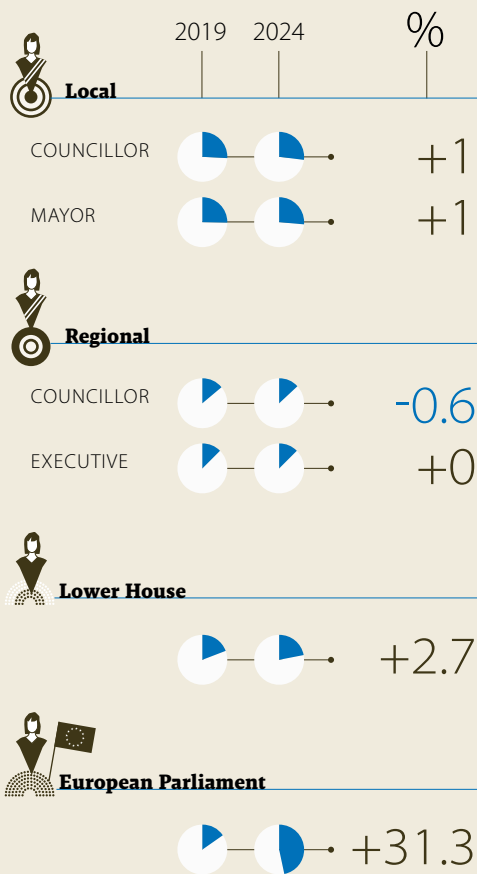
ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES OF SLOVAKIA (ZMOS)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1920



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	1	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
SOCIAL SERVICES	1	
YOUTH	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
CULTURE & SPORTS	0	
EDUCATION	0	
ENVIRONMENT	0	
HOUSING	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
URBANISM	0	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA  
SLOVENIA

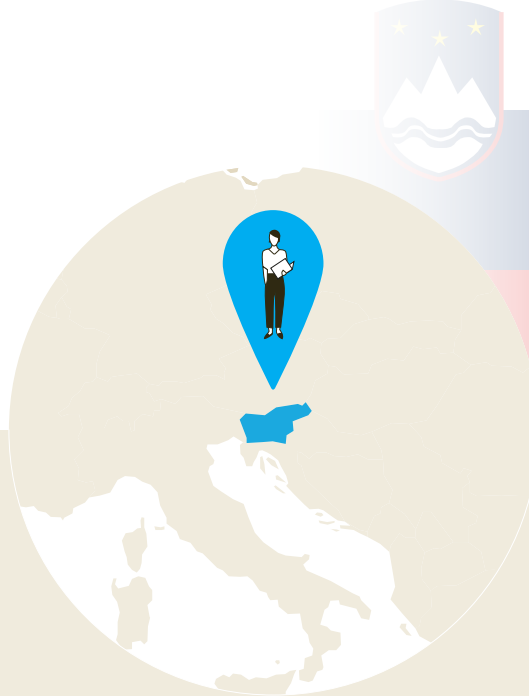
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# SLOVENIA

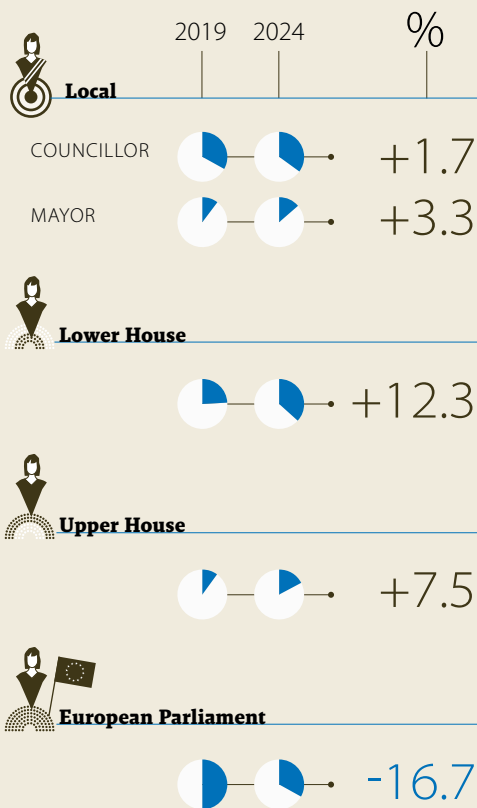
ASSOCIATION OF URBAN MUNICIPALITIES OF SLOVENIA (ZMOS)  
ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWNS OF SLOVENIA (SOS)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1920



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# SPAIN

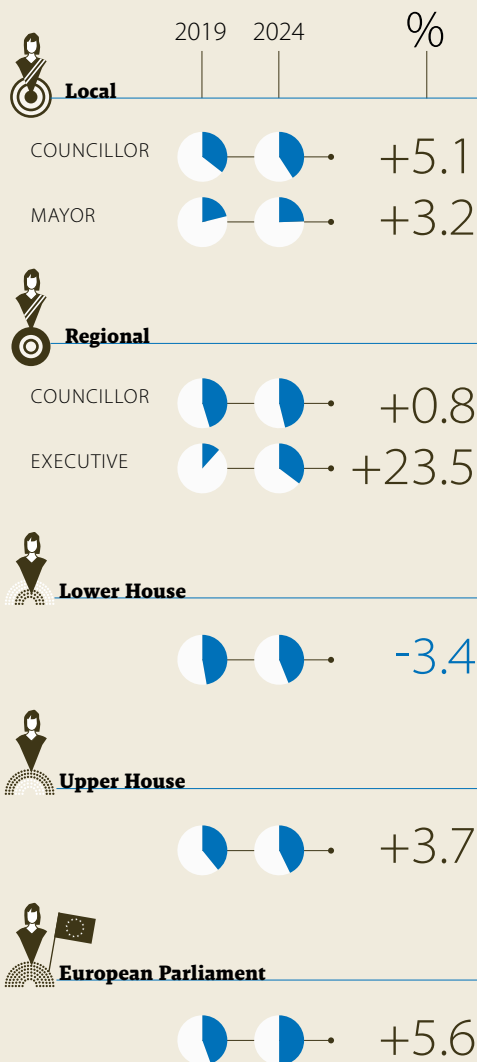
SPANISH FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVINCES (FEMP)  
ASSOCIATION OF BASQUE MUNICIPALITIES (EUEDEL)



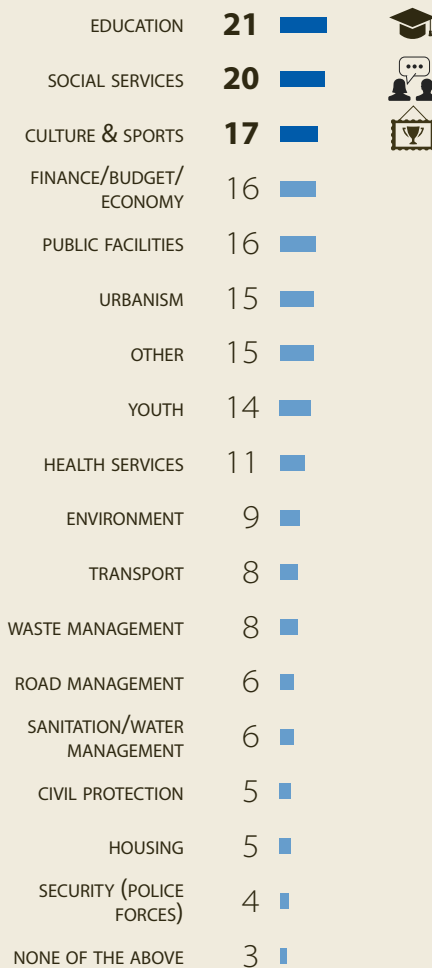
UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1931

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# SWEDEN

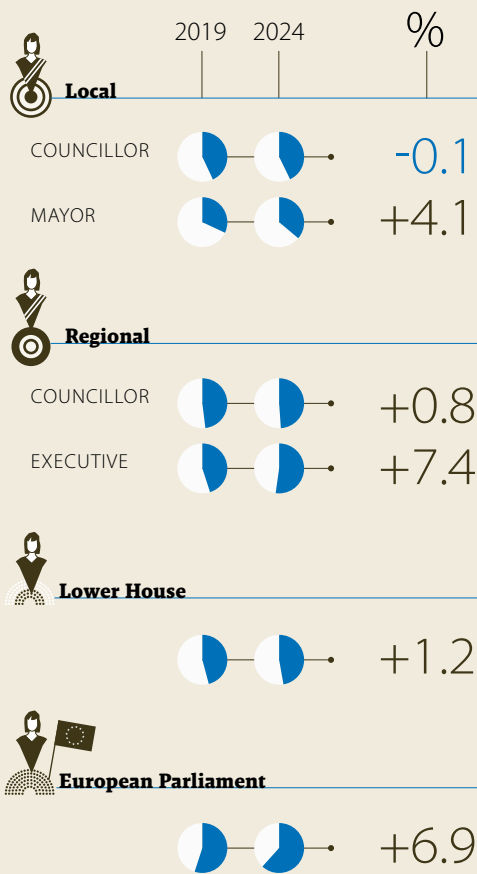
SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND REGIONS (SKL)



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1921

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS



Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

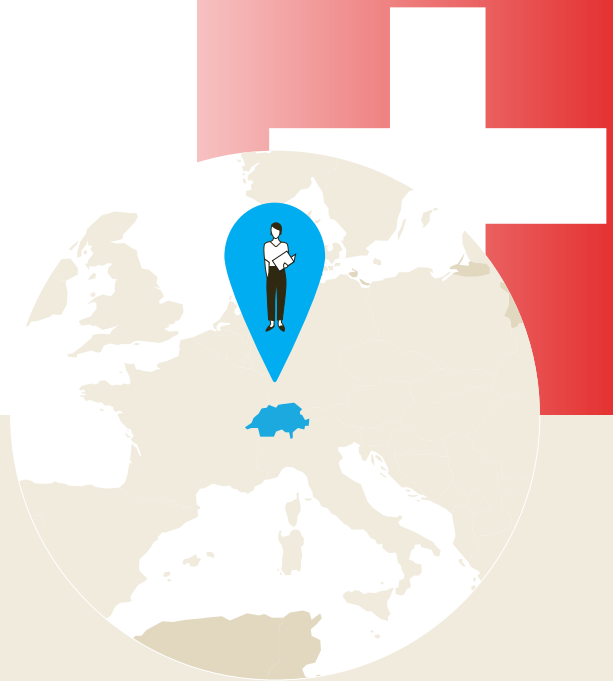
LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



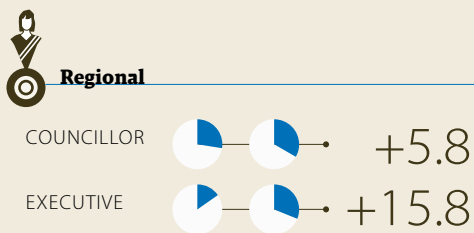
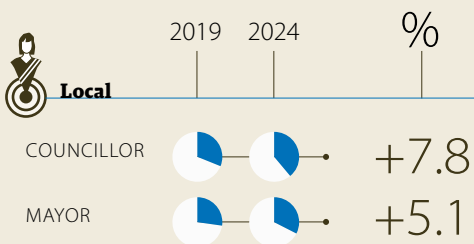
# SWITZERLAND



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1971

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0
OTHER	0

Sources : Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
[SWITZERLAND](#)  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# TÜRKIYE

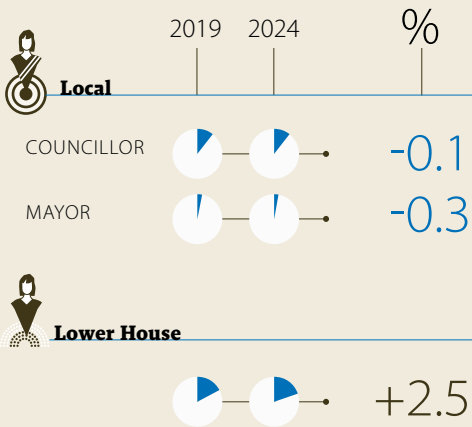
UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF TÜRKIYE (TBB)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1934



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CIVIL PROTECTION	0
CULTURE & SPORTS	0
EDUCATION	0
ENVIRONMENT	0
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0
HEALTH SERVICES	0
HOUSING	0
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0
SOCIAL SERVICES	0
TRANSPORT	0
URBANISM	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT	0
YOUTH	0
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0
OTHER	0

Sources : Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
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GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
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ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TURKEY  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

# UKRAINE

ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES (AUC)  
UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT AND REGIONAL COUNCILS



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1917

## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

Change in representation



## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

CULTURE & SPORTS	1	
EDUCATION	1	
ENVIRONMENT	1	
URBANISM	1	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	1	
CIVIL PROTECTION	0	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	0	
HEALTH SERVICES	0	
HOUSING	0	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	0	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	0	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	0	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	0	
SOCIAL SERVICES	0	
TRANSPORT	0	
YOUTH	0	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BULGARIA  
CROATIA

CYPRUS  
CZECHIA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GREECE  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY

LATVIA  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MALTA  
MOLDOVA  
MONTENEGRO  
NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
TÜRKIYE  
UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM



# UNITED KINGDOM

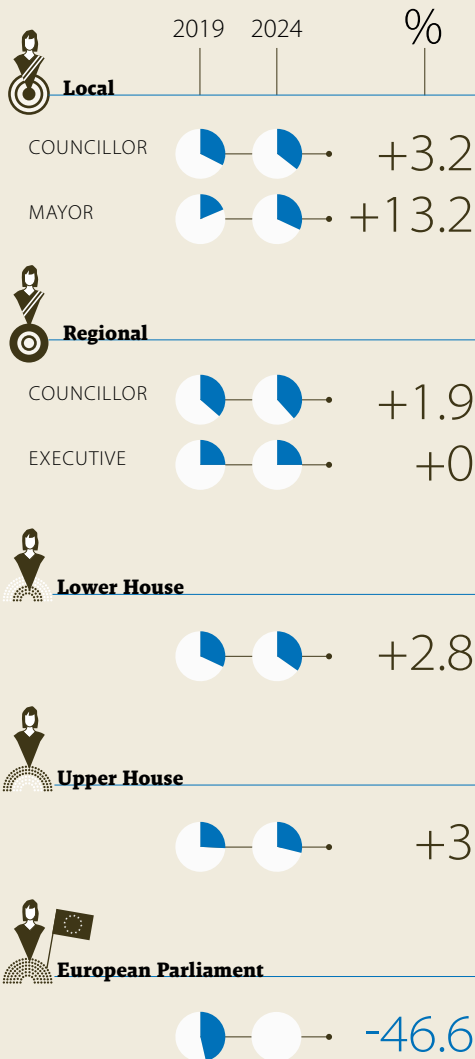
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA)  
 CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES (COSLA)  
 NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (NILGA)  
 WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WLGA)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO WOMEN — 1928



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

### Change in representation



The European Parliament data for the United Kingdom reflects the situation prior to the UK's departure from the European Union. All British MEPs departed at the end of 2020 and therefore, the European Parliament does not have any MEPs representing the UK in 2024.

## THE TOP 3 PORTFOLIOS

ENVIRONMENT	5	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	5	
CULTURE & SPORTS	4	
FINANCE/BUDGET/ECONOMY	4	
PUBLIC FACILITIES	4	
YOUTH	4	
HOUSING	3	
ROAD MANAGEMENT	3	
URBANISM	3	
CIVIL PROTECTION	2	
SANITATION/WATER MANAGEMENT	2	
HEALTH SERVICES	1	
SECURITY (POLICE FORCES)	1	
TRANSPORT	1	
NONE OF THE ABOVE	1	
EDUCATION	0	
SOCIAL SERVICES	0	
OTHER	0	

Sources: Secondary dataset (EIGE, CoE, CoR, National Statistical offices)

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA  
 AUSTRIA  
 BELGIUM  
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
 BULGARIA  
 CROATIA

CYPRUS  
 CZECHIA  
 DENMARK  
 ESTONIA  
 FINLAND  
 FRANCE  
 GEORGIA

GERMANY  
 GREECE  
 HUNGARY  
 ICELAND  
 IRELAND  
 ISRAEL  
 ITALY

LATVIA  
 LITHUANIA  
 LUXEMBOURG  
 MALTA  
 MOLDOVA  
 MONTENEGRO  
 NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA  
 NORWAY  
 POLAND  
 PORTUGAL  
 ROMANIA  
 SERBIA  
 SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA  
 SPAIN  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 TÜRKIYE  
 UKRAINE  
UNITED KINGDOM

## PART 2:

# POLITICAL PARTICIPATION UNDER THREAT: ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

“Half of people in 80 countries believe men make better political leaders [...].”

As part one showed, globally as well as in Europe, there is reason for concern that progress on gender equality is stagnating and may even be sliding backwards. According to a report<sup>15</sup> published in June 2023 by the United Nations Development Programme, “half of people in 80 countries believe men make better political leaders [...].”

A particular, growing threat is violence. While violence in politics exists and has been used for centuries, Violence against women in politics (VAWP) is a specific problem. A 2016 report found that, worldwide, more than 44% of elected women representatives have been threatened in office<sup>16</sup>. This is gender-based violence where women politicians are targeted because they are women and to undermine, sabotage or challenge their presence in political spheres.

A 2016 report found that, worldwide, more than **44%** of elected women representatives have been threatened in office

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Breaking Down Gender Biases: Shifting social norms towards gender equality*, 2023. <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdp-document/gsni202303.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Guest Blogger for Women Around the World. “Violence Against Female Politicians.” Council on Foreign Relations, July 11, 2017. <https://www.cfr.org/article/violence-against-female-politicians>.



Violence against women in politics poses a severe threat to democracy as it violates their human rights and hinders them from participating in politics and public life.

Such violence is being heavily driven by current global politics in addition to being a component of a larger problem of endemic violence against women. Political division, misogyny, discrimination and violence have escalated both offline and online, the offshoot of an increase in anti-feminist rhetoric and movements, the backsliding into anti-democratic tendencies and backlashes against the rule of law, human rights, and gender equality in several countries<sup>17</sup>.

Violence against women in politics affects the individuals involved as well as society at large in a negative and long-lasting way. It undermines the legitimacy and credibility of institutions and the political and electoral processes. Many women are deterred from entering or continuing political careers, election campaigns, and related activities due to their personal or others experience with, fear of, or threat from VAWP.

<sup>17</sup> Khan, Ayesha, Emilie Tant, Caroline Harper, and Align Platform. "Facing the Backlash: What Is Fuelling Anti-feminist and Anti-democratic Forces?," July 2023. <https://www.alignplatform.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/align-framingpaper-backlash-web.pdf>. Conny, Roggeband, and Andrea, Krizsán. "Democratic backsliding and the backlash against women's rights: understanding the current challenges for feminist politics," June 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Discussion-paper-Democratic-backsliding-and-the-backlash-against-womens-rights-en.pdf>





# Defining violence against women in politics (VAWP)

Violence against women in politics (VAWP) is a specific form of gender-based violence against women (GBVAW) that targets women primarily for being women. Any act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that interferes with the exercise and respect of women's human rights is considered as violence against women in politics.

The four most widely recognised types of violence that women in politics encounter are physical, sexual, psychological and economic<sup>18</sup>. Symbolic violence is beginning to be included when discussing violence against women in politics. Additionally, the prevalence of social media and new technologies has led to an increase in the threat of gender-based cyber violence. Emerging studies reveal that female politicians at all levels of government face every day struggles due to online aggression and psychological harm, which ranges from threats of rape to sexual digital forgeries, commonly known as 'deepfakes'<sup>19</sup>.

VAWP is gendered, frequently sexualised, preventing present and future generations of women from having agency, representation, and a voice in politics.

## THE DEFINITION OF THESE FORMS OF VIOLENCE ARE:

- **Physical violence:** includes assassination, kidnapping, beatings, often carried out with the intent to force women to resign or withdraw from political life.
- **Sexual violence:** includes sexual harassment, unwanted advances and sexual assault, rape, altered pornographic or sexualised images intended to publicly disparage women's competencies and shame them.
- **Psychological violence:** includes threats, character assassination, stalking, online abuse, intimidation, rumour campaigns with the intent to disempower women through efforts to instil fear, cause stress or harm their credibility.
- **Economic violence:** includes damage of property or campaign materials; denial of salary, healthcare, childcare; denial of access to meetings or financial support with the intent to control, hinder women's participation and harm their financial livelihood as a form of intimidation.
- **Symbolic violence:** when symbolic actions, sexualised language or imagery, gendered misinformation or moral doubting are used or have the effect of harming women's agency, representation, and voice in politics. Acts that "delegitimise female politicians through gendered tropes denying them competence in the political sphere<sup>20</sup>."

It is important to highlight that the several types of violence can intersect, including sexual, psychological, physical, economical, and emotional violence. In other words, women can experience different types of violence simultaneously.

<sup>18</sup> UN WOMEN. "Preventing violence against women in politics." July 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Guidance-note-Preventing-violence-against-women-in-politics-en.pdf>. Consulted on 30 August 2024.

<sup>19</sup> Lucina, Di Meco and Saskia, Brechenmacher. "Tackling Online Abuse and Disinformation Targeting Women in Politics." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. November 30, 2020. <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2020/11/tackling-online-abuse-and-disinformation-targeting-women-in-politics?lang=en>

<sup>20</sup> Krook, Mona Lena, and Restrepo Sanín, Juliana. "Gender and Political Violence in Latin America: Concepts, debates and solutions." *Política y gobierno*, Vol. 23, No.1, Mexico City, June 2016.

The ultimate goal of these types of violence is to prevent women from being heard and from participating in public life. It goes beyond the act itself of physically attacking opponents in politics or elections, men or women, in order to gain political advantage. Rather, it is a distinct “phenomenon involving a range of harms to attack and undermine women as political actors [...] and exclude them as a group from public life<sup>21</sup>.” In addition to endangering the personal security of the individuals affected, it can discourage women from entering the political sphere and taking up leadership positions.

## Violence against women in politics is widespread and commonplace yet remains widely underreported and understudied at all levels in politics.

It is important to note the distinction between political violence and violence against women in politics. VAWP is gendered, frequently sexualised, preventing present and future generations of women from having agency, representation, and a voice in politics. Of course, women can experience both political violence that is not necessarily gendered and its gendered counterparts<sup>22</sup>.

Violence against women in politics is widespread and commonplace yet remains widely underreported and understudied at all levels in politics. In the case of women with intersecting identities –those from racial or ethnic minorities, belonging to the LGBTQI+ community, with a disability or subject to ageism– they may be disproportionately

affected by violence, even as their experiences generally tend to be underreported. For instance, rates of assault are higher for women of colour than white women<sup>23</sup> and age can also affect one’s likelihood of suffering violence. According to Danish research, younger politicians are more likely than senior politicians to encounter various sorts of violence<sup>24</sup>.

Violence against women in politics<sup>25</sup> poses a severe threat to democracy as it violates their human rights and hinders them from participating in politics and public life. In an attempt to maintain male privilege, power structures and societal norms, women who seek to participate in politics can frequently face violent barriers to their legitimacy, presence and voices. They are targeted primarily for being women rather than for their political beliefs, thus discouraging women from entering and participating in politics. Not only does this hurt the women in politics, but it also negatively impacts the people close to them as well as other women considering getting engaged politically.

<sup>21</sup> Merdanovic, Ajla Van Heel. “Introduction to Violence Against Women in Politics. Addressing Violence Against Women in Politics in the OSCE Region Toolkit.” OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), 2022. [https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/7/530272\\_o.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/7/530272_o.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> Krook, Mona Lena. *Violence Against Women in Politics*. Oxford University Press eBooks, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1093/os0/9780190088460.001.0001>.

<sup>23</sup> Amnesty International. (2018). *Toxic Twitter. Violence and abuse against women online*.

<sup>24</sup> Kosiara-Pedersen, Karina. “Single Ladies and Freedom of Speech: Gendered Explanations for, and Effects of, Violence in Politics.” *European Journal of Politics and Gender* 7, no. 2 (June 19, 2023): 221–38. <https://doi.org/10.1332/251510821x16777808903018>.

<sup>25</sup> This study limits the definition of “women in politics” to those holding formal political roles, such as candidates, members of political parties and elected and appointed officials. For this study, we will use the definition of the National Democratic Institute, which defines violence against women in politics as all forms of aggression, coercion and intimidation of women as political actors simply because they are women.



# Mapping violence against women in politics: A local perspective

Given that equality concerns are often underrepresented in politics today, and in Europe, even the rights to sexual and reproductive health have come under scrutiny, local governments hold a unique position to advance gender equality. With their proximity to citizens, their ability to tackle issues at the grassroots level and provide tangible solutions makes their role pivotal in promoting human rights and addressing issues like gender-based violence and discrimination. The participation of civic movements is also significant. It is important to note that progress has been made in getting open condemnation for such crimes and harassment against women, who have long suffered these forms of aggression in silence<sup>26</sup>. These acts are now no longer accepted and are less and less tolerated.

**A**s a result of the innumerable high-profile examples of sexual assault and harassment that have surfaced in the last fifteen years, women from all areas of society as well as elected officials have spoken out about the epidemic of abuse and harassment they face in the political sphere. Data indicates that women in politics are more likely than men to be victims of violence and that these differences are mostly attributable to gender and less to other characteristics like political ideology<sup>27</sup>. Existing data has also confirmed that gender-based violence is indeed one of the reasons why women are underrepresented in politics at all levels in the EU<sup>28</sup>.

Data collection therefore remains crucial to more thoroughly comprehend and assess the impact and consequences of such violence. At the moment, no comprehensive collection of data on violence against women exists at the local level, but corroborating evidence from several sources, including a limited database that exists at the national level, suggests that the issue is a global one and all-pervasive at every level in politics.

With the anonymous survey of elected women at the local, intermediate and regional levels in Europe, CEMR set out to glean first-hand insights into European patterns concerning the harassment, abuse and violence this group in particular faces. CEMR surveyed over 2 600 locally elected female politicians, 86% of whom are local officials from 31 countries across Europe. They shared their experiences of violence, the reasons why they did or did not report the violence and the impacts and consequences it has had on them and their mandate.

The responses received reveal alarming trends regarding the violence perpetuated against local elected women all across Europe. According to the respondents, 48% of them believed that the violence against locally elected women has remained unchanged and 33% believed that it has increased in their countries. These findings show that violence

CEMR surveyed over

**2 600**

locally elected female politicians,

**86%**

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**31**

countries in Europe.

<sup>26</sup>Sanín, Juliana Restrepo. "Criminalizing Violence Against Women in Politics: Innovation, Diffusion, and Transformation." *Politics & Gender* 18, no. 1 (July 27, 2020): 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X20000173>.

<sup>27</sup>UN Women – Headquarters. "Why so Few Women Are in Political Leadership, and Five Actions to Boost Women's Political Participation | UN Women – Headquarters," September 10, 2024. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2024/09/five-actions-to-boost-womens-political-participation>. National Democratic Institute (NDI). "No party to violence: Analyzing violence against women in political parties." National Democratic Institute, 2018. <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/2019%20VAW-PP%20Compendium%20Report.pdf>.

<sup>28</sup>Håkansson, Sandra. "The Gendered Representational Costs of Violence Against Politicians," *Perspectives on Politics* 22, no. 1 (July 26, 2023): 81-96, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592723001913>.



against women in politics remains prevalent and continues to shape the structure of our society. However, the question of how this persistent violence will impact the ambition and motivation of women, in all their diversity, to enter politics also remains.

Our findings show that 32% of respondents have experienced violence. Among the women who said that they suffered some sort of violence during their political career:

- 41 % — reported to have suffered psychological violence,
- 29 % — suffered cyberviolence,
- 11 % — suffered sexual violence,
- 6 % — suffered economic violence and
- 3 % — suffered physical violence.

Physical and sexual violence were far less common than psychological and cyberviolence, which made up the great majority of instances. Psychological violence, which includes assaults and harassment directed at women's personal lives, physical attributes or marital status, together with cyber or symbolic violence aimed at marginalising and instilling feelings of inadequacy in them, is unfortunately a common occurrence in European politics. There are several reasons for this, such as entrenched sexual stereotypes, opposition to women entering the political sphere and hostility towards female newcomers who are viewed as a threat to established interests.

Notably most female politicians who suffered violence decided not to report. Only 29% of those affected had reported it, and of those who reported it, only 22% witnessed any consequences for the perpetrators.

There are many possible reasons however as to why women decide to not file a report or to stay silent, such as feeling pressure exerted by political organisations out of concerns for maintaining a positive reputation, being afraid of coming across as weak or a "victim", normalising such violence as the "cost of doing politics" or being worried about the impact it can have on their political careers. Moreover, the lack of reliable reporting mechanisms, the lack of trust in the system and doubts about its efficiency can also be factors.

In addition to all the above reasons for under-reporting, the violence women experience has engendered negative consequences

and impacts, not only on themselves but on their future and the people close to them – their families, communities, and staff. Women's health and capacity to perform their jobs are negatively impacted when violence is enacted against them. According to an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) survey, 57.7% of female parliamentarians who had been the target of harassment or assault expressed great distress because of the incident<sup>29</sup>. Testimonies from respondents who participated in our survey reported feeling humiliated, saddened, lonely, angry or disoriented at the time, which in turn triggered anxiety, mental and physical health problems. Furthermore, respondents also spoke of how the violence they experienced made them feel alone and isolated, which impaired their capacity to perform their daily duties as previously. Some respondents expressed concern for their own safety as well as the safety of others near them, with many needing to seek out additional security and safety measures.

The impact of violence goes beyond individual women. The representational cost of violence, which can be seen as the detrimental effect of violence on representation, is one of the corollary effects of the gender-based violence against politicians. In other words, there are negative downstream effects on women's political representation caused by the violence some women running for elected office can experience during or even before their mandate<sup>30</sup>. For example, in order to prevent violence, some female politicians may step back from taking part in public discourse, which reduces their visibility. Politicians who have experienced violence may be less inclined to interact with their voters, but women candidates in particular are less likely to win if they restrict their campaign activities<sup>31</sup>.

<sup>29</sup>Inter-Parliamentary Union. "Sexism, harassment, and violence against women in parliaments in Europe." Geneva: IPU, 2018. <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/issue-briefs/2018-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-in-parliaments-in-europe>.

<sup>30</sup>Håkansson, Sandra. "The Gendered Representational Costs of Violence Against Politicians," *Perspectives on Politics* 22, no. 1 (July 26, 2023): 81–96, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592723001913>.

<sup>31</sup>Collignon, Sofia, and Wolfgang Rüdiger. "Increasing the Cost of Female Representation? The Gendered Effects of Harassment, Abuse and Intimidation Towards Parliamentary Candidates in the UK." *Journal of Elections Public Opinion and Parties* 31, no. 4 (August 23, 2021): 429–49. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17457289.2021.1968413>.

## Women are not a homogeneous group but can have overlapping identities, which means they may be exposed to intersecting forms of violence and prejudice

All of this has a knock-on effect since women are more likely to enter politics themselves when they can observe other women in leadership positions. However, in an increasingly hostile political landscape, more women are becoming unsure or discouraged from entering politics out of fear of turning into targets<sup>32</sup>. Violence can harm political ambition, a drastic consequence as it can result in women either leaving office earlier than their male counterparts or not entering politics at all<sup>33</sup>.

On top of this, due to preexisting inequalities, the extent and repercussions of violence perpetuated against women may be more pronounced for some than for others. In order to effectively address the impact and consequences of violence against women politicians, we need to acknowledge that women are not a homogeneous group but can have overlapping identities, which means they may be exposed to intersecting forms of violence and prejudice. Failure to adequately address this reality will create a vicious cycle in which the problem is exacerbated, ultimately deterring other women from entering the political sphere.

<sup>32</sup> Runderkamp, Zahra, Judith De Jong, Nanda Van Der Poel, and Alliantie Politica. "Wie Wil Er Nog De Politiek in? Onderzoek Naar De Invloed Van Geweld Op De Politieke Aspiraties Van Vrouwen." Alliantie Politica, 2023. <https://www.nederlandsevreuwenraad.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Politica-Rapport-Wie-wil-er-nog-de-politiek-in-2023.pdf>

Wolbrecht, Christina, and David E. Campbell. "Leading by Example: Female Members of Parliament as Political Role Models." *American Journal of Political Science* 51, no. 4 (2007): 921–39. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4620108>.

<sup>33</sup> Van Bavel, Anne. "The Issue Is Not Getting but Keeping Women in Politics: The Impact of Violence Against Women in Politics in the Belgian Context." *Tijdschrift Voor Genderstudies* 25, no. 3 (October 1, 2022): 231–47. <https://doi.org/10.5117/tvgn2022.3.004.bave>.



# Spotlight: Insights on gendered cyberviolence against women in politics

Violence against women in politics continues to be an area of significant concern, as highlighted by the ongoing legislative initiatives and non-legislative measures on this topic. In the current EU plan for gender equality (2020-2025), which lays out the broad framework for EU activity in this area, the European Commission acknowledges the concerning effect that online violence has had on women's involvement in public life. Building on The Istanbul Convention<sup>34</sup>, the Council of Europe has pushed for countries to prevent and address online violence against women in politics. The recently passed EU directive on combatting domestic violence and violence against women<sup>35</sup> draws attention to the harm that cyberviolence does to female politicians and calls for a minimum of EU regulations to prosecute the offence of cyberharassment. With the new directive, there will now be legal penalties throughout Europe for the inadvertent dissemination of sexualised deepfakes, cyberstalking, online harassment and non-consensual sharing of pornographic material.

especially those involved in public life, the EU and the Council of Europe have stated that cyberviolence weakens democracy.

Female politicians are subject to a variety of online threats, including direct online death threats, hate speech, image-based abuse (such as deepfakes), cyberstalking, online harassment, pile-on or mobbing (many different accounts reposting abusive content), doxing (sharing personal information without consent) and disinformation (sharing incorrect information deliberately). Online violence can result in "offline" or in-person violence. Despite the fact that even one piece of harmful content can be felt as a violation, women in politics must frequently cope with the compounding effect of numerous, repetitive bits of harmful content from a gamut of perpetrators, which can escalate to living in constant fear and in-person violence. For instance, the Dutch Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Sigrid Kaag, resigned from parliament due to numerous death threats, including an incident when a man holding a lit torch stood in front of her family's home yelling slogans against them while streaming his action live online<sup>36</sup>.

Our findings show that 29% of women elected representatives have suffered from cyberviolence. This is unsurprising given that, according to our findings, 67% of women aged 24 years or younger who have experienced any form of violence have been victims of cyberviolence, and this holds true for 61%

Our findings show that

**29%**

of female elected representatives suffered from cyberviolence

**A**n emerging form of violence is online and digital abuse. While studies are being conducted on online violence in general, current research and policies have overlooked the gendered and intersectional perspective. Although many democratic governments were initially opposed to regulating the "new public square," more and more legislators are concluding that specific laws are required to shield the public from online violence, particularly on social media sites. Reacting to the statistic that one in two young European women are victims of cyberviolence,

Younger women in politics are often subject to even higher levels of cyberviolence.

<sup>34</sup> The Istanbul Convention (2011), established by the Council of Europe, offers a comprehensive framework for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic abuse on a European scale. Although the Convention makes no specific mention of the political arena or online spaces, the Council of Europe has pushed for countries to use its principles to prevent and address online violence against women in politics.

<sup>35</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council. "Combating violence against women and domestic violence." 14 May 2024. [L\\_202401385EN.000101.fmx.xml](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj) (europa.eu)

<sup>36</sup> Camut, Nicolas. "Top Dutch Minister Steps Down From Party Leadership Over 'Intimidation' and 'Threats'" POLITICO, July 13, 2023. <https://www.politico.eu/article/sigrid-kaag-dutch-finance-minister-quits-over-intimidation-and-threats/>.



of women aged 25 to 34. Younger women in politics are often subject to even higher levels of cyberviolence, and this is not unexpected for a number of reasons. They usually have a stronger presence on social media and other online platforms; this is to be more visible but also tends to make them more exposed and thus vulnerable to abuse and harassment. Additionally, they face both gender-based and age-related bias, as they are often perceived as less experienced yet authoritative, resulting in aggressive efforts to undermine their credibility. Younger women also tend to champion progressive ideas that challenge traditional power structures, provoking a backlash from those resistant to change. The anonymity of the internet further emboldens perpetrators while the extra scrutiny women face makes them even more susceptible to being targets of online harassment.





# Addressing violence against women in politics

**Gender-based violence, including violence against women in politics, has its roots in structural gender inequality, in prejudice and stereotypes against women pervasive in many spheres of society, including politics. The most effective strategy for reducing and eventually eliminating all types of violence is prevention, although protection and prosecution remain indispensable in handling ongoing and impending violence. Gender-based stereotypes must be challenged; the attitudes and rhetoric that enable violence must be altered and the core rationales giving rise to this aggression must be addressed.**

**T**o secure long-term and systemic solutions to tackle the rise in violence against women in politics, collaborative efforts are essential. Addressing the complexity, scope and severity of this issue requires joint action and coordinated efforts at all levels. Owing to the multifaceted and overlapping nature of this problem, individual approaches may not prove sufficient in addressing the entire range of acts of violence directed against women in politics. Building on the Istanbul Convention, the current global legal framework, the combatting of violence against women in politics requires a comprehensive strategy known as the “4Ps”—prevention, protection, prosecution and policy coordination<sup>37</sup>.

The complicated and pervasive issue of violence against women, including in politics, calls for a coordinated and all-encompassing response by state and non-state actors.

**Prevention** focuses on raising awareness and changing the attitudes that perpetuate violence against women. This involves education, training professionals and promoting gender equality. Speaking out about political violence against women, whether individually or collectively, helps raise awareness and promotes public discourse. There are various strategies that foster an increase in awareness, such as public campaigns, personal testimonies, hashtag activism and civil society efforts. Men and boys should be included in any discussions on gender equality, stereotypes and the toxic masculinity that provokes violence. Working with male leaders, politicians and supporters to advocate for zero tolerance of violence against women in politics promotes awareness, alters behaviours and attitudes and helps those affected by such abuse.

The media plays an important role in increasing awareness and needs to work towards portraying violence-free representation of women politicians and ensuring the public does not become desensitised to violence against women in politics. To prevent and reduce this type of violence, it is important to educate individuals on this issue and to strengthen their capacity to address it. Accurate data collection on violence against women is critical to understanding and resolving this issue. Identifying specific measures to adequately evaluate violence against women in politics, beyond physical and sexual violence, has proven difficult.

An example of prevention is the National Democratic Institute’s #NotTheCost (2018) campaign aimed at ending violence against women in politics, emphasising that women’s participation should not be accompanied by violence or threats<sup>38</sup>. From a more local perspective, the “Gender Portrait of the Zhytomyr City Council” in Ukraine uses infographics to present gender-disaggregated data. The “Equal Opportunities” page on the official Zhytomyr City Council website includes gender data, relevant legislation, information on combatting domestic abuse

<sup>37</sup> Council of Europe. “The Four pillars of the Istanbul Convention.” 2021. <https://edoc.coe.int/en/violence-against-women/10714-the-four-pillars-of-the-istanbul-convention.html>. Consulted on 28 August 2024.

<sup>38</sup> National Democratic Institute (NDI). “#NotTheCost A renewed call to action.” 2021. <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/NTC%202021%20ENGLISH%20FINAL.pdf>.

and programmes on gender equality and anti-discrimination<sup>39</sup>.

**Protection** places an emphasis on safeguarding and supporting victims of violence by setting up services such as shelters, hotlines and medical assistance. It calls for the enacting of measures that ensure victims' safety and provide legal and psychological support. Women who encounter abuse in politics often struggle to secure protection and justice.

The Finnish Green Women's association created a guidebook to support women, LGBTQI+ people, people of colour and people with disabilities exposed to online violence<sup>40</sup>. To protect women from political violence, legal definitions and acts are required to specify what constitutes such violence and to prescribe recommendations, protection and prosecution mechanisms, as well as effective, proportionate and dissuasive consequences.

## Women's organisations may be especially well-positioned to act.

Some attempts have been made internationally to address violence against women in politics through legislation, either by designing specific, stand-alone laws or by incorporating them into the broader legal framework on violence against women.

Existing laws must evolve to properly define and recognise violence against women in politics, which will guarantee that appropriate safeguards, preventative actions and legal actions come into being. Legal reforms are an important first step that countries should take in their efforts to address violence against women in politics, regardless of any potential inadequacies, such as only guaranteeing what is prescribed or lacking effective implementation. An example are the efforts in Latin America, such as the model law developed by the Organisation of American States (OAS), and Catalonia's modification of its gender-based violence (GBV) law to incorporate

violence against women in politics, exemplify how legislative actions can address these issues at both regional and national levels<sup>41</sup>.

Institutions should establish protocols to guarantee that victims and survivors are informed about and have access to safety precautions, complaint procedures, and confidential help, counselling, and support services that prioritise the interests and rights of the victims.

Local political efforts serve as an example of the significant role that local government can play in promoting women's safety. For instance, misogyny has been explicitly designated as a hate crime in Nottingham (UK)<sup>42</sup>. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, elected officials in the Stari Grad municipality of the City of Sarajevo who report sexual harassment are specifically protected from reprisal under the code on ethics, the result of an amendment adopted by the municipal council in 2018 at the initiative of its female councillors<sup>43</sup>.

**Prosecution** ensures that violence against women and domestic violence are effectively investigated and prosecuted. Tackling impunity and guaranteeing safe participation for women in politics calls for the thorough investigation and prosecution of acts of violence against them. It is important to establish efficient, prompt and victim-centred investigations, prosecution and court procedures regardless of whether they derive from new legislation specifically enacted to address violence against women or the extended application of existing measures.

Authorities should respond to any reported instances of violence against women in politics promptly and appropriately, which should include a coordinated safety and support plan, an instant risk assessment and protective measures. Restraining or protection orders are examples of protection measures that should be judiciously considered in cases of violence

39 Zhytomyr City Council. "Equal Opportunities." <http://zt-rada.gov.ua/files/upload/sitefiles/img1531136603.jpg>

40 Green European Foundation, Finnish Green Women's association, and Sien Hasker. "SAFE: A Guide for People Targeted by Online Violence." Green European Foundation, 2021. <https://gef.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SAFE-final-version.pdf>.

41 Organization of American States (OAS). "Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in Political Life." 2017. <https://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/ViolenciaPolitica-LeyModelo-EN.pdf>

Verge, Tània. "Legislative Reform in Europe to Fight Violence Against Women in Politics." *European Journal of Politics and Gender* 4, no. 3 (April 1, 2021): 459–61. <https://doi.org/10.1332/251510821x16149579296781>.

42 Fish, Sue. "Policing misogyny as a hate crime – the Nottinghamshire Police experience." *Misogyny as Hate Crime*, no.1 (2021): 249–268.

43 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (2023) Addressing Violence against Women in Politics in the OSCE Region: Toolkit. Available at: <https://www.osce.org/odihr/530272>

against women in politics, even if they can be challenging to implement, particularly in situations involving internet assault.

In light of the stigma, trauma and reputational risks faced by women who report these types of violence, the investigation or prosecution of such incidents, particularly against women in politics, could one day consider foregoing the requirement of a victim's complaint; rather, it could be started on the victim's behalf and stay active even if the victim were to retract her statement or complaint out of concern for her well-being. Furthermore, since multiple incidents have been recorded of acts

## Multiple incidents have been recorded of acts of violence against women politicians perpetrated by male colleagues from the same party.

of violence against women politicians perpetrated by male colleagues from the same party<sup>44</sup>, such steps seem even more pressing and would facilitate more efficient investigations and prosecutions, lessening the burden on the victim to seek justice.

An essential component for any effective investigation and subsequent prosecution is increasing awareness of the particularities involved among judicial and law enforcement officials. To ensure that these acts of violence are recorded and those responsible are held accountable, victim support is essential. When women encounter violence in any form, including in politics, they often do not report it for a variety of reasons: they are uninformed of their rights or the resources available to them, they worry about being further victimised and having their personal matters exposed or they fear for their own safety and the safety of their loved ones.

**Policy coordination** requires states to adopt an aligned approach to tackling violence against women. The complicated and

pervasive issue of violence against women, including in politics, calls for a coordinated and all-encompassing response by state and non-state actors. This includes formulating practical and creative policies that involve all relevant stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society and the media at all levels and in all domains.

Coordinated policies and strategies, which are applied holistically and integrated accordingly, are needed to make certain that the interests and rights of the victims and survivors remain at the core of all efforts and that violence is sufficiently prevented and prosecuted. In addition, civil society organisations and NGOs can help increase public awareness of violence against women in politics. Given that issues like violence against women and women's political involvement fall right in their wheelhouse of interest and experience, women's organisations may be especially well-positioned to act.

Effectively tackling violence against women in politics in all its forms and actions especially in relation to economic and psychological violence, including online violence, requires collaborations with non-traditional players. To discover creative solutions in the areas of data collection, protection, and awareness-raising, partnerships with the media, educational institutions, or internet and social media providers should be investigated.

For instance, in response to a historically low level of female political participation in Ireland (2013-2015), the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) organised a campaign to reform policy, create awareness, and encourage women to participate actively in politics<sup>45</sup>. Another example can be found in Ukraine where several NGOs carried out gender-specific monitoring for the "Gender Sensitivity Index for Media" to assess women's representation in media, including the frequency of invitations as experts in various sectors. It was analysed at the subnational level<sup>46</sup>.

Another example of innovative coordination is leadership schools are seeking new ways to

<sup>44</sup>Zamfir, Ionel and European Parliamentary Research Service. "Violence Against Women Active in Politics in the EU." Report. EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service, 2024. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/759600/EPRS\\_BRI\(2024\)759600\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/759600/EPRS_BRI(2024)759600_EN.pdf)

<sup>45</sup>European Institute for Gender Equality. "Grassroots campaign empowers women (Ireland)". June 5 2024. <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/good-practices/grassroots-campaign-empowers-women>.

<sup>46</sup>Volyn Press Club, "Gender Sensitivity Index for Media", 2019. <https://internews.in.ua/news/volyn-press-club-monitors-gender-sensitivity-in-regional-media-content/>



increase young women's political participation by ensuring they are well-prepared and informed. The 'From Women to Women' programme in Portugal is one such instance of this and entails giving women with experience in politics the opportunity to mentor future women leaders by imparting new knowledge and skills to help in advancing their careers<sup>47</sup>.



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<sup>47</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality. "Bringing Young Women Into Politics: The Project 'From Woman to Woman (Portugal),'" June 5, 2024. <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/good-practices/bringing-young-women-politics-project-woman-woman>.



# ▶ CONCLUSION

As we conclude this study on the representation of women in politics at the subnational level across Europe, it is evident that while progress has been made, significant challenges remain. Women continue to be underrepresented in political offices, especially in leadership roles, and the barriers preventing their full participation are complex and multifaceted. One of the most pressing issues is the prevalence of both gendered political violence and violence against women in politics, which has introduced a “chilling effect”. This violence prevents women and girls from actively participating in politics and society and also diminishes their prospects for living their lives free from harm and reaching their full potential.

**W**omen experience violence that is both gender-based and politically motivated. It is simultaneously an attack on individuals and democracy itself. Governments, organisations and society as a whole need to take this issue seriously; violence against women in politics cannot be tolerated as a corollary effect of participating in public life. States and their various governmental institutions shoulder the primary responsibility for combatting violence against women in politics, but it begins with every one of us. When violence against women in politics is allowed to persist, human rights are violated, women’s political involvement is impeded, and democracy itself is undermined. To tackle this global issue, the prevention of violence against women in politics must involve raising public awareness, providing adequate support, safety and legal recourse to those impacted, as well as prosecuting offenders and putting an end to impunity. Furthermore, we must encourage cooperation between sectors to establish comprehensive policies that respond to these challenges.

A holistic approach is essential, integrating prevention, protection, prosecution and policy coordination. To start, comprehensive education campaigns are needed to challenge stereotypes and address toxic masculinity,

which fuels this violence. Engaging men as active participants in this process is also crucial, as patriarchal norms adversely affect all genders and men must be part of the solution. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence also needs to be tackled. Governments, tech companies, law enforcement and civil society must work together to ensure that digital spaces are safe for women. At the same time, local and regional governance structures must provide resources aimed at women, such as counselling and advocacy support and inclusive environments that allow them, particularly those from diverse backgrounds, to participate fully in political life.

Protection must be a priority, including long-term legislative initiatives aligned with the Istanbul Convention that address violence in both public and private spheres. Survivor-centred measures, such as updated codes of conduct, grievance mechanisms and victim support services, are critical to ensuring safety and well-being. Similarly, prosecution efforts must focus on restoring trust between women and institutions by offering accessible legal aid and by training law enforcement to handle cases of violence against women in politics with sensitivity and urgency.

However, the path forward requires more than just policy changes. It requires the cultivation of a political culture that values and supports women’s participation. Local and regional governments continue to play a crucial role in driving this change by establishing inclusive environments where women, especially those from diverse backgrounds, can thrive. Yet, the data from this study shows that despite these efforts, women’s representation in local and regional politics remains disproportionately low. In this context, CEMR’s unique position

Comprehensive education campaigns are needed to challenge stereotypes and address toxic masculinity, which fuels this violence.



allows for the collection of valuable, comprehensive data on gender equality at the subnational level across Europe, providing critical insights into these persistent gaps.

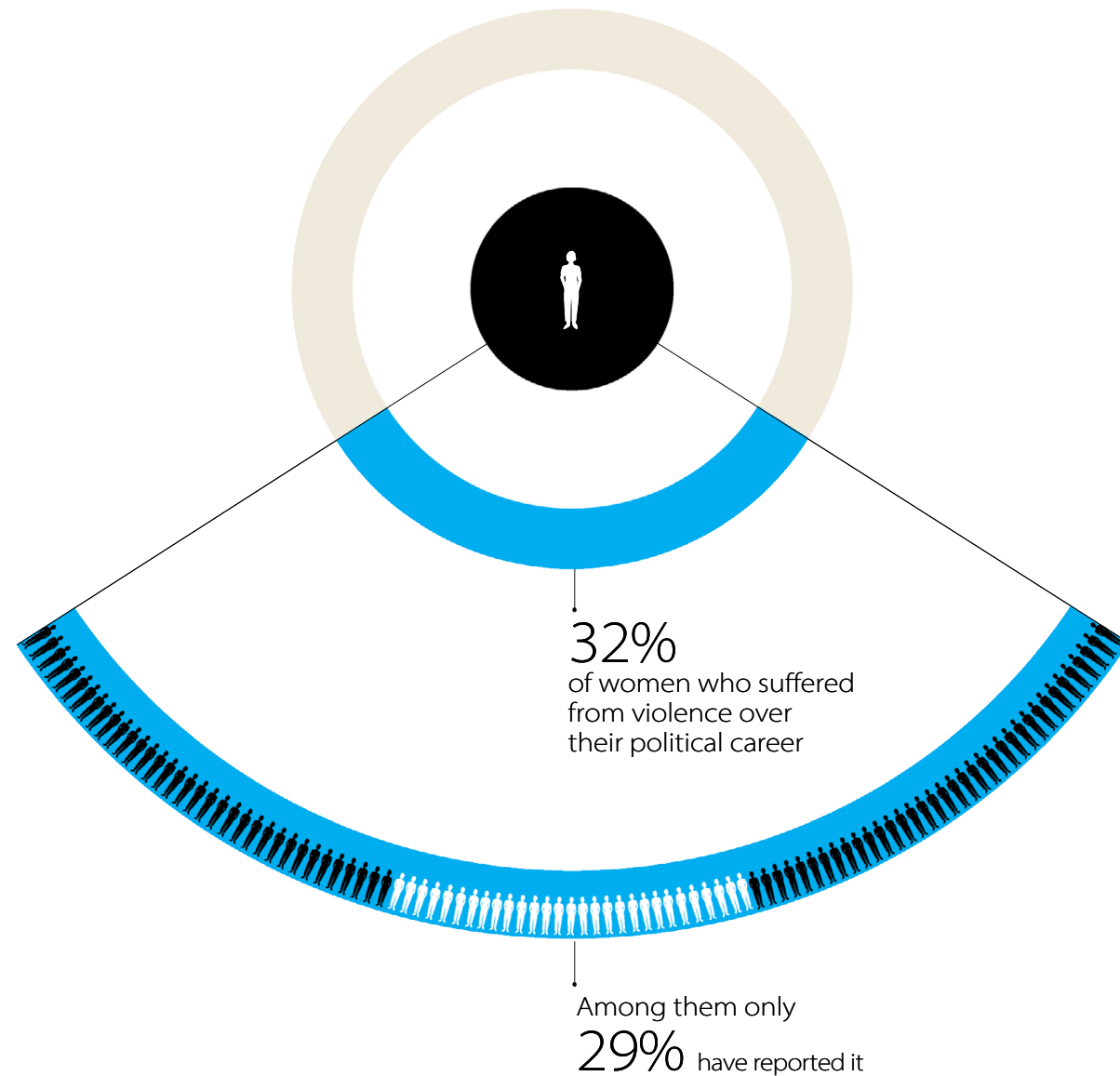
Looking ahead, we must remain vigilant and committed to the systemic changes necessary to take on these challenges. The fight for gender equality in politics is far from over, but there is hope. As we introduce more inclusive and supportive political environments, we can anticipate seeing increased female representation, a rebalancing of power dynamics, and, in the long run, a decrease in the violence that has long plagued women in politics. The continuous rise of women leaders, particularly at the subnational level, thus provides a pathway forward, but only if we prioritise the safety, inclusion, and empowerment of all women.

These are severe issues looming ahead, with huge implications. The persistence of gender inequality and violence against women in politics threatens to undo decades of progress towards a more inclusive and democratic Europe. The future of gender equality in European politics depends on coordinated efforts across the board —at all levels of governance, throughout civil society and within international organisations. Only then can we build a political landscape that is truly reflective of and responsive to the diverse populations it serves.

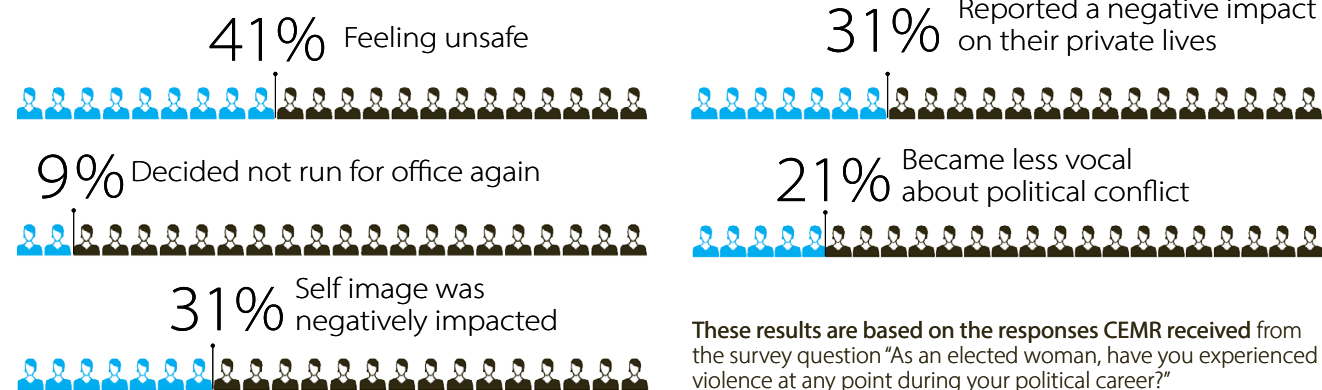


# VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY WOMEN IN POLITICS

SHARE OF WOMEN WHO SUFFERED FROM VIOLENCE OVER THEIR POLITICAL CAREER



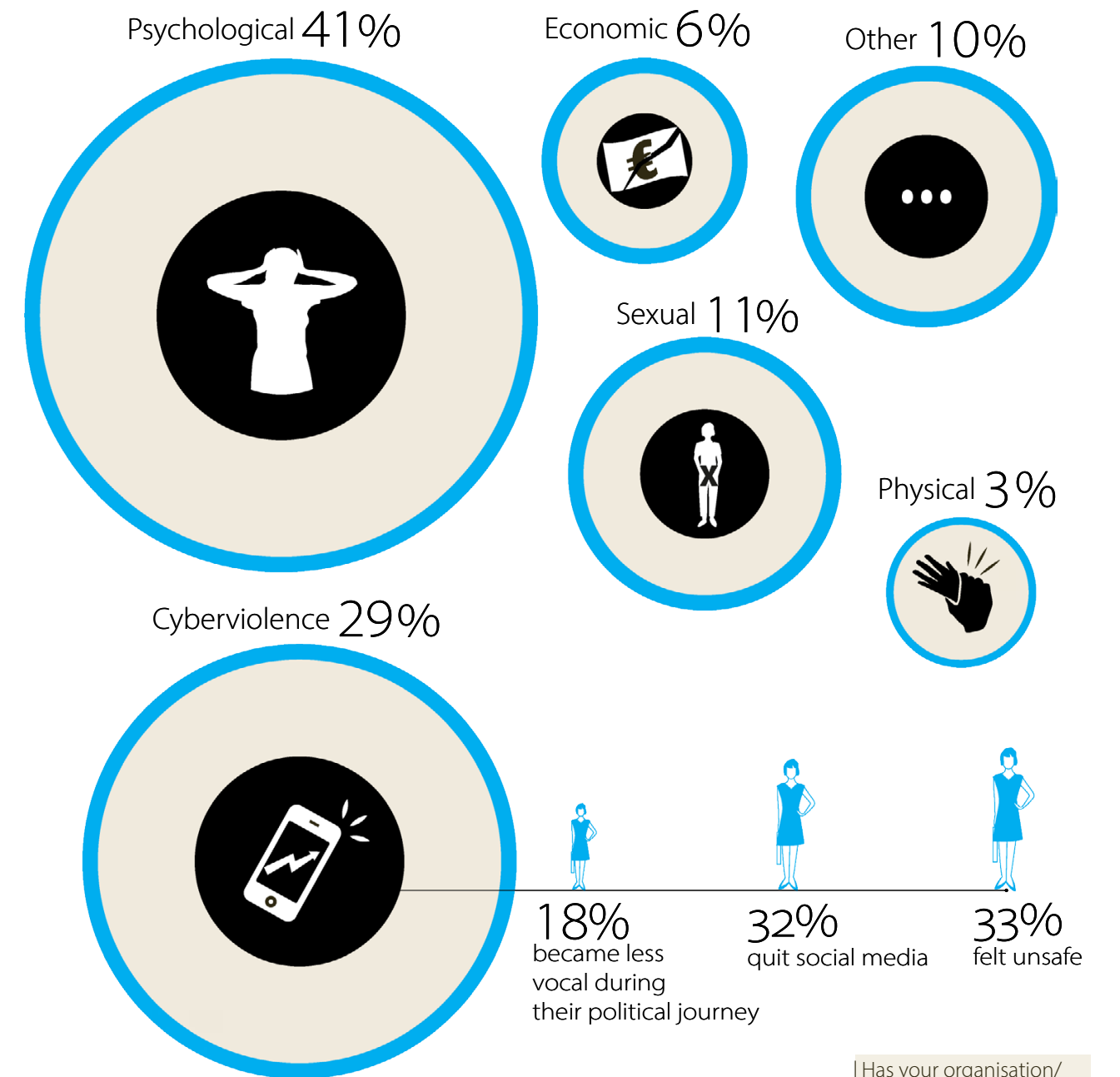
## CONSEQUENCES



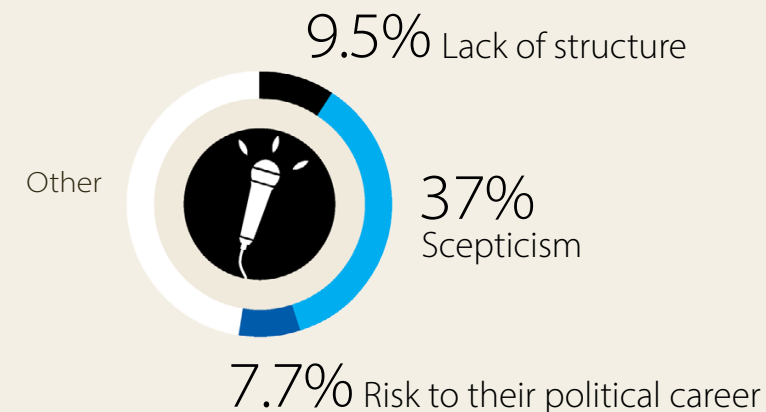
These results are based on the responses CEMR received from the survey question "As an elected woman, have you experienced violence at any point during your political career?"

## TYPES OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED OVER THEIR COURSE OF POLITICAL CAREER

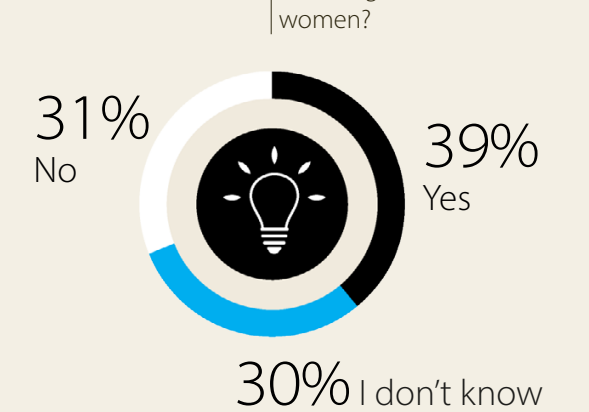
% of the type of violence the respondents experienced



## REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING



## LOCAL INITIATIVE



Has your organisation/ political party or authority developed any initiative or partnerships to counter or prevent violence against women, including elected women?



# RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite progress in many areas, women continue to be underrepresented in politics at the local and regional as well as at the national and European levels. Achieving a higher representation of women in politics at all levels of government would significantly contribute to a more inclusive, equitable and democratic Europe. At EU level, but also at national and territorial ones, it has become urgent to raise awareness on the critical importance of increasing women's participation in politics, starting with a bottom-up approach, thus actively promoting their meaningful contribution. Governments should take concrete steps to promote policies and initiatives that challenge systemic barriers to equal representation, including anti-gender and anti-feminist policies and practices, and tackle deep-rooted patriarchal norms, especially those facing women from marginalised communities.

## TO ACHIEVE THIS, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS CALL FOR THE EU TO:

1. Develop an EU regulatory framework to ensure the equal representation of women, including those from marginalised and intersectional backgrounds, in all political bodies. This EU framework should include:
  - gender quotas (e.g., reserved seats for women candidates),
  - financial incentives for parties that support female candidates,
  - stricter enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, including sanctions for non-compliance and mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability.
2. Enhance access to funding for female and minority candidates for campaign purposes to ensure a more even playing field for everyone. Additionally, it is crucial that all forms of discrimination and safety risks be addressed, including intersectional barriers, to best ensure equitable support. This can be done by establishing grants and public/private financing and/or providing subsidies and specialised financial programs aimed at underrepresented candidates.
3. Provide EU-funded capacity building for local and regional governments to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data while also monitoring and reporting on gender-based violence to track any progression and better understand the scope and causes surrounding this issue, all of which will assist in holding institutions accountable for the advancement of women's participation at all levels.
4. Establish a multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder EU platform to:
  - foster dialogue and cooperation between the different stakeholders that shape gender-inclusive policies to better suit the realities and needs of everyone, thereby ensuring their effective implementation. This can be achieved through initiatives, programmes and training aimed at overcoming ingrained patriarchal barriers such as stereotypes, as well as new obstacles such as online harassment and violence.
  - share good practices and strategies for increasing women's political representation and addressing acts of violence against them,
  - develop collaborative research and studies, in collaboration with the European Institute for Gender Equality, to identify barriers to women's political participation and develop sustainable solutions that can be implemented at the local and regional levels.

# LIST OF CEMR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

## AUSTRIA

- Austrian Association of Municipalities (GEMEINDEBUND)
- Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (STÄDTEBUND)

## BELGIUM

- Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (BRULOCALIS)
- Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG)
- Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia (UVCW)

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SOGFBiH)
- Association of Local Authorities of the Republic of Srpska (ALVRS)

## BULGARIA

- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB)

## CROATIA

- Croatian County Association (HRVZZ)

## CYPRUS

- Union of Cyprus Municipalities (UCM)

## CZECH REPUBLIC

- Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic (SMO CR)

## DENMARK

- Danish Regions (REGIONER)
- Local Government Denmark (KL)

## ESTONIA

- Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (AECM)

## FINLAND

- Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA)

## FRANCE

- French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE)

## GEORGIA

- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)

## GERMANY

- German Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (RGRE)
- German County Association (DLT)
- Association of German Cities (DST)
- German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB)

## GREECE

- Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE)

## HUNGARY

- Association of Cities with County Rank ((MJVSZ)
- National Association Small Cities (KSZ)
- National Association of Hungarian Municipalities (MÖSZ)
- National Association of Municipalities and Small Villages (KÖSZ)
- Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖÖSZ)
- Hungarian Association of Villages (MFSZ)
- National Association of County Governments ((MÖÖSZ)

## ICELAND

- Association of Local Authorities in Iceland (SAMBAND)

## ISRAEL

- Federation of Local Authorities in Israel (MASHAM)

## ITALY

- Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRE)

## LATVIA

- Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LPS)

**LITHUANIA**

- Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (LSA)

**LUXEMBOURG**

- Association of Luxembourg Cities and Municipalities (SYVICOL)

**MALTA**

- Local Council's Association (LCA)

**MOLDOVA**

- Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM)

**MONTENEGRO**

- Union of Municipalities of Montenegro (UOM)

**NETHERLANDS**

- Association of Provinces of the Netherlands (IPO)
- Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)

**NORTH MACEDONIA**

- Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (ZELS)

**NORWAY**

- Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)

**POLAND**

- Association of Polish Counties (ZPP)
- Association of Polish Cities (ZMP)

**PORTUGAL**

- National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (ANMP)

**ROMANIA**

- Association of Romanian Towns (AOR)
- National Union of County Councils of Romania (UNCJR)
- Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)
- Association of Communes of Romania (ACOR)

**SERBIA**

- Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia (SKGO)

**SLOVAKIA**

- Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (ZMOS)

**SLOVENIA**

- Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (ZMOS)
- Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia (SOS)

**SPAIN**

- Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)
- Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL)

**SWEDEN**

- Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL)

**TÜRKIYE**

- Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (TBB)

**UKRAINE**

- Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC)
- Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils

**UNITED KINGDOM**

- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
- Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
- Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)



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