

Gender equality as a Sociological Issue

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JEAN MONNET PROJECT

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Gender **equality** as a **Social** Issue
vs.
Gender **inequality** as a **Sociological** Issue



Gender equality = value of social justice, is a social/political question

Gender inequality = social reality object of study, is a sociological/scientific question

Sociological investigation for social knowledge \Rightarrow a diagnosis (SOCIOLOGY)

A diagnosis \Rightarrow A sociopolitical action (POLITICS)

Separate & Link, but not mix



Social Inequalities

Gender inequality ↔ SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Social inequalities = Social relations of power

Difference ≠ Inequality



Social inequalities are the expression of certain observable social differences in terms of hierarchical positions according to the values established in a society. They involve unequal distributions of access to resources (economic, educational and cultural, relational, health, etc.), opportunities, prestige or power, through mechanisms that depend on certain social traits (class, gender, race, ethnicity, age, etc.), establishing the basis of institutionalized social stratification systems (López-Roldán & Fachelli, 2021).

Social Inequalities

Social inequalities ↔ SOCIAL JUSTICE

Equity in relations between individuals in society and equal access to wealth, opportunities, and social privileges

- **Amartya Sen** (1995) expressed this in terms of people's freedom to make decisions in life and to have opportunities
- **Rosemary Crompton** (1994): unequal distribution of material and symbolic rewards not only influence, determine and, consequently, structure the position in a social system, but also affect individual freedom.



Sex & Gender

Sociological perspective



Sociocultural point of view

*Biological
point of view*

<i>Point of view</i>				
		Man	Woman
Sex	Male	Male / Man	Male / Woman
	Female	Female / Man	Female / Woman

We use **SEX** as an indicator of **GENDER**

Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace Beijing, 1995



Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action

Goal 5

GENDER EQUALITY



United Nations



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for sustainable future; it's proven that **empowering women** and girls helps economic growth and development.

UNDP has made gender equality central to its work and we've seen **remarkable progress** in the past 20 years. There are more girls in school now compared to 15 years ago, and most regions have reached gender parity in primary education.

But although there are more women than ever in the labour market, **there are still large inequalities** in some regions, with women systematically denied the same work rights as men. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public office all remain huge barriers. Climate change and disasters continue to have a disproportionate effect on women and children, as do conflict and migration.

It is vital to give women equal rights land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Today there are more women in public office than ever before, but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality.



Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world

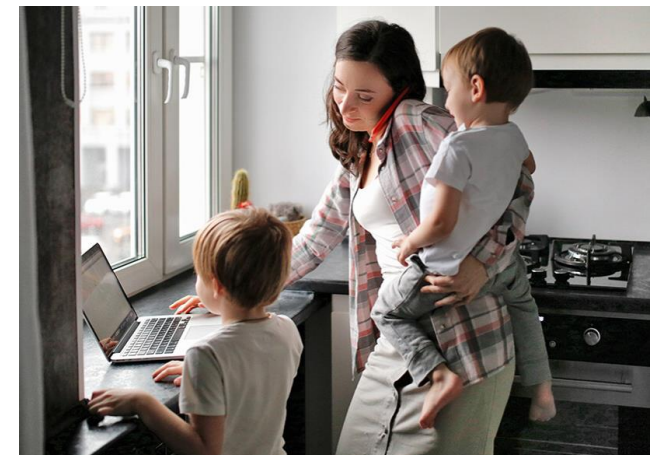
Research & Gender perspective

Multiple studies and indicators in different areas of social life can be shown:

- the sexism of language,
- legal discrimination,
- undervaluation in religion,
- violence facing women, etc., etc.

Sexual division of labour

- Productive sphere and the reproductive sphere
- Work in a broad sense:
 - Productive work (paid employment)
 - Reproductive work (unpaid care & domestic work)





European Institute
for Gender Equality

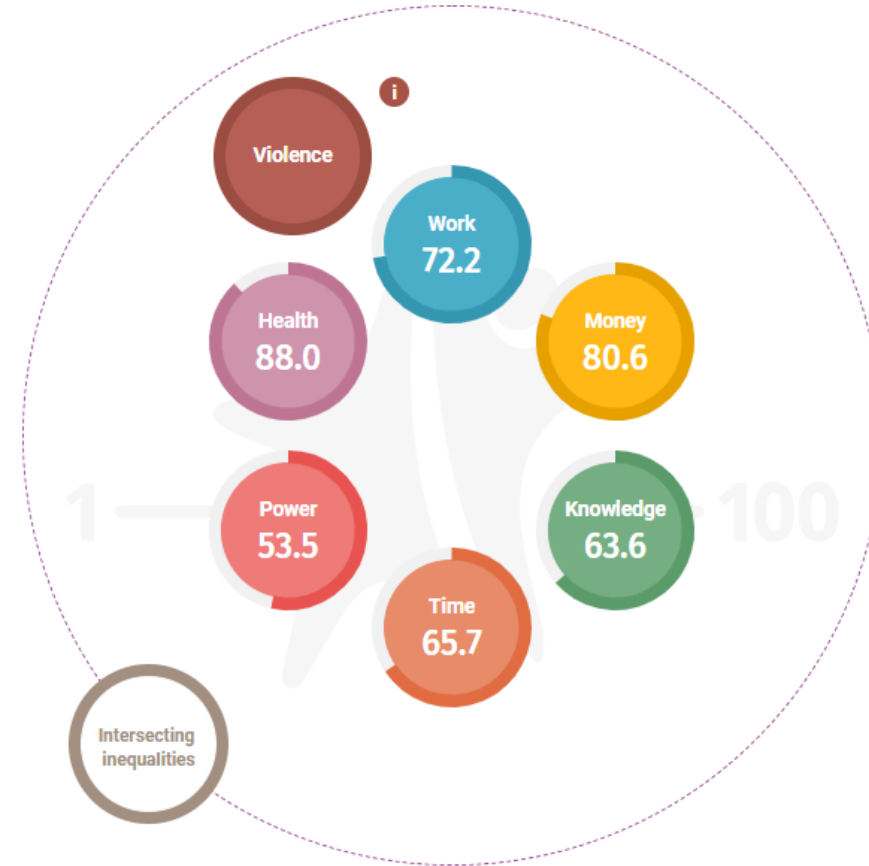
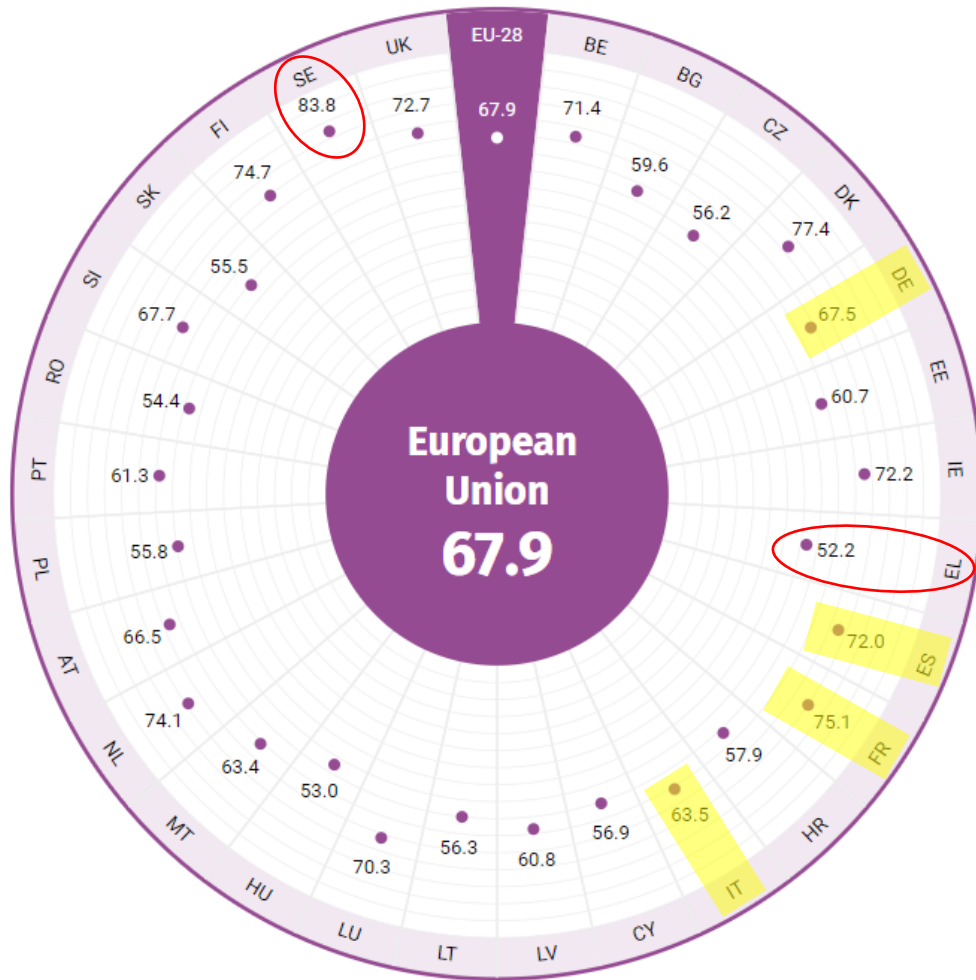
Gender Equality Index



Index score for European Union ∨ for the 2020 ∨ edition

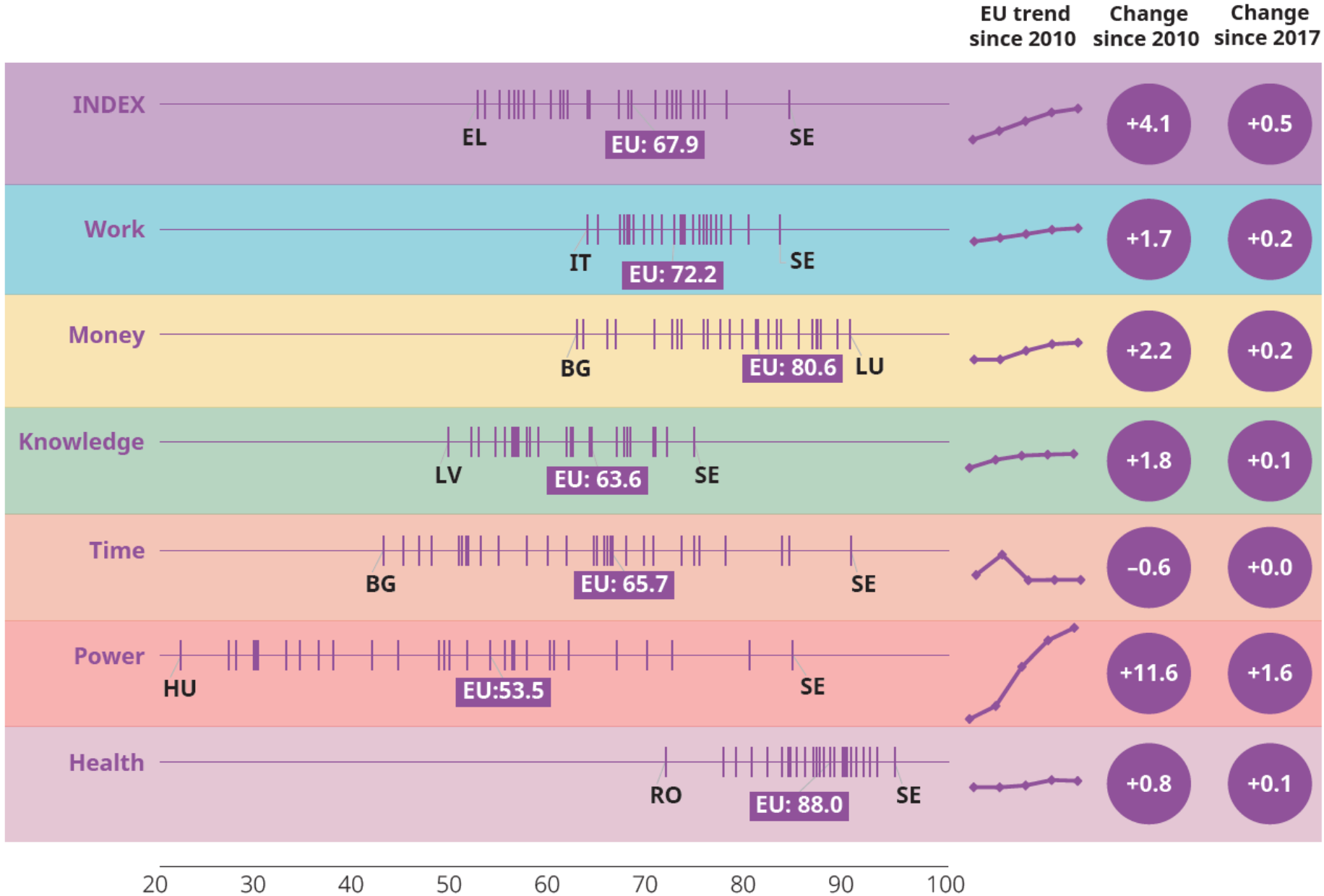
View EU-28 

 The data for 2020 Index is mostly from 2018



<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2020>

Ranges of Gender Equality Index scores for Member States, and changes over time



Concluding remark

The future of humanity must be the transit through the path of equality, and gender equality, in particular.

There are many advances that are taking place, especially in the most developed countries. But there is a long way to go. Gender equality is not yet a reality for millions and millions of Europeans and in all the world.

To this end, Sociology provides elements for reflection and contribute to show the unequal nature of our society and the unequal and discriminated position of women.

