



# EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

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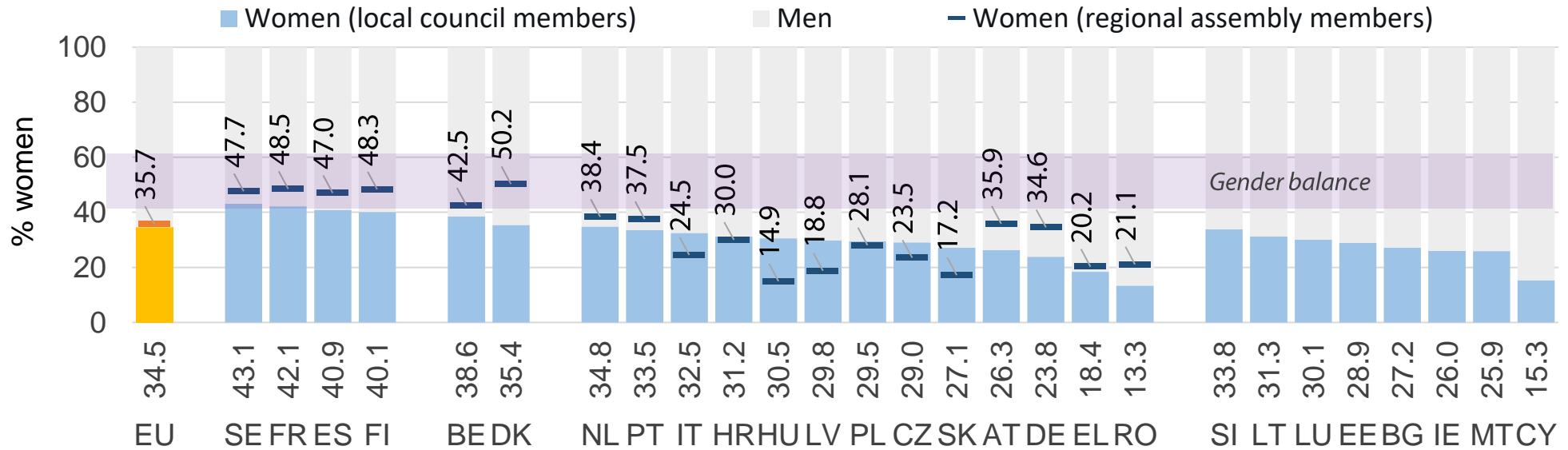
# Gender-sensitive parliaments in the EU: state of play and practical tools for advancing gender equality



# Gender imbalances persist in local and regional levels of politics

In assemblies across the EU, women only account for 36 % of the members at regional and 35 % at local/municipal level.

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



Source: EIGE, [Gender Statistics Database](#).

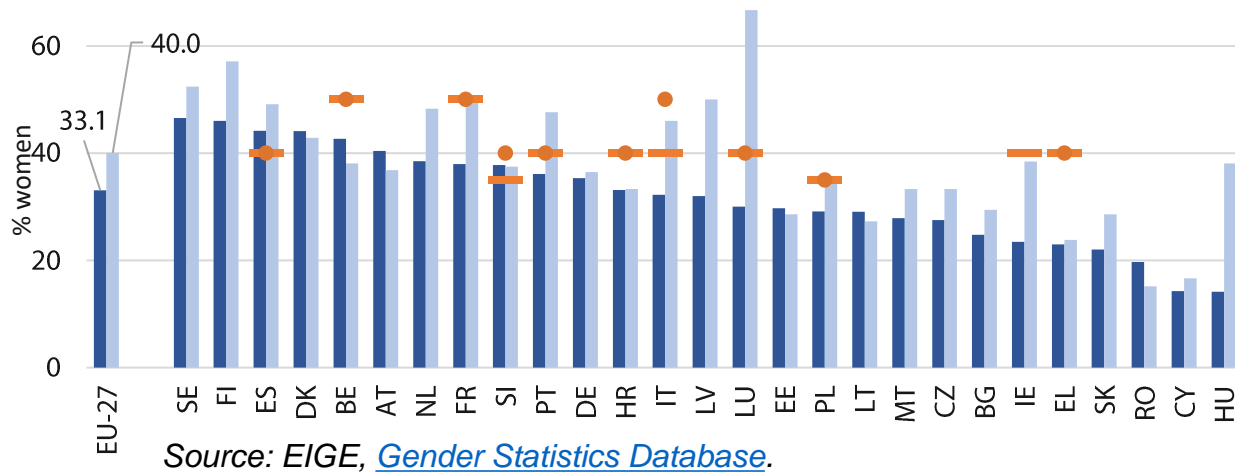
# Gender parity in the European and national parliaments is a crucial ambition but remains a distant goal

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

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

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

■ % Women (national parliaments) ■ % Women (European Parliament) — Quota (nat parl) ● Quota (EP)



Source: EIGE, [Gender Statistics Database](#).

## European Parliament:

29% Women among committee chairs in the EP

40% Women amongst MEPs from whom the chairs are selected

45% Women amongst vice-chairs

## National parliaments in the EU:

Overall representation deficit of just 4% (29% women committee chairs vs. 33% women MPs), but significant differences amongst countries.



# Room for improvement for parliaments to better deliver gender equality in:

## Working conditions

Working conditions for MPs often not family-friendly.

More could be done to combat gender-related inappropriate behaviours.

## Gender mainstreaming

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

## Gender-sensitive legislation

Not all national parliaments have gender equality parliamentary committees with legislative functions. Less than half of the gender equality parliamentary committees have oversight functions.

## Infrastructure & communication

Parliaments need to better ensure that physical spaces are gender-responsive (e.g., childcare facilities) and that communicate with the public and relevant stakeholders about gender equality (e.g., through dedicated events).

# What can parliaments do to advance gender equality?

## Take EIGE's gender-sensitive parliaments self-assessment

The tool will help you to:

- establish the state of play
- identify main gender inequalities
- monitor progress towards gender equality



## Use EIGE's tool on gender equality action plans for parliaments

The tool provides step-by-step guidance to:

- develop
- implement
- monitor
- evaluate your gender equality action plan

Check out [EIGE's Gender-sensitive Parliaments toolkit](#) to assess how gender-sensitive your parliament is and then establish a gender equality action plan as a next step towards achieving a gender-sensitive parliament.

# Let's talk

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*come in for a chat!*