

Political empowerment of women: a gender approach

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Women and politics

For a long time excluded from the political power

Citizenship's rights only in the last century

Still a low participation in the political and institutional decisions

The under-representation: a problem referred either to quantity (few women elected) or to quality (few women in the highest positions)

The under-representation: a problem that affects all countries even if in different ways and with some exceptions

How to measure political empowerment

It's important to choose the right indicators:

- **Consider the different levels of political positions**
- **Disaggregate data by different territorial levels**
- **Specific indicators that go beyond the mere presence of women in the highest positions**
- **Over time comparison**

The different levels of the political positions

The highest is the level of power the lowest is women's representation

% of female Ministers is not enough

% of female Ministers with and without portfolio

% of core Ministers (Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance, Minister of Defence, Minister of Justice)

% of female vice-ministers or under-secretaries

Women in high-level political position in Italy

2012

21,6% deputies

18,6% senators

**22,2% elected to the
EU Parliament**

16,6% ministers

11,1% core ministers

10,7% under-secretaries

10,0% governors of the region

10,7% mayors

15,2% vice-mayors

19,5% councillors

1948

6,2% deputies

1,3% senators

**0% elected to the
EU Parliament**

0% ministers

0% core ministers

0% under-secretaries

0% governor of the region

0% mayor

0% vice-mayor

0% councillors

... how many years to reach the 50%?

Women in high-level political positions in Italy: a chronology

- 1945** **First woman Mayor**
- 1946** **Right to vote**
- 1951** **First woman Under-secretary**
- 1976** **First woman Minister**
- 1979** **First woman President of the Chamber of Deputies**
- 1995** **First woman Minister for Foreign Affairs**
- 1998** **First woman Minister for Home Affairs**

... a problem not yet solved!

Women in the highest political position in Italy

Never President of the Republic

Never President of the Council of Ministers

Never President of the Senate

Never Minister of the Economy

... a record of missing presence!

Disaggregate data by different territorial levels

It's not enough to know the number of female mayors, female vice-mayors, female councillors...

Territorial breakdown that takes into account the dimension of the population

Disaggregate data by different territorial levels: the Italian situation

10,73% of municipalities with a femal mayor

7,39% of population managed by a femal mayor

Dimension of population	% of municipalities with a female mayor
0 - 1.999	46,89%
2.000 - 4.999	28,00%
5.000 - 9.999	14,17%
10.000 - 19.999	7,49%
20.000 - 59.999	3,23%
60.000 - 249.999	0,12%
> 250.000	0,12%

Specific indicators

For all type of elections there is the need to calculate:

% of female elected

% of female candidates

% of female elected out of the total candidates compared to the % of the male elected out of the total candidates

Over time comparison

An over time comparison is required to verify if improvements have been registered or if the inadequate condition is not going to evolve

A further analysis is required to identify any mechanism responsible for an improvement

Conclusions

- **With some exceptions the problem of the under-representation of women in politics affects all countries**
- **At national level we have to take into account the characteristics of the electoral systems**
- **At global level we need a set of indicators useful for all countries**
- **Simple indicators are not enough. Countries need a more complex set of indicators to understand and better describe the phenomenon**
- **One future task of the IAEG-GS could be those to identify a set of indicators that takes into account all the dimensions above described for a more accurate analysis of the political empowerment of women in all countries**

Thank you!

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