The political participation in Italy from a gender perspective

Sara Demofonti - Linda Laura Sabbadini
Italian National Institute of Statistics

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Framework

✓ Two dimension of the participation:

- political participation
  - elections (administrative sources)
    - visible (indicators from surveys)
    - invisible (indicators from surveys)
- institutional participation
  - representation in decision-making bodies
    (administrative sources)

Both necessary to better investigate the phenomenon
**Political participation**

- elections
- administrative sources
- indicators from surveys

**Institutional participation**

- representation
- administrative sources
Framework

✓ Indicators to measure visible and invisible political participation in the larger context of the social participation

✓ Visible participation:
  - being enrolled in a political party
  - participating to a demonstration
  - attending to a political meeting

✓ Invisible participation:
  - listening to a political debate
  - talking about politics at least once a week
  - getting informed about politics at least once a week

✓ Long time series 1993 2015: comparison over time

✓ Relation between data and national political elections and EU elections
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Visible participation
- Political parties
- Demonstrations
- Political meeting

Invisible participation
- Getting informed
- Speaking
- Listening

National political elections and EU elections

Long time series 1993-2015
Data source

✓ Survey: Multipurpose Survey on Living Conditions and Quality of Life

✓ Sample: 24,000 households

✓ Technique: face to face interview and self-compiled questionnaire

✓ The most important source to understand political participation, involvement in the political life of the country and disaffection with politics

✓ Data useful to analyse political participation within the quality of life
24,000 households

Multipurpose Survey on Living Conditions and Quality of Life

face to face interview and self-compiled questionnaire

political participation, involvement in the political life of the country and disaffection with politics

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Women’s political participation in Italy – Helsinki 25th October 2016
Men’s political participation

- Getting informed about politics at least once a week
  - 1993: 48.3
  - 2015: 69.4

- Talking about politics at least once a week
  - 1993: 42.3
  - 2015: 50.1

- Listening to a political debate
  - 1993: 24.0
  - 2015: 23.5

- Not talking about politics
  - 1993: 16.9
  - 2015: 16.7

- Attending to a political meeting
  - 1993: 7.9
  - 2015: 6

- Participating in a demonstration
  - 1993: 10.5
  - 2015: 5.1

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The invisible participation: getting informed about politics at least once a week
The invisible participation: getting informed about politics at least once a week

✓ The most common modality of political participation

✓ The gender difference in this modality exists, but has a decreasing trend over time thanks to the growth of the values of women

✓ Trends are very similar for women and men. The increasing for women is a little bit higher
The invisible participation: getting informed about politics at least once a week

✓ The differences are very low in the youth age and increase with age with a quite similar situation (from 11 to 12 percentage points) between men and women aged 25-59 and gradually increasing for the last three age classes.

✓ The most relevant contribution to the reduction of the gender gap has been given by the increasing of the participation of women aged 45-59 and also by the women 60 and more.

✓ The youngest women are more variable in their behaviours with increasing and decreasing and with the same values at the beginning and at the end of the period considered.

✓ The gender differences among people aged 14-17 have been always very low, the trends is very similar for women and men.
The invisible participation: talking about politics at least once a week
The invisible participation: talking about politics at least once a week

✓ Less used than “getting informed”

✓ The activity of talking about politics is influenced by the election time

✓ Trends are very similar for men and women

✓ The gender difference, such as the previous modality exists, but has a decreasing trend over time thanks to the growth of the values of women
The invisible participation: listening to a political debate

The gender gap decreased and the reduction is due to the reduction of values for men

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The left out: not getting informed about politics

Women’s political participation in Italy – Helsinki, 25th October 2016
The left out: not getting informed about politics

- The percentages referred to men do not change over time

- The trend for women is more changeable. From 33% to 28%

- Among men, young and 75 years old and more show the greatest disinterest

- Gender differences are more evident for people aged 65 and more, but in the last age groups the gap between women and men is decreasing

- Among young there aren’t notable gender differences

- Women and men show different intensity (once a week or less frequently) in “getting informed” rather than in “not getting informed”
The left out: not talking about politics

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The left out: not talking about politics

✓ Small changes for men over time

✓ Significative reduction for women from 48,6% to 38,1%

✓ The gender gap decreased thanks to the reduction of values for women
Modalities of political information - Women

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Modalities of political information - Men

- Television
- Newspapers
- Radio
- Friends
- Work colleagues
- Acquaintances
- Trade unions
- Political organisations
- Relaives
- Magazines
- Other reviews

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Modalities of political information

- The television is the most used instrument to be informed about politics
- The web is not, as belief, the most preferred modality: chosen only the 25% of those informed
- Traditional mass media are prevalent
- Decreasing trend for newspaper
- Women are mostly informed by relatives, men by friends, work colleagues, acquaintances
The visible participation: political meetings

![Graph showing political participation over time for men and women in Italy.](image-url)
The visible participation: demonstrations

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The visible participation: political meetings and demonstrations

- The trend for men is flat
- Less chosen modalities
- No relevant gender differences
Worst performers

✓ women

✓ 65 years old and more

✓ low social status

✓ low education level

✓ living in the South of the country

✓ Referred to getting informed and talking about politics modalities
Best performers

✓ men

✓ 35-64 years old

✓ high social status

✓ high education level

✓ living in the North-Central area of the country

✓ Referred to all modalities of invisible participation
Thank you!