

PRESS STATEMENT:

Gender Equality Index 2017

Progress towards gender equality in the EU28 has been rather slow. In fact, the Gender Equality Index score increased from 62 points in 2005 to 65 points in 2012 and 66.2 points in 2015 on a scale of 1 (full inequality) to 100 (full equality). The *European Institute for Gender Equality* (EIGE) published the **Gender Equality Index 2017** in the past weeks. This Index measures gender equality in core domains based on the EU policy framework, and assists in monitoring progress across the EU over time.

The **six domains** measured by the Gender Equality Index include work, money, knowledge, time, power and health. Malta's scores increased in five domains, with an overall improvement of 4.1 points from 56.0 in 2005 to 60.1 in 2015. However, in 2015, Malta continued to maintain its **15th place** in the ranking of the EU28 on the Gender Equality Index when compared to 2005.

The major improvements registered by Malta were in the domain of **work** that measures the extent to which women and men can benefit from equal access to employment and good working conditions. From 2005 to 2015, an increase of 10.2 points was registered with Malta's ranking improving from 28 in 2005 to 18 in 2015. The most significant progress (17.5 points) was in the sub-domain of 'participation' where a substantial percentage of women entered the labour market significantly lowering the gender employment gap. However, further improvement is needed in relation to participation at work given that Malta ranks in the 27th place in this sub-domain.

Since 2005, the majority of Member States have improved their score in the domain of **money** bringing women and men closer to equal access to economic independence. In 2015, Malta registered one of the fastest progress (12.1 points) ranking in the 11th place with the highest progression (20.3 points) for the period 2005-2015 registered in the sub-domain 'financial resources'. This sub-domain is measured through two indicators on women's and men's monthly earnings and income.

The domain of **knowledge** measures gender inequalities in educational attainment, participation in education and training over the life course and gender segregation in education, with Malta scoring 65.2 in 2015. An increase was therefore registered in the overall score of this domain (2.8 points), with Malta ranking in the 10th place. There was an increase of 10.7 points in the sub-domain 'attainment and participation' between 2005 and 2015. During this same period, a gradual decrease in the score of segregation in tertiary education was noted. However, Malta remained first in its ranking in this sub-domain.

The Gender Equality Index 2017 also measures the domain of **time** that takes into consideration the gender inequalities in the allocation of time spent on care and domestic work and social activities. Malta's overall score increased most significantly among the EU28 (3.4 points between 2005 and 2015), ranking in the 14th place.

Malta maintains its high score in the domain of **health**, measuring three health-related aspects of gender equality: health status, health behaviour and access to health services. An increase of 1.1 points was registered in 2015 when compared to 2005 with Malta ranking in 3rd place among the EU28 in this domain.

In the 10 years covering 2005-2015, the score in the domain of **power** for Malta remained unchanged. No progress was registered in this sphere measuring gender equality in decision-making positions across the political, economic and social spheres. In this domain, Malta's ranking decreased from 19th place in 2005 to 23rd place in 2015, highlighting women's under-representation in decision-making positions, with scores below the EU28 average.

Violence against women is included in the Gender Equality Index as a satellite domain and EIGE will be releasing a separate publication on this domain in November 2017.

For the first time, the Gender Equality Index adds to the analysis an intersectional perspective which shows that gender inequalities vary across age, education, family composition and parenthood, country of birth and disability. The evidence calls for an intersectional approach in policymaking to target unique experiences of discrimination and disadvantage for both women and men.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) acknowledges the results of the Gender Equality Index and recognises the improvements towards gender equality registered in Malta throughout the years. However, NCPE also deems that there is room for improvement in all the areas but particularly in the domain of power and participation in the labour market, in order to upgrade Malta's present overall ranking at 15th place. NCPE is committed to continue working to address such challenges.

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