



## European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

### NEWS REPORT

**Country:** Serbia  
**Title:** Gender Equality Index 2016  
**Date:** 22 September 2016  
**Expert:** Ivana Krstic  
**Context**  
**Issue at stake:** Measuring gender equality in Serbia  
**Ground of discrimination:** Sex  
**Source:** Miscellaneous  
**Field:** Other

### Content

**Policy development:** The Republic of Serbia is the first country outside of the European Union that has introduced the EU Index of Gender Equality. The first report on the Gender Equality Index was published in February 2016. The initiative for calculating the Gender Equality Index in the Republic of Serbia was launched by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government and the Statistical Office, with the support of the European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius. For the purposes of measuring the Gender Equality Index, the Working Group of the Government of the Republic of Serbia was established, which comprised of representatives of all relevant public institutions, civil society organizations, and the professional and academic community.

In the report, the Gender Equality Index for Serbia is calculated for 2014, while the Gender Equality Index for the EU refers to 2012. The Gender Equality Index is calculated for Serbia using the EIGE's methodology with minor adjustments.

According to the Report, the Gender Equality Index in Serbia is 40.6 %, compared to the EU Member States index, which is 52.9 %. The smallest gap is recorded in the domain of health, while the greatest success has been achieved in the domain of power at national level. This is mainly due to the relatively higher representation of women in the Central Bank, as well as the introduction of quotas for women's political participation in the National Assembly. However, the biggest setbacks exist in the domains of work and money.

The summary of the results of the measurement are divided into different domains:

#### Work domain

- Women are less frequently employed in full-time equivalent jobs than men;
- Women's working life is 5 years shorter than men's;
- Employment in social sectors of economy (education, health and social protection) is higher among women than men;
- Women less frequently work with flexible working hours than men;

- In comparison to the EU, Serbia has a lower score than all Member States in the domain of work;
- Future efforts to advance gender equality in the domain of work should be invested in both sub-domains, but the index scores clearly point out that this is needed not only to increase employment of women, but to employ more complex measures that will reduce labour market segregation and improve quality of work that enables reconciliation between work and family life.

#### Domain of money

- Serbia is lagging behind the EU average and is behind all EU Member States except Romania;
- Gender gaps in money are prominent in both sub-domains, but they are particularly big in the area of financial resources;
- Gender gaps in being at-risk-of-poverty are small and present in 2014;
- Regional discrepancies are remarkable, with the capital (Belgrade) recording much better scores than other regions;
- Policy interventions are required, particularly in the improvement of the opportunities to access financial resources.

#### Domain of knowledge

- Gap in the participation rates in tertiary education grows in favour of women;
- Gender segregation in educational fields remains high, with much more concentrated female students in the areas of social sciences, humanities and arts;
- Participation in lifelong learning education is very low among both women and men.

#### Domain of health

- Self-perception of health is better among men than women;
- Women live longer and have longer healthy lives;
- Health care is relatively accessible and gender gaps are very small.

#### Domain of time

- Household work is unequally divided with women more than double burdened in comparison to men;
- Time consumed in household work and care is reduced for leisure and women less frequently use time for sport, culture and leisure activities;
- Participation in social activities is low for both women and men, with a small gap in favour of men;
- This is the only domain without a pronounced regional difference.

#### Domain of power

- Women are underrepresented in executive and legislative power at central and regional level;
- Women are underrepresented in the boards of the largest quoted companies;
- Women are underrepresented in the Central Bank, though Serbia is comparatively better in this respect than the average in the EU.

#### Domain of violence

- The picture on gender based violence in Serbia is unsystematic and incomplete.

#### Intersecting inequalities

- The domain of intersecting inequalities is still 'under development'.

**Internet link source:** [http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Izvestaj\\_Indeks\\_rodne\\_ravnopravnosti\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Izvestaj_Indeks_rodne_ravnopravnosti_2016_EN.pdf), accessed 21 September 2016.