

# Measuring femicide in Greece

## Femicide

Femicide can be understood as the extreme end of a continuum of violence against women that happens in all European Union Member States <sup>(1)</sup>. There is no standard agreed definition of femicide among EU Member States or around the world. The lack of a uniform definition hampers the measurement of femicide, which becomes invisible among general homicide data <sup>(2)</sup>. The general concept of femicide refers to the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender. The United Nations Vienna Declaration on Femicide <sup>(3)</sup> was the first to identify different types of femicide, including:

- murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence;
- torture and misogynistic slaying of women;
- killing of women and girls in the name of honour;
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- dowry-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide;
- genital mutilation-related deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

## About the study

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States, as they draw on various sources. To improve the collection of administrative data on femicide, EIGE has been working to establish indicators that can harmonise data collection processes across Member States' jurisdictions.

EIGE has collected information from a wide variety of stakeholders through a questionnaire sent to official data providers and an online survey filled in by national experts. The ultimate goal is to identify a classification system of femicide with mutually agreed variables that can be used by all EU Member States.

## Femicide in Greece

There is no definition of femicide in the Greek Criminal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Greek criminal law. The relevant articles for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Articles 299, 302 and 311 <sup>(4)</sup>.

### Article 299 – Intentional killing

Killing of a person with intent.

### Article 302 – Negligent homicide

Whoever negligently kills another person is punished with imprisonment of a minimum of 3 months.

### Article 310 – Grievous bodily harm

(1) Anyone who causes grievous bodily harm to another person shall be punished by imprisonment of at least 1 year. If they sought to cause grievous bodily harm, they shall be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

### Article 311 – Fatal bodily harm

If bodily harm resulted in the death of the victim, imprisonment of up to 10 years shall be imposed. If the person responsible sought to inflict grievous bodily harm on the victim, imprisonment shall be imposed.

Article 312(2) of the Greek Criminal Code imposes more severe punishments for physical injuries and dangerous, grievous or fatal bodily harms (i.e. Article 308(2), Article 309, Article 310(2) and Article 311 of the Greek Criminal Code) if these acts were committed against a spouse during a marriage or against a partner during a partnership.

The articles above are applied in conjunction with the law on domestic violence (Law 3500/2006 amended by Law 4531/2018).

## Methodology for data collection

To address the lack of comparable data on violence against women, EIGE developed 13 indicators with uniform definitions of the multiple forms of intimate partner violence, femicide and rape <sup>(5)</sup>. A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published <sup>(6)</sup>. The data presented in this factsheet refers to indicator 9 on intimate partner violence: 'Women victims of intimate femicide (aged 18 and over) committed by a male intimate partner (aged 18 and over), as a share of the women victims of homicide aged 18 and over'. However, the data available for Greece under this indicator is not yet comparable. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database ([https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/genvio/genvio\\_int](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/genvio/genvio_int)).

<sup>(1)</sup> This factsheet includes data collected before the United Kingdom left the EU, so the reference to EU Member States includes the United Kingdom.

<sup>(2)</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Glossary of definitions of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

<sup>(3)</sup> UN Economic and Social Council (2012), *Vienna Declaration on Femicide*, UN, New York ([https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Sessions/CCPCJ\\_22/E-CN15-2013-NGO1/E-CN15-2013-NGO1\\_E.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_22/E-CN15-2013-NGO1/E-CN15-2013-NGO1_E.pdf)).

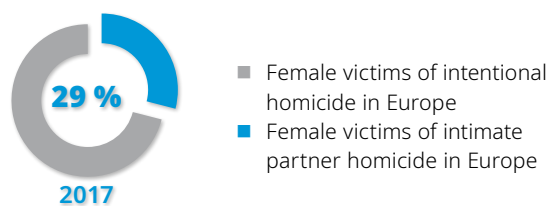
<sup>(4)</sup> For more information, see indicator 9 of the Gender Statistics Database ([https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio\\_int\\_adm\\_ipv\\_\\_ipv\\_indic\\_9/metadata](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv__ipv_indic_9/metadata)).

<sup>(5)</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Terminology and Indicators for Data Collection: Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

<sup>(6)</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2020), *Intimate Partner Violence: Data collection methodology*, EIGE, Vilnius.

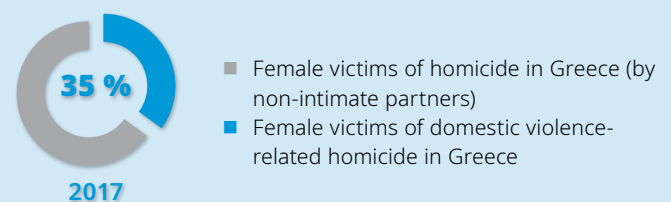
### Intimate partner femicide in Europe

From a statistical perspective, and based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights that intentional homicide of female victims perpetrated by intimate partners or family members is the most prevalent form of femicide (7). UNODC estimates that, in Europe (8), about 29 % of female victims of homicide (9) are killed intentionally by an intimate partner.



### Intimate partner femicide in Greece

From a statistical perspective, the working definition that the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) uses for femicide is 'killing of a woman by an intimate partner and the death of a woman as a consequence of a practice that is harmful to women. Intimate partner is understood as a former or current spouse or partner, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim'. In Greece, most femicides would be covered by the articles of the Criminal Code identified above. Although there is no specific data collection on intimate partner femicide in Greece, according to data from the Hellenic Police, in 2017 there were 23 female (10) victims of homicide (11), of whom 35 % were victims of domestic violence-related homicide (n = 8) (12).



## Female victims of homicide and domestic violence-related homicide in Greece

The official administrative data used in Figure 1 is collected by the Hellenic Police. EIGE has gathered data on homicide and intimate partner femicide for 2014 to 2018. However, data provided by Greece refers to female victims of domestic violence-related homicide.

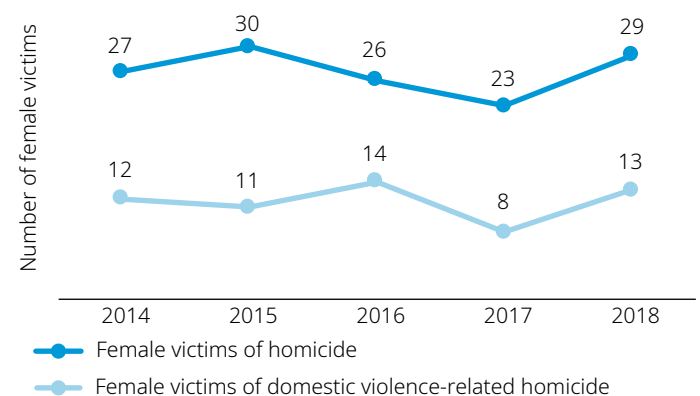
Figure 1 includes data regarding female victims of homicide and domestic violence-related homicide. Between 2015 and 2016, although the number of female victims of homicide decreased, the number of female victims of domestic violence-related homicide increased. In 2018, the number of female victims of both crimes increased significantly.

### Type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

The Hellenic Police collects data on the type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator according to the scope of domestic violence, as defined by the Istanbul Convention. As per Article 3b of the law on domestic violence (Law 3500/2006 amended by Law 4531/2018), "domestic violence" shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between for-

mer or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim'.

**Figure 1: Female victims of homicide and domestic violence-related homicide in Greece**



Source: EIGE's Gender Statistics Database.

(7) UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2019), *Global Study on Homicide – Gender-related killing of women and girls*, UNODC, Vienna.

(8) Data from UNODC includes European jurisdictions other than the EU Member States. There is no estimation of the percentage of female victims of homicide who were victims of intimate partner femicide limited to EU Member States.

(9) The term 'homicide' is used when reporting UNODC data given that it is the term used in the original source (p. 17). The gender-related motivation is not recorded, because of the lack of a standardised definition. However, it is clear from the report that this data quantifies a significant share of all gender-related killings of women and girls.

(10) The term 'female' is used instead of 'woman', as it is not always possible to disaggregate data by the victim's age, meaning that the victim could be either a woman or a girl aged under 18 years.

(11) The term 'homicide' is used given that the gender-related motivation for the intentional homicides is not recorded, and therefore it is not possible to classify all the killings as femicides.

(12) Data is available at: [https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio\\_int\\_adm\\_ipv\\_ipv\\_indic\\_9/metadata](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv_ipv_indic_9/metadata)

## Collecting administrative data on femicide



**What is administrative data?** Administrative data is collected for recording, organising and monitoring purposes <sup>(13)</sup>. Administrative data on femicide can be obtained from different institutions, namely those that are involved in criminal investigations, prosecutions, the punishment of perpetrators and victim support – that is, institutions in the **police and justice sectors**. Administrative data might include information about the prevalence and types of femicide, the characteristics of the victim, the perpetrator and their relationship, the characteristics of and motive for the crime, and data about the criminal process.

In order to help policymakers design effective policies to combat femicide, it is necessary to understand the nature and prevalence of the issue. The collection of comparable administrative data on femicide across Member States is key to gaining this understanding <sup>(14)</sup>. It is particularly important that the motive for the killing is established by the police or judiciary and that this is then translated into standardised statistical data. The ICCS is a standardised tool for obtaining comparable

administrative data. However, it lacks a gender-related motive variable. This means that the concept of femicide cannot be properly operationalised, which prevents the collection of data that fully captures the phenomenon. The collection of data on femicide would make the issue more visible, which would strengthen the political will to eradicate it. Administrative data on femicide also enables countries to monitor trends over time and evaluate the effectiveness of measures.

## What administrative data on femicide is available in Greece?

### Definition of femicide and availability of data

Definition of femicide used for statistical purposes	No
Collection of data on femicide	Yes, official data

Although there is no specific data collection on femicide in Greece, some variables relevant to the identification of femicide are collected or analysed by the Hellenic Police <sup>(15)</sup> and the Observatory of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and

Gender Equality <sup>(16)</sup>. Where data on femicide in this factsheet is drawn from these institutions, this is indicated by <sup>(a)</sup> and <sup>(b)</sup>, respectively. There may be other institutions or researchers who collect and analyse data on femicide in Greece.

	Institution <sup>(a)</sup> Hellenic Police	Institution <sup>(b)</sup> Observatory of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality
Type of data collection	Official	Official
Sources of data	Police crime investigations	Police crime investigations
Stage at which the homicide is established as a femicide	During the data analysis	During the data analysis
Stage at which the homicide is registered as a femicide	During the data analysis	During the data analysis
Regularity of data collection	Annual	Annual
Network(s) with which information is shared	Department of Equal Opportunities or another gender equality body; Hellenic Statistical Authority	Department of Equal Opportunities or another gender equality body
Availability of data to the public	Data publicly available	Data publicly available

<sup>(13)</sup> UN Women (2020), *A synthesis of evidence on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women*, UN Women, New York.

<sup>(14)</sup> It is important to note that data and statistics should be produced, developed and disseminated in compliance with the principles in the *European Statistics Code of Practice*: Eurostat (2018), *European Statistics Code of Practice*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4031688/8971242/KS-02-18-142-EN-N.pdf/e7f85f07-91db-4312-8118-f729c75878c7?t=1528447068000>).

<sup>(15)</sup> [www.astynomia.gr](http://www.astynomia.gr)

<sup>(16)</sup> Observatory of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (2019), <https://isotita.gr/en/observatory-e-bulletin-no-23-gender-based-violence/>, 'Gender-based violence', E-bulletin, No 23.

Official sources inform administrative data collection in Greece. In line with EIGE's data collection, official administrative data on the total number of female victims of homicide and domestic violence-related homicide is displayed for 2014 to 2019 <sup>(a)</sup>. However, data may be available in Greece for other years.

E-bulletin No 27 of the Observatory of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, issued in December 2020,

reports that, in 2019, 8 women were murdered by a member of their family (amounting to 42.1 % of the total number of female homicides (19)), whereas, in 2018, 13 women were murdered by a family member / relative.

Official sources collect relevant data to identify other types of femicide, such as family-related femicide <sup>(b)</sup>.

● Official data available    ● Non-official data available    ○ No data available

Data availability	2014 <sup>(a)</sup>	2015 <sup>(a)</sup>	2016 <sup>(a)</sup>	2017 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018 <sup>(a)</sup>	2019 <sup>(b)</sup>
Female victims of homicide	●	●	●	●	●	●
Female victims of domestic violence-related homicide	●	●	●	●	●	●

Types of femicide	
Intimate partner femicide <sup>(a)</sup>	○
Family-related femicide <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>	●
Child femicide	○
Prostitution-related femicide	○
Robbery-related femicide	○
Other types of femicide	○

Characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator	Victim	Perpetrator
Age <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>	●	●
Sex <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>	●	●
Gender identity	○	○
Sexual orientation	○	○
Nationality <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>	○	○
Education	○	○
Occupation	○	○
Applied for protection order	○	n/a
Active protection order	n/a	○
Socioeconomic profile	○	○
Recidivist status	n/a	○
Alcohol/drug abuse	○	○
Victim–perpetrator relationship <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>	●	●
Other	○	○

Motive for femicide (*)	Investigating femicide (**)
Context of domestic violence <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>	● Protocol for investigating femicide cases ○
Contextual variables	Analysing femicide
Variables related to the context of femicide	○ Data on femicide analysed ○

NB: n/a, not applicable.

(\*) In Greece, victims of femicide are assessed using the article on intentional homicide (Article 299 of the Criminal Code) in conjunction with the Law on Domestic Violence (Law 3500/2006).

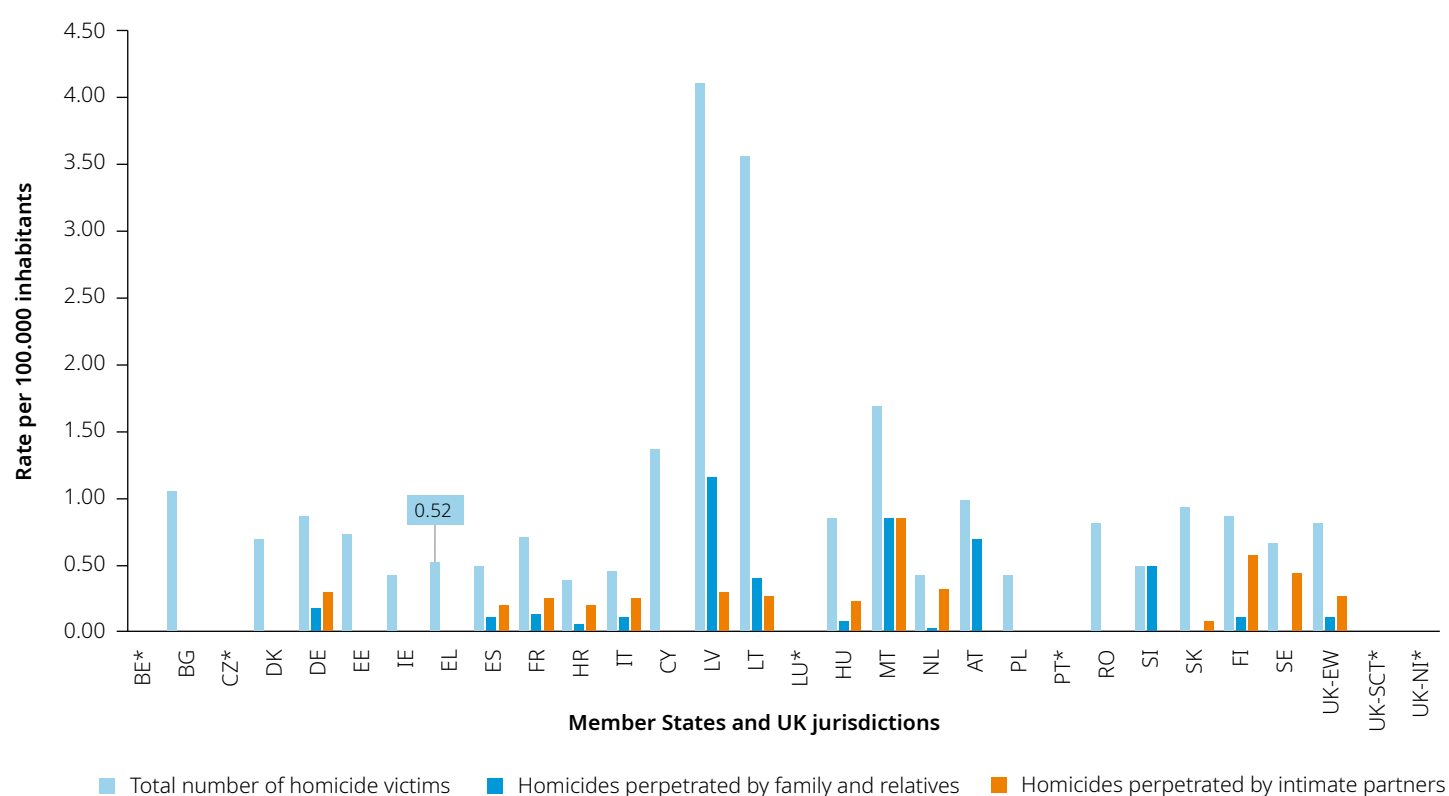
(\*\*) The Domestic Violence Department of the General Police Division of the Hellenic Police has designed and implemented a tool to store and produce reliable statistics based on a combination of variables. It will enable monitoring domestic violence cases, including homicide cases involving persons associated with family or intimate relations (<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/SR/Femicide/2020/States/submission-greece.pdf>)

## Female homicide in the EU Member States and the United Kingdom (Eurostat)

At the EU level, based on the ICCS, Eurostat compiles data on intentional female homicides, focusing on intimate partner and family-related homicides, disaggregated by age, gender and relationship with the perpetrator. The data from Eurostat presented in Figure 2 reveals that, in 2018, the rate of female vic-

tims of homicide in Greece was 0.52 per 100 000 inhabitants, the eighth lowest rate among the 24 Member States for which information is available and the United Kingdom. The rates of homicide perpetrated by family and relatives and by intimate partners are not known in Greece.

Figure 2: Rate of female victims of intentional homicide in EU Member States and the United Kingdom (2018)



(\*) No data available.

NB: UK-EW, England and Wales, United Kingdom; UK-NI, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom; UK-SCT, Scotland, United Kingdom.

Source: Eurostat.

## Data information

Eurostat regularly publishes figures on crime and criminal justice. Intentional homicides are recorded by the police in each of the Member States and the United Kingdom. It is not possible to collect information about the gender-related motivation for homicide, the sex of the perpetrator or the age of the perpetrator using this database. Therefore, it is not possible to

provide precise data on femicide. Figures for 2008 onwards are based on the joint Eurostat-UNODC data collection. In this database, homicide is classified by the ICCS.

Data is available on Eurostat's website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>).

## Key findings

- Greece does not have a legal definition of femicide. However, the perpetrator may be liable for intentional killing or negligent homicide.
- There are two main institutions that collect or analyse relevant data for the identification of femicide, namely family-related femicide.
- EIGE has gathered data on homicide and intimate partner femicide for 2014 to 2018; however, data may be available in

Greece for other years. Available data includes information about the characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator.

- According to the Observatory of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, which is the national coordinator of data collection on domestic violence, the Hellenic Police has implemented improvements regarding the information system since 2019. In 2019, the observatory launched its first report on violence against women <sup>(17)</sup>.

## Recommendations

The collection of accurate and comparable data on femicide by the police and justice sectors across Member States helps to increase knowledge and improve responses to prevent femicide <sup>(18)</sup>. It is therefore important to:

- develop a femicide definition for statistical data collection, in order to reflect the specific circumstances relating to the killing of women;
- implement a process of continuous data collection;
- establish comprehensive data collection, adding variables that are important for detecting key aspects of femicide, such as those describing the context and the circumstances of the killing, the gender-related motivation, and the

victim and perpetrator characteristics, in order to systematise and harmonise the collection of data for statistical use;

- cross-reference the variables of the victim and those of the perpetrator, and analyse them using an intersectional approach;
- ensure that the gender dimension of homicide data is made visible.

### Recommendations for data collection on femicide in Greece

To populate EIGE's indicator on femicide (indicator 9) and to improve understanding of intimate partner femicide, it is recommended that data on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator be disaggregated <sup>(19)</sup>.

This factsheet is based on information from EIGE's study 'Advancing administrative data collection on intimate partner violence and gender-related killings of women' (2021) and has been prepared by the Alternative and Response Women's Association (UMAR). For more information, visit <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/femicide>.

<sup>(17)</sup> Observatory of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (2019), 'Gender-based violence', E-bulletin, No 23 (<http://www.isotita.gr/en/observatory-e-bulletin-no-23-gender-based-violence/>).

<sup>(18)</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2018), *Recommendations to improve data collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors – Greece*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Recommendations for the EU to improve data collection on violence against women*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2021), *EIGE's indicators on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide: Recommendations to improve data quality, availability and comparability*, EIGE, Vilnius.

<sup>(19)</sup> Indicator 9 of the Gender Statistics Database ([https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio\\_int\\_adm\\_ipv\\_\\_ipv\\_indic\\_9/metadata](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv__ipv_indic_9/metadata)).

### European Institute for Gender Equality

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

© European Institute for Gender Equality, 2021

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.



European Institute for Gender Equality  
Gedimino pr. 16  
LT-01103 Vilnius  
Lithuania

### Contact details

<http://eige.europa.eu/>  
[facebook.com/eige.europa.eu](https://www.facebook.com/eige.europa.eu)  
[twitter.com/eurogender](https://twitter.com/eurogender)  
[youtube.com/user/eurogender](https://www.youtube.com/user/eurogender)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eige>  
[eige.sec@eige.europa.eu](mailto:eige.sec@eige.europa.eu)  
+370 52157444  
<https://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/>



Publications Office  
of the European Union