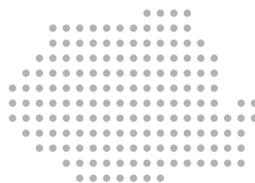


Romania

Women in decision-making: **0.14/5**
Socio-economic position of women: **1.78/5**
Violence against women: **1.25/5**



UNDERSTANDING ROMANIA

The representation of women in decision-making in Romania is poor. In terms of political decision-making, 2 parties have a 30% voluntary quota rule for their electoral lists. Still, women are only 11% of members of parliament, well below the EU average of 25%.

Romania has one of the lowest general employment rates in the EU, at 58.5%, as well as one of the lowest unemployment rates. 52% of women aged 15–64 are employed and 6.8% are unemployed. The remainder are “inactive”, or working in vulnerable positions in the informal economy. Although there is little apparent gender gap in the proportions of women and men working full-time and a comparatively low gender pay gap (12.5%), women’s economic vulnerability is evident in the fact that twice as many women as men over 65 are at risk of poverty.

A very low 8% of infants under 3 are in formal childcare. Between 3 and school-age the figure is slightly better at 66%. Regarding dependent elderly persons, only 23% receive formal care. A massive 92.5% of those women with care responsibilities who are not employed or who work part-time say they do so due to lack of care services. This is by far the highest proportion of any EU country, the next highest figure being 68.6% in Greece.

Only 68% of Romanians consider violence against women unacceptable and think it should always be punishable by law, one of the lowest proportions in any EU country.¹ According to the National Agency for Family Protection, over 12,000 cases of domestic violence were registered in 2009, representing an increase of 8% from 2008 and 41.81% compared to 2007. The vast majority of victims are women. The existing legislation regarding domestic violence is very weak. Across the country, there are places in shelters for only 4.46% of victims.

TRENDS:



No positive developments are reported over the period studied (2009–2012).



Institutional mechanisms for gender equality have recently been weakened in Romania. In 2010, the government abolished the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. The National Agency for Family Protection was also abolished. For this reason, there is no data regarding domestic violence available from 2010 onwards for example.

In April 2012, a parliamentary bill was put forward to restrict access to abortion. The law would require women wanting to undergo an abortion to attend psychological counseling sessions. The sessions would involve showing women the procedure of abortion (most likely in video format). The woman would also have to “reflect” for a five-day interval before the procedure takes place. The debate is ongoing.

Highlights

11%

women in parliament and 10% senior ministers

12.5%

gender pay gap

13.9%

gender gap in full-time employment rates

20.7%

of women over 65 are at risk of poverty

8%

of infants under 3 are in formal childcare

18 weeks

maternity leave at 85% pay

Abortion available on demand but not covered by health insurance

¹ Special Eurobarometer 344 - 2010