



Gender-Sensitive Parliaments Online Tool

Background

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has developed **an online Tool to collect data to measure the gender-sensitivity of a political institution in terms of their structures and processes**. Considering a range of key criteria, EIGE's online Tool offers a way to assess and monitor gender equality in parliaments over time.

The Tool consists of five areas of assessment called Operational Criteria (OC):

- 1) Women and men have equal OPPORTUNITIES to enter the parliament
- 2) Women and men have equal opportunities to INFLUENCE the parliament
- 3) Women's interests and concerns have adequate SPACE on parliamentary agenda
- 4) The parliament produces gender-sensitive LEGISLATION
- 5) The parliament's SYMBOLIC function

Each section is further divided into different Domains with indicators, and questions.

The Tool is designed as a self-assessment exercise for parliaments; it supports the assessment of the gender-sensitivity of elected bodies at local, regional, national, and European level through the analysis of the presence, role and positions of women and men across the organisation. Furthermore, the data concern how procedures and outputs of the assembly respect and promote gender equality.

All internal staff, including administrative staff and elected members, can benefit from the assessment, which highlights areas in which gender equality can be improved. The users of the '*National Parliaments*' and the '*Regional Parliaments*' versions of the Tool include – but are not limited to - parliament speakers, dedicated gender equality bodies, women's caucuses, political parties and other stakeholders who have the power and interest to foster a greater participation of women in political decision-making and the implementation of a gender-sensitive parliament. They can also use this tool to carry out regular self-assessments, to monitor changes in gender-sensitivity over time. Indicators included in the tool have been

selected because they allow measuring changes in policies and interventions that can enhance gender equality in the parliament's work and outputs.

Other target groups that may find the Tool useful include civil society organisations that use this Tool to support their awareness raising and lobby activities regarding gender equality in parliaments and within political parties. In addition, academic researchers and scholars interested in the topic of parliament gender-sensitivity can use the '*General*' tool for case studies on parliaments and as research material on gender and politics, and gender and institutional transformation. The external actors will not assess all the indicators included into the parliaments' versions, since some of the questions require internal assessment within the parliaments. Similarly, the Regional version has fewer questions than the National version, excluding state level matters.

EIGE worked together with a few Parliaments (Estonia, Greece, Slovenia, Canary Islands and Extremadura in Spain) to test the Tool and is now ready to present it to wider audiences. **The tool will be officially launched during Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit, which takes place in Vilnius on 6-8 June 2018.**

Before the official launch, a workshop for representatives of all interested EU MS parliaments (national or regional) is organised. The workshop will also provide the opportunity to discuss challenges related to data collection, and ways to use the results for advancing gender equality in political decision-making.