



























6. Politics and institutions¹

In the Politics and Institutions domain, there has been a widespread improvement in indicators, both in the last year and compared to 2010 (Table 1).

Trust in Italian Parliament, in judicial system and in political parties is improving, although the level remains very low; trust in police and fire brigade remains high, but stable in the last year. Progress continues, but at a low rate, regarding the presence of women in top positions: in Parliament, in Regional Councils and in boards of companies. The few negative signs concern participation in the European Parliament elections, which has been declining since 2004. The 56.1% of the population aged 18 years and over voted in the 2019 European elections, compared to 58.7% in 2014 and 66.5% in 2009. The prisons' density is also worsening, and has been growing again since 2016.

Table 1. Politics and institutions indicators: value for the latest available year. Percentage variations on the previous year and on 2010

INDICATOR	Latest available year value	% variation (compared with the previous year)	% variation (compared with 2010)
1. Voter turnout (% , 2019) (a)	56.1		
2. Trust in the parliament (average rating, 2018) (b)	3.8		
3. Trust in judicial system (average rating, 2018) (b)	4.4		
4. Trust in political parties (average rating, 2018) (b)	2.7		
5. Trust in police and fire brigade (average rating, 2018) (c)	7.3		
6. Women and political representation in Parliament (% , 2018) (d)	35.4		
7. Women and political representation at regional level (% , 2019) (c)	21.1		
8. Women in decision-making bodies (% , 2019) (e)	16.8		
9. Women in the boards of companies listed in stock exchange (% , 2019)	36.4		
10. Mean age of members of Parliament (years, 2018) (f)	47.6		—
11. Length of civil proceedings (days, 2018) (c)	429.0		
12. Prison density (prisoners per 100 places, 2018)	117.9		

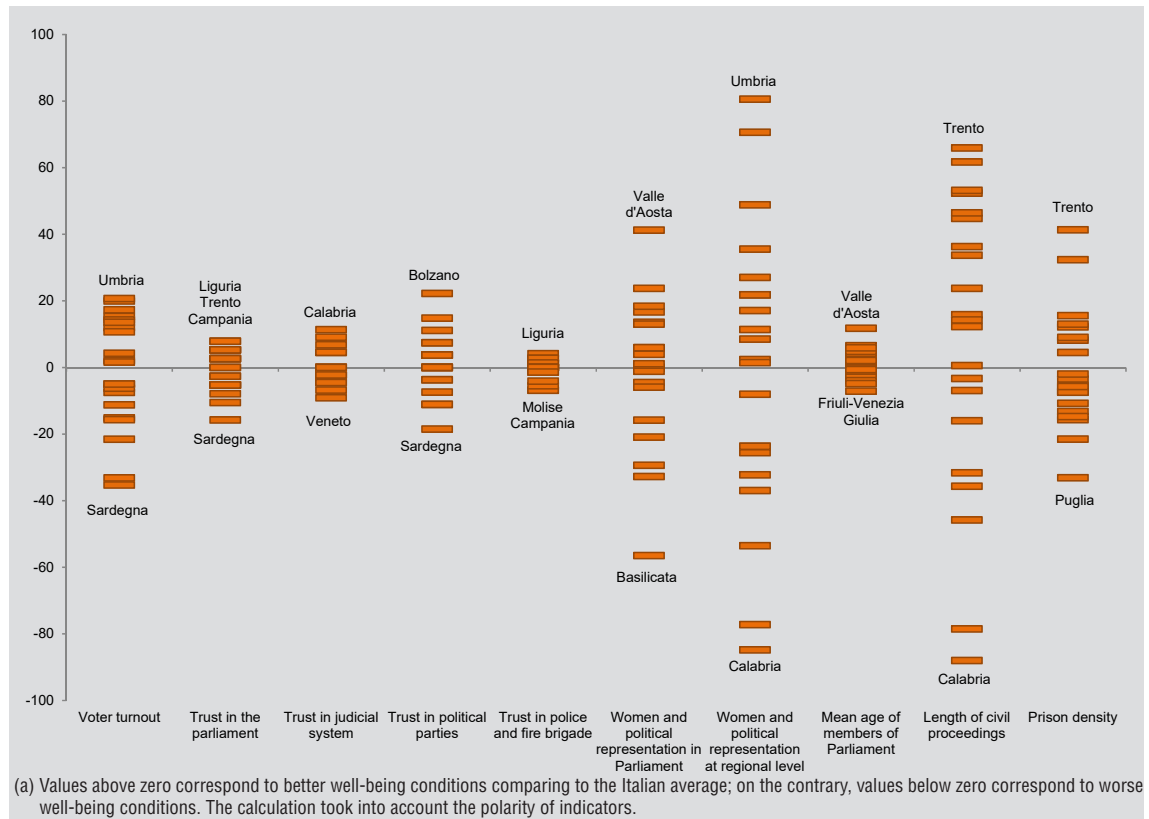
 Improvement
  Stability
  Deterioration
 — Comparison not

(a) 2010 data not available, variation based on 2009; previous year = 20
 (b) 2010 data not available, variation based on 20
 (c) 2010 data not available, variation based on 20
 (d) 2010 data not available, variation based on 2008, previous year = 20
 (e) 2010 data not available, variation based on 20
 (f) Previous year = 2014;

Note: Variations between two points in time above 1% are considered positive (in green), below -1% are considered negative (in red). Variations between -1 and +1% refer to stability (in grey).

¹ This chapter was edited by Barbara Baldazzi with contributions from Miria Savioli.

Figure 1. Percentage variation for Politics and institutions indicators comparing to the value for Italy by region. Latest available year (a)



The indicators show heterogeneity between regions (Figure 1).

The most homogeneous indicators on the territory are those on trust, calculated as an average of the declared score between 0 and 10, which record low values, for trust in both political parties and Italian Parliament (Italian average equal, respectively, to 2.7 and 3.8), and in judicial system (4.4). The indicator on the average age of the elected to the Italian Parliament in the regional constituencies also shows modest variations between regions, with the lowest average age in Valle d'Aosta (42 years) and the highest in Friuli-Venezia Giulia (51 years).

A greater dispersion is recorded for the participation in the elections to the European Parliament: in Sardegna and Sicilia the turnout was, respectively, 36.3% and 37.5%, while in Umbria and Emilia-Romagna over 67%.

There is an even greater dispersion with respect to the presence of women in Parliament (only 15.4% of women elected in Basilicata while the percentage is over 40% in Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige, Sicilia, Calabria, Puglia and Lazio) and, even more clearly, with respect to the presence of women in Regional Councils. Comparing to the national average of elected women (21.1%) Calabria, Basilicata e Puglia records the lowest proportions of women in Regional Councils (3.2%, 4.8% and 9.8% respectively). The share of women in the Regional Councils in Umbria, Emilia-Romagna and Lazio, on the other hand, exceeds 30% (38.1%, 36% and 31.4% respectively).

The effective average duration of civil proceedings varies greatly in the territory: while in Italy the average duration is 429 days, in Calabria it is almost twice as long (806 days), while in Valle d'Aosta and in the province of Trento it is less than half as much (164 and 146 days).

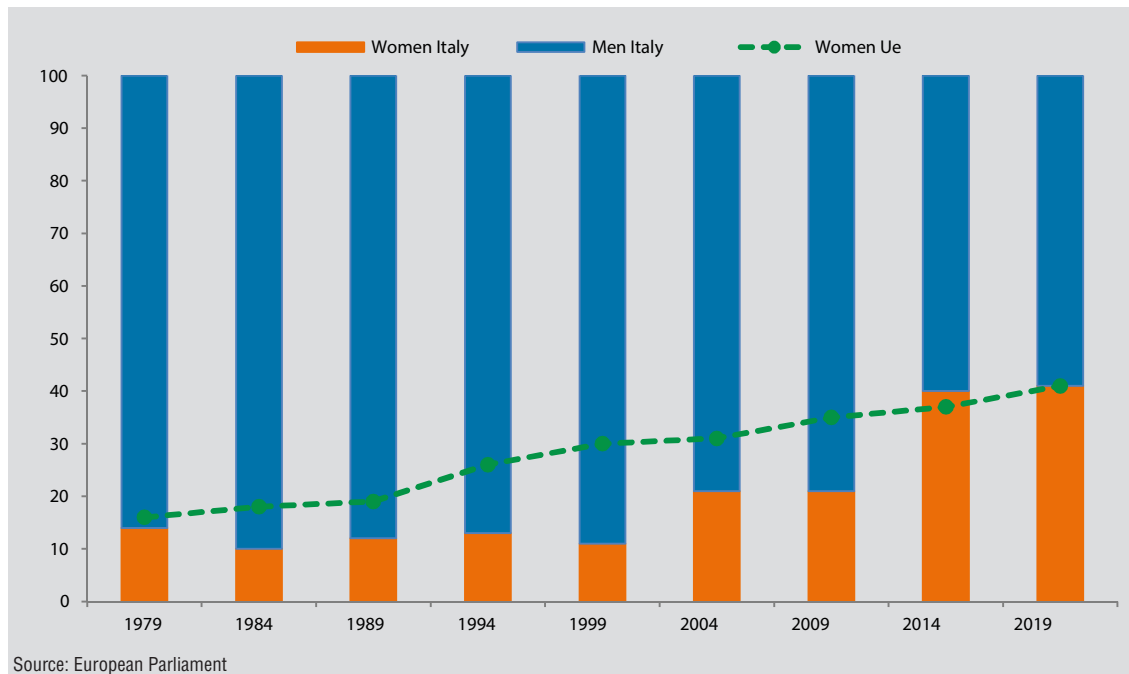
The analysis of the indicators as a whole shows that Sardegna and Calabria have fallen back significantly, having the lowest values in almost all indicators.

International comparison

The 2019 European elections were characterised by an increase in electoral participation in the total number of Eu countries: the average European turnout increased by 8 percentage points, from 42.6% to 50.6%. Among the 6 founding countries of the EU, participation in Belgium and Luxembourg remained high (88.5% and 84.2%), while significant increases were recorded in Germany (61.4%, 13 points higher than in previous elections), France (50.1%, +8 percentage points) and the Netherlands (41.9%, +4 percentage points). In Italy, on the other hand, the turnout decreased from 58.7% in 2014 to 56.1% in 2019 (58% of males and 54.3% of females voted). In Denmark, Spain and Malta, over 60% of eligible voters went to vote; in Greece, Sweden, Austria, Lithuania and Romania over 50%. In Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia and Croatia the voter turnout was less than 30%.

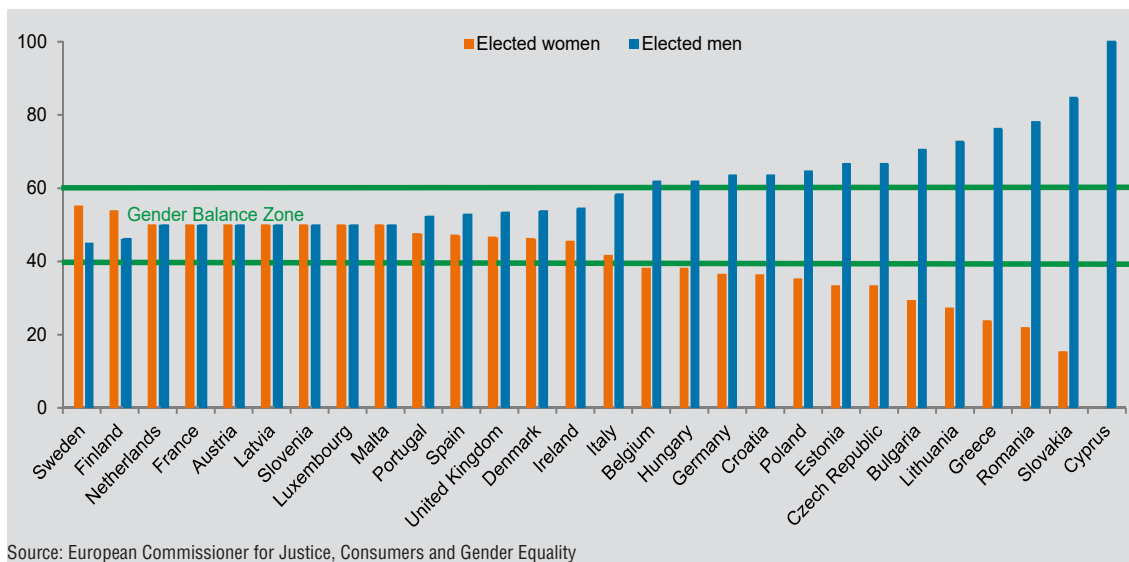
The representation of women in the European Parliament is stable: in 2019, 40.7% of those elected were women. The Italian female representation in the European Parliament is, instead, growing: 41.7%, almost twice as much as ten years before (it was 21% in 2009 - Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of women and men elected to the European Parliament out of the total elected in Italy and the Eu28. Years 1979-2019



In 15 European nations the proportion of women elected in the European Parliament was over 40%, reaching the Gender Balance Zone, set as a percentage of women elected between 40% and 60%. In Sweden and Finland, women account for more than 50% of those elected; in the Netherlands, France, Austria, Latvia, Slovenia, Luxembourg and Malta, gender equality is 50%; and finally, in Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and Italy, the proportion of women varies between 41.7% and 47.6% (Figure 3).

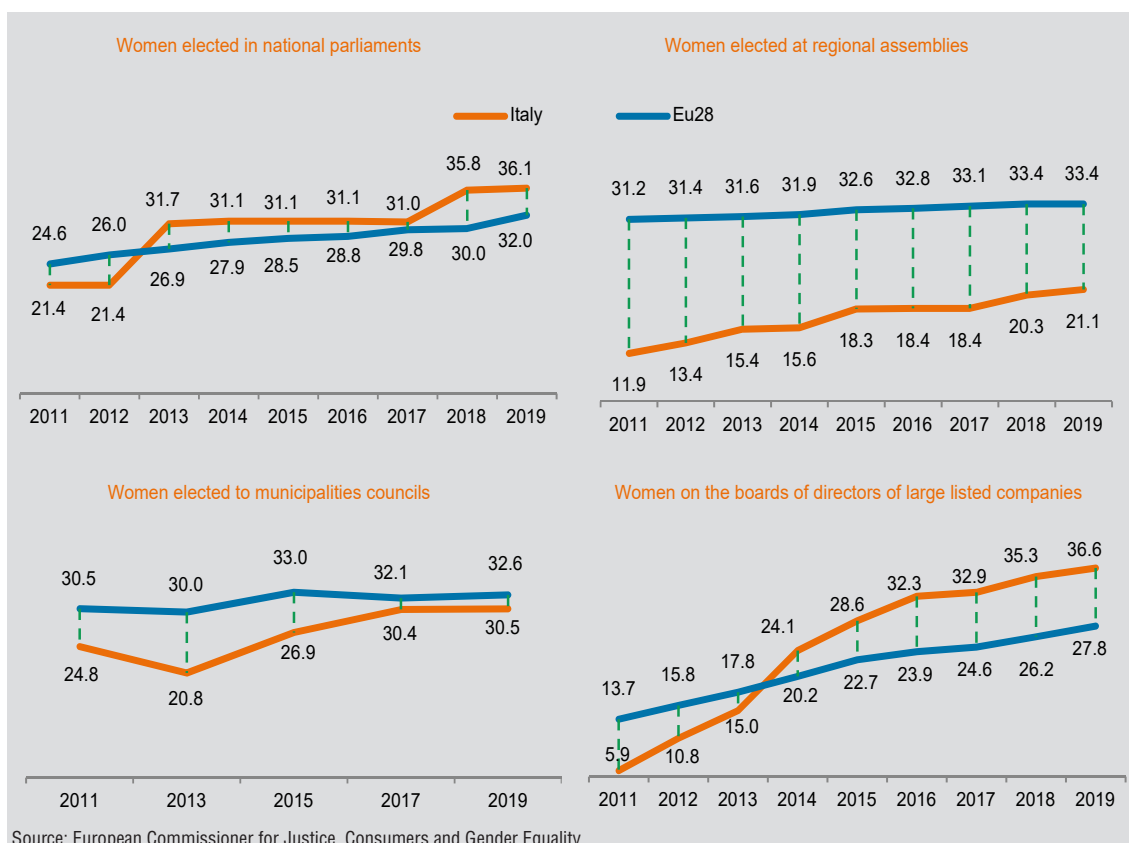
Figura 3. Percentage of women and men elected to the European Parliament out of the total number of elected members per country. Year 2019



Source: European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Examining other decisional and political institutions at national and European level, a slow but steady increase in the presence of women in Italy, as in Europe, emerges, even if the pace of the increase does not seem to be enough to reach, in a short time, the Gender Balance Zone (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Percentage of women elected in National Parliaments, Regional Assemblies, European Parliament and large listed companies in Italy and the Eu28. Years 2011-2019



Source: European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

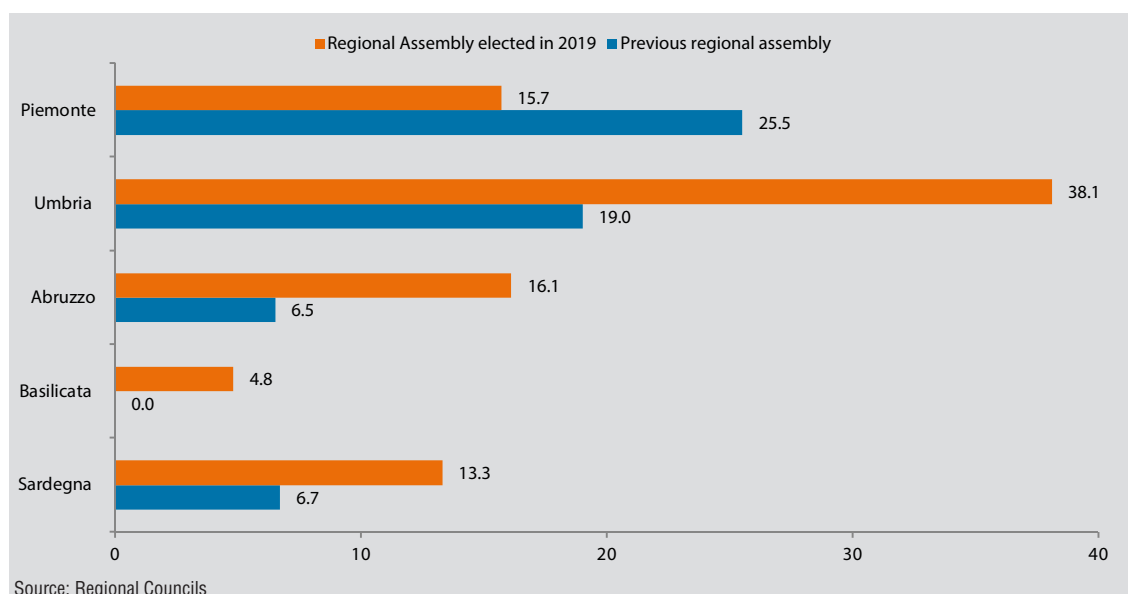
The 2018 general elections saw an increase in the presence of women in the Italian Parliament (35.8%, against 31% in the previous legislature). In the boards of directors of large listed companies, the positive trend that started in 2013-2014 is strengthening: for Italy in 2019, in the boards of directors, 1 every 3 members is a woman, compared to 27.8% of the European average. In the Municipal Councils, the 30.5% of those elected is a woman. The presence of women in regional assemblies remains low, although it shows a continuous trend of increase.

Analysis of national data

The presence of women in Regional Councils is increasing, but not in all regions

Five regional elections were held in 2019. In 4 out of 5 regions, the percentage of women elected increased: in Basilicata, 1 female regional councillor (4.8% of the total number of councillors); in Sardegna the percentage of women doubled, from 6.7% to 13.3%; in Abruzzo it went from 6.5% to 16.1% and in Umbria from 19% to 38.1%. The share of elected members decreased only in Piemonte, from 25.5% to 15.7% (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Percentage distribution of women elected to the Regional Councils established in 2019 and comparison with the previous Council



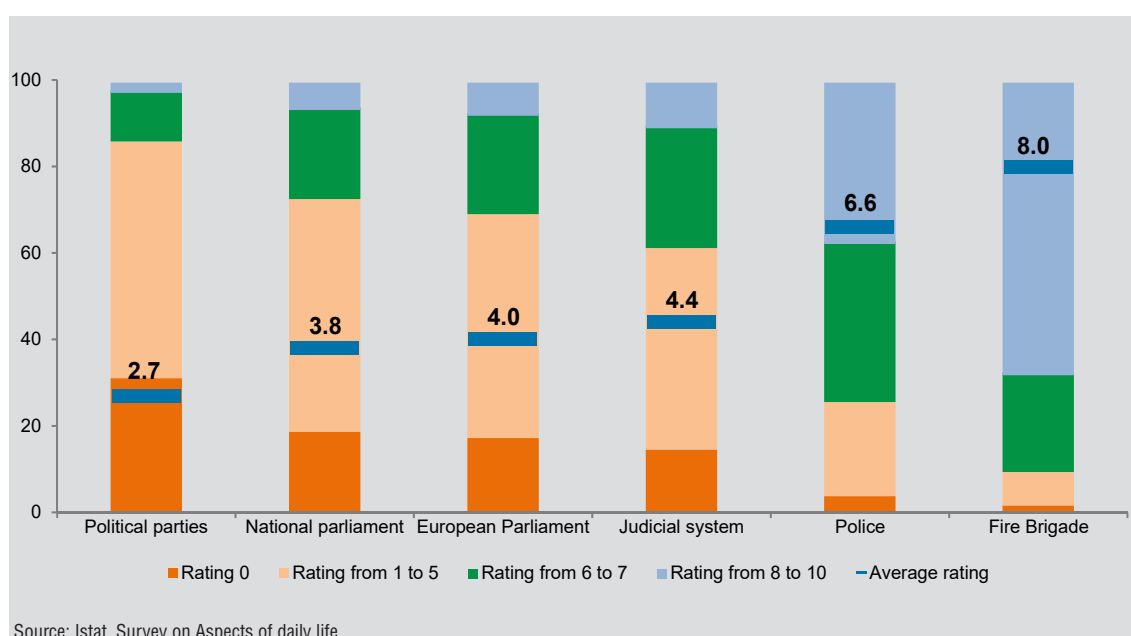
For the total of the Regional Councils, the percentage of women continues to grow, albeit very slowly, from 12.9% in 2012 to 20.3% in 2018 and 21.1% in 2019. In 2019, the proportion of women in position of high responsibility in the Constitutional court, Magistrates' Governing Council, Italian Regulatory authorities (for Communications, Antitrust, Data protection), Embassies, is on average, just over 16%.

Trust in the institutions increases; trust in the political parties is still very low

In 2018, trust in some institutions improved: 38% citizens aged 14 and over gave a score of at least 6 out of 10 to the system of justice (35.6% in 2017); 27% to the national Parliament (compared to 22.2% in 2017) and only 14% to the political parties (10.9% in 2017). The average vote, therefore, remains below 6: 4.4 for the system of justice, 3.8 for the national parliament and 2.7 for the political parties. In 2018, the year preceding the European elections, the European Parliament received a positive assessment from 30.4% of citizens, with an average vote of trust of 4 out of 10.

Higher levels of trust were expressed for the police, with 73.1% of sufficient ratings and an average vote of 6.6, and for the fire brigade, with 89% of sufficient ratings and an average vote of 8.

Figure 6. People aged 14 and over by vote of trust in different institutions. Year 2018



Constant reduction in the average effective duration of civil proceedings

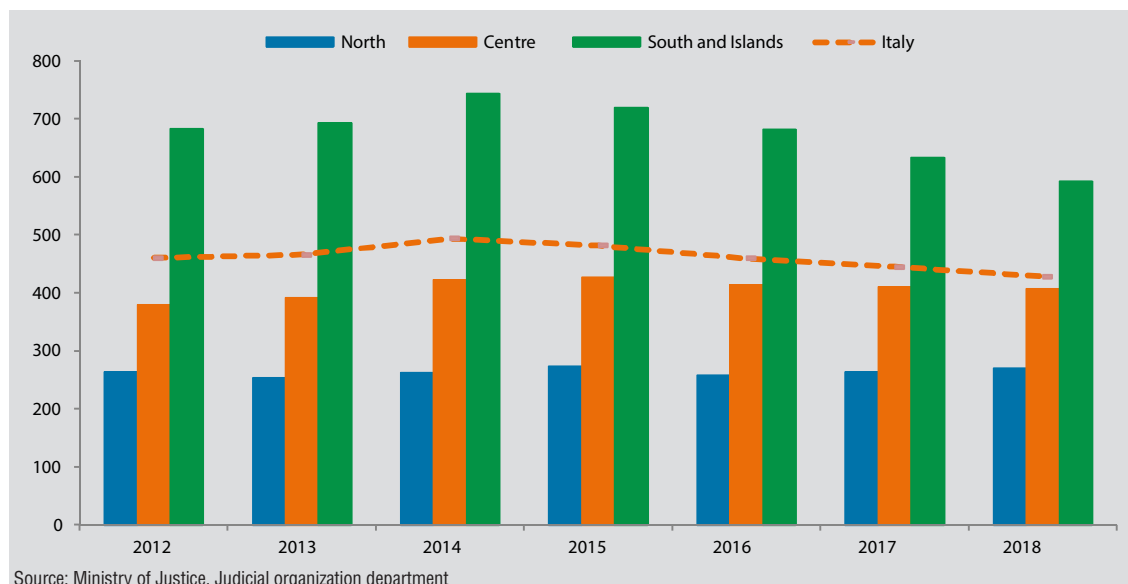
In 2018, the average effective duration of civil proceedings was 429 days. In the South, where the backlog is higher, the duration of civil proceedings is on average 592 days (a clear decrease, however, compared to 2017: 40 days less), in the North 270 days, in the Centre 407 days (Figure 7).

The regions where proceedings last less on average are the province of Trento (146 days), followed by Valle d'Aosta (164) and Friuli-Venezia Giulia (201); on the other hand, proceedings exceed 700 days in Basilicata (765) and Calabria (806).

Prison population density is still increasing

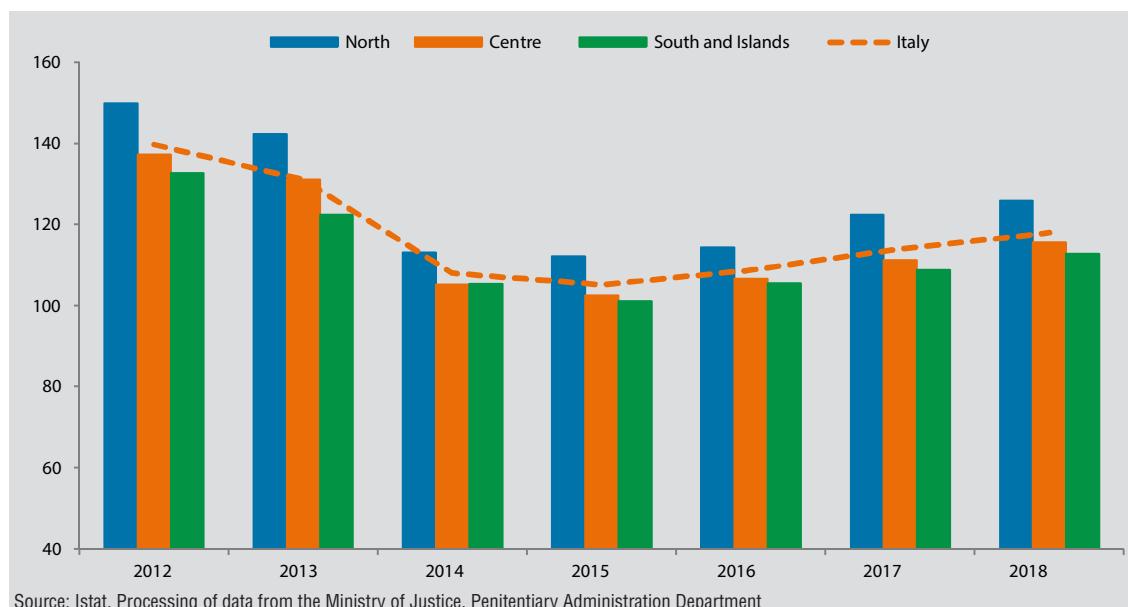
The important progress made between 2012 and 2015 in prison overcrowding has been partially eroded by the worsening occurred in the last three years. In 2018 the overcrowding index reached the level of 117.9 prisoners on the total capacity (it was 105.2 per 100 available places in 2015, Figure 8).

Figure 7. Average effective duration in days of proceedings defined in ordinary courts by geographic area. Years 2012-2018



The situation continues to be more serious in the North (126 prisoners per 100 available places), compared to the Centre (115.7) and the South and Islands (112.9). Only the province of Trento, Sicilia and Sardegna have indexes below 100 prisoners per 100 available places, while Molise and Puglia have values above 140.

Figure 8. Prison population density by geographic area. Years 2012-2018

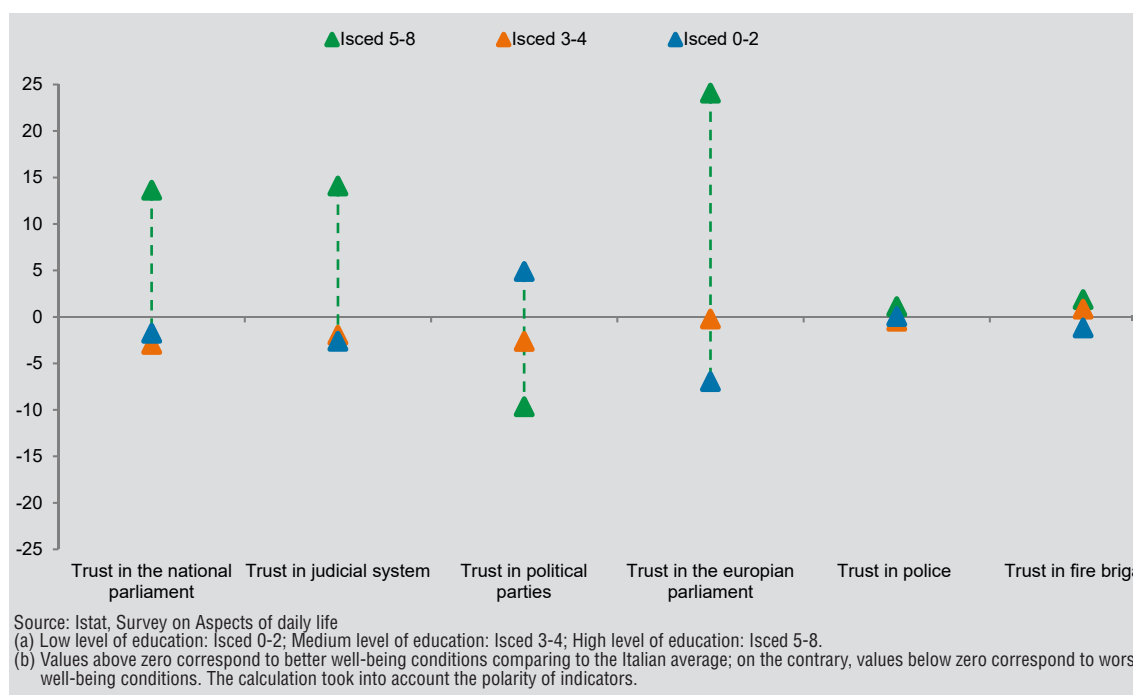


Trust in the institutions is not affected by the educational qualification

Levels of trust do not seem to be affected by the educational attainment. The level of education does not affect the feeling of trust for police and fire brigade. The most educated population shows only marginally higher levels of trust in national and European institutions.

The most marked difference is for trust in the European Parliament: 37.7% of those with a high educational qualification give a mark of at least 6 out of 10 for the European Parliament, compared to 28.3% of those with a low educational qualification. For the political parties, even if no substantial differences emerge, the phenomenon is reversed: 14.6% of the less educated express a positive feeling, against 12.6% of the more educated (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Percentage variation for some Politics and institutions indicators comparing to the value for Italy by level of education. Latest available year (a) (b)



Indicators

- 1. Voter turnout:** Percentage of eligible voter who cast a ballot in the last election for the European Parliament.
Source: Ministry of the Interior.
- 2. Trust in the parliament:** Average score of trust in the Italian Parliament (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by people aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat, Survey on Aspects of daily life.
- 3. Trust in judicial system:** Average score of trust in the judicial system (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by people aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat, Survey on Aspects of daily life.
- 4. Trust in political parties:** Average score of trust in political parties (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by people aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat, Survey on Aspects of daily life.
- 5. Trust in police and fire brigade:** Average score of trust in the police and the fire brigade (on a scale from 0 to 10) expressed by people aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat, Survey on Aspects of daily life.
- 6. Women and political representation in Parliament:** Percentage of women elected in Parliament on total number of MPs.
Source: Istat, processing of data from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.
- 7. Women and political representation at regional level:** Percentage of women elected in regional councils on total number of elected people.
Source: Individual regional councils.
- 8. Women in decision-making bodies:** Percentage of women in position of high responsibility within the following bodies: Constitutional court, Magistrates' Governing Council, Italian Regulatory authorities (for Communications, Antitrust, Data protection), Embassies.
Source: Various.
- 9. Women in the boards of companies listed in stock exchange:** Percentage of women in the board of companies listed in stock exchange.
Source: Consob.
- 10. Mean age of members of Parliament:** Average age of MPs.
Source: Istat, Processing of data from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.
- 11. Length of civil proceedings:** Effective average duration in days of proceedings set up in ordinary courts.
Source: Ministry of Justice, Judicial organization department.
- 12. Prison density:** Percentage of prisoners in penal institutions on the total capacity of penal institutions.
Source: Istat, Processing of data from the Ministry of Justice, Penitentiary Administration Department.

Indicators by region and geographic area

REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	Voter turnout (a)	Trust in the parliament (b)	Trust in judicial system (b)	Trust in political parties (b)	Trust in police and fire brigade (b)	Women and political representation in Parliament (c)
	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
Piemonte	64.7	3.7	4.4	2.6	7.3	35.3
Valle d' Aosta/Vallée d' Aoste	51.9	3.4	4.2	2.4	7.3	50.0
Liguria	58.5	4.1	4.6	2.8	7.6	25.0
Lombardia	64.1	3.9	4.3	2.8	7.3	29.8
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	59.9	3.5	4.4	2.9	7.5	44.4
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>62.8</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>7.4</i>	-
<i>Trento</i>	<i>57.3</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>7.5</i>	-
Veneto	63.7	3.6	4.0	2.7	7.4	33.8
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	57.0	3.9	4.4	2.8	7.5	35.0
Emilia-Romagna	67.3	3.7	4.2	2.7	7.4	35.8
Toscana	65.8	3.9	4.3	2.8	7.4	33.3
Umbria	67.7	4.0	4.3	2.7	7.3	37.5
Marche	62.1	3.8	4.1	2.8	7.3	37.5
Lazio	53.3	4.0	4.4	2.7	7.3	40.2
Abruzzo	52.6	3.6	4.3	2.6	7.3	23.8
Molise	53.3	4.0	4.4	2.9	6.8	40.0
Campania	47.6	4.1	4.8	3.1	6.8	36.8
Puglia	49.8	3.9	4.7	2.9	7.2	41.3
Basilicata	47.3	3.8	4.3	2.7	6.9	15.4
Calabria	44.0	4.0	4.9	3.0	7.0	41.9
Sicilia	37.5	3.6	4.6	2.4	7.3	43.8
Sardegna	36.3	3.2	4.3	2.2	7.2	28.0
North	63.7	3.8	4.3	2.7	7.4	33.0
Centre	59.3	3.9	4.4	2.7	7.3	37.5
South and Islands	44.7	3.8	4.6	2.8	7.1	37.4
Italy	56.1	3.8	4.4	2.7	7.3	35.4

(a) Per 100 eligible persons;

(b) Average trust on a 0-10 scale expressed by persons 14 and over;

(c) Per 100 elected persons;

(d) Percentage of women in the total membership;

(e) Excluding senators and deputies elected in foreign constituencies and senators for life;

(f) Duration in days.

(g) Number of prisoners per 100 available seats as defined by the regulatory capacity.

6. Politics and institutions

Women and political representation at regional level (c)	Women in decision-making bodies (d)	Women in the boards of companies listed in stock exchange (d)	Mean age of members of Parliament (e)	Length of civil proceedings (f)	Prison density (g)
2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018
15.7	-	-	47.8	204	112.6
22.9	-	-	42.0	164	122.1
16.1	-	-	47.3	237	130.7
24.7	-	-	48.6	284	136.4
25.7	-	-	48.2	183	79.1
25.7	-	-	230	126.4
25.7	-	-	146	69.2
21.6	-	-	47.9	361	126.7
14.3	-	-	51.0	201	133.5
36.0	-	-	49.0	273	126.7
26.8	-	-	47.7	368	108.3
38.1	-	-	46.3	458	107.3
19.4	-	-	45.6	376	103.6
31.4	-	-	49.5	426	124.3
16.1	-	-	46.5	327	120.3
28.6	-	-	46.6	443	143.3
23.5	-	-	47.7	582	124.7
9.8	-	-	44.5	625	157.0
4.8	-	-	47.9	765	135.4
3.2	-	-	45.3	806	102.6
21.4	-	-	44.8	564	99.6
13.3	-	-	49.9	497	79.8
22.8	-	-	48.4	270	126.0
28.5	-	-	48.2	407	115.7
15.8	-	-	46.2	592	112.9
21.1	16.8	36.4	47.6	429	117.9