

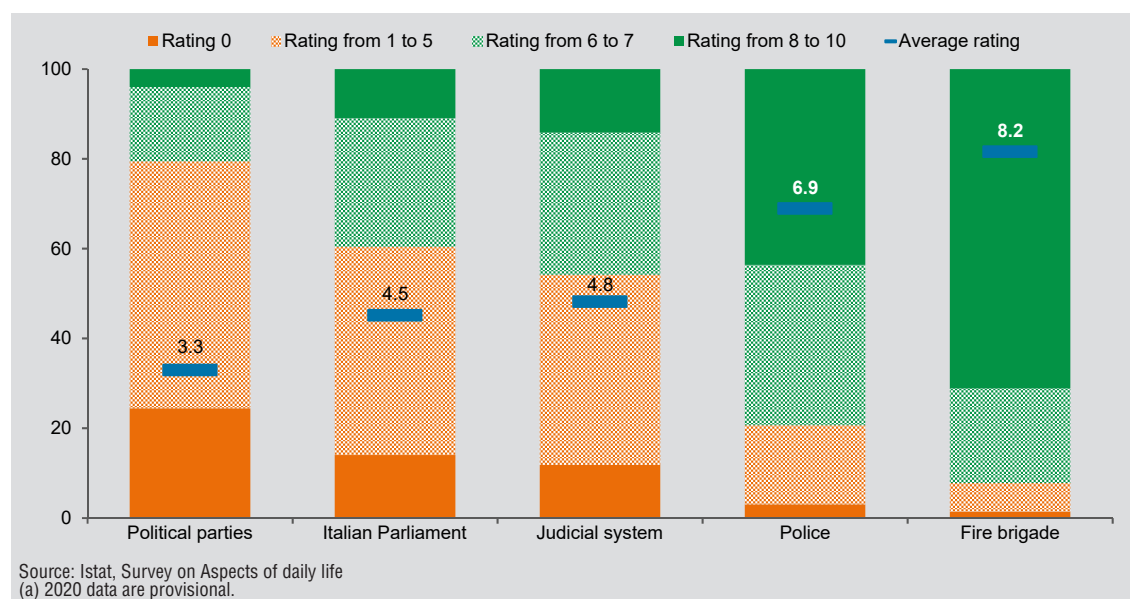
## 6. Politics and institutions<sup>1</sup>

Citizens' trust in institutions, their good functioning and gender equity, foster cooperation and social cohesion and allow for greater efficiency and effectiveness of public policies. The European Commission's 2020-2025 strategy focuses on the greater inclusion of women in all areas, to be implemented with measures aimed at achieving gender equality and combating discrimination even in its most specific manifestations. The presence of women in top positions of political and institutional representation is constantly increasing, although at different speeds depending on the institution. Trust towards institutions, while remaining at very low levels, also shows some signs of improvement since 2018, and in 2020, the year of the start of the pandemic, the positive trend in trust towards parties and the judicial system consolidates. In order to adapt to the measures to contain the pandemic, the judicial and prison systems have had to adopt important organisational changes, which, overcoming the inevitable initial difficulties, have resulted in good practices, which deserve to be maintained and consolidated once the health emergency has passed.

### Trust in institutions keeps growing

In 2020, trust in institutions consolidated the improvements that had begun in 2018: 45.8% of citizens (aged 14 and over) gave a score of at least 6 over 10 to the Judicial system (it was 35.6% in 2017); 39.6% to the National Parliament (it was 22.2% in 2017) and 20.5% to Political Parties (10.9% in 2017). However, the average mark remains below sufficiency: 4.8 to the Judicial system (it was 4.2 in 2017), 4.5 to the National Parliament (it was 3.4) and 3.3 to Political Parties (it was 2.4).

Figure 1. People aged 14 and over by vote of trust in different institutions. Year 2020 (a). Percentage values and average rating



<sup>1</sup> This chapter was edited by Barbara Baldazzi, with contributions from Lorena Di Donatantonio and Franco Turetta.

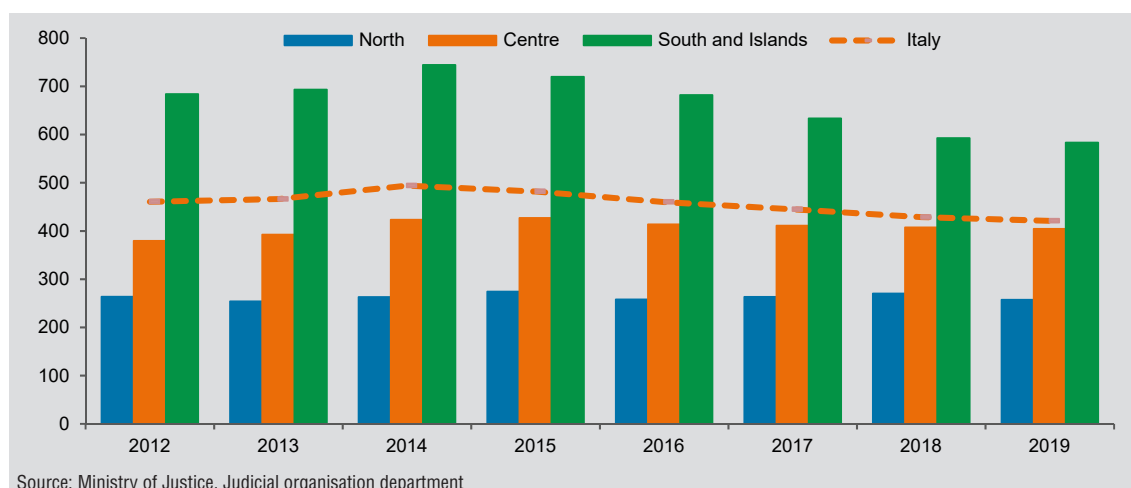
The highest levels of trust continue to be shown in the police force, with 79.4% of scores equal or above 6 and an average score of 6.9, and in the fire brigade, with 92.2% of judgments being sufficient and an average score of 8.2 (Figure 1).

### The judicial system towards telematic transformation

The pandemic has also challenged the efficiency of the justice system, due to the need to adapt judicial proceedings to the rules put in place to fight the spread of the COVID-19, which have made it necessary to experiment methods other than the usual in-person ones. After the initial bewilderment and substantial stoppage of activities, the justice system is putting in place methods, rules, implementation directives and tools to be able to carry out distance proceedings, introducing, where possible, remote activities of lawyers and clerks for civil and criminal hearings. As in all other institutional, labour and social fields, the pandemic has imposed an acceleration in technological and organisational choices. In the judicial sphere, this has translated into an increasing use of telematic processes.

In the third quarter of 2020, the Ministry of Justice estimates a growth by 1.3% in civil proceedings pending in the SICID<sup>2</sup> Area, with the inevitable increase in the volume of the 'pathological' civil backlog (proceedings lasting more than three years in civil courts), which had been steadily decreasing over the last ten years. The actual average duration of civil proceedings could therefore be affected by the higher number of pending backlogs, especially if these backlogs are concentrated in areas of the country where their accumulation is already higher and the average duration of proceedings is longer. In 2019, in fact, the actual average duration of civil proceedings was 421 days in the national territory, 583 days in the South and Islands, 404 days in the Centre and 257 days in the North (Figure 2). The regions where proceedings, on average, last less are Valle d'Aosta (136 days), the Autonomous Province of Trento (148 days) and Friuli-Venezia Giulia (193); by contrast, proceedings exceed 700 days in Basilicata (760) and Calabria (755), the latter, however, in sharp decline compared to 2018, with 51 days less.

Figure 2. Average effective duration in days of proceedings defined in ordinary courts by geographic area. Years 2012-2019. Average duration in days



2 Disputes, labour, family and voluntary jurisdiction. See: [https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/it/mg\\_1\\_14\\_1.page?contentId=SST1287132&previousPage=mg\\_2\\_9\\_13](https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/it/mg_1_14_1.page?contentId=SST1287132&previousPage=mg_2_9_13).

### Prison population density decreases in the year of the pandemic

At the end of December 2019, the prison density index in Italy had reached very high levels, with 119.9 inmates per 100 available places. In 2020, penal institutions were also inevitably impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and responses were not without controversy. The “Cura Italia” decree of March 2020 introduced measures to contain the infection and reduce crowding, allowing a substantial proportion of inmates to serve the last part of their sentences in home detention. At the end of December 2020, with the number of inmates in penal institutions having fallen to 53,364, the crowding index fell to 105.5 occupied places per 100 (Figure 3). The situation continues to be more serious, overall, in the North (114.4 inmates per 100 places), compared to the Centre (106.2) and the South and Islands (98.2). The highest criticalities, on a regional scale, concern Puglia (130.3), Molise (129.5), Friuli-Venezia Giulia (128.8), Lombardia (123.8) and Liguria (120.7). The number of places occupied is well below 100 in Sicilia (88.9), Sardegna (77) and the Autonomous Province of Trento (70.7).

Figure 3. Prison population density by geographic area. Years 2012-2020. Percentage on the total capacity of penal institutions

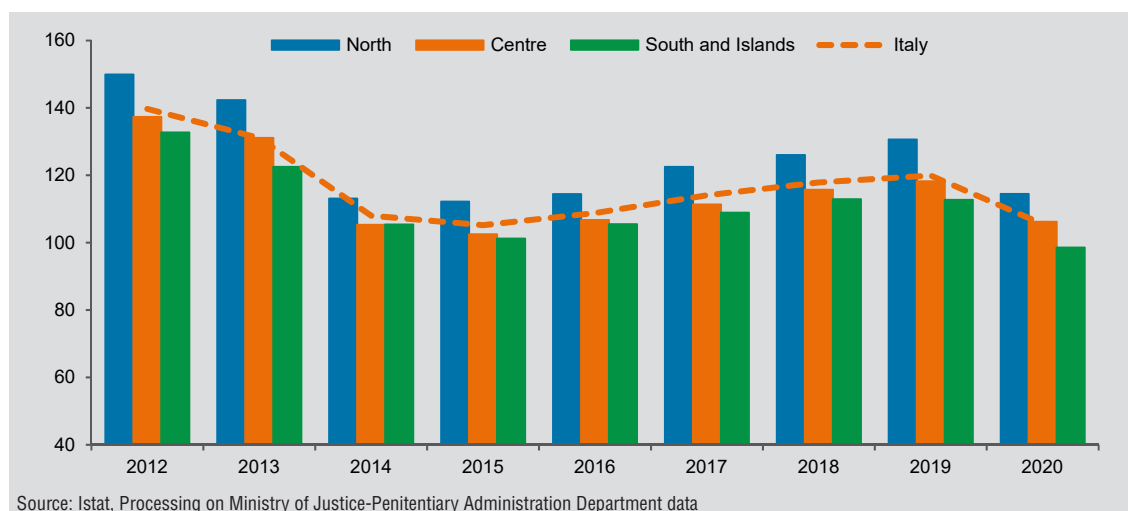
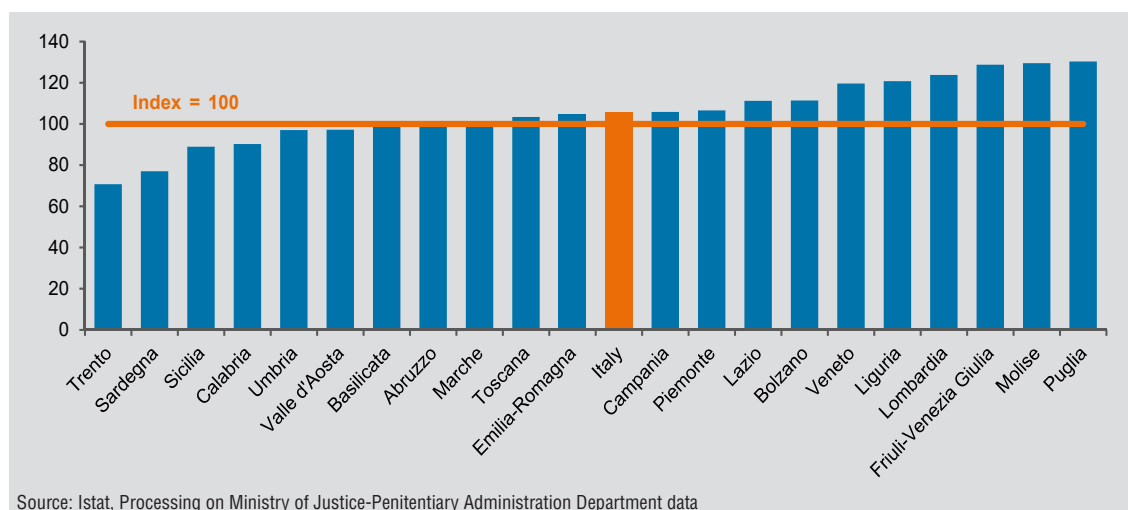


Figure 4. Prison population density by region. Year 2020. Percentage on the total capacity of penal institutions



## The advancement of women into top positions of political and institutional representation is slow

The issue of gender equity is fundamental to the concept of well-being. Measuring it in terms of 'representation' can be seen as a proxy for the status and role of women in society. The European Commission's five-year strategy 2020-2025<sup>3</sup> states that "More inclusion and more diversity is essential to bring forward new ideas and innovative approaches that better serve a dynamic and flourishing EU society. (...) Gender equality is a core value of the European Union, a fundamental right and a key principle of the European pillar of social rights". The actions of the strategy will be twofold: on the one hand, targeted measures aimed at achieving gender equality, and on the other hand, greater integration of the gender dimension with other individual characteristics<sup>4</sup>. Their implementation will also be monitored on the basis of the annual EU Gender Equality Index. For Italy, the annual EU Gender Equality Index reached 63.5 points out of 100 in 2018, putting our country in 14<sup>th</sup> place in the EU, 4.4 points below the EU average. Since 2010, Italy's index has increased by 10.2 points, demonstrating a progress towards gender equality at a faster pace than other Member States, although the road to equality is still long<sup>5</sup>. While progress has been rapid and sustained in some areas of society and the economy, in others, such as political and institutional representation, there are still too few women in leadership or top positions.

In the European Parliament, women's representation is steadily above 30%: in 2020, 39.3% of those elected are women. The Italian women's delegation in the European Parliament, after growing rapidly during the 2014 elections, is close to 40%, almost double the figure of ten years earlier (around 22% in 2011 - Figure 5). A slow but steady increase in the presence of women emerges in Italian decision-making and political institutions at national level. Thanks in part to regulatory interventions on the composition of lists and preferences expressed during the vote<sup>6</sup>, the quota of 1 woman every 3 delegates has been exceeded in the national Parliament.

However, the presence of women in Regional Councils is still low and uneven across the territory. The Regional Councils renewed in 2020 brought the share of women elected to a total of 22%, continuing on a very slow path towards gender equality, with the share of councillors increasing by only 1 percentage point per year. In 2020, female representation in Regional Councils increased in Veneto from 21.6% to 35.3%, in Toscana from 26.8% to 35%, in Marche from 19.4% to 29%, in Calabria from 3.2% to 9.7%, in Liguria from 16.1% to 19.4% and in Puglia from 9.8% to 13.7%. It decreased in Campania from 23.5% to 15.7%, in Emilia-Romagna from 36% to 32% and in Valle d'Aosta from 22.9% to 11.4% (Figure 6). The highest number of elected women is to be found in the central regions (32.9%), followed, at a considerable distance, by the regions of the North (23.2%) and those of the South and Islands (15.8%).

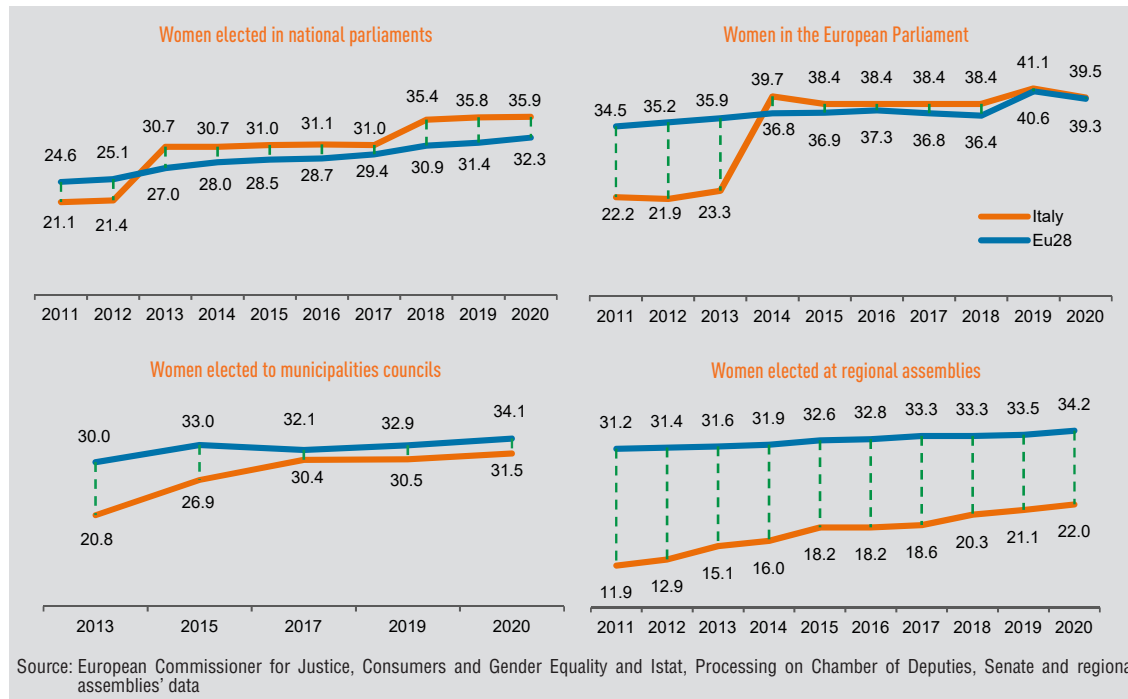
3 See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN>.

4 Gender mainstreaming is implemented through the cross-cutting principle of intersectionality, i.e. an "analytical tool for studying, understanding and responding to the ways in which sex and gender intersect with other personal characteristics/identities, and how these intersections contribute to unique experiences of discrimination" (See: <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1263>).

5 See: <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-equality-index-2020-digitalisation-and-future-work>.

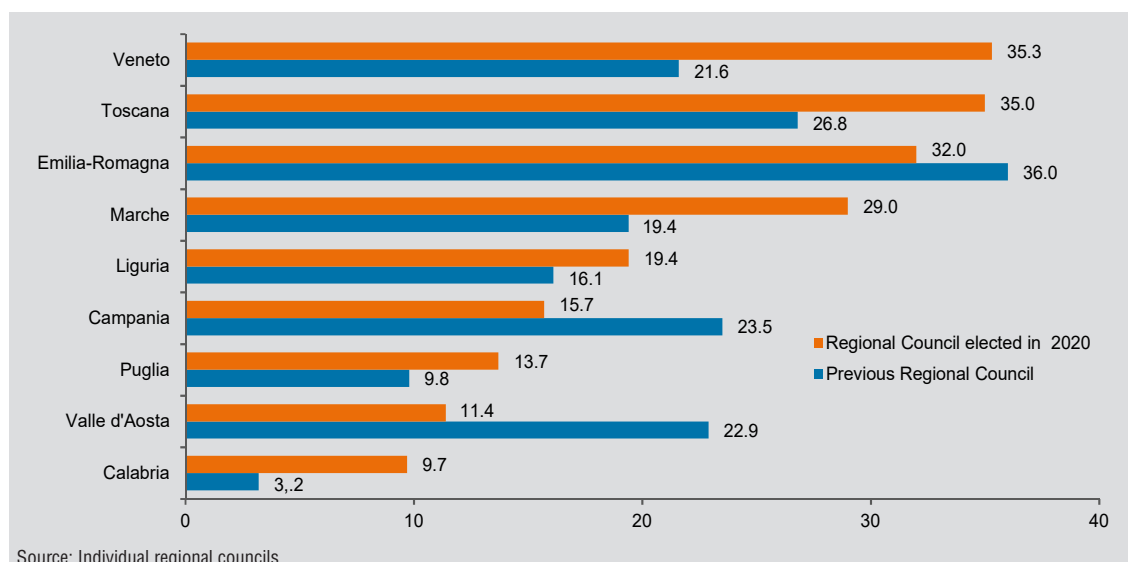
6 The following have contributed: law 215/2012 on the rebalancing of gender representation in the councils and boards of local authorities and regional councils and on equal opportunities in the composition of competition commissions in public administrations; Presidential Decree No. 251 of 2012 on equal access to administrative and control bodies in companies controlled by public administrations; law 65/2014 on elections to the European Parliament and law 56/2014 for local governments and subsequent additions such as law 20/2016 and decree law 86/2020.

Figure 5. Percentage of women elected in National Parliaments, European Parliament, Municipalities councils and Regional Assemblies in Italy and the Eu28. Years 2011-2020



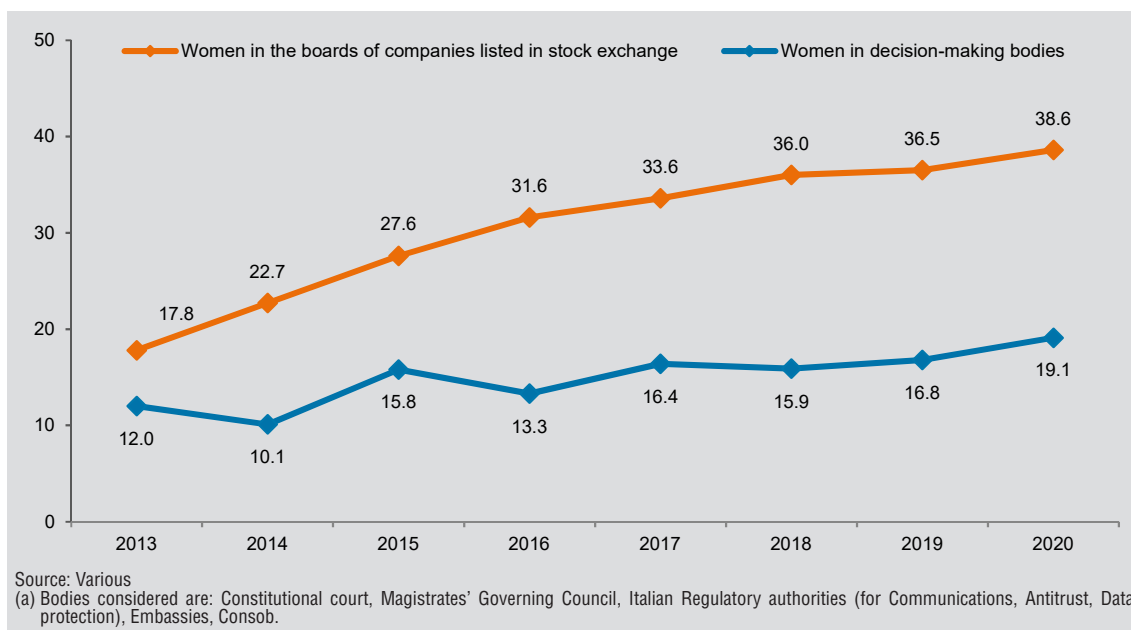
Insufficient female representation is not only a problem in politics, however. In general, the number of women in top positions decreases as the importance and political weight of the institution or organisation increases. In institutions such as the Constitutional Court, the Higher Council of the Judiciary, the various authorities (Privacy, Communications, Competition and the Market) and the diplomatic corps, the representation of women is still small, although slowly increasing. In these institutions as a whole, women holding top positions are just 19.1% (in 2013 they were 12%).

Figure 6. Percentage distribution of women elected to the Regional Councils established in 2020 and comparison with the previous Council



On the boards of directors of large listed companies, the positive trend that began in 2013-2014 thanks to the Golfo-Mosca law<sup>7</sup> continues, also thanks to the “extension” to six consecutive terms of office of the law, with an increase in the target proportion of women (from 33% to 40%). In 2020, women account for 38.6% of board members.

**Figure 7. Women in the boards of companies listed in stock exchange and in decision-making bodies (a). Years 2013-2020. Percentage values**



<sup>7</sup> The Golfo-Mosca Law (No. 120/2011) on equal access to the management and control bodies of companies listed on regulated markets imposed a quota reserved for the less represented gender of “at least one third” of the members for “three consecutive mandates”. The 2020 Budget Law (No. 160/2019) amended the legislation by defining as a quota reserved for the less represented gender “at least two-fifths” of the members for “six consecutive mandates”.

## 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 on Chamber of Deputies and Senate data.
- 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 on Chamber of Deputies and Senate data.
- 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 on Ministry of Justice-Penitentiary Administration Department data.

## 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	2020 (*)	2020 (*)	2020 (*)	2020 (*)	2018
Piemonte	64.7	4.5	4.8	3.2	7.7	35.3
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	51.9	4.2	4.8	3.2	7.5	50.0
Liguria	58.5	4.8	5.0	3.5	7.9	25.0
Lombardia	64.1	4.3	4.6	3.2	7.7	29.8
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	59.9	4.3	4.9	3.5	7.7	44.4
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>62.8</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>	-
<i>Trento</i>	<i>57.3</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>7.9</i>	-
Veneto	63.7	4.2	4.7	3.2	7.6	33.8
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	57.0	4.2	4.6	2.9	7.7	35.0
Emilia-Romagna	67.3	4.6	4.8	3.4	7.7	35.8
Toscana	65.8	4.7	5.0	3.5	7.7	33.3
Umbria	67.7	4.7	4.8	3.4	7.6	37.5
Marche	62.1	4.4	4.6	3.3	7.3	37.5
Lazio	53.3	4.6	4.8	3.1	7.4	40.2
Abruzzo	52.6	4.7	4.8	3.3	7.7	23.8
Molise	53.3	4.8	4.7	3.3	7.4	40.0
Campania	47.6	4.8	5.0	3.6	7.0	36.8
Puglia	49.8	4.7	4.9	3.5	7.4	41.3
Basilicata	47.3	4.8	4.9	3.3	7.3	15.4
Calabria	44.0	4.8	5.2	3.6	7.5	41.9
Sicilia	37.5	4.3	4.9	3.1	7.4	43.8
Sardegna	36.3	4.3	4.9	3.0	7.4	28.0
North	63.7	4.4	4.7	3.3	7.7	33.0
Centre	59.3	4.6	4.8	3.3	7.5	37.5
South and Islands	44.7	4.6	5.0	3.4	7.3	37.4
<b>Italy</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>35.4</b>

(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.

(\*) Provisional data.



## 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)
2020	2020	2020	2018	2019	2020
15.7	-	-	47.8	195	106.6
11.4	-	-	42.0	136	97.2
19.4	-	-	47.3	244	120.7
24.7	-	-	48.6	257	123.8
25.7	-	-	48.2	171	77.9
25.7	-	-	....	200	111.4
25.7	-	-	....	148	70.7
35.3	-	-	47.9	328	119.6
14.3	-	-	51.0	193	128.8
32.0	-	-	49.0	300	104.9
35.0	-	-	47.7	375	103.4
38.1	-	-	46.3	483	97.0
29.0	-	-	45.6	326	100.1
31.4	-	-	49.5	423	111.2
16.1	-	-	46.5	341	100.1
28.6	-	-	46.6	422	129.5
15.7	-	-	47.7	567	105.8
13.7	-	-	44.5	627	130.3
4.8	-	-	47.9	760	99.5
9.7	-	-	45.3	755	90.2
21.4	-	-	44.8	567	88.9
13.3	-	-	49.9	492	77.0
23.2	-	-	48.4	257	114.4
32.9	-	-	48.2	404	106.2
15.8	-	-	46.2	583	98.5
<b>22.0</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>105.5</b>