The gender budget aims to assess the differential impact of policies funded by the state budget on women and men in terms of money, services, time, and unpaid work. At the national level, it was introduced experimentally by Article 38-septies of Law 196/2009 and first implemented in the General State Accounts for the year 2016. It is developed according to the methodological guidelines set forth by the decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, jointly with the Minister of Economy and Finance, dated June 16, 2017, and the more detailed criteria identified in the annual circulars of the State General Accounting Office. The relevance of a gender perspective in budget analysis has become even more urgent following the international health crisis in 2020, resulting in significant economic and social consequences for the majority of the population. In this scenario, the risks associated with the widening of existing gender gaps have become evident, with numerous studies highlighting the amplification of these gaps, particularly in the labor market and the increased exposure of women to domestic violence.

The National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2026 serves as a tool to modify the context of the state's gender budget, with a special attention to the programming phase through the definition of a strategic framework for objectives. The current goal of the strategy is to improve the score of the Gender Equality Index by the EIGE, aiming for a 5-point increase by 2026. This improvement is pursued by enhancing the context in five priority areas: employment, income, skills, time, and power.

In this context, the completion of the work for the implementation of the reform outlined in milestone M1C1-110 of Reform 1.13 of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) is also noteworthy. On November 30, 2023, an informative document was transmitted to the Parliament, outlining the reclassification of state budget expenditures promoting gender equality related to the budget law for 2024. Through this process, the integration of a gender perspective (even if not a fully gender mainstreaming) into the budget preparation process from the expenditure side has been initiated, enhancing its potential impact.

The complete version of the Report to Parliament on budget expenditures from a gender perspective and sustainable development goals is available on the website of the State General Accounting Office (https://www.rgs.mef.gov.it/VERSIONE-I/attivita_istituzionali/istituzione_e_gestione_del_bilancio/bilancio_di_previsione/le_spese_del_bilancio_dello_stato_secondo_la_prospettiva_di_genere_e_gli_obiettivi_di_sviluppo_sostenibile/).

The gender budget analyses on the State final account consider both the expenditure and revenue sides and are enriched with a comprehensive set of statistical indicators.

In particular, the gender budget comprises:

- An analysis of the gender gaps in the economy and society;
- An analysis of existing gaps in the personnel of central state
administrations and the Prime Minister's Office;
• A review of the legislation introduced to promote gender equality or address certain known inequalities;
• An analysis of the gender impact of taxation and the main tax policies, as well as some tax benefits;
• A reclassification of the State Budget Final Account expenditures from a gender perspective, along with a summary of sectoral policies implemented by administrations and some insights into off-budget expenses.

It should be noted that not all public policies incur costs for the State budget (e.g., when it concerns regulation policies) or have a comprehensive representation in terms of resource allocation, implementation, and beneficiaries of measures (e.g., those consisting of transfers to other public administrations or funds managed off-budget). This also applies to various policies with the explicit intent of reducing gender gaps, such as regulations related to "pink quotas" (regulation), childcare and early childhood services (under the jurisdiction of municipalities), deductions and income tax reductions (IRPEF) for the "brain drain" or contributions for domestic workers (which do not have a distinct representation in the budget), and the "Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises" – a special section dedicated to female enterprises (which is managed off-budget).

The full version of the Report to Parliament on the Gender Budget 2022 is available on the website of the State General Accounting Office (http://www.rgs.mef.gov.it/VERSIONE-I/attivita_istituzionali/formazione_e_gestione_del_bilancio/rendiconto/bilancio_di_genere/index.html) alongside the review of provisions aimed at reducing gender gaps adopted in Italy from the post-Second World War period up to present (Appendix I), the responses provided by ministries to questionnaires related to personnel policies and sectoral policies from a gender perspective (Appendix II), and the monitored statistical indicators (Appendix III). Some results are also disseminated through the Open Budget App. (http://bilancioaperto.mef.gov.it/landing.html).

Gender equality can be defined as the absence of gender differences in certain dimensions of well-being. The measurement index for gender equality, the Gender Equality Index by the EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality), synthesizes six "domains" (work, money, knowledge, time, power, and health) linked to 31 indicators with the aim of highlighting critical areas for intervention. The EIGE Gender Equality Index for 2021 indicates significant improvements for Italy, which has gained eight positions compared to 2010 and one position compared to 2020, securing the 14th position in the European ranking. However, there are still some critical issues, particularly concerning gaps in the domain of work, where Italy remains last among European countries.

Gaps related to the economy and society
Italy is the country that, from 2010 to the present, has made the greatest progress, gaining eight positions in the index ranking, with an overall increase of 14,9 points. Italy now ranks 14th in the European standings with a score of 68,2 points, compared to the European average of 70,2. However, there are still some critical issues, particularly concerning gaps in the domain of work, where Italy remains last among European countries with a score of 65, showing rather modest progress since 2010. The health domain, with a score of 89,2 points, is the only area where the Italian scores for sub-domains are not lower than those of the EU. For the money domain, Italy’s overall score is 80,3, slightly below the European average of 82,6, with slight improvements since 2010 (+1,4 points). In the knowledge domain, Italy’s score is 60,8, also lower than the European average (63,6), but with significant progress compared to 2010 (+7 points).

For the time domain, Italy’s score is 67,4, lower than the European average of 68,5 but showing improvement compared to 2010. The score for the decision-making power domain in Italy (62,7 points) is higher than the European average (59,1 points). The effects of digitalization on the world of work and its consequences for gender equality are also gaining increasing relevance over the years, especially in light of the deep digital transformations affecting work life.

The number of women accessing the internet daily is increasing, slightly below the rate of men. A significant gender gap is evident in the field of advanced digital skills and participation in education and work paths in sectors related to information and communication technologies, with women still less involved in such activities compared to men.

The 2022 gender budget relies on a rich set of indicators, which have increased to 180 in 2022 compared to the 39 in the first gender budget of 2016. These indicators aim to highlight the various characteristics and different behaviors of men and women concerning numerous phenomena in the economy and society. The indicators are structured according to typical areas of public policy intervention and highlight the main trends as outlined below:

- For the labor market, the female employment rate is at 51,1 percent, an increase from 2021, and has managed to recover the levels of 2019. The gap between the female and male employment rates in Italy is slightly increasing, reaching 18.1 percentage points. In the EU, employed women constitute 65 percent, with a gender employment gap of 9,8 percentage points. The share of women not actively seeking employment is significant, particularly among those aged 15 to 19 (-10,5 percentage points compared to 2021) and living into the Southern regions, where the phenomenon is even more intense. In 2022, the ratio between the employment rate of women aged 25-49 with at least one preschool-aged child (0-5 years) and the employment rate of women aged 25-49 without children is 72.4 percent, a worsening from 2021 (-0,6 percentage points).
In 2022, 23 percent of women (-0.2 percentage points compared to 2021) are hired using tax relief or exemptions, primarily through apprenticeship contracts, tax relief in the South, and the exemption for women under Law No. 92 of 2012 (so-called Fornero Reform). Women with a stable current job (60 months or more) in 2022 are 63.2 percent, slightly decreasing compared to the past; however, the gender gap is narrowing. In 2022, women insecure about their employment are 5.5 percent, a decrease from 2021. Women working part-time have slightly increased in the last year, after a slight decrease recorded between 2020 and 2021. For 52.3 percent of female workers, this is a condition unrequired and not a choice. Involuntary part-time work, along with a higher incidence of low-wage jobs (12.1 percent in 2020), contributes to worsening women's wage levels, as well as the overqualification of employed women compared to their jobs, which is increasing, and the persistent horizontal segmentation of the labor market.

On this last aspect, it appears that women are mainly employed in trade, health, and education, while they are less present in the self-employed compared to men. In 2022, female enterprises in Italy represent 22.2 percent of the total and, compared to male enterprises, are smaller in size, located in the North, and younger. The use of the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises by female businesses has significantly increased in the last year (approximately +22.2 percent); businesswomen and self-employed received funding of around 2,050 million euros.

- For the reconciliation between private and professional life in Italy, between 2015 and 2022, paternity leave days increased from 3 (one of which is mandatory) to 11 (10 of which are mandatory), but there remains a low propensity for fathers to take optional leaves. Although the percentage of male beneficiaries out of the total users of parental leave within the first 12 years of the child's life has increased over the years, the number of fathers taking such leave is lower than that of mothers. Smart working, in 2022, is used as a tool to reconcile private life with family needs and, during the pandemic, has been utilized mainly by women.

In 2022, according to ISTAT estimates, the workload asymmetry in couples continues to disadvantage women, especially in the Southern regions. In the 2020/2021 school year, compared to 2019/2020, the percentage of children enrolled in nurseries increases, while the quota for supplementary childcare services remains unchanged. "Spring sections" are more common in preschools than in nurseries, and the highest percentage associated with state preschools is in the South. Overall, in Southern Italy, there is a slight increase
in places in public and private early childhood services compared to potential beneficiaries (+0.8 percent) and a decrease in advances. Nurseries represent the type of service with the highest absolute expenses, followed by supplementary childcare services and spring sections. User cost-sharing percentages are higher in Northern Italy. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of children aged 0-2 for whom applications for "nursery bonus" enjoyment were accepted increased, as did the overall payments and spending limits set. In 2021, the Temporary Single Allowance for Children was introduced (which also had appropriations and payments in 2022), and in 2022, the Universal Single Allowance for children was introduced.

For the protection of employment, social security, and assistance, the latest income data for 2021 provided by Eurostat indicate an increase in the median income available for Italy. In 2020, the average equivalent disposable income associated with women was increasing and had reached an average of 19.9 thousand euros, including social transfers. In 2021, the same income is 20.7 thousand euros (+800 euros compared to 2020). Furthermore, the gender gap remains significant (around 1,200 euros, increased from the 800 euros of the previous year), partly because social transfers tend to have a more favorable effect for men, who are more actively involved in the labor market.

Eurostat 2021 data on the risk of poverty confirms, as in the past, a higher risk for single-parent families and, in general, families with children. The risk of poverty is also higher for the younger population, and gender gaps disadvantaging women intensify for older age groups. The final Eurostat 2021 data, on the other hand, confirm a higher risk of poverty for single-parent families and, in general, families with children. In 2021, absolute poverty in Italy reached its peak since 2005. Gender gaps do not appear significant; the percentage of women in absolute poverty in 2021 is 9.3 percent (-0.1 percentage points compared to 2020). At the same time, relative poverty has increased. The risk of poverty is also higher for the younger population, and gender gaps disadvantaging women intensify for older age groups. In 2022, absolute poverty in Italy does not show gender gaps; the percentage of women and men in absolute poverty in 2022 is 9.7 percent (+0.6 percentage points compared to 2021). Relative poverty has decreased due to the lowering of the poverty threshold and the differentiated dynamics characterizing consumption distribution.

In 2021, women reporting being in great economic difficulty or living in families with severe material deprivation decreased compared to 2020 and are respectively 9.2 percent and 5.4 percent. There are no significant differences between women
and men living in these conditions. The number of recipients of NASpI (Income Support for Employment) in 2022 has returned to 2019 levels, from 2.754 million beneficiaries to 2.626 million in 2022. In 2022, the average number of days per NASpI beneficiary is 126.

Families receiving the Citizenship Income/Pension (RdC/PdC) for at least one month in 2022 are approximately 1.6 million, a decrease compared to 2021, contrary to the increased average amount. Italian women receive, on average, a pension that is 30,1 percent lower than that of men, but they have a longer life expectancy, contributing to increasing their pension wealth. The gender pension gap in Europe is lower, at 26 percent. Instruments such as "opzione donna" and "Ape sociale donna" aim to anticipate or accompany retirement, but with the introduction of "quota 100," they are less utilized.

- In the field of education and interventions against gender stereotypes, school dropout is still a significant phenomenon. In 2022, girls who drop out of school early are decreasing but still higher than the European average. School dropout affects boys more; in Italy as in Europe, the number of girls dropping out of education is lower than boys. In Italy in 2022, girls and boys in this condition are 9,1 percent and 13,6 percent, respectively, compared to the average of 27 European countries at 8,0 percent and 11,1 percent, respectively.

The skills gap between 15-year-old male and female students has decreased in recent years in both mathematics and science, while it has increased in reading, as noted by the OECD through the international PISA 2018 survey, the latest available. Italian female students score lower in financial literacy. Their results worsen both compared to Italian males and peers from OECD countries. To counter this phenomenon, the Bank of Italy and the Committee for the planning and coordination of financial education activities also organize financial education interventions and courses aimed at reducing the gender gap. In 2022, Italian women graduates aged 30-34 are 33,8 percent, still far from women in the 27 European Union countries, where the average is 48,2 percent.

Female university students enrolled in STEM disciplines are still few, although increasing, while the majority of women earning a PhD are in the STEM field (45,8 percent of female PhDs), an increase from 2020 (+2,6 percent).

Young women graduates employed in 2022 are 72,4 percent, less than men and an increase compared to previous years. The gender gap is stable compared to the last year. The employment of women with a secondary education degree is also increasing. Young women 'NEETS' (not in education, employment, or training) in Italy are decreasing in 2022, in line with 2021, after a two-year increase (2019-2020). Gender gaps
and differences with other European countries persist, where, on average, the phenomenon is less widespread. The migration rate of Italians with tertiary education, aged 25 to 39, has decreased over the years, and Italian women graduates, in 2021, have emigrated less than men. Women accessing the internet daily and using personal computers are increasing, with figures slightly lower than those of men. 20 percent of Italian women claim to possess advanced digital skills, a percentage lower than that of men (25 percent).

- For **participation in economic, political, and administrative decision-making processes**, with the support of relevant regulations, the growth of **female presence in the administration and control bodies of listed companies and unlisted publicly controlled companies** continues. In Italy in 2022, almost all listed companies have mixed leadership, with women representing 42.9 percent of board members. In the IT sector, the decision-making role of women is still very marginal, nevertheless, new opportunities may arise in the coming years.

In the current legislature at the end of 2022, which began on October 13, 2022, the **representation of women in both chambers of Parliament** is almost one-third of the total. The 2022 legislature is the first in which the position of Prime Minister is held by a woman. The **representation of Italian female deputies in the European Parliament** is just under 42 percent in 2022, higher than the European average of 39 percent. In **local authorities**, following various reforms aimed at promoting gender equality, the proportion of women has increased, especially among municipal councilors. The increase is more limited, and their presence is at the regional and provincial levels. **Civic and political participation** sees a reduction in the gender gap in 2022, albeit with a slowdown compared to 2021 when the pandemic had contributed to interrupting the progressive reduction in civic and political participation among Italians.

- The increase in cases of **gender-based violence** worldwide as a consequence of the pandemic had already been defined by CEPOL (*European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training*) and the United Nations in 2020 as a phenomenon of a 'shadow pandemic', considering its effects on health care and assistance systems: it has short and long-term negative effects on the physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health of the victim. The consequences for women can also lead to isolation, inability to work, limited ability to take care of themselves and their children. Furthermore, the effects of gender-based violence impact the well-being of the entire community: even children who witness violence within families (witnessed violence) may suffer from emotional and behavioral disorders.
In Italy, calls to the toll-free number **1522** decreased in the triennium 2015-2017, increased again from 2018; in 2021, the increase was more significant. In 2022, however, there was a decrease in the number of calls against violence and stalking. Analyzing the most recent data on the **most serious form of violence**, represented by homicide, it is noted that in 2021, total homicides increased by 5.9 percent compared to 2020 when they had decreased by 9.2 percent compared to 2019; in particular, there is more than double the number of homicides of women by their ex-partner (ex-husband, ex-cohabitant, ex-boyfriend/girlfriend), which increased from 7 to 17. Among the typical manifestations of gender-based violence, in addition to those resulting in a fatal outcome (most of which are intentional homicides), there are offenses in the form of beatings, **stalking**, and sexual violence. Available information is limited compared to what emerges from reports and/or arrests made by the police, and many acts of violence may go unnoticed. Regarding stalking, for all years considered, reports/arrests mainly concern men, with percentages exceeding 81.9 percent for the period 2009-2021. In the period considered, the **number of reports of men for stalking** has gradually increased, although with a slight decrease in 2020 compared to 2019 (-2.6 percent) and a further decrease in 2021 (-19.6 percent compared to 2020). This is a fairly constant growth likely due to greater awareness among women and more effective awareness of the issue. In 2021, **stalking victims** were 12,601, more than tripled compared to 2009 when they were 3,898. Also, for beatings, most reports concern men; in 2021, there were 9,713 reports, of which 7,416 (76.4 percent) were against men. From the data from 2009-2021, it seems to emerge a picture showing a slow reduction in the phenomenon of beatings against women: the number of men reported increased until 2013 and then slowed down from 2014 onwards. In 2019, there is an increase in the number of reports compared to 2018, and in 2020, there is a reversal of the trend with a decrease in reports (-6.1 percent with 7,084 reports). In 2021, there is a substantial increase in reports (+4.7 percent with 7,416 reports). A similar situation emerges for **women victims of beatings**; here too, from the data from 2009-2021, there is a reduction in women victims of beatings from 2014 onwards. There were 7,204 victims in 2014, which decreased to 6,125 in 2020 (-5.0 percent) and in 2021, there is again an increase in the number of victims of beatings, reaching 6,652, +8.6 percent compared to 2020. However, the number of **women victims of sexual violence**, gradually decreasing from 2009 to 2016 (from 3,813 to 3,241 cases), increased again in the following two years, reaching a peak in 2018 (4,025 cases), then decreased again the following year (4,016 in 2019). In
2020, there was a more consistent decrease (3,803 cases), followed by a substantial increase in 2021, with 4,213 women raped. Victims of sexual violence are almost exclusively women, up to 91.7 percent in the last year. Perpetrators of sexual violence are overwhelmingly men (98.1 percent). In 2021, the average national coverage rate of services provided by anti-violence centers and shelters increased.

For health, lifestyle and safety in 2022, there is a slight increase in life expectancy at birth (overall 82.6 years, with a gender difference of 4.3 years in favor of women) compared to 2021. The infant mortality rate saw positive evolution for both genders until 2017 and a reduction in the gender gap in favor of women. In 2018, the female rate remains at 2.6, while there is a slight increase for males (3.1), but in 2019 and 2020, the infant mortality rate decreases again, reaching the lowest values in the entire time series considered (2.7 for men and 2.3 for women). The mental health index indicates that the gender gap is 4 points in 2022 (71 for men and 67 for women). In particular, for depression, the indicator for women is more than one and a half times that of men. For people's lifestyles (obesity, smoking, and alcohol consumption), men engage in riskier behaviors. For alcohol, as well as for other risky behaviors, women are aligning with men. People who report not engaging in any physical activity still represent a high proportion of the population, and sedentary behavior is more common among women. Observing the mortality rate for cancer per 10,000 residents, there is an overall decrease over the last decade, thanks also to increased prevention. The road mortality rate has shown an overall improvement in the time series. In 2020, there is a more evident reduction in the rate following pandemic restrictions, especially during the lockdown phase (67.2 for men and 14.7 for women), while in 2021, the rates rise but remain lower than the period before the Covid-19 pandemic (83.2 for men and 15.8 for women). In 2022, the overall rate returns to the 2019 level (53.6) with a more pronounced gender difference (89.6 for men and 19.2 for women). The indicator for people who have had accidents at home confirms that the female gender is more exposed to this risk: about 11.8 women per 1000 had domestic accidents in 2022 compared to only 6.9 men per 1000. Hospitalization rates, expressing a synthetic measure of the population's use of hospital services, have been decreasing in recent years for both genders in the case of ordinary care for acute patients. The annual value of the hospitalization rate has higher values for women for all types of regular activities. Regarding psychiatric services in 2021, the utilization rate, after the evident reduction in 2020, likely due to pandemic restrictions, returns close to that of 2019. However, the evidence of higher
utilization rates for the female gender persists, as in previous years. **Schizophrenic, personality, substance abuse, and mental retardation disorders** are more common in males than females, while the opposite occurs for **affective, neurotic, and depressive disorders**. Regarding the **number of employees in the National Health Service**, in 2021, there is a 2.2 percent increase compared to 2019, compared to a general reduction of 4.6 percent from 2010 to 2021. The staff - over 600,000 people in 2021, including managers - is more than two-thirds women, predominant in all roles except for minor exceptions; they mainly engage in care and assistance activities. The **analysis of drug addiction** in Italy has highlighted that in 2022, out of a total of about 30,000 individuals aged 15 and older reported to the Prefecture for violations of drug or psychotropic substance possession for personal use, 93 percent are men.

Within the ministries, the share of female workers increased from 53.4 percent to 57.5 percent between 2008 and 2021, with 88.6 percent of them employed in the Education sector. Women represent the majority of employees in preschools, primary, and secondary schools, while they constitute a minority in universities. Female presence is prevalent in the penitentiary, prefecture, and judiciary careers. In the Armed Forces, Police Forces, and Firefighters Corps, there is a strong male prevalence, as is the case for the Diplomatic Career and in the Institutes of Advanced Artistic and Musical Education. Regarding ministerial and Prime Minister's Office employees, in 2021, women represent 52.7 percent of the staff, with very high proportions in certain ministries, such as Labor and Social Policies, Justice, and the Interior. Men, on the other hand, make up more than half of the employees in the ministries of Defense, Infrastructure and Transport, Agricultural, Food, and Forestry Policies, and Economic Development. For other ministries, in 2021, the male and female data are not very different, and there is a slight female prevalence in the Prime Minister's Office. Among managerial staff, male presence appears more marked and increases as one moves towards top positions. **Postgraduate titles** and age below forty-five are more common among female executives compared to male executives. In 2021, the **turnover rate** is 97.1 percent for women and 83.9 percent for men, resulting in a more pronounced decline in male employees. Men manage to ensure a more consistent presence in the workplace, and from 2013 to 2021, they have earned more on average in terms of overtime pay than women, who are more likely to adopt **part-time** work and take absences from work, especially for family care needs. In 2022, there is the highest use of **part-time** work for both genders in the Ministry of Defense (10.5 percent of female employees and 2.0 percent of male employees), and the widest gap is found at the Ministry of Education and Merit (8.3 percent of women in part-time and 1.8 percent of men). Between 2021 and 2022, in almost all ministries, the

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incidence of part-time employees has decreased. The only exceptions were the Ministry of Education and Merit (+0.5 percent for men and +0.8 percent for women), the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (+0.3 percent for men), and the Ministry of Health (+0.1 percent for men).

Between 2021 and 2022, the mandatory maternity leave days used have increased for employees in all ministries, except for the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, and the Ministry of University and Research. Additionally, in 2022, many ministries have reported no days taken for substitute paternity leave. The gender composition of ministry personnel influences the difference in the number of women and men using parental leave: in 2022, there are more men than women using it in the ministries of Economy and Finance, Justice, Interior, and Defense. Regarding days off for parental leave, fathers in the Ministry of Economy and Finance have used parental leave more than mothers, as have fathers in the ministries of Interior, Justice, Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Policies. The duration of parental leave taken by mothers is higher than that for fathers in all other ministries. The average number of days of leave taken by mothers is higher than for fathers in various ministries, except for the Ministry of Ecological Transition. Additionally, the average days of parental leave taken by fathers and/or mothers have increased in most ministries between 2021 and 2022. In 2022, participation in regular remote work appears more widespread among women. In ministries where \textit{smart working} is now a commonly used and properly regulated tool, monitoring procedures have been initiated to assess the satisfaction and effectiveness of the new remote work mode for both employees and managers to respond to institutional requests from the Department of Public Function. Some ministries have provided feedback through a quick survey on the return to in-person work in public administrations following the decree issued by the Minister for Public Administration on October 8, 2021. The aim was to monitor the implementation of regulatory provisions and deepen organizational choices and operational solutions implemented regarding remote work. Furthermore, in accordance with the current regulatory framework, several ministries have adopted the 2021-2023 Organizational Plan for Remote Work (POLA), included as a section of the \textit{Performance Plan}. Generally, satisfaction has been expressed through questionnaires submitted to personnel, both from the users and the supervisors’ perspectives.

In 2022, almost all ministries provide services to their personnel to facilitate the reconciliation of professional and private life. In most cases, the childcare service is directly managed. Compared to 2020 and 2021, the use of childcare facilities has increased in almost all ministries, with the only exception being the Ministry of Justice, where the user base has decreased. The most significant increase for 2022 concerns the Ministry of the Interior, where there is an increase in requests from both women and men. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility shows an increase in requests from both women and men, the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has seen an increase in requests from women but a decrease in requests from men, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance - Department of General Administration, Personnel, and Services has seen an increase in requests from women and a decrease from men. As in previous years, women are the primary users of this service. In 2022, summer and/or after-school centers are only active in the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Policies. The Ministry of Economy and Finance, however, provides vouchers to employees for home care expenses for disabled parents, children under the age of 13, or disabled individuals regardless of age.

In 2022, almost all ministries offer specific training courses on topics relevant to gender culture and equal opportunities or gender balance, with predominantly female participation. Courses common to multiple administrations cover issues such as gender-based violence, smart working, occupational well-being, gender balance, and *Diversity Management in Public Administration*.

Throughout 2022, legislative activity in the field of equal opportunities and gender inequality reduction has resulted in numerous measures. Among those introduced by the **Budget Law for 2022**, within the framework of **methods to integrate gender policies into public action (gender mainstreaming)**, we note: the adoption of a National Strategic Plan for gender equality, with the creation of an inter-institutional steering committee and a National Observatory for the integration of gender equality policies; the allocation of resources, starting from 2022, in the Fund for rights and equal opportunities policies. To **counter gender-based violence**, we find: the adoption of a National Strategic Plan against violence towards women and domestic violence, with an inter-institutional steering committee and a dedicated Observatory; additional allocations in the Fund for equal opportunities to finance rehabilitation centers for abusive men, shelters, and empowerment paths for poor women victims of violence; funding for psychological treatment and reintegration paths for those convicted of gender-based violence offenses; the establishment of a fund to prevent and combat cyberbullying; funding for the "Donnexstrada" Association, for securing paths to protect women. Regarding the **balance between private and professional life**, the mandatory paternity leave becomes structural, lasting ten days plus one day of optional leave alternative to the mother; furthermore, the share of the Municipal Solidarity Fund is increased to enhance the number of available places in nurseries. Concerning **labor, social security, and assistance protection**, access to "APE sociale" is extended to those who meet the requirements in 2022, confirming the reduction of contribution requirements for women with children (so-called "APE sociale donna"). These benefits have been extended for those meeting the requirements in 2023 as well, by the

| Interventions aimed at reducing gender disparities issued in 2022. | Throughout 2022, legislative activity in the field of equal opportunities and gender inequality reduction has resulted in numerous measures. Among those introduced by the **Budget Law for 2022**, within the framework of **methods to integrate gender policies into public action (gender mainstreaming)**, we note: the adoption of a National Strategic Plan for gender equality, with the creation of an inter-institutional steering committee and a National Observatory for the integration of gender equality policies; the allocation of resources, starting from 2022, in the Fund for rights and equal opportunities policies. To **counter gender-based violence**, we find: the adoption of a National Strategic Plan against violence towards women and domestic violence, with an inter-institutional steering committee and a dedicated Observatory; additional allocations in the Fund for equal opportunities to finance rehabilitation centers for abusive men, shelters, and empowerment paths for poor women victims of violence; funding for psychological treatment and reintegration paths for those convicted of gender-based violence offenses; the establishment of a fund to prevent and combat cyberbullying; funding for the "Donnexstrada" Association, for securing paths to protect women. Regarding the **balance between private and professional life**, the mandatory paternity leave becomes structural, lasting ten days plus one day of optional leave alternative to the mother; furthermore, the share of the Municipal Solidarity Fund is increased to enhance the number of available places in nurseries. Concerning **labor, social security, and assistance protection**, access to "APE sociale" is extended to those who meet the requirements in 2022, confirming the reduction of contribution requirements for women with children (so-called "APE sociale donna"). These benefits have been extended for those meeting the requirements in 2023 as well, by the |
Budget Law for 2023. With the Budget Law for 2022, the possibility of using "Opzione donna" is also extended to female workers with a contribution seniority acquired in 2021, of at least 35 years, and an age of at least 58 years for employees and at least 59 years for self-employed workers. The Budget Law for 2023 extends "Opzione donna" to female workers who meet the requirements in 2022, with a contribution seniority of at least 35 years and an age of at least 60 years, reduced by one year for each child up to a maximum of two years, along with the presence of some additional conditions. In the field of women's participation in the labor market, the Fund for the support of gender pay equality is financed, and a Fund for activities leading to obtaining gender equality certification is established. The measures for the development of agricultural entrepreneurship and generational turnover are also applied to agricultural businesses with predominantly or entirely female participation, reserving part of the allocated resources for 2022 in the Revolving Fund to promote the development of female entrepreneurship in agriculture, with facilitated loans and non-repayable contributions. For 2022, the social security contributions for employed mothers in the private sector are reduced. Regarding measures to protect and support maternity, it has been provided: the recognition, for specific categories of female workers below a certain income threshold, of the maternity allowance for an additional three months after the end of the maternity period; the suspension of the start of deadlines for tax obligations for self-employed professionals, even in the case of premature birth; a temporary replacement service for family assistants (often women) on leave, sickness, and maternity occasions. In the health, lifestyle, and safety sector, it is worth noting: the reduction of VAT from 22 percent to 10 percent on non-compostable feminine hygiene products; the suspension of the start of deadlines for tax obligations for self-employed professionals even in the case of termination of pregnancy after the third month. Finally, concerning education and interventions against gender stereotypes, the Anna Milanese Foundation is funded for the assistance of poor and orphaned Ethiopian girls.

During 2022, provisions related to gender issues were also approved in measures other than the Budget Law. Within Law No. 32/2022 "Delegations to the Government for the support and enhancement of the family," there are some measures aimed at promoting the balance between family and professional life, which also impact the labor market, maternity protection, and gender mainstreaming. In particular, the Government is delegated to: establish, support, and strengthen socio-educational services for childhood and support measures for expenses related to disabled children; reorganize the discipline related to parental, paternal, and maternity leaves; incentivize female employment and the sharing of care activities to harmonize life and work schedules; ensure that a portion of the endowment of the SME Guarantee Fund is reserved for the start-up and support of new women-led businesses; incentivize female employment
in Southern Italy; promote the regularization of undeclared work in the domestic sector; support the digitization and financial training of female entrepreneurs; promote informative and training activities on parenthood and family life. Among other measures to promote the **balance between family and professional life**, the following are also included: the transposition of Directive (EU) 2019/1158, with an extension of the parental leave period and the duration of its allowance, increased protections in the context of paternity leave and agile work for parents; the exclusion of maternity or paternity leave periods from the calculation of the overall duration of research contracts; the inclusion, among those entitled to the Single and Universal Child Allowance, of family units with at least one adult orphan, disabled, and already entitled to survivor benefits; the expansion of benefits for the Allowance for dependent children with disabilities; the introduction of an allowance for the dependent spouse and an allowance for each dependent child for diplomatic personnel; the recovery of resources allocated to the enhancement of nurseries from the Municipal Solidarity Fund's share. Regarding the **labor market**, it is also expected that, within the organization and management of the employment relationship, ministries adopt measures that provide advantages or avoid disadvantages in careers for the underrepresented gender, using guidelines adopted by the Department of Public Administration. The gender equality certification system is then strengthened through amendments to the Public Procurement Code and the introduction of bonuses in the evaluation of bids. Additional measures have been introduced in the field of **gender mainstreaming in public action**: the Parties adhering to the "Treaty between the Italian Republic and the French Republic for Enhanced Bilateral Cooperation" commit to supporting policies for gender equality, *women’s empowerment*, talent, and female *leadership*; the Government is delegated to reorganize the regulations on entertainment, promoting gender balance and the artistic-cultural quality of activities; for the distribution of the Single Fund for entertainment, the integrative criterion concerning the promotion of gender balance is taken into account.

**In terms of combating gender-based violence**, a law has been introduced to ensure adequate information flow on gender-based violence, to design effective prevention and counteraction policies, and to ensure effective monitoring of the phenomenon. Regarding **participation in economic, political, and administrative decision-making processes**, the following measures are highlighted: members of examining commissions for public competitions are identified in compliance with the principles of gender equality; as part of the reform of the judicial system and the adaptation of the military judicial system, the Government is delegated to modify the regulations of directive and semi-directive functions, introducing prevalence, in case of equal merit, for the candidate belonging to the less represented gender.

Then, some criteria are specified for the election of members of the CSM (High Council of the Judiciary): the members that Parliament must
elect should be chosen respecting gender parity; each gender must be represented by at least half of the actual candidates for the election of magistrate members; in the territorial colleges for merit-based judges, candidates can also be connected with others, but gender representation within the group must be ensured; concerning the scrutiny and declaration of elected magistrate members, in cases of tie votes, the candidate of the less represented gender at the national level prevails. Regarding members of the selection committees for healthcare management positions in complex structures, these are drawn from a national list, and if, after the draw, half of the directors are not of a different gender, the draw continues. Finally, the positions in professional trade associations among military personnel are elected respecting gender parity, and it is also clarified that the competencies of these associations relate to equal opportunities, impacting gender equality in civil relations.

Still in this context, it is noted that the Treaty of judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the Italian Republic and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay specifies cases in which the Requested State can refuse to grant judicial assistance, for example, if the requested person faces risks for gender-related reasons. In the field of education and interventions against gender stereotypes, the introduction of organic regulations for Higher Technical Institutes (ITS) is highlighted, with the establishment of the Tertiary System of Higher Technological Education and the National Committee ITS Academy, also for the purpose of promoting greater gender inclusion. In implementation of the NRRP, M4C1, the Budget Law for 2023 also introduces measures to strengthen STEM disciplines at all levels of the education and training system, with particular attention to promoting gender balance. Regarding health, lifestyle, and safety, within the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Parties promote education and awareness programs on the subject, mainly targeting women, children, and less educated individuals.

The Covid-19 pandemic emergency still led to the issuance of specific measures in 2022, some of which had limited effectiveness over time and relevance to gender disparities. Among these, measures related to the work-life balance and education, as well as interventions against gender stereotypes, are highlighted. This includes measures regarding the extension of remote work and the introduction of educational opportunities aimed at the well-being of children, also related to the deepening of STEM subjects in summer camps, to overcome the challenges caused by the pandemic experience.

The Budget Law for 2023 has introduced additional measures to reduce gender disparities. In the context of combating gender-based violence, it highlights the refinancing of the Fund for policies related to rights and equal opportunities and the program for the emergence, assistance, and social integration implementing the National Action Plan against trafficking and serious exploitation of human beings. Within the realm of balancing private and professional life, the following measures are introduced: Increase in the parental leave allowance for employed personnel.
workers up to the sixth year of the child’s life, from 30 percent to 80 percent. Increase in the allocation in favor of the Single and Universal Allowance for dependent children. Permanent equalizations are established between the dependent minor child and the dependent disabled adult child and between the dependent disabled minor child and the disabled child under twenty-one years, always dependent. Increase in the allowance for disabled children under one year old and an increase in the allowance if there are at least four children. Regarding the labor market, 20 million euros are allocated for 2023 to support youth and female entrepreneurship. The total contribution exemption already provided for in 2021 and 2022 for new hires of disadvantaged female workers, carried out in 2023, is also extended. Concerning the protection and support of motherhood, the Single Fund to support the strengthening of the Italian sports movement is increased to support the maternity of non-professional athletes. An exemption from VAT on certain products for early childhood is introduced. This exemption (from 10 percent to 5 percent) is also provided for products for the protection of feminine intimate hygiene that are not compostable or washable, impacting health, lifestyle, and safety.

In 2022, at the European level, a directive was finally adopted aiming to achieve a more balanced gender representation among the administrators of listed companies. It stipulates that members of the underrepresented gender should hold at least 40 percent of positions as non-executive directors or at least 33 percent of all positions as directors in a listed company.

The tax systems and fiscal policy decisions differently influence the choices of men and women on various issues such as career paths, procreation choices, and the decision to purchase care and domestic management services on the market. Even in most European countries, where an individual and progressive taxation system prevails, with deductions for family burdens and, therefore, independent of the gender of the taxpayer, indirect gender effects are evident.

The adoption of a gender mainstreaming approach in fiscal policy choices, as well as attention to the gender effects of tax provisions, are still limited. Taxation on second income earners is a gender-related issue: from this perspective, the Italian system would be tendentially neutral as it is based on a progressive tax, the IRPEF, whose taxable base consists of individual incomes of taxpayers, just like the main tools to reduce the burden and/or support income from work are parameterized at the individual income level.

For this reason, the Italian tax system implicitly favors dual-income couples over single-income couples, with the same family income, especially those in which the two earners have a similar income level. Some tax benefits may help minimize gender differences, such as deductions for personal care assistants and nursery school fees, as well as deductions for contributions to domestic and family services.

The State Budget revenues for 2022 from a gender perspective
Through the income tax (IRPEF) declarations, it is possible to analyze in more detail the distribution of incomes by gender based on the type of declared income. In 2021, the prevalent income type is related to dependent work (employees) and similar activities (EUR 486 billion), followed by pension income (EUR 275 billion), and income from self-employment and similar activities (EUR 30 billion). In 2021, the predominant income for taxpayers corresponds to that from employees and similar activities (with income amounts of EUR 183 billion for women and EUR 302 billion for men), followed by pension income (EUR 116 billion for women and EUR 158 billion for men).

Analysis of the income distribution by gender and income classes shows that 50 percent of women fall into income classes up to 15,000 euros, while about 60 percent of men declare incomes in the classes between 15,000 and 50,000 euros. The total net tax in 2021, amounting to approximately 171 billion euros, was declared by men for 67 percent. This percentage is higher than the share of total income declared by men (62 percent), even following the effect of the progressivity of the system, given the upward-shifted distribution of male incomes. Forty-eight percent of the tax declared by men comes from individuals declaring more than 50,000 euros in total income; this percentage is much lower for women, with only 30 percent of the tax attributable to women in this income class.

The average per capita net personal income tax (Irpef) is 5,452 euros, for women it is 4,013 euros, while for men it is about 6,614 euros. The disparity between the two genders is confirmed: in this case, men are concentrated in the upper part of the distribution, declaring a higher amount of net tax.

From the examination of the geographical distribution of taxpayers and declared incomes emerges the consistency with the situation in employment, where a more pronounced gender gap is observed in the southern regions and islands compared to other areas of the country: according to ISTAT data in 2021, in the South, employed women were about 25 percent, compared to the national figure of 36,6 percent. The declarations seem to confirm what has already been highlighted in other socioeconomic dimensions: women in the South would face greater difficulties in accessing the labor market compared to men, with repercussions on incomes and, consequently, on tax declarations.

Returning to the topic of tax benefits and the effects they can have on gender differences, the facilitated tax regime for the so-called 'Return of the Brains' is considered. Although this measure does not have the direct purpose of impacting gender differences, women seem to have benefited from it to a proportionally greater extent than men. In the tax year 2021, the individuals who benefited from the incentives were 22,707, of which approximately 32 percent were women. The average income from dependent work declared by women, although lower than that declared by men (65,591 euros compared to 142,481 euros), is still much higher than the average income of Italian taxpayers. In fact, looking at the group of workers with medium to high incomes
(above 55,000 euros), only 2,8 percent of the total consists of women, while for qualified workers returning from abroad thanks to the incentive, the proportion of women rises to 35,8 percent of the total.

The State’s gender budget of the State provides a "reclassification" of the expenditure in the End of year Accounts in light of an assessment of their different impact on gender disparities. The reclassification categories are as follows:

- **Expenditure "directed at reducing gender inequalities"**: related to measures directly attributable or aimed at reducing gender inequalities or promoting equal opportunities.
- **“Sensitive” expenditure**: related to measures that have or could have an impact, even indirectly, on inequalities between men and women.
- **“Neutral” expenditure**: related to measures that have no direct or indirect impacts on gender.
- **“To be investigated” expenditure**: for which it is necessary to acquire additional information to verify any direct or indirect gender impacts and exclude neutrality.

In the perspective of implementing the National Recovery and Resilience Plan reform 1.13 (milestone M1C1-110) -which requires the reclassification of budget expenses according to the gender and environmental perspective to be attached to the budget bill-introduced into national law with Law No. 41 of April 21, 2023, a process of greater refinement in identifying expenses that may have a gender impact has been initiated with the Annual Circular on the Gender Budget 2022. This is similar to what has already been introduced for the EU budget. In particular, a fourth classification category of expenses has been experimentally included, which introduces the new code 0* (expenses "to be investigated"). This category relates to measures that, due to certain characteristics (nature of the expense and potential beneficiaries), should fall outside the scope of neutral expenses. As such, they require further and subsequent investigations to verify possible direct or indirect impacts on gender inequalities.

The personnel expenses are excluded from the classification exercise and are separately analyzed as they do not have their own purpose but are operational to the realization of State interventions. They may or may not have an impact on gender depending on the mission, program, or action within which they are located. The total expenditure of the State budget, for the financial year 2022, amounted to approximately 1,103,1 billion euros in terms of commitments (+4,1 percent compared to 2021, 1,060,0 billion). Net of personnel expenses, the committed expenditure in 2022 amounts to 992,4 billion (+4,1 percent compared to the previous fiscal year), of which about 84,7 percent (1,2 percentage points compared to 2021) is classified as gender-neutral, including also the “to be investigated” expenses into the total. 15,0 percent is
recognized as gender-sensitive (-0.9 percentage points compared to 2021, it was 15.9 percent), while that considered as directly aimed at reducing gender inequalities are only 0.41 percent of commitments (approximately 4.0 billion and -0.16 percentage points compared to 2021, it was 0.57 percent).

**Within** ministries, expenses aimed at reducing gender inequalities are primarily allocated to the daycare centers, summer camps, or after-school programs for the employees' children. In some cases, they may also cover gender-oriented training or infrastructural adjustments to better meet the diverse needs of men and women. The interventions directly addressing gender inequalities mainly focus on three missions of the State budget: "Social rights, social policies, and family" (2.39 billion euros in commitments), "Italy in Europe and in the world" (0.84 billion euros), "Welfare policies" (0.59 billion euros). Looking at the economic categories of expenditure, these interventions mainly consist of transfers to other public entities: pension funds, the Prime Minister's Office, and international organizations.

Expenses classified as sensitive to gender are largely composed of transfers to other public administrations for financing monetary contributions to individuals (and, to a lesser extent, to businesses) in the context of welfare and assistance policies, as well as labor policies. Expenditures related to education services, reception of immigrants and asylum seekers, and justice are also considered sensitive to gender. The gender-sensitive expenses increase when considering labor costs as well. A significant portion of the labor force represented by the personnel of administrations is associated with activities that may have impacts, even indirectly, on gender inequalities.

The evolution of State spending reclassified by gender from 2017 to 2022 shows an increase in the percentage of neutral expenditure (from 76.16 percent in 2017 to 82.07 percent in 2022) and a decrease in sensitive spending (from 23.57 percent in 2017 to 17.54 percent in 2022). The percentage of spending aimed at reducing inequalities increases from 0.28 percent in 2017 to 0.40 percent in 2022.

In the gender budget, the ministries and the Prime Minister's Office communicate the actions taken and specific guidelines issued to impact the reduction of gender inequalities during the year 2022 through a dedicated questionnaire.

Among the specific guidelines promoted for reducing gender gaps, the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Prime Minister's Office has highlighted a series of interventions and initiatives related to: combating human trafficking through the adoption of the National Action Plan against trafficking and severe exploitation of human beings for the period 2022-2025, the establishment of a certification system for gender equality for the "creation of women's enterprises," gender quotas and equal opportunities in public administrations, work-life balance, sexual and gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and forced marriages. It emphasizes how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated

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<th>Political policy and actions taken by administrations - Sectoral policies. Year 2022</th>
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social disparities, especially for women. The establishment of an
interinstitutional steering committee and an observatory on violence
against women and domestic violence is also mentioned.

In 2022, the Department of Public Function, in collaboration with the
Department for Equal Opportunities, issued guidelines on gender
equality in the organization and management of employment
relationships within public administrations. The Ministry of Labor and
Social Policies highlighted the publication of the Interministerial Decree
of March 29, 2022, which establishes the procedures for preparing the
biennial report on the situation of male and female personnel by public
and private companies with more than 50 employees. Additionally, the
issuance of the 2022 guidance for the Third Sector was mentioned,
which, among various objectives, aims to achieve gender equality and
empowerment.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in its
guiding documents, has reaffirmed the protection of the most
vulnerable refugees (women and children) as one of its objectives. In the
context of development aid, the Ministry also emphasizes the
empowerment of women. The Ministry has promoted work-life balance,
organizational well-being, and gender equality within its administrative
actions. The Ministry of Education, to support the efforts of teachers,
school staff, and families engaged in promoting equal opportunities and
addressing issues related to all forms of discrimination, continued its
support through the dedicated online platform www.noisiamopari.it.

This platform gathers school experiences on equal opportunities and
provides informative, exchange, and support tools. The Ministry of the
Interior has published the three-year plan of positive actions, the general
objectives of which include ensuring equal opportunities in access to
work, career progression, working life, professional training, and cases
of mobility. It aims to promote organizational well-being and better work
organization that facilitates a balance between work and private life and
fosters a gender culture and respect for the principle of non-
discrimination within the administration. The Ministry of University and
Research has published the Gender Equality Plan 2022-2024. The
Ministry of Defense has organized and conducted courses on the gender
perspective dedicated to equal opportunities in military operations.

Some ministries have identified actions to reduce gender inequalities in
2022, but only a few of them have planned monitoring systems
accompanied by gender-specific data and indicators, and even fewer
have conducted context or potential impact gender analyses of policies.
For most interventions, it was a continuation of actions already reported
in 2021. The Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Economy and
Finance, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Labor
and Social Policies, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of University
and Research, the Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies,
and the Ministry of Culture have indicated actions not reported in the
previous edition of the Gender Budget. The largest number of these
interventions fall under the responsibility of the Prime Minister's Office,
particularly focusing on: implementing a research and analysis project to support the Department for Equal Opportunities in adopting public policies to combat and prevent gender-based violence; strengthening projects to enhance the safety of women on the streets, supporting activities for refugees at the border; implementing policies to reduce inequalities through the Gender Equality Certification System; the "Educare in comune" initiative to counter educational poverty in municipalities.

The Ministry of Economic Development has reported initiatives for the first time to promote the establishment and strengthening of women's entrepreneurship. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policies has reported preliminary training activities for obtaining gender certification. The Ministry of Education has reported for the first time an intervention for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Rai (National TV) Promotion Distance Learning. The Ministry of University and Research has reported for the first-time notices for the submission of project proposals for the Strengthening, modernization, and creation of Research infrastructure and to support the research activities of young researchers belonging to a specific category. The Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies has reported for the first time an intervention aimed at promoting generational turnover in agriculture and expanding existing agricultural businesses run by young people or women, and the international cooperation project "MULHERES NO SUSTENTA" to promote women's participation in the rural economy of the Province of Manica. Finally, the Ministry of Culture has carried out promotional activities for the European Commission's calls related to cultural themes, which are in line with the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

| Looking at the continuation of actions already reported in previous years, for the Prime Minister's Office, it is worth noting: the Central Guarantee Fund for small and medium-sized enterprises, aimed at facilitating women's access to credit through the provision of a public guarantee; surveillance and monitoring activities on the acquisition of specialized support for the application of legislation related to gender quotas and the implementation of related monitoring tools; training for homemakers; the Income of Freedom Fund for women victims of violence; the fund for policies related to rights and equal opportunities, for the year 2022; the public utility number 1522 to provide an initial response to the needs of victims of gender-based violence and stalking; programs and centers for men who commit violence; funding for the Microcredit of Freedom project for the economic empowerment of women who have experienced violence; funding for activities to implement the National Strategy for Gender Equality; funding for projects implemented at the territorial level aimed at ensuring, on a transitional basis, adequate housing, food, and health care for the target subjects, and subsequently, the continuation of social assistance and integration; Service connected to the toll-free number "800.290.290" |
| Still on sectoral policies: continuation of actions from previous years. |
(Anti-Trafficking Toll-Free Number) for the benefit of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labor, begging, and more generally within the scope of illegal economies; interventions aimed at the recovery of men who commit violence. As for other administrations, it is noteworthy that the Ministry of Agricultural, Food, and Forestry Policies has continued initiatives aimed at the development or consolidation of agricultural businesses led by women throughout the territory; the Ministry of Health has continued interventions for the prevention and prohibition of female genital mutilation practices and for the prevention of violence against women and minors through the training of health and socio-health operators.

The Ministry of Defense continued with training activities on equal opportunities issues. The Ministry of the Interior continued with interventions related to personnel well-being from a gender perspective by placing a container for separate men’s/women’s bathrooms in the training area and upgrading changing rooms.

The initiatives in 2022 reported by ministries as gender-sensitive, although increasing compared to the previous year, continue to be relatively few. The highest number of measures was indicated by the Prime Minister’s Office. Regarding other ministries, it is noted that throughout 2022, the Department of Prison Administration of the Ministry of Justice continued to organize paid work activities and cultural, recreational, and sports activities for the inmate population in prisons.

In 2022, as already introduced for 2021, the questionnaire related to the survey of sectoral policies of the ministries contains a final section, with the aim of reporting some sectoral interventions carried out and services provided that most characterize the sectoral action of the ministries, which the latter considers gender neutral. Referring to the aspects to be considered for verifying the effective neutrality of interventions, the analysis of some of these measures confirms the ongoing difficulty of ministries in identifying their best classification.

Public policies aimed at promoting gender equality are also funded outside the State budget. The gender dimension in the design of policies financed by European funds has been integrated since the 1990s. Gender equality is a cross-cutting principle considered in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of interventions, as well as a specific axis of intervention, in the cycle of European structural funds from 1994-1999. The European Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025, presented in March 2020 by the European Commission, confirms the Commission’s commitment to ensuring the integration of the gender dimension within the instruments provided in the multiannual financial framework. In Italy, according to data from the National Monitoring System (published on the OpenCoesione portal), updated as of December 31, 2022, in the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund for the 2014-2020 cycle, there are over 115,000 projects aimed at promoting gender equality, with a total public cost of approximately

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<th>Still on sectoral policies: difficulty in identifying gender-sensitive initiatives</th>
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| Some insights into off-budget expenditures: contribution from the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 and development cooperation initiatives |
834,8 million euros, compared to a total of 602,000 projects and a total cost of 68,2 billion euros.

Compared to the analysis of last year, as of December 31, 2021, over 8,000 new projects have entered the monitoring phase, with a total public cost of 303,8 million euros and over 94,6 million euros spent. Resources have been mainly concentrated in four areas: access to the labor market, training, the creation or improvement of services for the reconciliation of family life and work, and finally, care services and social inclusion for at-risk categories.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation supports numerous initiatives in third countries for gender equality and women's empowerment, implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). In 2022, among the resources available to AICS, the percentage of resources considered as directly contributing to reducing gender inequalities was 54,1 percent (approximately 504,9 million euros) of the total committed resources (approximately 933,2 million euros). Compared to the previous year, this share remained almost constant (41,6 percent in 2020). In continuity with previous years, in 2022, Italian Cooperation also supported numerous United Nations agencies, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, with voluntary contributions. In addition, various development and humanitarian interventions in different partner countries were financed. In terms of committed amounts, the highest contributions went to Ethiopia, followed by Afghanistan and Syria. The activities initiated with these resources ranged from combating sexual and gender-based violence, particularly prevalent in fragile and crisis contexts, to promoting maternal and child health, women's education, creating a socio-political environment favorable to women's economic empowerment, financial inclusion, and access to credit.