



Minerva - Laboratory on Diversity and Gender Inequality
Sapienza University of Rome

EU Citizenship: A Gender Perspective

Prof. Marcella Corsi



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Vision of The Gender Equality Strategy

The Strategy has the vision of a Europe where women and men, girls and boys, **in all their diversity**, are **equal** - where they are **free to pursue their chosen path in life**, where they have **equal opportunities to thrive**, and where they can **equally participate in and lead our European society**.

Different types of participation

- *Manifest participation*: gender differences in active engagement in public affairs
- *Latent participation*: gender differences in active engagement in civic and associational life

We must look at the *conditions* supporting active participation and their gendered patterns - orientation to communal and public life and mobility

Active participation

Latent

Social involvement, e.g. taking an interest in politics/society

Civic engagement, e.g. informing oneself about public affairs, activity in community organisations

Manifest

Conventional political participation, e.g. voting, active in party or unions

Extra-parliamentary activism, e.g. signing petitions, involvement in new social movements, participating in demonstrations

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL AND CIVIC LIFE

Voluntary sector

- EU citizens believe that **the voluntary sector** can influence decision-making at local/regional (75%), national (70%) and European (53%) level
- Gender balance of volunteers varies considerably across European countries.
- **Promoting and strengthening female participation in the voluntary is needed to enable women articulate their citizen rights.**

Gender Balance of Volunteers in European Countries

Trend	Countries
Greater number of female volunteers	Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Malta, Slovakia and the United Kingdom
Greater number of male volunteers	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden
Equal Participation	Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland and Romania
No or Contradictory information	Greece, Latvia and Spain

Source: European Commission (2010a).

Conditions Enabling Participation

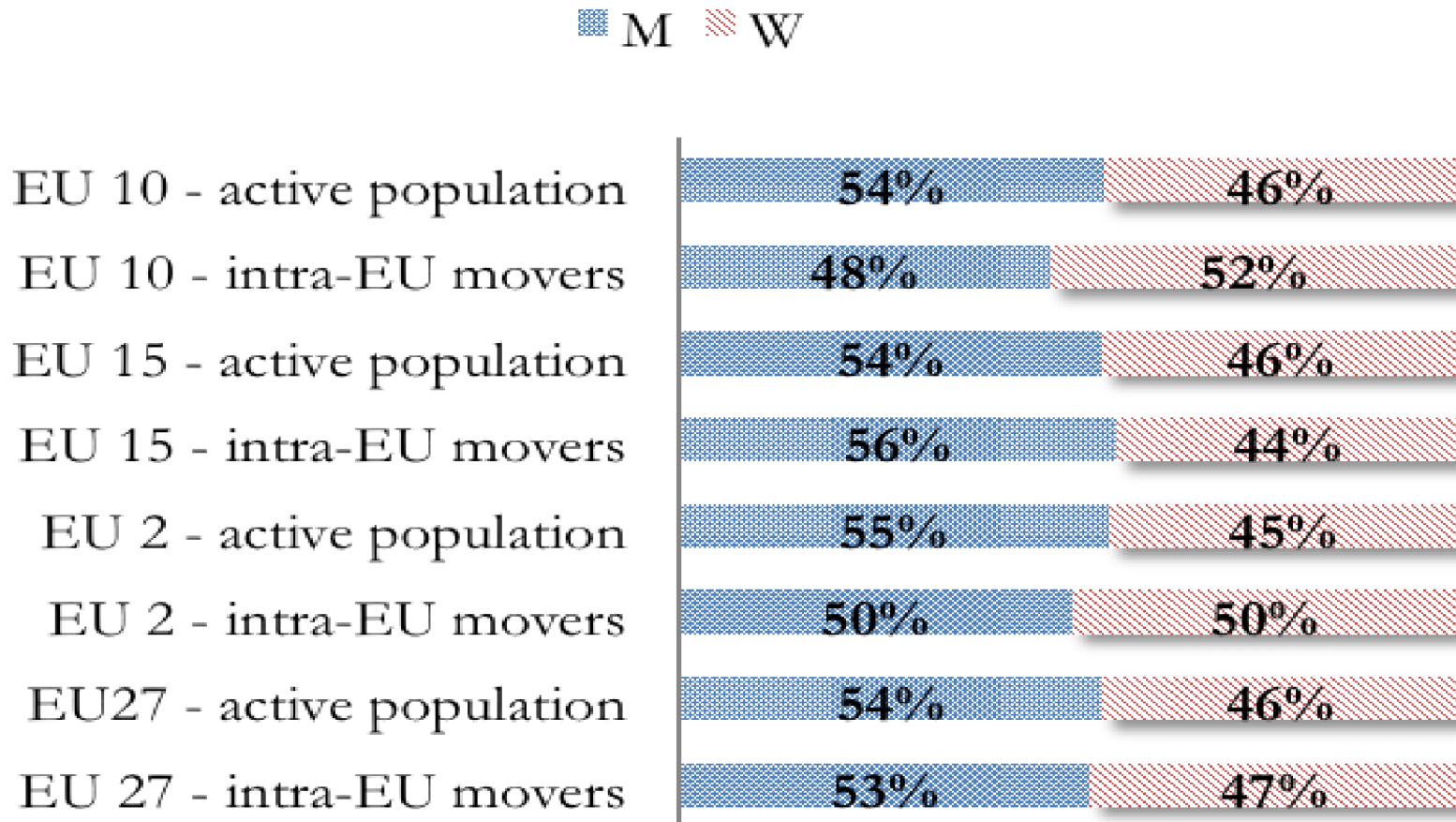
- The **legal right** to participate
- The economy affects participation as it preoccupies the disadvantaged and reduces their **financial capacity** to participate
- Mobility, migration, and **integration**
- Available **time** and opportunity for women to participate
- Education and civic **knowledge**

CROSSING MOBILITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Mobility matters

- Analysis of mobility in Europe shows significant disparities between men's and women's mobility patterns and how they benefit from mobility opportunities
- **Women are less mobile than men**, in a similar respect to those with family responsibilities being less mobile than young single, separated and divorced person.
- **Men take mobility decisions mainly because of a new job or a job transfer**, but for women the decision is mainly driven by following their partner

Sex distribution of recent intra-EU movers and total active population (aged 15-64), 2011



Source: Eurostat, LFS (annual averages).

Geographical Mobility

- Women are more reluctant than men in their intentions of moving abroad: 14.8% of men compared to 12.5% of women showed a positive intention to move abroad.
- For men and women the main reason to move abroad is *to earn more money*, though for men (47.9%) this reason is more important than for women (35.5%).
- **The balance between work and family life represents the most perceived mobility barrier for women with mobility backgrounds.**

Job Mobility

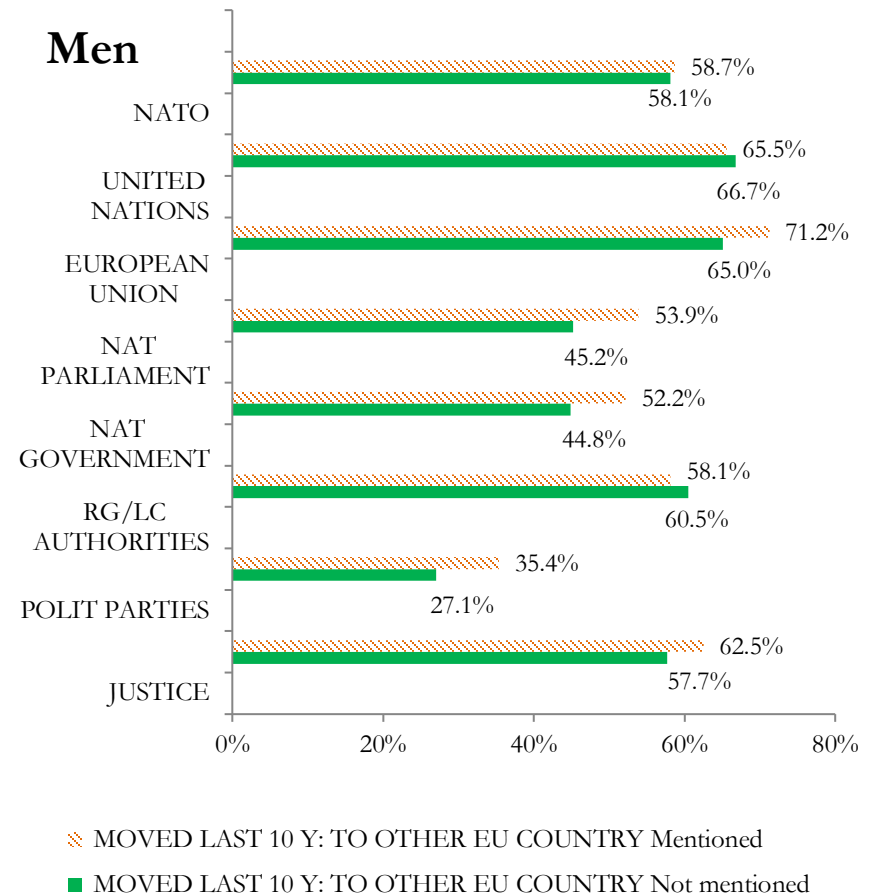
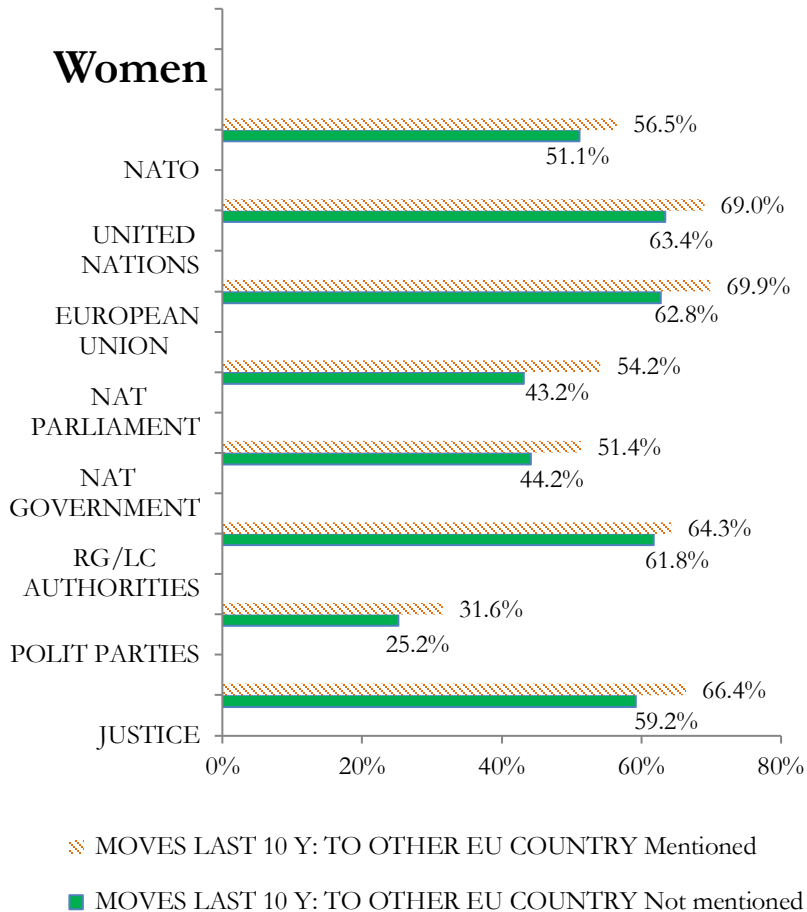
- **Gender disparities in labour mobility** reflect the persistent division of male and female occupational and employment patterns as well as the predominantly female participation in part-time work
- **Gender division** of employment among migrants with a concentration of men in construction and manufacturing and women in healthcare and services
- **Women are more reluctant to search for work opportunities abroad**, thus their chances to take advantages of labour mobility remain limited

Mobility & Trust

Moving abroad is positively related with the European integration for the majority of Eurobarometer respondents in 2009

Women with mobility backgrounds not only have a positive experience in mobility intentions, but also in the political attitudes towards the EU

Trust in institutions among those persons who have moved in the last 10 years to another EU country



Source: Eurobarometer (70.1.2009), available at: <http://www.gesis.org/eurobarometer-data-service/data-access/>

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In comparison with the [2013 EU Citizenship report](#) our recommendations fits into four (out of six) proposed key areas of actions:

1. Removing obstacles for workers, students and trainees in the EU
2. Protect the more vulnerable in the EU
3. Provide targeted and accessible information in the EU
4. Improve participation in the democratic life in the EU

Participation & Awareness

- Cyberspace should be used to inform women of their rights and opportunities, especially young women from minority communities
- Positive stories and images in the media of minority/marginalised women and men can support integration policies
- **All public bodies should ensure that women's diverse voices are represented and taken account of in decision-making processes**

Mobility

- Mobility policies need to take women movers' needs into account (e.g., language, qualifications recognition, family) so that they can engage in all aspects of civic life
- Mobility policies should highlight the positive supports available through social welfare for mobile citizens
- Protecting those who move from abuse through strong codes would enhance trust in the EU among this group

Thank you for your attention
marcella.corsi@uniroma1.it

