How Women and Men Participate in Politics and Decision-Making in the Republic of Moldova?

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Obstacles to Equal Participation in Decision-Making and in Politics

Women and men face common and gender-specific barriers to participation in decision-making. Common barriers are: not sufficient time to get involved, not sufficiently informed and more important things to do. While women face the following 3 specific barriers to participation in the decision-making: insufficient training, need to take care of children, belief that they do not have the necessary age and health condition, men have to overcome other specific barriers, and namely: the belief that nobody cares about their opinions and the lack of funds for participation.

The data is taken from the study “Gender Barometer: How Women and Men Participate in Politics and Decision-Making” published in 2017. The study shows how gender perceptions and stereotypes evolved during the last decade, as well as the profile of women and men candidates and elected in local governance. The study is based on a survey conducted in 2016 on a sample of 1115 persons, 18+ age, nationally representative (except the left bank of the Nistru river), as well as surveys of women and men candidates for local elections and local elected.
Level of trust and satisfaction towards the mayor

How much do you trust your locality’s mayor?

- Very much: 34%
- Much: 22%
- More or less: 27%
- Little: 11%
- Very little: 20%

Are you satisfied with the work of your locality’s mayor?

- Very much: 6%
- Much: 30%
- More or less: 28%
- Little: 13%
- Very little: 22%

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Occupational profile of candidates for local elections

One in two surveyed women who ran for local elections in 2015 came from the educational sector, one in ten from the health sector and 13% – from the trade sector.

- Science and education
- Trade
- Healthcare
- Other areas

Most of the male candidates come from agriculture (25%), trade (19%) and education (18%).

- Agriculture
- Trade
- Science and education
- Healthcare
- Other areas

Male candidates come from more diverse fields of work than women. Only 46% of men come from education, trade and healthcare areas combined, compared to 75% of women.

Methods of obtaining funding for local projects applied by women and men local elected

Methods employed by women
- Use their own resources
- Develop projects only when funding is available
- International financial institutions

Methods employed by men
- District authorities
- Political Party
- Government/Ministry

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Women’s and men’s roles: evolution of perceptions in Moldova

STEREOTYPE: Men should bring home money, while women should take care of the family and household

In 2006, 7 out of 10 respondents thought that men should be responsible for bringing home money, and women have to take care of the family and household...

STEREOTYPE: It is not appropriate when a man stays at home and takes care of the children, while the woman works

In 2006, 5.6 out of 10 respondents considered it improper for a man to stay at home and take care of children, while the woman works...

Who has the decision-making power in the family

In 2006, almost 6 out of 10 respondents thought that gender did not matter in taking family/private decisions, and in 2016, 7 out of 10 agreed with this statement.

During one decade, the number of respondents who considered it preferable for the women to lead remained unchanged.

In 2006, almost 3 out of 10 respondents thought that men should be the lead in the family, and in 2016, 2 out of 10 agreed with this statement.

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