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Commission

# Gender equality aspects of work and care in the context of COVID-19

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## Gender business challenges enduring and post-Covid-19

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# Basic information

- According to the latest report of Unioncamere Women's Entrepreneurship Observatory, in 2018 women companies accounted for 21.93% of the total number of companies recorded in the Chamber of Commerce Register. In the last year they have increased by about 6000 units, 4000 of which are foreign women.
- The largest number has been noted in the trade and agricultural sectors, but in more recent years female entrepreneurship has also increased in other services (over more 2000 companies) particularly in the personal care and tourism (almost further 2000 companies).
- There is also an increase as per female enterprises in traditionally male sectors such as professional, scientific and technical activities (almost further 1500 companies), rental, travel agencies and business support services (+1,453) and real estate activities (+1,004).

# Basic information



**1.337.359 le imprese femminili a fine 2018**



**5.992 le imprese in più rispetto al 2017**



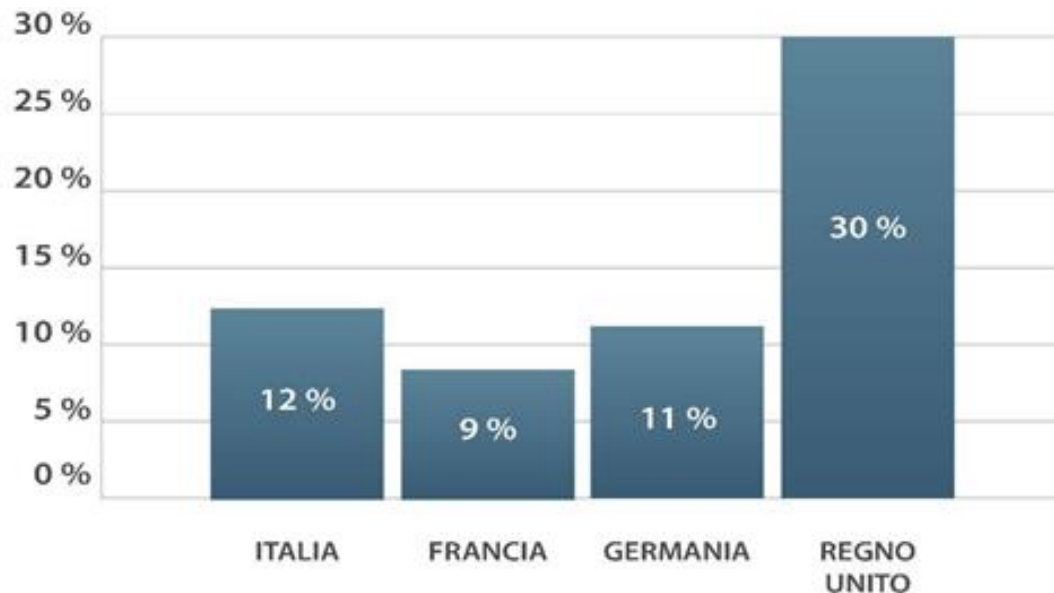
**+ 0,45% il saldo dello stock**



**+ 4.571 le imprese di straniere rispetto al 2017**

# Basic information

- Women are present in innovative work. In Italy, in 2018, 12% of start-ups confirm a female predominance (9% in France, 11% in Germany, 30% in the UK, OECD data). Start-ups with a female presence exceed 40%.



# Basic information

## **Special Section called “Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri – Dipartimento per le pari opportunità” within the Central Guarantee Fund for SMEs**

- The section was set up by the agreement - signed on 14 March 2013 - among the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
- The total budget of the Special Section is 38 million euros, 50% of which is dedicated to female business start-up.

# Basic information

- In December 2014 the Department, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Economy and Finance signed the additional Act to the agreement extending the benefit to self-employed women.
- About 16,000 female companies benefited from the guarantee, whereas 55 are the banks that have committed to supporting women' companies, namely 37% of the national banking sector.
- 1,500,000,000 euros have been allocated for SMEs with prevalingly female participation and self-employed women.
- 5,000,000 euros have been directly allocated to the Fund to tackle the gender business challenges during Covid-19 emergency

# Challenges and lessons learned

- The **Task Force “Women for a new Renaissance”** was established under the leadership of the Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Ms Elena Bonetti; it is composed of 12 women representing several sectors and has been convened firstly on 15 April 2020 on streaming in order to draft ideas and proposal for the post-COVID-19 social, cultural and economic restart.
- The Task Force was divided into thematic sub-groups to release a final **Note**, which is based on data and scientific evidence on the impact of the pandemic in different sectors and introduces a first series of proposal for actions and recommendations that will be integrated through the planning activities of the Department for Equal Opportunities.

# Challenges and lessons learned

- **Promoting gender equality and female leadership**
  - Evaluate the gender impact of all company processes, in particular as per corporate restructuring processes (relevant for safeguarding gender balance in the post-Covid phase).
- **Promoting financial independence**
  - Promote microcredit instruments for the granting of long-term loans at zero interest to households with women as credit subject.



# Challenges and lessons learned

- **Supporting women's businesses**

- Establish a fund for women's micro-enterprises, introducing non-refundable and zero-interest financing, tax incentives in the first years of activity, technical-managerial tutoring services. In this context, create a training and information portal, providing adequate requirements for the company structure, sector, workforce employed, rewarding by sector (childcare services) and location (South) of companies with streamlined and timely delivery procedures.
- Network solutions for SMEs, through the creation of "pooling" between companies in order to share solutions to support the harmonization of the life-work time of employees, such as the financing and organization of facilities that accommodate children and the elderly.

# Thank you for your attention!

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