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The evolution of woman representation in Romanian Parliament

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The evolution of women representation in Romanian Parliament

The percentage of seats held by women within the Parliament of Romania has doubled since the legislature 1990-1992. However, the women level representation in the legislative forum remains lower compared to other European countries.

In the post-revolutionary period, over the six legislatures, the number of women, as member in Parliament has increased from 24 in the legislature 1990-1992 (4.9%) at 68 in the current legislature (11,5%).

Legislature	The women mandates percentage during the years
1990-1992	4,9%;
1992-1996	3.7%
1996-2000	4,7%
2000- 2004	10,8%
2004-2008	10,2%
2008-2012	9.8%
2012-present	11.5%

The lowest level of women representation in Romanian Parliament can be found in the period 1992-1996, precisely 18 women as 3,7% of total parliamentary number.

We also notice 10,8% of women in the Romanian Parliament, in the legislature 2000-2004, a number quite close to the gender structure of the current Parliament, respectively 40 women deputies and 12 women senators.

The Permanent Electoral Authority conducted a survey on the level of the women participation as candidates at the election for the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, held on December 9, 2012.

Thus, according to our data, **339 women participated at the parliamentary elections, on behalf of different political parties and alliances.** In different terms, another politician woman participated as candidate at the parliamentary

elections on behalf of Albanese League Association from Romania (A.L.A.R.). Of the total of 2451 candidates¹, the women represent 13, 8%.

Political alliance/party	Total no. of candidates	Total no. of women candidates	% women candidates
U.S.L.	452	48	10,6%
A.R.D.	452	58	12,8%
P.P.-D.D.	446	56	12,5%
U.D.M.R.	452	84	18,6%
P.R.M.	286	49	17,1%
P.P.	60	8	13,3%
P.P.M.T.	77	9	11,6%
P.S.D.M.	5	0	0%
P.E.R.	177	24	13,5%
P.A.S.	20	2	10%
P.P.P.S.	10	1	10%
P.N.D.C.	2	0	0%
Independent candidate	12	0	0%
Total	2451	339	13,8%

U.D.M.R represented the electoral competitor with the most women proposals for the electoral competition. We also would like to mention that after the parliamentary election, U.D.M.R. is represented within the Parliament by one woman. The second place as number of women candidates is taken by A.R.D. with 58 proposals, followed by P.P-D.D with 56 proposals, P.R.M. with 49 proposals, U.S.L. with 48 proposals and P.E.R. with 24 women proposals as candidates for elections. The rest of the political alliances and parties proposed less than 10 woman candidates.

¹ Plus 18 candidates on behalf the organizations of national minorities

The electoral competitor who proposed the most women candidates in a single constituency was P.R.M., with 12 proposals for Constituency no. 42, Bucharest. We mention that no woman enrolled in the electoral competition as an independent candidate.

Only 20% from the women candidates obtained a seat within the Romanian Parliament

In the current structure of the parliament, **there are 68 women** from the total number of 588 parliamentary, which means **11, 5%** seats taken by women.

Within the Chamber of Deputies, the women percentage is 13,3% (55 seats compared with 357 seats of men deputies), and within the Senate the women percentage is 7,3% (13 seats compared with 163 seats of men deputies).

The distribution of the 68 mandates, by political parties is the following:

Political party/alliance	Total women mandates	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
U.S.L.	44	35	9
A.R.D.	10	9	1
P.P.-D.D.	12	10	2
U.D.M.R.	1	0	1
A.L.A.R.	1	1	0

Within the political parties or alliances the representation percentage of women is the following :

Political alliance/party	Total mandates	Total women mandates	% of women from total mandates
U.S.L.	395	44	11%
A.R.D.	80	10	12,5%
P.P.-D.D.	68	12	17,6%
U.D.M.R.	27	1	3,7%

U.S.L. has 63,6% of all women elected within the Chamber of Deputies, A.R.D. 16,3%, P.P-D.D. 18%, and A.L.A.R. 1,8 %. As regards the women elected within the Senate, U.S.L obtained 69,2% of the mandates, A.R.D and U.D.M.R obtained 7,7% women mandates and P.P.-D.D obtained 15,3% women mandates.

The electoral constituency where were elected the most women is the Constituency no. 42, Bucharest, with 10 elected women (7 women elected within the Chamber of Deputies and 3 within Senate)

The counties with no women elected are: Alba, Covasna, Harghita, Mehedinți, Mureș, Sălaj, Vâlcea, Vrancea. The Constituency number 43 for the Romanians with the domicile or residence outside the country has the same situation, no women elected within.

The women percentage within the european parliaments ranges from 8,7% to 44,7%.

According to the Interparlamentary Union statistics, in the parliaments of over 187 countries, the women represents about 20% of the total parliamentary, while in Europe (O.S.C.E. countries) the medium percentage is about 22%.

According to the latest statistical data regarding the women share within the national parliaments of European countries, the figures are the following:

No. Cr.	Country	Women percent in parliament
1.	Sweden	44,7%
2.	Finland	42,5%
3.	Iceland	39,7%
4.	Norway	39,6%
5.	Denmark	39,1%
6.	Belgium	39%
7.	Holland	37,7%
8.	Spain	35%
9.	Germany	32,3%
10.	Portugal	28,7%
11.	Austria	28,6%
12.	Switzerland	27%
13.	France	25%
14.	Lithuania	24,5%
15.	Latvia	23%
16.	Bulgaria	22%
17.	United Kingdom	22%
18.	Poland	21,7%
19.	Greece	21,5%
20.	Italy	20,7%
21.	Czech Republic	20,6%
22.	Estonia	19,8%
23.	Ireland	19%
24.	Slovakia	17,3%
25.	Albania	15,7%
26.	Turkey	14,2%
27.	Romania	11,5%
28.	Russia	11,1%
29.	Cyprus	10,7%
30.	Ukraine	9,4%
31.	Hungary	8,8%
32.	Malta	8,7%

Conclusions

Compared to most European countries, the representation of women in the legislature of Romania remains low, although compared to the period 1990-1992, the percentage of seats held by women has doubled.