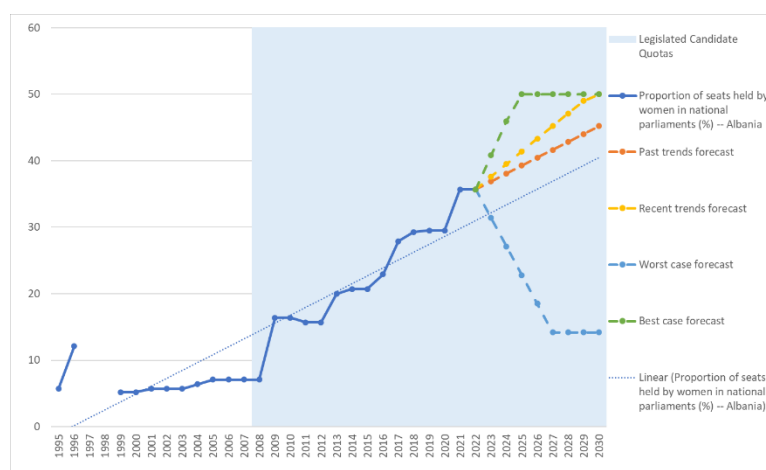


Modelling women's political participation - Methodology

Women's political participation is a cornerstone of inclusive governance, as it ensures diverse perspectives and experiences are considered in decision-making processes, and serve as an accelerator for the whole development agenda.¹ When it comes to modelling this participation, relying on a single prediction can be limiting. The political landscape is constantly evolving, influenced by various factors such as changing social norms, economic developments, and policy shifts (including the adoption of legislated gender quotas). By exploring multiple scenarios, we embrace the complexity of these influences and equip ourselves to adapt effectively.



For the Equal Future platform, we focused on women's representation in national parliaments. We developed visualizations, which combine historical data with some context data (quotas) and forecasts. Adoption of quotas — and the type of quotas adopted — might influence women's representation and potential scenarios. The compiled dataset includes information about quotas. The

chart shows quota existence through blue shading, which help users to explore changes. The four forecasts are based on past trends, recent trends, best-case and worst-case scenarios. This approach enables us to not only envision a broader range of potential futures but also to develop more comprehensive strategies to promote and support women's active engagement and representation in politics, ultimately leading to more representative and equitable societies.

In the **Past Trends** scenario, we base our projections on data from 1995, providing insights into the long-term changes in women's participation within a country/territory. Examining historical trends provides a comprehensive perspective on the evolution of women's political involvement, enabling us to understand the enduring patterns and shifts that have shaped their representation in the political arena. This scenario allows us to acknowledge the significance of past milestones and challenges in the journey towards gender equality, providing a valuable context for the Equal Future's discussion. While this scenario captures the long-term trend over the past three decades, it is less sensitive to most recent events and changes in societies.

The **Recent Trends** scenario focuses on the past five years of data (capturing the most recent electoral cycle), offering a more immediate and sensitive perspective. While this approach may be inclined to capture the impact of recent events and developments, it could potentially overlook long-term structural changes. These short-term dynamics should be analyzed in context, to discern rapid shifts and emerging patterns that may influence women's participation in the near future.

The **Best-Case** and **Worst-Case** scenarios are imaginative projections that aim to establish aspirational goals and highlight potential pitfalls. They ask questions such as 'What best (worst) possible future could

¹ UNDP and UN Women, 2019. [Gender Equality as an Accelerator for Achieving the SDGs.](#)

look like, if the past is a good guidance for the future?" These scenarios are grounded in historical data about the most favourable and most challenging circumstances for women's political participation,² applying these extremes to the next five years for a particular country/territory. While fictional in nature, these scenarios serve as valuable reference points for discussion, helping to set ambitious targets and identify critical areas of concern. They encourage strategic thinking and preparedness by emphasizing the need to strive for the best outcomes while mitigating against the worst-case scenarios, ultimately guiding our efforts towards achieving greater gender equality in political participation.

Data. Projections are developed by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub. They are based on a comprehensive dataset compiled from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSTAT), IPU and country offices. The dataset passed serious data cleaning to ensure quality and comparability of data. Besides numeric data, the dataset includes some context information, like gender quotas in parliament. The UNSTAT Global SDG dataset includes four series for the SDG 5.5.1 Indicator:³

- SG_GEN_PARLN, Number of women in parliament, custodian agency IPU;
- SG_GEN_PARLNT, Total number of seats in parliament, custodian agency IPU;
- SG_GEN_PARL, Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (% of total number of seats), custodian agency IPU;
- SG_GEN_LOCGELS_FEMALE, Proportion of elected seats held by women in deliberative bodies of local government (%), custodian agency UN Women.

UNSTAT data refers as of 1 February for 2000-2019 and for 1 January for 2020-. For the scope of projections data is rebased on 31st December. UNDP provides data for Kosovo⁴ directly.

² The worst-case scenario is based on Bosnia and Herzegovina 2000 elections, when the share of women in parliament dropped from 28.6 percent to 7.1 percent. The best-case scenario is based on Kyrgyzstan 2007 elections, when the share of women in parliament reached 25.6 percent from zero level.

³ UNSTAT, [SDG Indicators. Metadata repository](#).

⁴ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).