Women facing inequalities and being discriminated against, when it comes to leadership positions, is a well-known reality in almost every country. Historically, masculinity has been considered as an ideal quality to succeed in any area, therefore making women less wanted in leadership positions. Assertive and aspiring women have been called “bossy” and “irritating” whereas men with the same characteristics are “destined to reach their goals”. In Europe, according to the European Commission, at the end of 2016, 65.5% of women were employed in some work compared to 77.4% of men. Women's board participation is limited to 25%, with relatively better performance in France, Italy, Finland and Sweden, where it reaches 33%.

In Greece the situation is even worse with 1 in 3 companies not even having women in management, while in the rest, the ratio is only 1 to 10. In addition, women are paid an average of 15% less per year than men. Despite the significant changes in the position of women in the Greek labor market in recent decades, their participation remains much lower than that of men in leadership positions and decision-making centers. And the first thing we have to do is to dispel the myths that still prevail today and lead to the reproduction of stereotypes.

However, certain laws have been passed, that protect women’s position in the workplace. For example, law 3896/2010 includes matters such as:

* -equal pay between women and men
* -equal treatment in occupational social security systems
* -equal treatment in relation to access to employment in professional development and training and working conditions
* -measures of the national legislator to implement the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and employment

In 2020 Katerina Sakellaropoulou was chosen as the first ever President of Greece. Despite her astounding accomplishments such as being appointed Vice-President of the Council of State, and in October 2018 becoming the first female president of the court, plenty of people have deemed the Government’s decision to choose her as President unfair, as there are men “more worthy of the position” and their choice is a way to make them perceived as “modern”.

Despites certain efforts that have been made, Greece has a long way to go when it comes to gender equality in leadership. More events and mobilizations should be organized in order to achieve the goal of total equality.

**Sources:**

<https://www.fortunegreece.com/article/ginekes-ke-igesia-mithi-pou-prepi-epitelous-na-katarrifthoun/>

<https://www.isotita.gr/nomothesia/ethniki-nomothesia/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katerina_Sakellaropoulou>

<https://home.kpmg/gr/el/home/insights/2019/04/siana-kyriacou-interview-fortune.html>

Sevina Tsiompani