



WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2026

Benchmarking Laws for Jobs
and Inclusive Growth



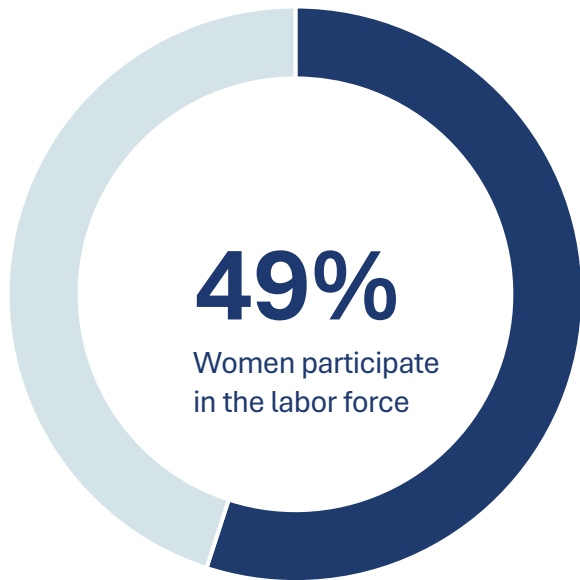
Agenda

1. Motivation
2. Methodology
3. WBL 2026 findings and key messages
4. WBL Project Impact
5. Opportunities for Collaboration

16 years of Women, Business and the Law



The global scale of the challenge



27%

Share of women in
parliament



23%

Women in cabinet
positions



A smart strategy for economic growth

If 3.9 billion women had equal access to jobs, global GDP could increase by up to 20 percent.

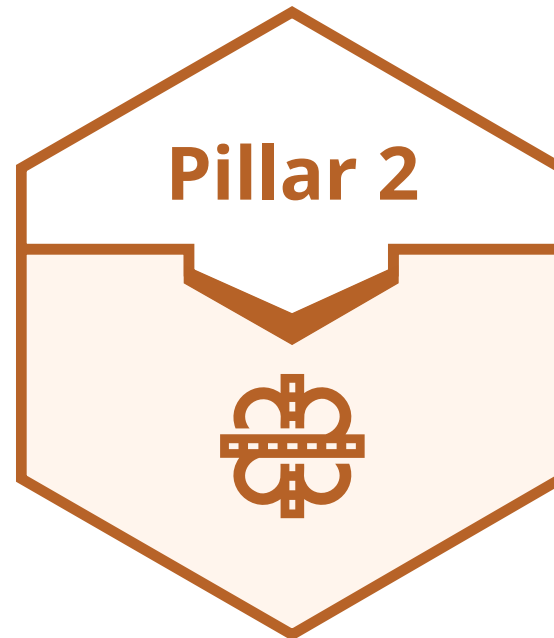


From laws on the books to implementation in practice



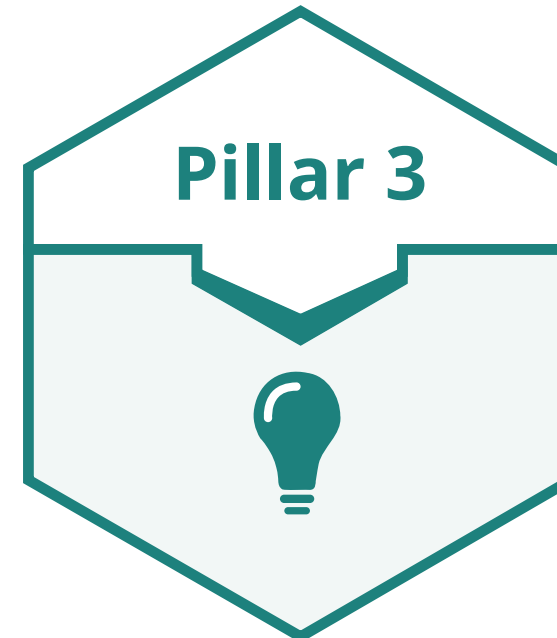
Legal frameworks

Laws and regulations



Supportive frameworks

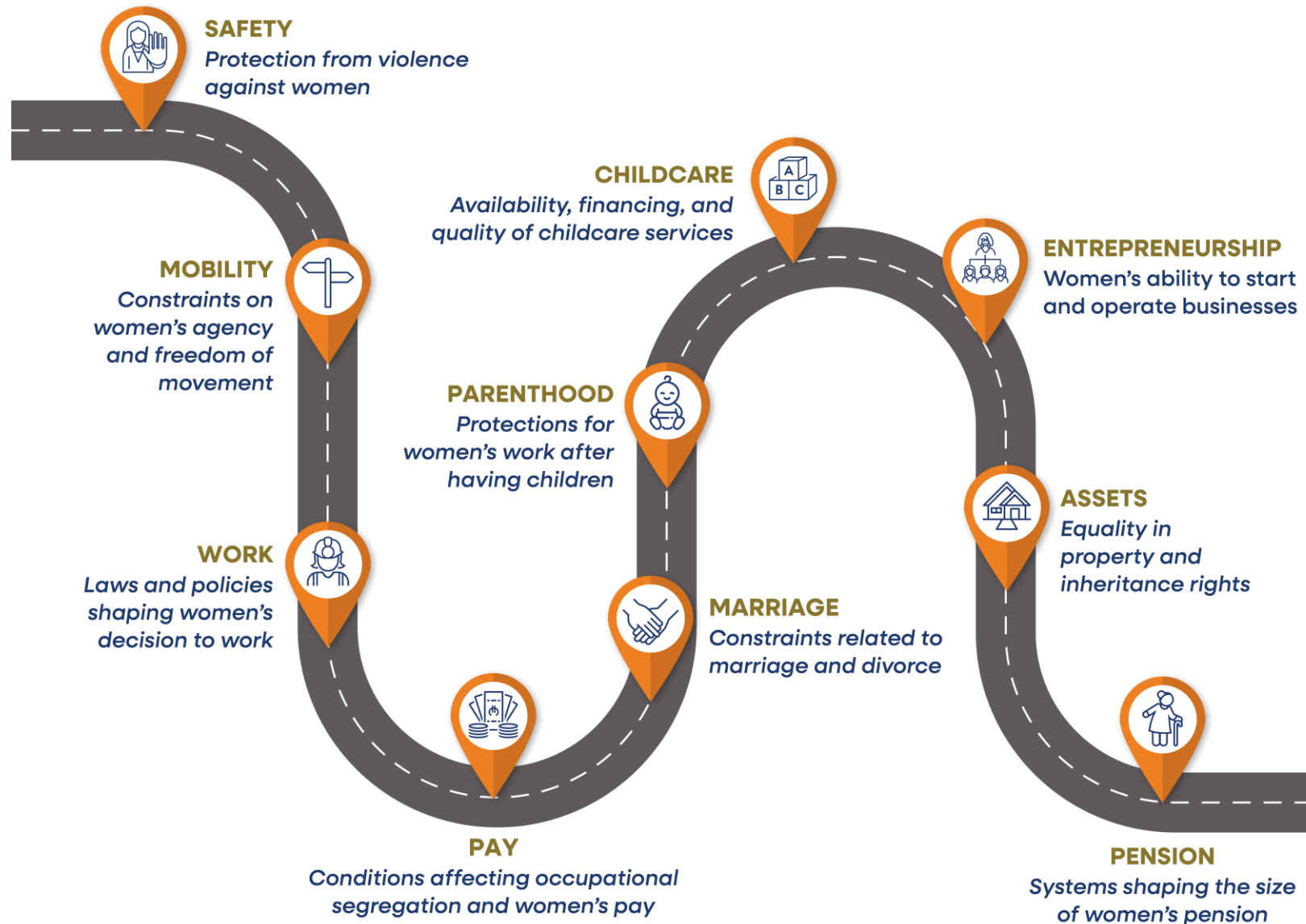
Institutions, policies and programs



Enforcement perceptions

Legal experts' views on the extent of enforcement of the law

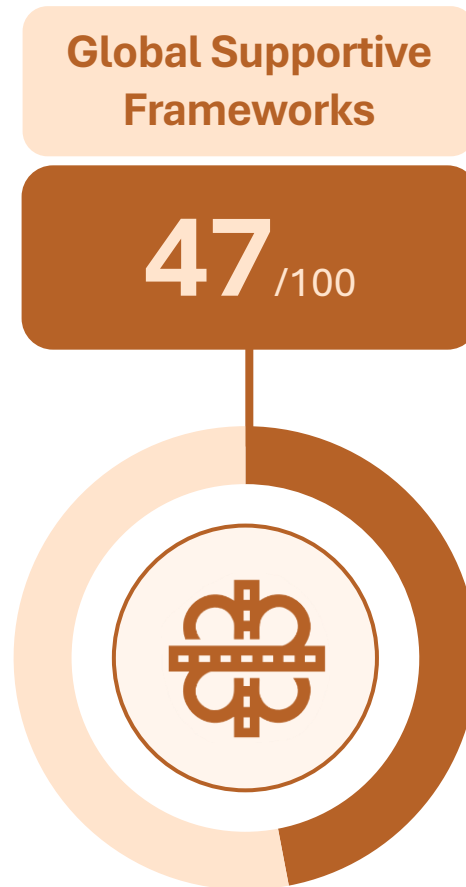
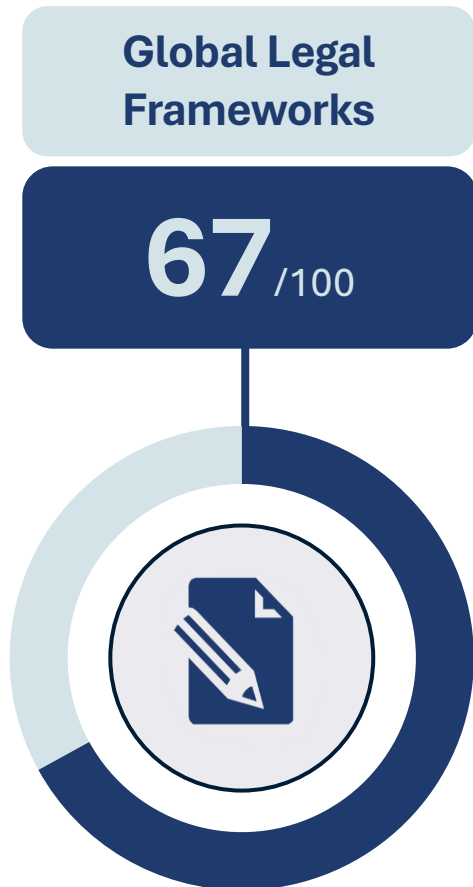
Measuring equal opportunity in every walk of life



WBL 2026 findings and messages



Women's economic participation remain incomplete in law and in practice



Reforms are gaining momentum where they are most needed

113 reforms across 68 economies



Safety

22 economies | 24 reforms

Cyber harassment protections now cover women in 90 economies



Entrepreneurship

19 economies | 21 reforms

Most reforms strengthened women's representation in **corporate boards**



Parenthood

13 economies | 16 reforms

Most reforms introduced or increased the duration of **paid leave** for fathers

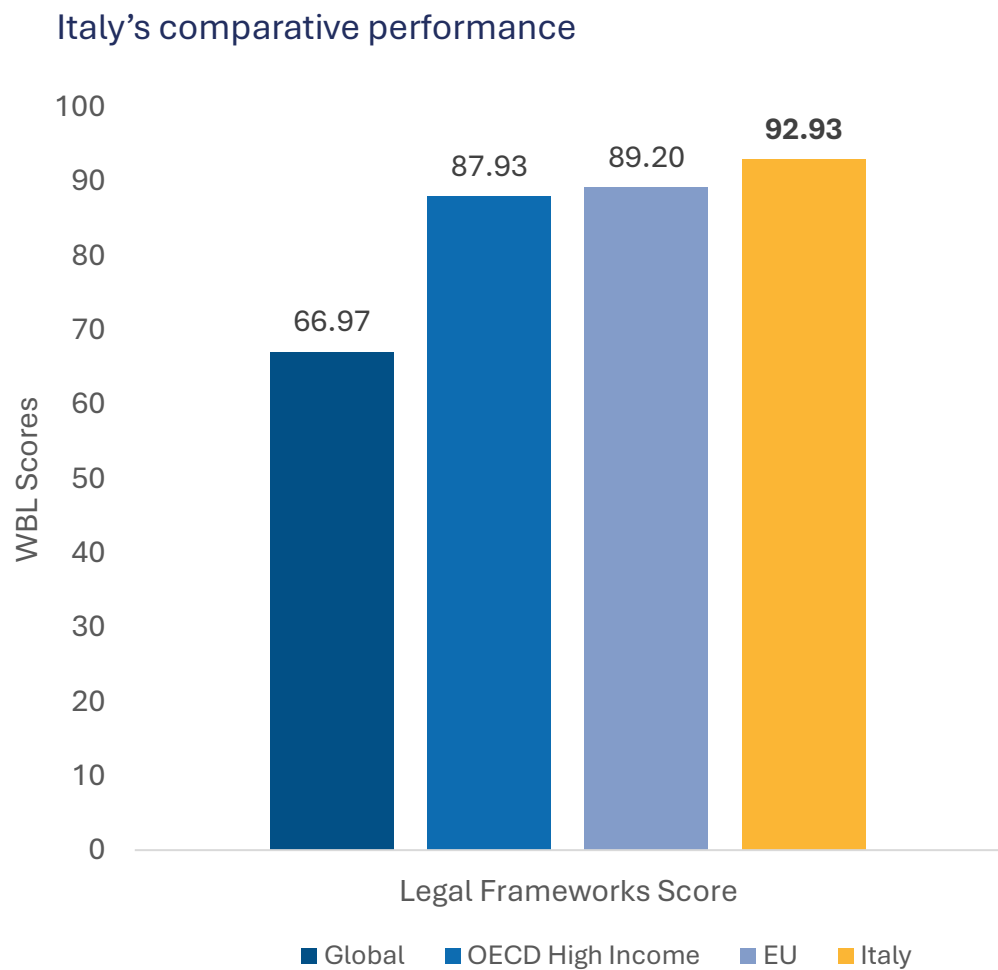
Top Reforming Economies

- Egypt
- Madagascar
- Somalia, Fed. Rep.
- Oman
- Jordan
- Kyrgyz Republic

WBL2026 Findings for Italy

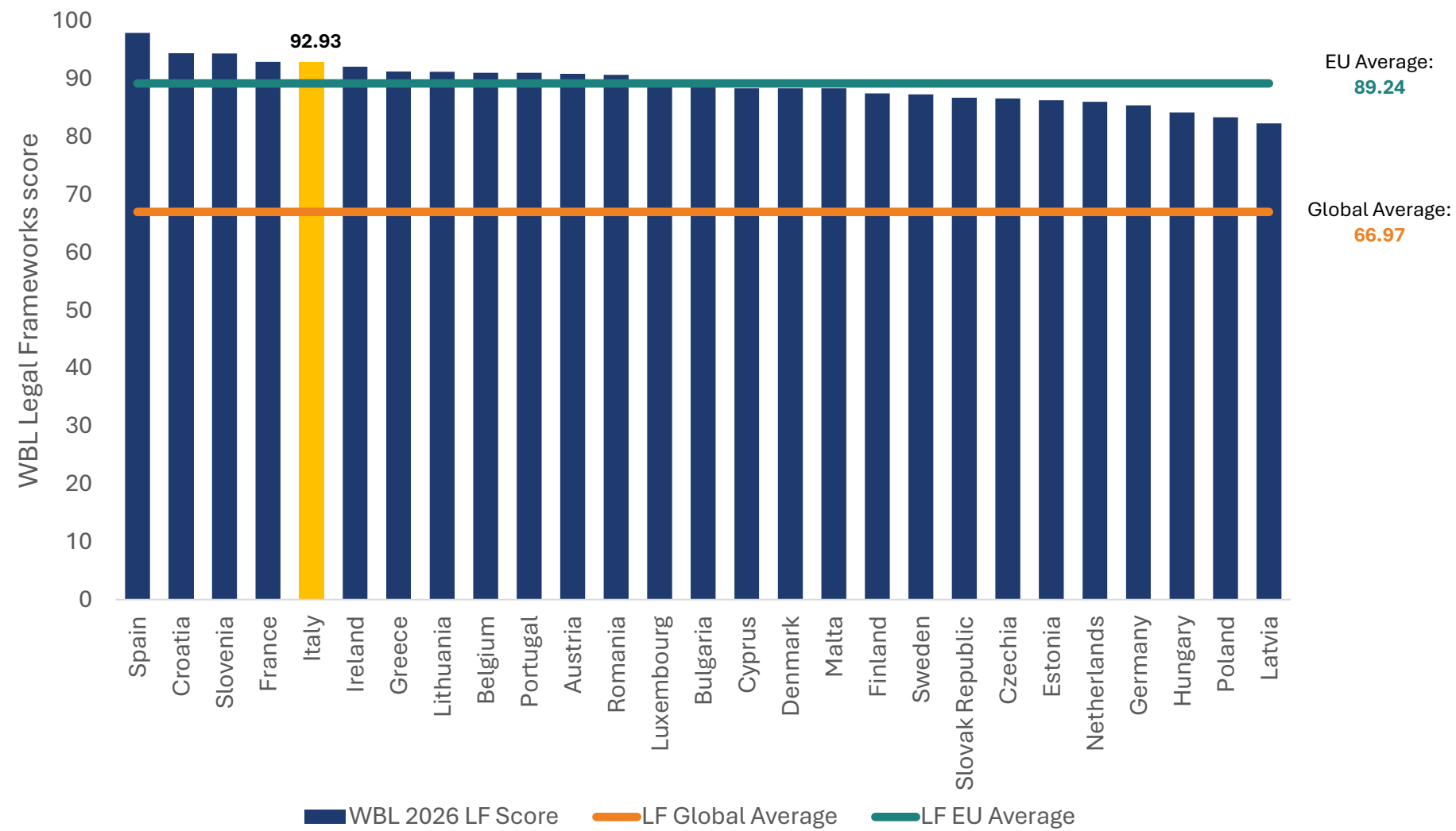


Italy's main results on Legal Frameworks



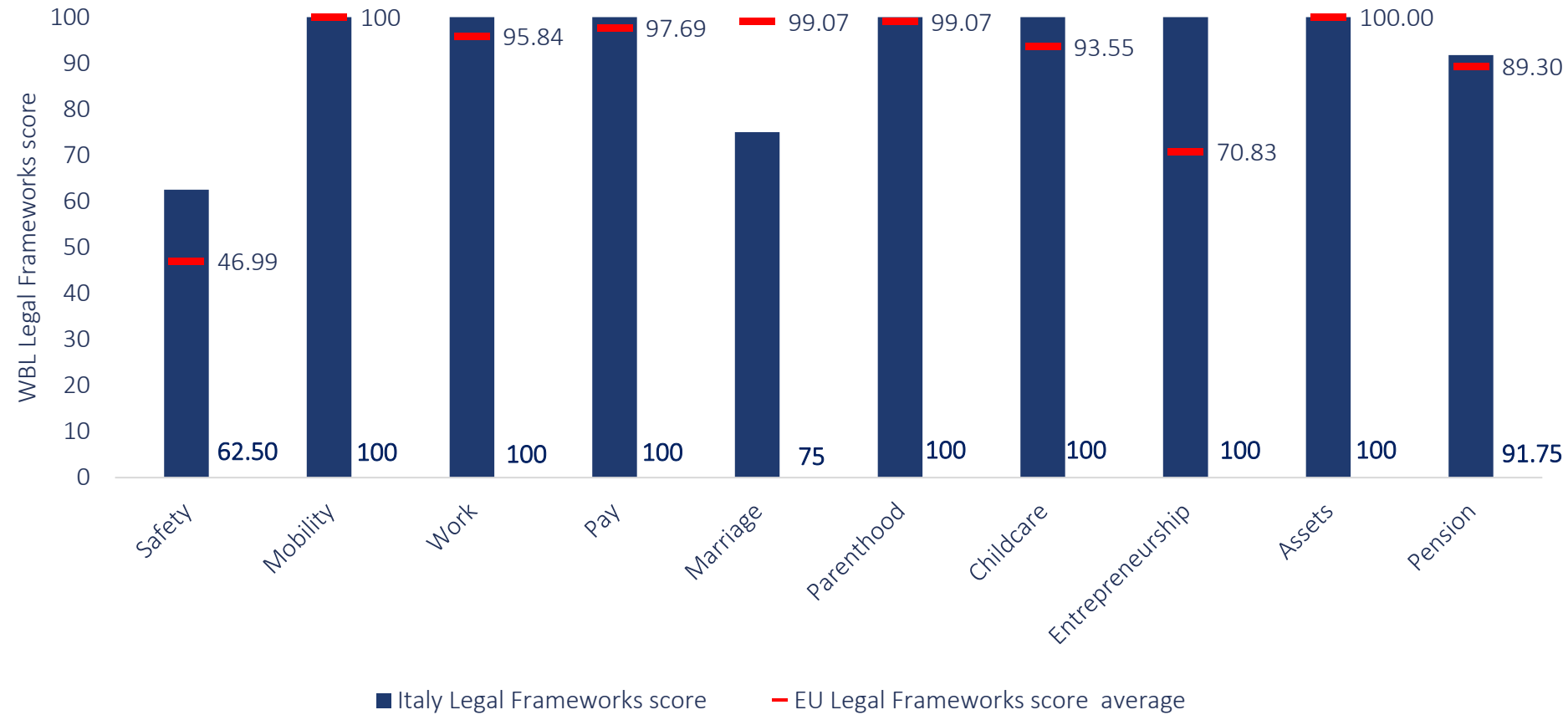
Source: *Women, Business and the Law 2026*

Legal Frameworks: Italy's score is fifth in the EU



Source: Women, Business and the Law 2026

Legal Frameworks: Italy ahead on Entrepreneurship



Remaining gaps in Legal Frameworks



SAFETY

Without **legal recourse for harassment in public spaces and at school**, women face barriers that existing workplace protections alone cannot address — with tangible consequences for their presence at work, productivity, job retention, and participation in public and professional life.

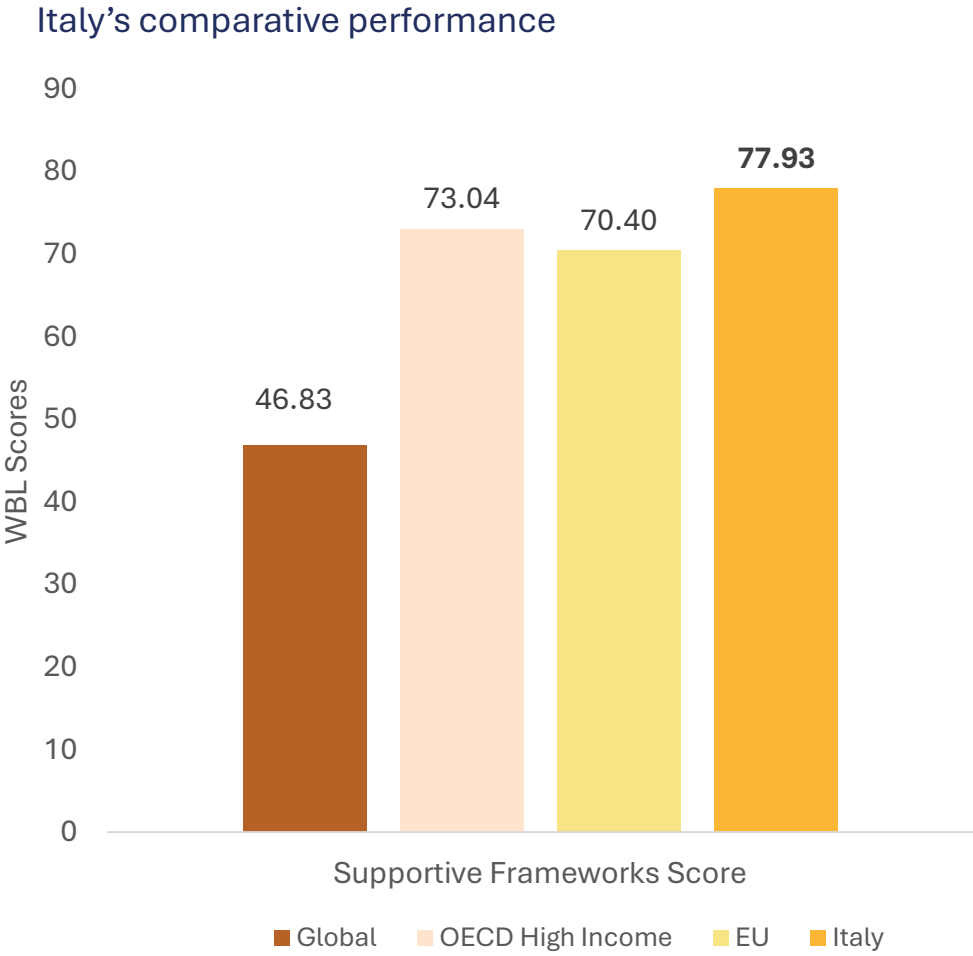
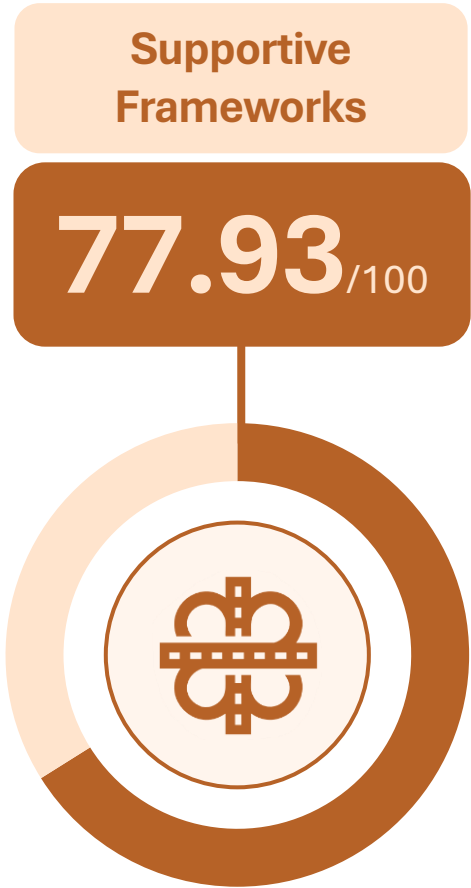
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MARRIAGE

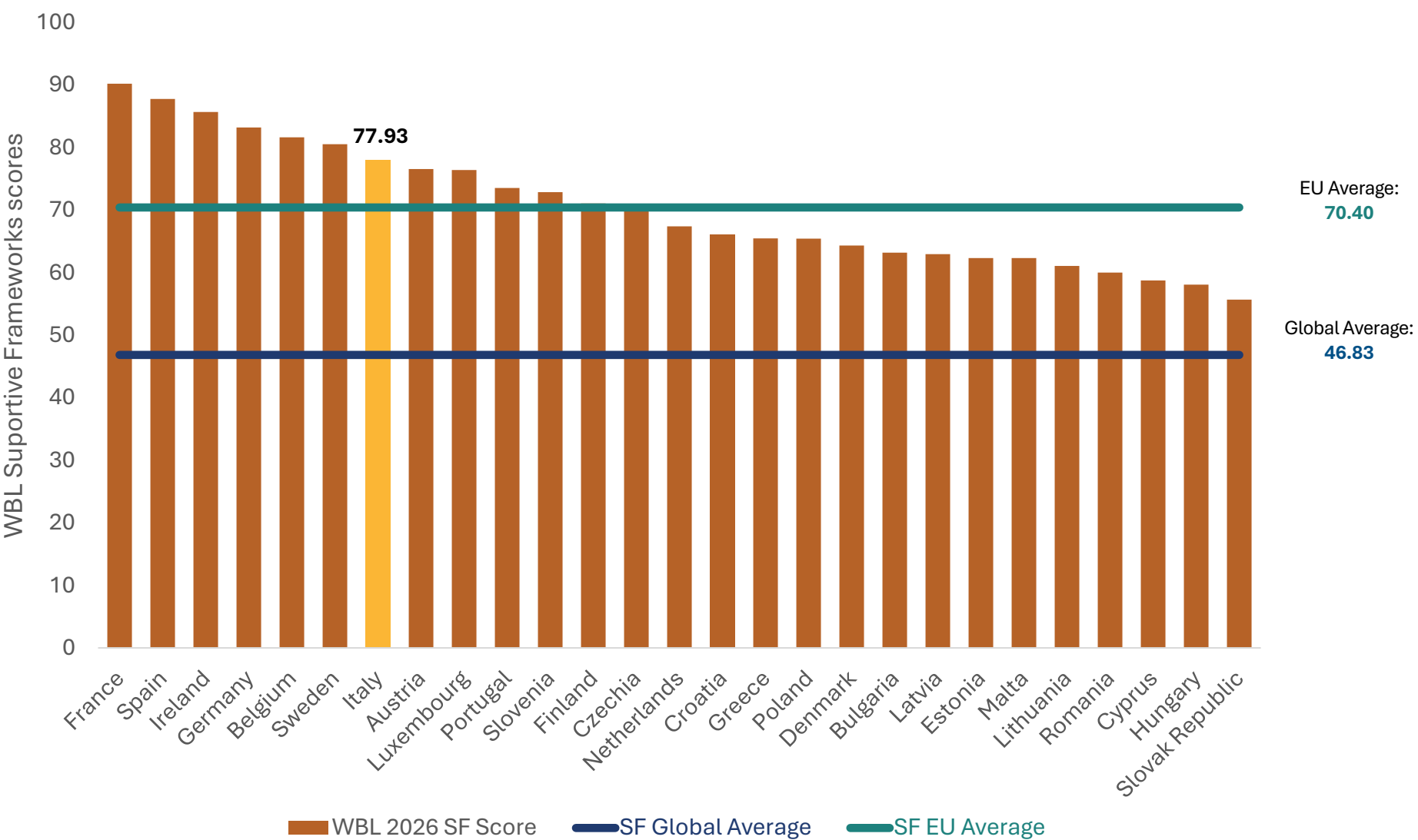
Providing women with the right to obtain a judgement of divorce in the same way as men.

Italy's main results on Supportive Frameworks



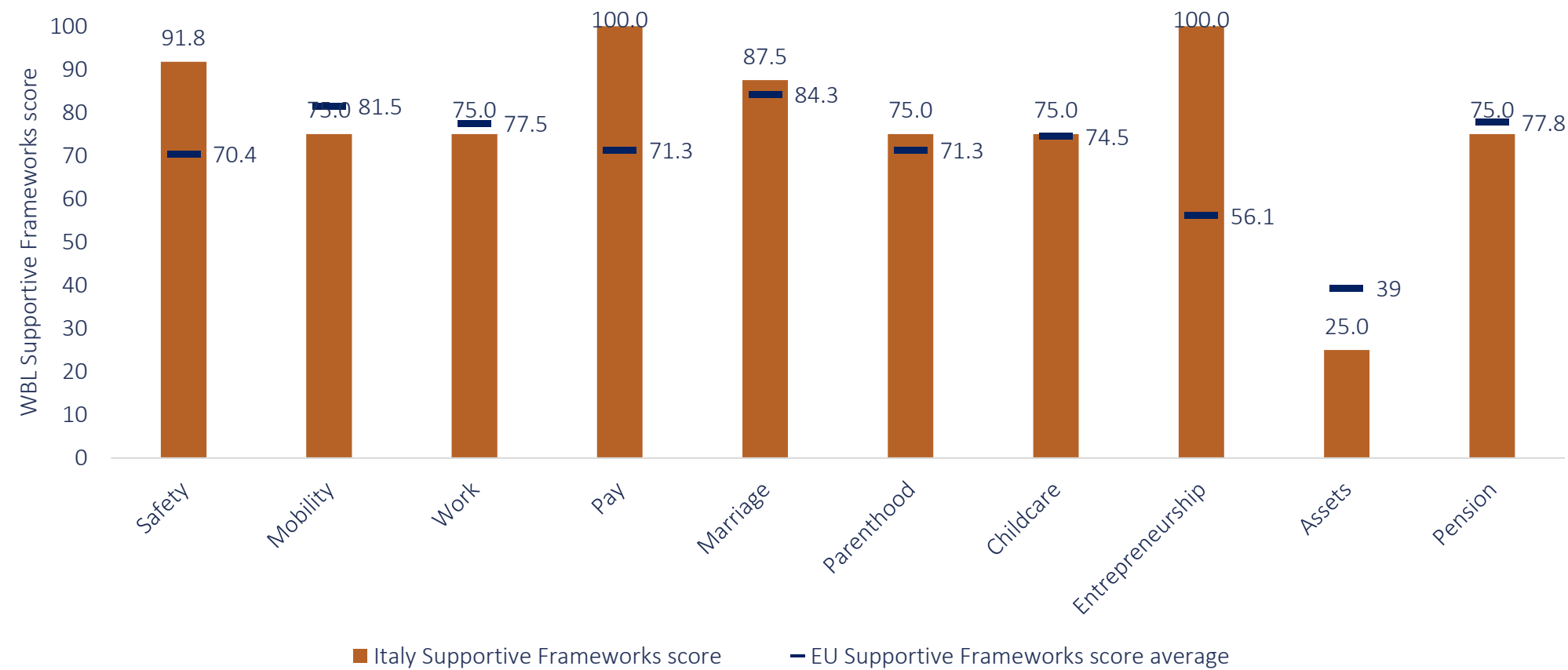
Source: *Women, Business and the Law 2026*

Supportive Frameworks: Italy's score is seventh in the EU



Source: Women, Business and the Law 2026

Supportive Frameworks: Italy ahead on Pay and Entrepreneurship



Remaining gaps in Supportive Frameworks



ASSETS

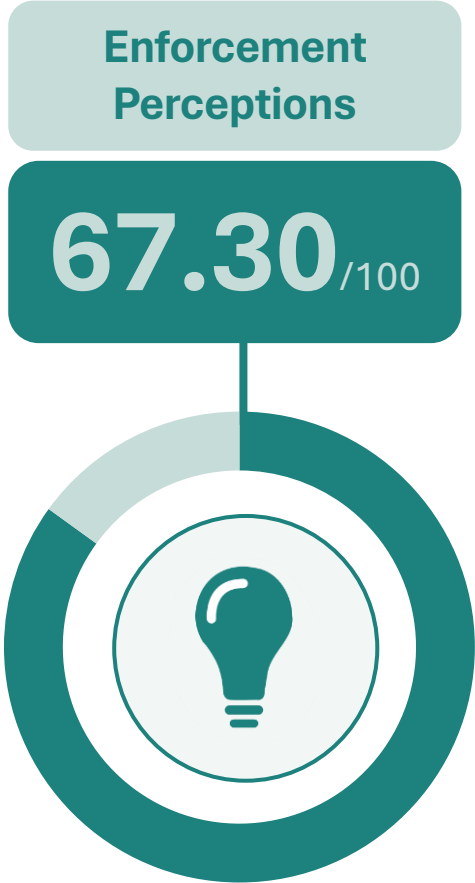
Mechanisms or incentives to encourage women to register immovable property, sex-disaggregated data on property ownership, and a legal mandate or presumption of joint titling are practical mechanisms that ensure women can access, exercise, and retain the property rights the law grants them — building economic security, improving access to finance, and strengthening their bargaining power within households.



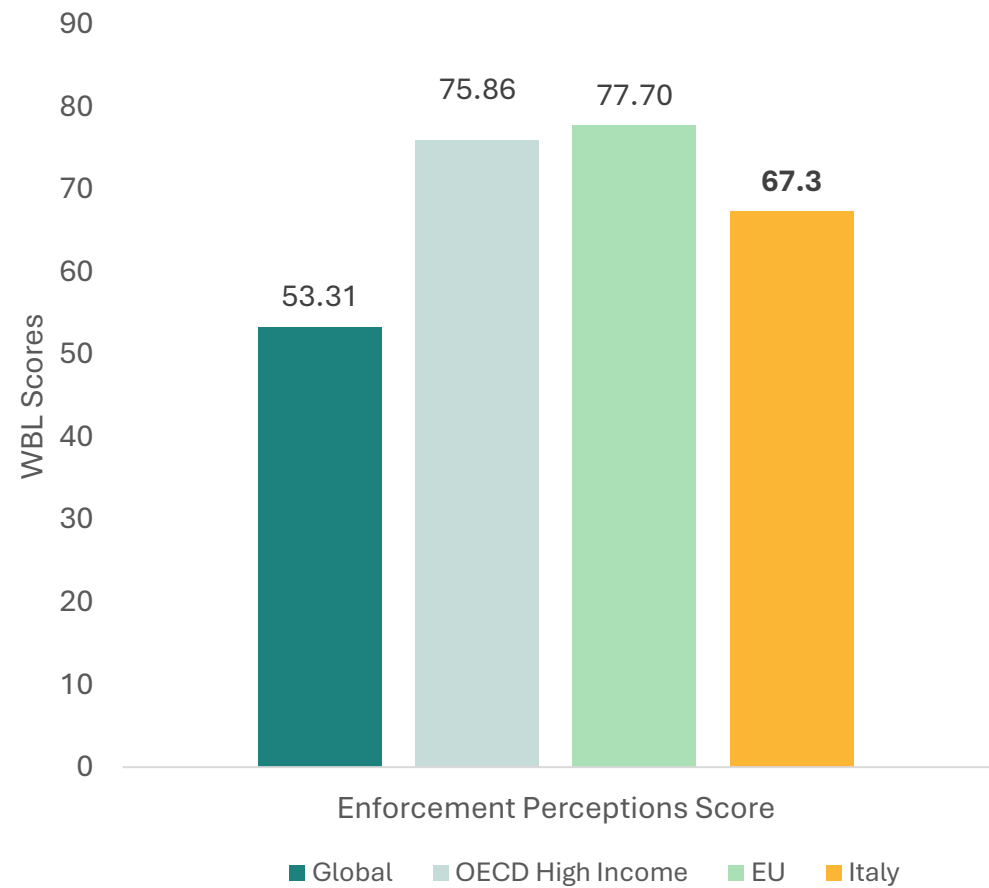
PENSION

No evidence of incentives to increase women's pension benefits could be found. Incentives could be tax a subsidy to join the pension scheme early.

Italy's main results on Enforcement Perceptions

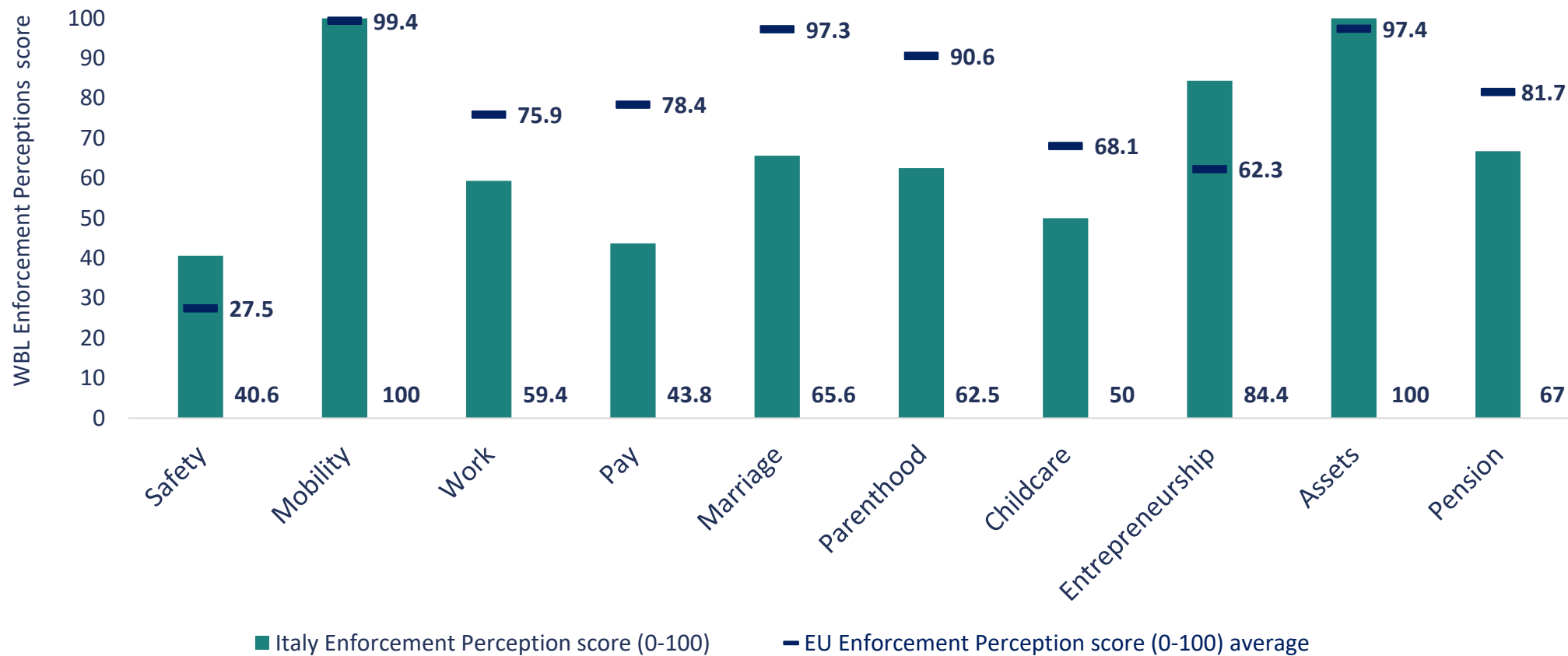


Italy's comparative performance



Source: *Women, Business and the Law 2026*

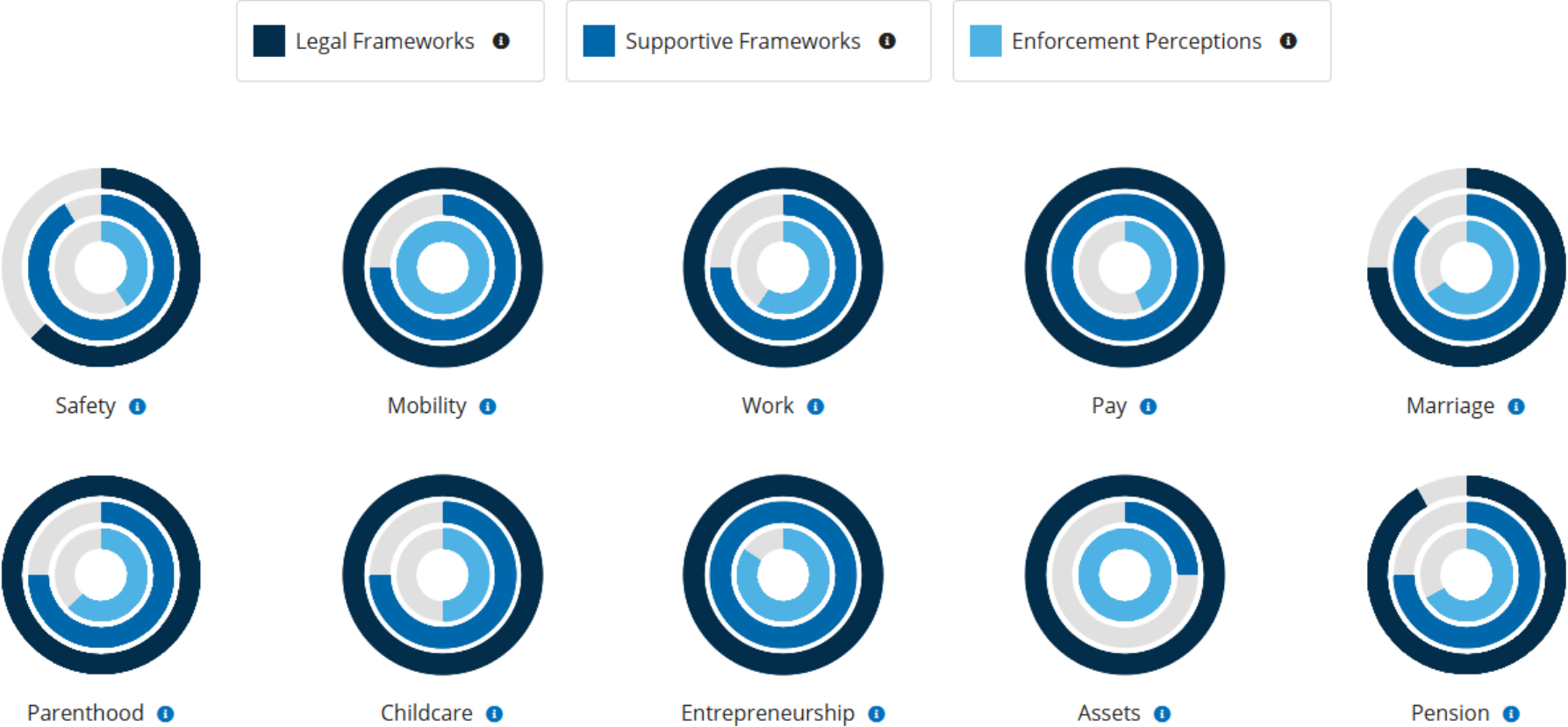
Enforcement Perceptions: Italy ahead on Mobility and Assets



Source: *Women, Business and the Law 2026*

Italy at a Glance

Score Range: 0 – 100



Source: *Women, Business and the Law 2026*

Impact



How *Women, Business and the Law* data are used



**Underpinning
groundbreaking
research**



**Co-custodian of
SDG 5.1.1**



**Strengthening
WBG projects**

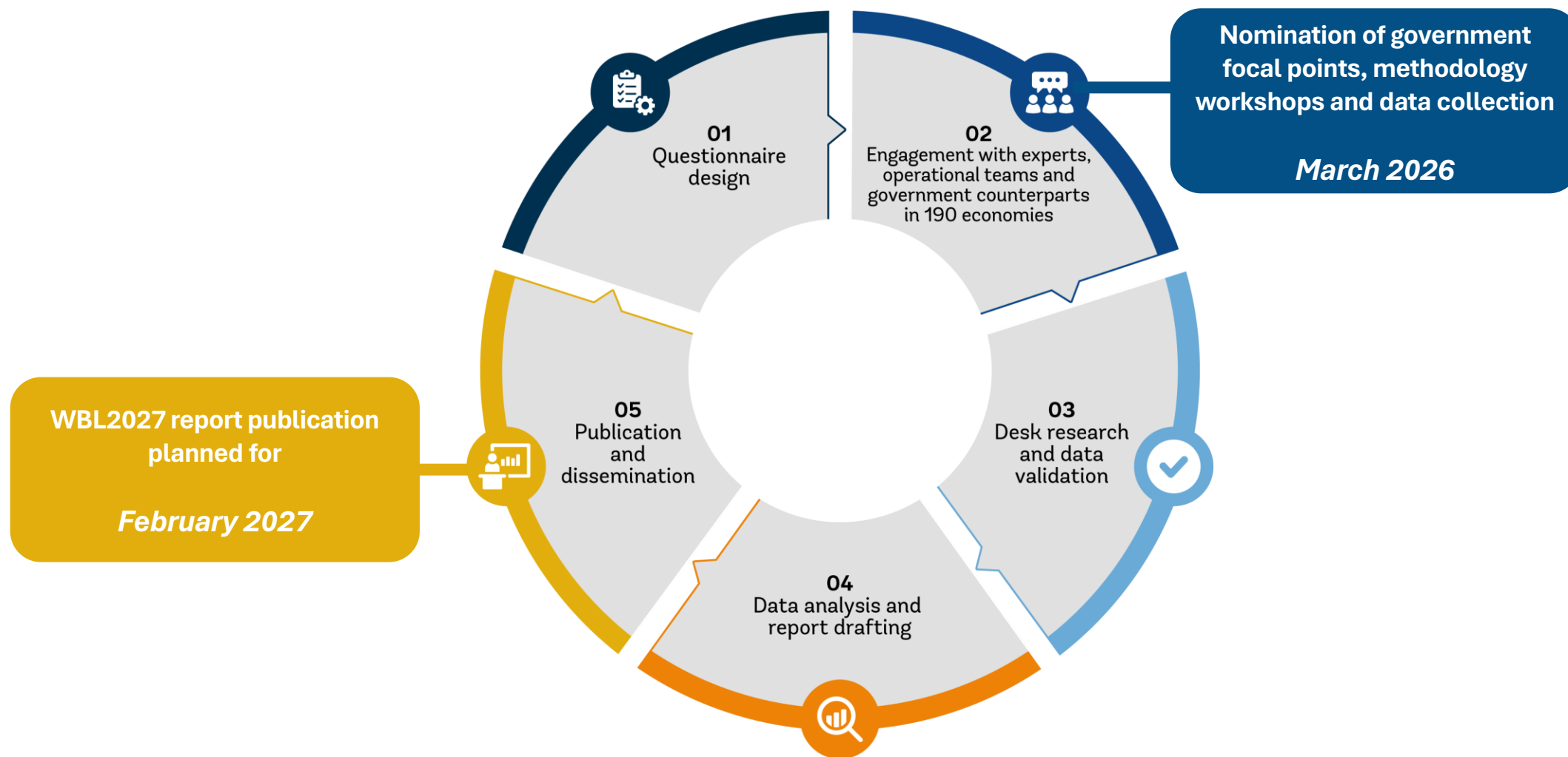


**Informing legal &
policy reforms in
economies
around the world**

Opportunities for Collaboration



Women, Business and the Law 2027 annual cycle



Data collection with local experts in 190 economies

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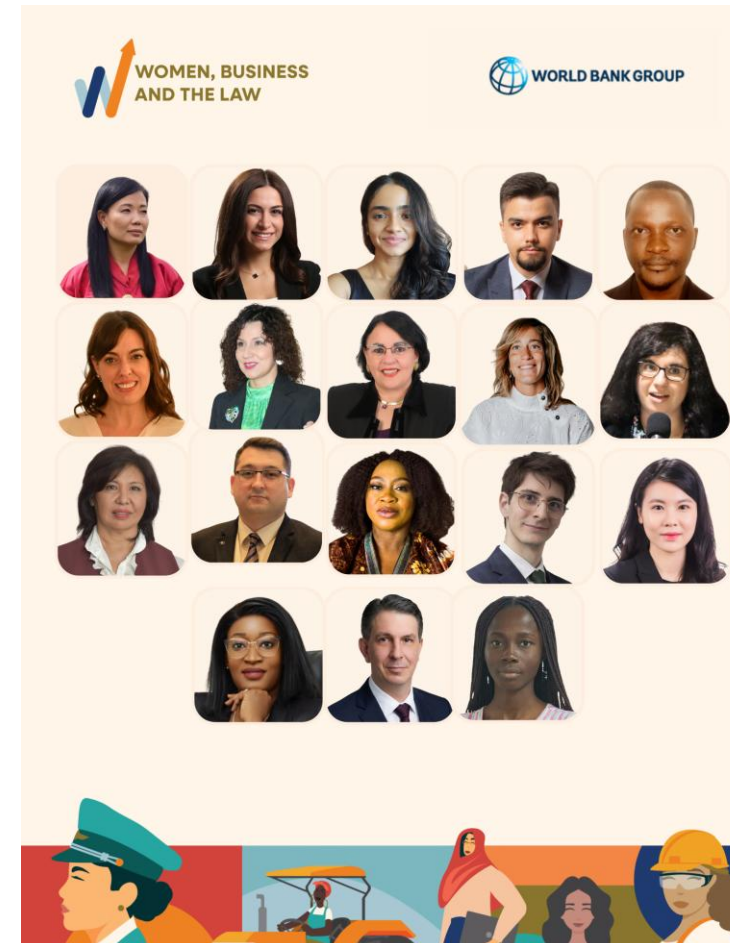
DATA ▼

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NEWS & EVENTS

- Over **20,000** experts in **190 economies** during the past 15 years
- Over **2,300** experts worldwide contributed to WBL 2026



Global Expert Contributors

Join the Global Partner network and contribute to reforms and policy dialogue in Italy.

 **THE WORLD BANK**
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 **WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW**

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Thank you!



Scan to read the 2026 report

Find the full analysis in the new *Women, Business and the Law*



 wbl.worldbank.org