

GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU

POLICY CONTEXT

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) is an agenda for action to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women. It was adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. In December 1995, the European Council acknowledged the EU's commitment towards the BPfA and expressed its intent to review its implementation across the Member States on a yearly basis.

EIGE's report 'Gender Equality and Climate Change' reviews the implementation of the BPfA in the EU Member States and introduces the first indicators to measure the progress of gender equality in the area of women and the environment. **On 21 June 2012 the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council of Ministers of the European Union (EPSCO) adopted conclusions on gender equality and climate change and took note on the first indicators** prepared by the Danish Presidency on the basis of EIGE's report. EPSCO conclusions highlight that **more women are needed in climate change decision making to respond to climate change efficiently.**

INDICATORS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Indicator 1.** Proportion of women in climate change decision-making bodies at the national level in the EU Member States
- **Indicator 2.** Proportion of women in climate change decision-making bodies at the EU level
- **Indicator 3.** Proportion of women in climate change decision-making bodies at the international level
- **Indicator 4.** Proportion of women tertiary graduates of total graduates (ISCED levels 5 and 6) in natural sciences and technologies at the EU and Member State level

FINDINGS

Gender equality and climate change

Despite the leading role of the EU in advancing the international negotiations on climate change, **gender dimension has been largely absent from policy initiatives and debates at the European and international levels.**

EIGE's report reveals important links between gender equality and climate change. Women and men are affected by climate change in diverse ways – the gender dimension is present in the way women and men contribute to GHG emissions, mitigate, adapt to and perceive climate change. Finally, women and men are influenced differently by the socio-economic impacts of climate policies. All of these gender differences need to be taken into account in policy making to improve the responsiveness of climate change policies to the needs of women and men, and society in general.

The gender dimension is central in power relations and con-

sequently in shaping climate policies. The report proposes indicators to measure women's participation in climate change decision-making in public sector at the national, EU and international levels. It also presents segmentation of tertiary education by gender in scientific and technical fields.

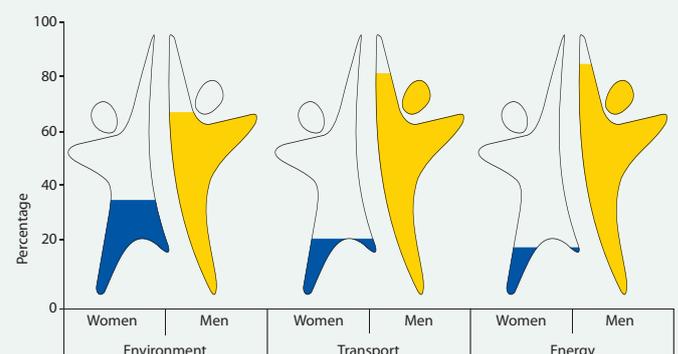
Women in decision-making

Women's involvement in climate change decision-making at the national, European and international levels is still low. The highest proportion of women in decision-making was identified at the international level: 39% of women in national delegations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At the EU level, the proportion of women in climate change decision-making is 38%. The average percentage of women in the European Commission's DGs related to climate change is close to 27%. In DG Environment, women hold 25% of the high-level positions while in DG Mobility and Transport this figure falls to 13% – comparable with lower number of women in national ministries in the transport sector.

In the European Parliament the average representation of women is higher than in the European Commission, with 39% of women among the members of the committees working on issues closely linked to climate change (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety; Transport and Tourism; Industry, Research and Energy).

The first difference was found at the political and administrative levels of decision-making in the Member States. Higher numbers of women were found at the middle management level, among the heads of sectorial departments of national ministries, than at higher political and administrative levels. There are only 26% of women in high-level decision-making positions in the national ministries responsible for environment, transport and energy sectors. Another difference is related to the horizontal comparison of the sectors. Women's representation in decision making is higher in environmental ministries (34%) compared with the transport and energy sectors, where women's share of decision-making is only 20% and 17%, respectively.

Figure 1. Women in high-level positions related to climate change in environment, transport and energy ministries at the national level, by sector, EU-27, 2011.



Source: Data from Member States, August – October 2011.

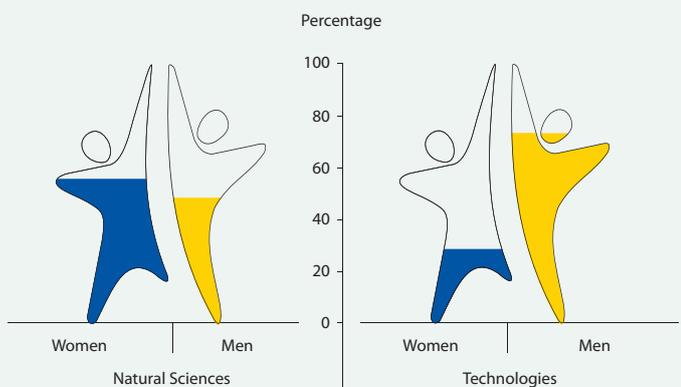
The unequal representation and involvement of women and men in planning and decision-making can strengthen inequalities in other areas and can have a negative impact on the effectiveness of climate change policies if they are not targeted at all relevant consumers.

Segmentation of education by gender in the areas of natural sciences and technologies

The report also shows **significant differences in the proportion of women and men graduates in scientific and technological fields**. In 2009, women represented only 28% of the graduates in the technological fields, such as architecture and building (36%), transport services (26%), engineering and engineering trades (18%).

Figure 2. Male and female tertiary graduates in the fields related to natural sciences and technologies, EU-27, 2009

Educational choices of women and men are influenced by gen-



Source: Eurostat, Education Statistics

der stereotypes, the lack of female role models in science and engineering, as well as outdated and not gender-blind career counselling in upper-secondary education. Making science fields more socially and personally relevant to women students and integrating cross and multidisciplinary approaches in the science curriculum, might attract more women to natural sciences and technologies.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop strategies for integrating gender perspective into climate change-related policy-making process.
- Monitor gender equality in decision-making in the field of climate change and the relevant educational fields on a regular basis by using the developed indicators.
- Take actions towards increasing women’s participation in high-level climate-related decision-making positions, among others: introducing specific goals and quantitative targets for women’s participation in decision-making.
- Take actions towards women’s higher enrolment in science and technology-related fields of education.
- Conduct research on qualitative aspects of climate change-related policies from a gender perspective.
- Conduct research on the links between women’s participation in decision-making and the actual policy outcomes.
- Raise awareness about the relevance of gender issues for climate change.

ABOUT the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and beyond, by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable information on gender equality in Europe.

As stated in the Commission’s Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010–2015’, one of the tasks of the European Institute for Gender Equality is to support the Presidencies of the Council of the EU in reporting and developing indicators established under the Beijing Platform for Action in areas of particular concern.

More information and EIGE’s report ‘Gender Equality and Climate Change’ are available at: www.eige.europa.eu.



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