

Women and the Environment (K)

Human beings are at the centre of concern for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. According to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Equality, Development and Peace (BPfA) 1995¹, women are often not equal participants in the management of financial and corporate institutions whose decision-making most significantly affects environmental quality and they are often under-represented in formal institutions with policymaking capacities at the national, regional and international levels.

Women have an essential role to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns and approaches to natural resource management, as was recognised at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development² and the International Conference on Population and Development³ and reflected throughout Agenda 21.

Women mainly have jobs in health, caring and service professions, while industrial jobs are often dominated by men. Sectors such as energy, transport, and technological development are highly important for environmental issues but tend to be dominated by men in the workforce. Furthermore, managerial and policymaking positions in these sectors are entrusted mainly to men. Women remain absent from leadership, political and entrepreneurial decision-making, from ownership in various companies, from the workforce in this sector and from the technical schools and scientific educational institutions where the future labour force is trained.

In addressing the lack of adequate recognition and support for women's contribution to conservation and management of natural resources and safeguarding the environment, governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes, including, as appropriate,

an analysis of the effects on women and men, respectively, before decisions are taken. In order to address these problems, the following strategic objectives were set and agreed to be implemented by the national governments.

The strategic objectives

- K.1 Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels
- K.2 Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development
- K.3 Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women.

Indicators

In the context of the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) prepared a report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"⁴ during the Danish Presidency in 2012. The indicators in the report were proposed⁵ for women and environment to support political action by monitoring and documenting women's underrepresentation in the chosen sectors and educational fields.

The indicators provide information about the extent to which the objective K.1 of the Beijing Platform for Action has been achieved. They cover women's participation in decision-making in the field of climate change at the national, EU and international levels, as well as the segmentation of education by gender in the fields related to environment/climate change.



The proposed indicators represent only a first step towards women's full participation in the fight against climate change, with a view to ensuring better balanced, more comprehensive and more effective policies in this vital area. Many other areas are also of very high relevance for climate change policies. Although these indicators largely focus on the issue of climate change mitigation, they also to some extent cover areas such as climate change adaptation policy, as well as broader environmental issues, which are not the main focus of these conclusions.

The indicators do not cover development aspects of climate change, including development and climate changes policies in other parts of the world. The Council of the European Union adopted the conclusions⁶ and took note of the proposed indicators during its 3177th Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting on 21 June 2012.

Indicator K1

Name: Proportion of women and men in climate change decision-making bodies at the national level in the EU Member States

Concept: This indicator will provide information on the percentage of women and men in national authorities with the highest level of decision-making competences (typically ministries) in environment/climate change, transport and energy policy. The following positions should be covered:

- Level 1: the highest levels/positions (political level).
- Level 2: the top level of managerial or administrative decision-making.
- Level 3: the heads of sectoral departments or divisions.

The indicator, therefore, shows the extent to which women occupy positions relevant for climate change decision-making, which measures

their overall role in decision-making. Data are broken down into three sectors — environment, transport and energy — and a total of all positions considered.

Data source: The calculation of the indicator is based on data collected in 2011. The data collection process can be repeated in subsequent years, based on the methodology provided in EIGE report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"⁷, Annex I.

Published: Data are available in EIGE's report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"⁸ prepared during the Danish Presidency 2012 ('Table 5.1: Percentage of women in high-level positions dealing with climate change in national ministries competent for environment, transport and energy, by sector, EU-27', p. 65 and 'Table 5.2: Percentage of women in high-level positions dealing with climate change in national ministries competent for environment, transport and energy, by levels, EU-27', p. 66).

Notes: The data covering all 27 EU Member States were collected between August and October 2011. In a few cases, positions were vacant and were therefore not calculated in the final figures.

According to the available data by sectors, in 10 Member States (BE, EE, EL, FR, LU, HU, MT, NL, PT and SE) some ministries or institutions work in several sectors. Therefore, when the information on the relevant individuals was collected, the individual was included under all relevant sectors. When calculating the numbers by levels or total (all three sectors together), these individuals were taken into account once only. Summarising numbers by sectors and by levels or total can, therefore, give different results.

The baseline data are presented in more detail in EIGE's report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"⁹ in Chapter 4 and Annex II. The indicator is objectively verifiable and can be updated using the meth-

odology developed for obtaining the baseline data, as discussed in EIGE's report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"¹⁰ in Annex I. This includes tracking the organisation charts of the relevant ministries in each Member State and follow-up phone calls to collect and verify the data.

Indicator K2

Name: Proportion of women and men in climate change decision-making in the European Parliament and the Commission

Concept: This indicator measures women's and men's participation in decision-making on climate change policies at EU level. Information on individuals holding high-level posts (European Commission) and members of the committees (European Parliament) is readily available on the respective websites of these institutions. For the European Commission, four Directorates-General (DGs) have been considered:

- DG Climate Action;
- DG Environment;
- DG Mobility and Transport;
- DG Energy.

For each DG, the top three levels of decision-making are considered:

- Level 1: the Commissioner;
- Level 2: the top level of managerial or administrative decision-making;
- Level 3: the heads of sectoral departments.

The indicator also tracks women's and men's participation in the three committees of the European Parliament where decisions related to climate change are most likely to be taken. This includes:

- members of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee;
- members of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee;

- members of the Transport and Tourism Committee.

Data source: For the European Commission and the European Parliament, information on individuals holding high-level posts (European Commission) and members of the committees (European Parliament) is readily available on the respective websites of these institutions. The data were collected from the European Commission¹¹ directory containing names of the staff in the relevant Directorates-General and from the European Parliament¹² website, which contains a list of all the committees as well as the members of each committee.

Published: Data are available in EIGE's report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"¹³ prepared during the Danish Presidency 2012 ('Table 5.3: Percentage of women in relevant high-level positions in the European Commission and in the European Parliament, 2011', p. 67 and 'Table 5.4: Percentage of women in relevant high-level positions in the European Commission by level, 2011', p. 68).

Notes: This indicator measures women's and men's participation in decision-making on climate policies at EU level, showing women's participation within the European Commission and the European Parliament. The baseline data are presented in more detail in EIGE's report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"¹⁴ in Chapter 4 and Annex II. The indicator is objectively verifiable and can be updated using the methodology developed for obtaining the baseline data, as discussed in EIGE's report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"¹⁵ in Annex I.

Indicator K3

Name: Proportion of women and men in climate change decision-making bodies at the international level



Concept: This indicator provides information on women's and men's participation in decision making bodies working on international climate policies. It presents the percentage of women participating in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as part of national delegations and the EU delegation to the Conference of the Parties (COPs) and to the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs). The COP delegations to the UNFCCC represent the political negotiating and decision-making body on international climate change policies, and are supported by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Supplementary Body for Implementation (SBI).

Baseline monitoring data for this indicator should include the percentage of women in Member States' delegations and in the EU delegation to the COP, the SBSTA and the SBI for the last five years for which data are available.

The indicator includes:

- the average percentage of women and men in Member States' delegations and in the EU delegation to the COP over the last five years;
- the average percentage of women and men in Member States' delegations and in the EU delegation to the SBSTA and the SBI over the last five years;
- the average percentage of women and men among heads of delegations to the SBSTA and the SBI over the last five years.

Data source: The data on the names of the delegates are available from lists of participants, which can be found on the UNFCCC¹⁶ website. The data were collected in August 2011.

Published: Data are available in EIGE's report "Women and the Environment: Gender Equality and Climate Change"¹⁷ prepared during the Danish Presidency 2012 (the table 'Table 5.5: Women's participation in climate change decision-making at the international level', p. 69).

Notes: The data are available on the UNFCCC¹⁸ website and the lists of participants for the COPs and SBs are updated after each meeting. This allows the indicator to be easily verified and updated.

It is noted that the size of the national delegations to the UNFCCC varies between Member States, a factor which should therefore be taken into account when looking at averages of women's participation for small countries with a small delegation.

Indicator K4

Name: Proportion of women and men among tertiary graduates of all graduates (ISCED levels 5 and 6) in natural sciences and technologies at the EU and Member State level

Concept: This indicator measures the proportion of women and men among tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies completing graduate/post-graduate (ISCED 5) as well as advanced research studies/PhDs (ISCED 6) both in public and private institutions. The indicator will consist of two composite fields, consisting of related relevant Eurostat educational fields¹⁹. The indicator will include:

- the percentage of women and men in natural sciences: in the fields life sciences (EF42) and physical sciences (EF44).
- the percentage of women and men in technologies: in the fields engineering and engineering trades (EF52), manufacturing and processing (EF54), architecture and building (EF58), transport services (EF84) and environmental protection (EF85).

The levels and fields of education referred to in the indicator follow the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)²⁰ and the Eurostat Manual of fields of education and

training²¹. ISCED 5 is defined as the first stage of tertiary education and comprises the two categories ISCED 5a and ISCED 5b. Most ISCED 5a programmes are largely theoretically based and intended to provide sufficient qualifications to gain entry into advanced research programmes or professions with high skills requirements. ISCED 5b programmes are practically oriented and the programme content is typically designed to prepare students for entering a specific occupation. The qualifications acquired in ISCED 5b programmes do not give direct access to advanced research programmes. ISCED 6 refers to programmes in the second stage of tertiary education that entitles the award of an advanced research qualification, often at Doctorate or PhD level or beyond. The programmes are devoted to advanced study, original research and prepare graduates for an academic career in institutions of higher education.

The strategic objective K.1 of the BPfA is to 'involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels'. One of the actions to be taken by governments under the first strategic objective is to facilitate and increase women's access to information and education, including in the areas of science, technology and economics, thus enhancing their knowledge, skills and opportunities for participation in environmental decisions', and so Indicator 4 measures the proportion of women graduates in natural sciences and technologies. It must be emphasised, however, that not all areas included in the calculation of the indicator are directly linked with climate change, nor have all areas directly linked with climate change been taken into account.

Data source: The calculation of the indicator is based on education statistics²² coordinated by Eurostat.

Published: Data are available in the Eurostat online database (educ_grad5: 'Graduates in ISCED 3 to 6 by field of education and sex'²³).

Notes: In principle, data cover the EU Member States and are usually available from 1998, although in certain countries there are some breaks in the availability of data for specific years or specific fields. The data are updated annually. Some changes in the data collection could influence comparisons over time, as could some breaks in the availability of data for specific years or specific fields for certain countries.

The education systems vary between countries and although the ISCED classification makes the comparison of levels of education between countries possible, the differences may nevertheless affect certain figures. Degree structures also vary between countries, affecting the indicators on tertiary graduates by fields of study. Eurostat data currently use the ISCED 1997²⁴ system for classifying levels of education. From 2014, Eurostat will switch to the ISCED 2011 system, which will allow for a more detailed breakdown of tertiary-level programmes. If the sex-disaggregated data are sufficiently comprehensive to allow for meaningful comparisons of the proportion of female graduates in the relevant fields in the more detailed levels of tertiary programmes across the EU Member States, the indicator could consider more detailed monitoring on such a scale. Adding post-secondary programmes (ISCED 3) that qualify for entrance to tertiary programmes in the relevant field could also be considered if the data become sufficiently comprehensive at Member State level to enable a reliable picture of the situation across the EU.

More information

Policy documents

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Notes

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