The gender dimension is central in power relations and con-sequently in shaping climate policies. The report proposes in-di-cators to measure women’s participation in climate change decision-making in public sector at the national, EU and interna-tional 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 num-bers of women were found at the middle management level, among the heads of sectorial departments of national minis-tries, 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 horizon-tal comparison of the sectors. Women’s representation in deci-sion-making is higher in environmental ministries (34%) com-pared 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 gender 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 Commision’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.