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NEXT
ENERGY
CONSUMER

EUROPEAN STRATEGIES FOR GENDER- INCLUSIVE ENERGY & CLIMATE TRANSITIONS: WHERE DO WE STAND?

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

"we can only reach our full potential if we use all of our talent and diversity. Diverse teams produce better results. Innovation happens when people from different backgrounds and perspectives blend together. With the demographic challenges ahead of us, we cannot afford to leave any potential behind."



Gender equality is a fundamental principle of the European Union

Articles 2 and 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union

Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

Articles 21 and 23 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

1995 Beijing Platform for Action on women's rights

SDG5: Gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender Action Plan under the UNFCCC adopted in 2017 at COP23

EU Gender Strategy (2020)

mainstreaming gender issues and intersectionality as horizontal principles

"Addressing the gender dimension can have a key role in leveraging the full potential of [climate] policies."

Gender-related differences & inequalities remain widespread

Women suffer the most from climate warming & energy poverty:

- 80% of people displaced by climate change are women and girls
- Worldwide 3 billion people lack access to clean fuels for cooking
- energy access: women more likely to fall into energy poverty in the EU (isolated adult or single parent, tenant, low wage). In Bulgaria, 80% of women-led single households cannot afford to heat (vs 65% male)

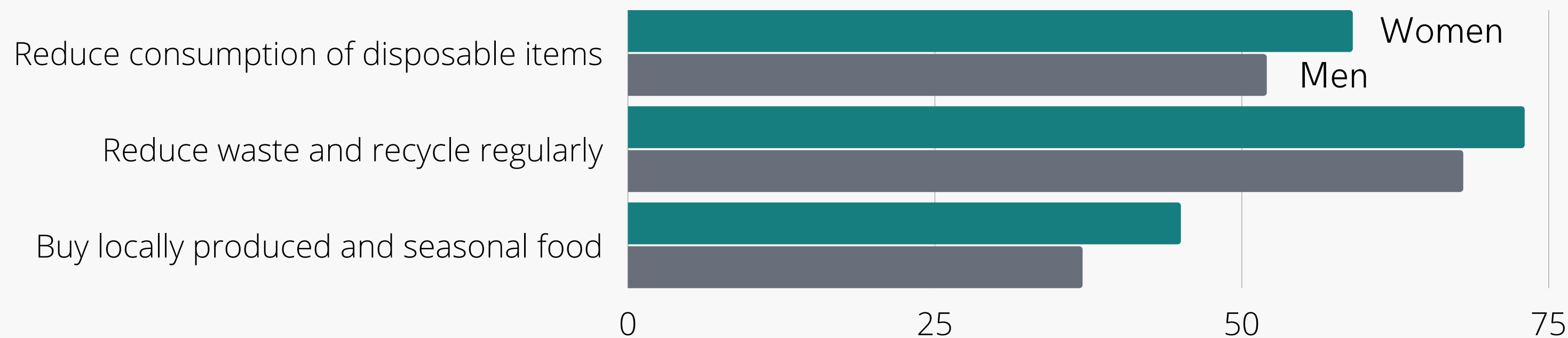
In the energy sector:

- Labour market: women represent 32% of the workforce in RE, but lowest quality jobs (22% of women in oil & gas); pay gaps
- Energy-related education: 11% women graduating in STEMs vs 22% men
- R&D: 11% of energy-related patents are owned by women
- Gender gaps in decision-making: 7% of women seating at boards in the energy sector (21% in finance)
- In 2018, women represented 21.6% of EU government ministers dealing with environment, climate change, energy and transport policies

Other factors having an influence on energy consumption patterns:

- 75% of unpaid care and domestic work is done by women
- Lowest ownership rates
- Lower employment, wages & pensions
- Time scarcity
- Different transport habits

Women and Men have different environmental behaviours, attitudes and consumption



Selected personal actions taken to fight climate change, EU-28, 2017, (%)

Source: Special Eurobarometer 459, Climate Change

Energy policies, so far, are "gender-blind"

Energy Union, Clean Energy for all package: no gender perspective

NECPs: only 7 countries mention gender perspectives or issues (AT, BE, FI, LU, PT, ES, SW) linked to human rights / SDG 5. Only Sweden presents some disaggregated data (although limited) and suggests a pro-active "feminist" plan

Green Deal: Zero mention of gender/women/men (although SDGs are central to EU policymaking)

Just Transition mechanism: focusing mostly on technical, typically male jobs

Renovation Wave: "Increasing the presence and role of women in the construction sector can help improve the availability of skills and qualified professionals. "

These objectives will impact women differently, as for instance they are less likely to invest in EE & retrofit

Climate policies

Most Climate Policies are gender blind, making no mention of women/men/gender:

- Climate and energy framework (COM(2014)15 final)
- A Clean Planet for All (COM(2018)773 final)

Environmental Action Programme (1386/2014/EU) mentions pregnant women as a vulnerable group

EU Climate Pact

- “The Pact will aim to pull down barriers to climate action. This includes the barriers resulting from personal characteristics, such as gender, age and disabilities. It will help Pact participants to be at the centre of debates such as those on the future of Europe”
- Gender-balanced Ambassadors to bridge EU stakeholders & the EC

We need properly quantified objectives!

What's next?

Research & development agendas:

- gender equality plan as eligibility criteria in Horizon Europe Fundings
- Gender positive EIC Accelerator Pilot

Annual sustainable growth strategy 2021: importance of addressing gaps in employment, skills, pay between women & men

Recovery plan priorities: Resilience, Green transition and Digitalisation... but gender issues aren't addressed. Limited attention to gender equality in EU budgets (NextGenerationEU)

Without proper budgets, women's situation will not improve

What is preventing EU (energy) policies from becoming truly gender-inclusive?

POLICY SILOS

SUBSIDIARITY

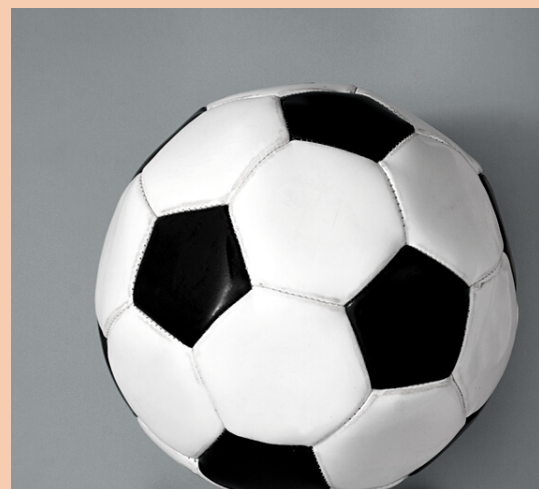
KNOWLEDGE: RESEARCH, DATA

STEREOTYPES

PROPER BUDGET

MOTIVATION

LACK OF REPRESENTATION



Empowering women in the energy & climate sectors

PROFESSIONALS

**DECISION-MAKERS
& ADVOCATES**

CONSUMERS

STUDENTS

**RESEARCHERS &
SCIENTISTS**

ROLE MODELS

Let's make EU policies explicitly feminist



- Systematically address the gender impact in policy impact assessments
- Bolder gender-specific objectives in EU policies to close the gaps and break the glass ceilings, e.g. on the just transition, digitalisation, finance, competition, foreign policies
- National levels: insert objectives in the NECPs and SECAPs
- Quotas to put more women in power
- Collection of specific data, to get a clearer picture and address specific issues better
- Engage different sorts of women in policies that have a direct impact on them. Women aren't a homogeneous group... So don't expect them to behave as such
- Inclusivity is not only about gender... ethnicity, age, (dis)ability, class, sexual orientations should also be considered!

"To make sure women's lives take a step forward, not backwards, we have to achieve genuine equality. It is time to end the rhetoric and to forge ahead."

- David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament, 4 March 2021

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Thank you!

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