

Energy Transition through the lens of gender equality

Energy Community Secretariat, Am Hof 4, 1010 Vienna – via WEBEX (virtual meeting)

Tuesday, 27 April 2021, 9.15 -12.30 **Login opens at 9.00**

OPENING (9.15 – 9.40)

KEYNOTE SPEECH - Megan Richards, Advisory Board Member, WECS Foundation; Former Director of Energy Policy in DG Energy, European Commission

INTRODUCTION TO THE ENERGY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE ON GENDER EQUALITY - Irina Lazzerini, Sustainable Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat

1. WHY TO SUPPORT GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE ENERGY SECTOR *Chaired by Arben Kllokoqi, ECRB Electricity Expert, Energy Community Secretariat (9.40-10.30)*

Gender mainstreaming in the energy sector means applying a gender lens to energy legislation, policies and programs. This helps not only to identify the different impacts that the use of energy and its access to it has on men and women, but also to bridge existing gaps and contributes to more gender equality, broadening perceptions and workplace practices. Allowing women to participate in established energy programs is not enough; objectives should be defined together from the very beginning to reflect priorities and needs of both genders.

Speakers:

- Megan Richards, Advisory Board Member, WECS Foundation; Former Director of Energy Policy in DG Energy, European Commission
- Silvia Sartori, Women's Economic Empowerment, Senior Project Manager at ENERGIA
- Maria Kottari, Research Associate (Climate cluster), School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute
- Branislava Jovicic, Founder and Editor, Balkan Green News

2. **BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN IN THE GREEN ENERGY SECTOR** *Chaired by Gökçe Mete, Research Fellow, SEI (10.30-11.30)*

Renewable energy projects alone cannot achieve gender and social equity; on the contrary, inequalities can persist in green energy systems, unless addressed systematically. As things stand at present, the proportion of women engaged in RES is higher than in the conventional energy sector, but still too low. There are many entry barriers, also linked with prevailing views of women's abilities in STEM, which prevent them to have a more prominent presence in the sector. Also, the lack of a supportive environment in the form of flexible work hours, mentoring and networking, hinders women's to grow professionally by balancing work and family.

Speakers:

- Rabia Ferroukhi, Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Center, International Renewable Energy Agency
- Rana Ghoneim, Chief, Energy Systems and Infrastructure Division, UNIDO
- Boyana Achovski, Secretary General, GIE
- Naida Taso, Electricity market and Renewables Expert, Energy Community Secretariat
- Shqipe Neziri-Vela, Lecturer on Energy Policy, Rochester Institute of Technology; Chairperson of the Board, Association of Women in Energy Sector

3. **APPLYING A GENDER LENS TO ENERGY POVERTY** *Chaired by Branislava Marsenic Maksimovic, ECRB Natural Gas and Customer Expert, Energy Community Secretariat (11.30-12.20)*

It is important to apply a gender perspective to energy poverty, since women and men experience energy poverty in different ways. Energy poverty takes a significant toll on women that are often heads of households as caregivers or living alone at a pensionable age. General definitions such as 'vulnerable customers' do not take fully account of people's lives and gendered indicators such as income differences, housing conditions, care for depending family members and age.

Speakers:

- Selma Šehović, Project Manager, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Dialogue Southeast Europe
- Aleksandar Macura, Co-founder, Programme Director, RES Foundation
- Saska Petrova, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, SEED, University of Manchester
- Marielle Feenstra, Senior Researcher, Gender Just Energy Policy, University of Twente

CLOSING REMARKS (12.20 – 12.30)

Emma Potocnik, Legal Unit, Energy Community Secretariat