



**EmpowerMed**

Empowering women to take action  
against energy poverty  
in the Mediterranean  
GENDER Training



# Agenda

- What is gender and why do we need to talk about it?
- Group work on gender roles, energy consumption and needs
- Energy poverty and gender
- Intersectionality
- Good practices



# What is the percentage of female members of parliament in your country?

 ca. 20%

 ca. 40%

 ca. 60%



Do you know any women being  
active in the energy sector?



# Do you know any women being active in the energy sector?



How would you define ‘gender’?



What do you like about your gender?



# Gender

... refers to the social differences and relations between men and women which are learned, vary widely within and between cultures, and change over time.

‘sex’ ...refers to the biological differences

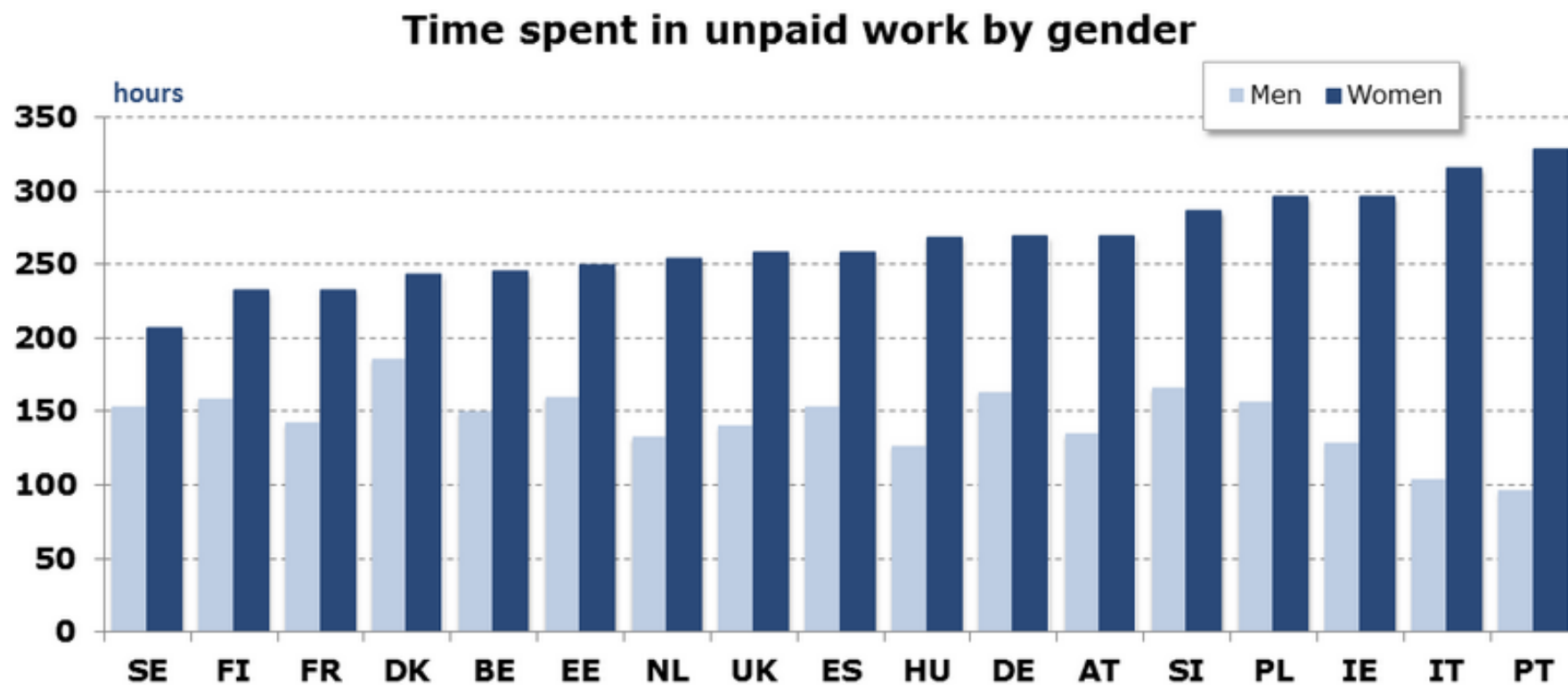


# Why do we talk about gender?

- Poverty still has a female face due to structural discrimination,
  - European gender pay gap at 16%
  - Politics is still a male domain, with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of parliamentary seats held by men
    - policies, frameworks and programmes are mainly designed by men
- Yet, women are not (only) victims, they are changemakers!
  - New technologies hold enormous potential for the empowerment of women and girls, by creating jobs and opportunities for women, but also by pushing the renewable energy transition, enabling the innovative delivery of public services, and finding ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change
  - Gender equality is better for all

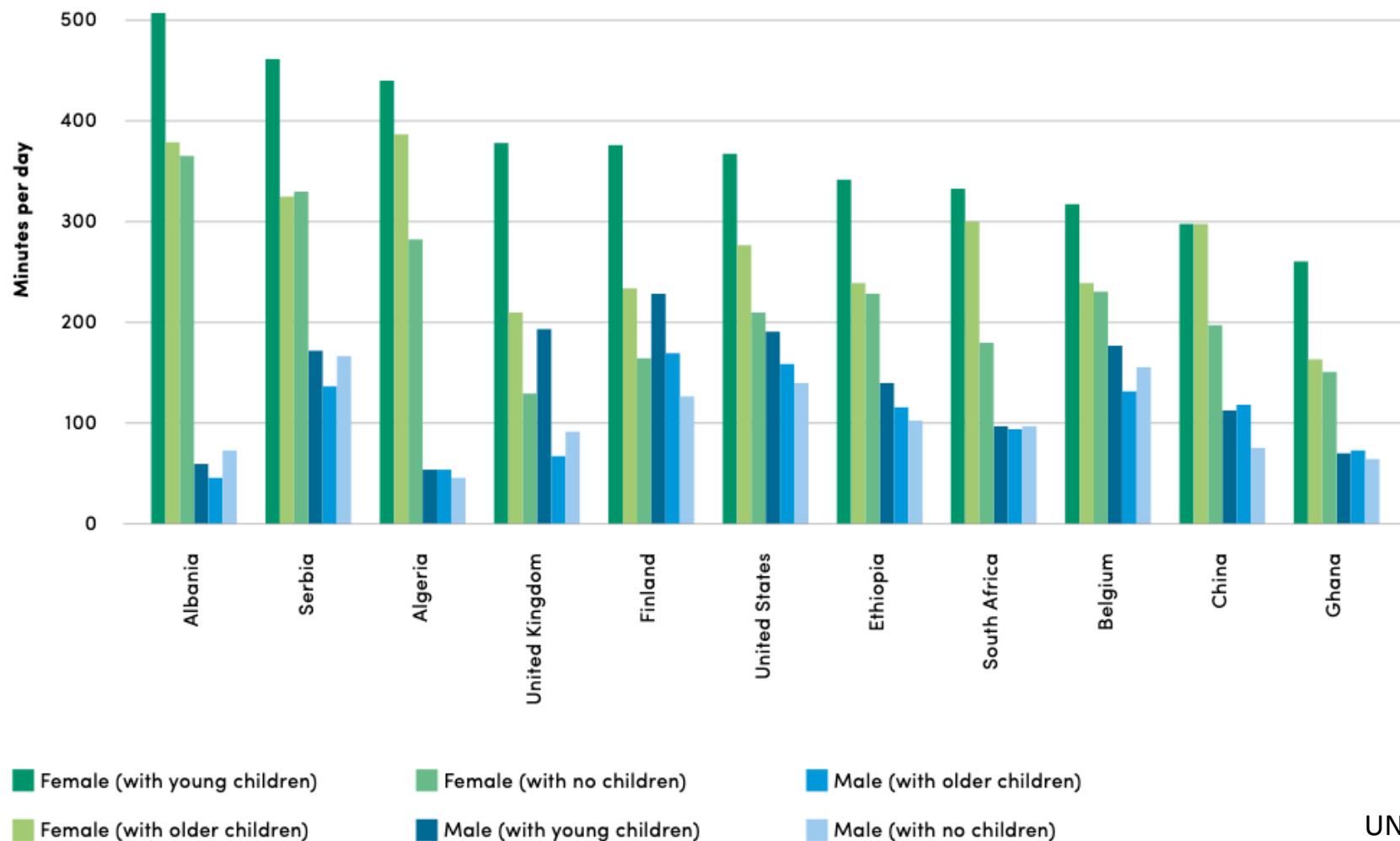


# Feminization of poverty





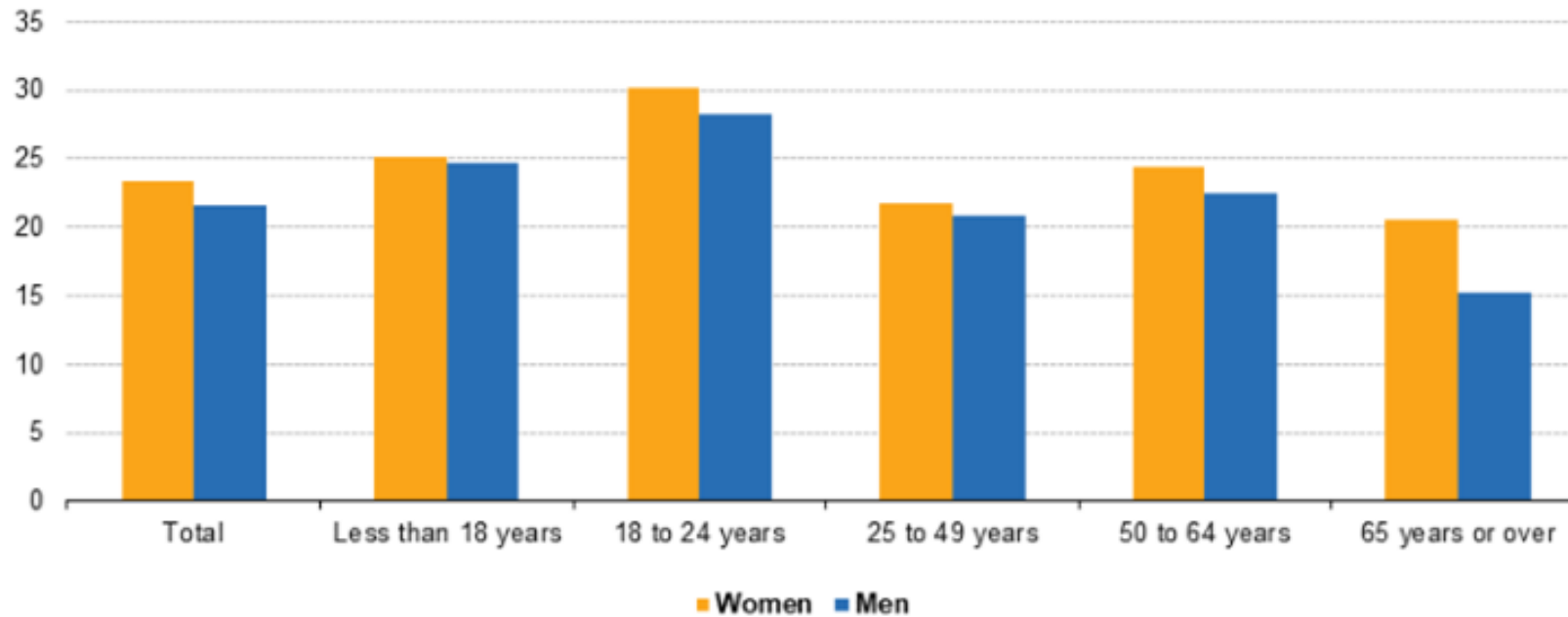
# Feminization of poverty



# Gender injustice

## Feminization of poverty

**People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by sex and age group, EU-28, 2017**  
(% of population)



Eurostat 2019



# Gender injustice

## Feminization of poverty

Lone mothers with children are more likely to be poor than lone fathers with children



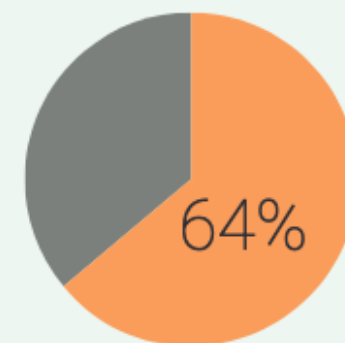
In European countries

Older women (65+) are more likely to be poor than older men when living alone

23% of older women

17% of older men

The share of women among the older poor is 64%



The World's Women 2015 (UN Stats)

# Exercise I

## Division of labour and consumption of energy at home - Daily household schedule and energy consumption

Description	The daily schedule illustrates all kinds of activities carried out in one day. Of interest in this exercise is the time spent at home, particularly the activities done and the energy needed during that time. It is particularly useful for looking at the relative workloads of different groups, especially men and women. Comparisons of hours spent show who focuses on a few activities and who does a larger number of tasks during the day, as well as who consumes most energy vs. who decides on energy provision, such as energy source or contracts
Time	45 Minutes
Open questions for discussion after group work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For each person, how is his or her daily time arranged at home?</li><li>• What is the difference between the women's and the men's schedule?</li><li>• How many hours do women / men spend at home?</li><li>• When is energy needed?</li><li>• For which devices do men / women need energy?</li><li>• Who takes decisions on energy provision ? (e.g. energy source / energy provider) <b>and on appliances selection ?</b></li><li>• <b>Who check and pay the bill (in charge of budget management)?</b></li></ul>



# Gender Dimensions of Energy

Gender Dimension	Description
Care economy (labour)	Household chores, childcare
Paid work (labour)	Education (STEM), working conditions, equal pay, pension
Public services and infrastructures (access and distribution)	Access to energy, water/sanitation, health care
Body, Health (sex)	Comfort temperature and sensitivity, vulnerability based on sex (pregnancy, breast feeding, gender based violence)
Information and decision-making	Research, politics, utilities, private sector
Benefit sharing	According to role and action



## Exercise II - “House of my dreams”

### Identifying gender preferences & needs

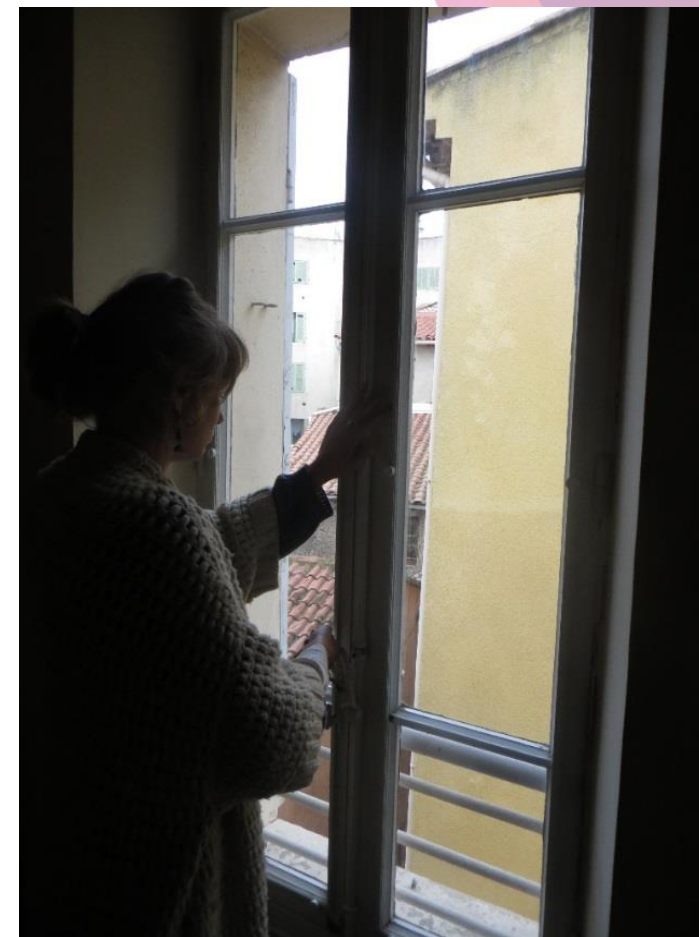
Description	During this exercise the participants will get a deeper and clearer understanding of gender needs at a simple, practical level. This exercise also helps to identify different views of men and women on home comfort and a healthy environment.
Time	40 Minutes





# What is energy poverty?

- **Energy poverty** occurs when a household cannot achieve the minimum level of domestic energy consumption required for satisfying basic needs and for an effective participation in society.
- Households affected by energy poverty may experience inadequate levels of essential energy services (e.g., indoor thermal discomfort), disproportionate energy expenses forcing them into undesirable decisions (e.g., the 'heat or eat' dilemma), or precarious access to energy (i.e., depending on unstable, insecure supply) Energy poverty results from structural inequalities in income distribution and access to quality housing, inadequate energy pricing and vulnerable consumer support policies, and diverse household energy needs and practices. It is a distinct form of material deprivation with an explicit gender dimension and demonstrated impacts on physical and mental health.



# Energy poverty

EDEPI scores show the majority of EU countries have 'moderately high' to 'extreme' levels of energy poverty among low-income households

	Country	EDEPI Score
1	Sweden	95.4
2	Finland	85.6
3	Denmark	81.9
4	Austria	81.2
5	Luxembourg	80.9
6	United Kingdom	80.5
7	Ireland	79.3
8	Netherlands	78.1
9	Germany	75.8
10	France	73.3
11	Belgium	67.6
12	Spain	64.7
13	Romania	64.2
14	Poland	61.0
15	Czech Republic	60.2
16	Croatia	58.8
17	Malta	58.6
18	Estonia	58.0
19	Italy	52.1
20	Slovenia	51.3
21	Cyprus	46.2
22	Greece	43.7
23	Lithuania	42.4
24	Latvia	40.0
25	Portugal	36.7
26	Slovakia	8.4
27	Hungary	6.2
28	Bulgaria	0.7

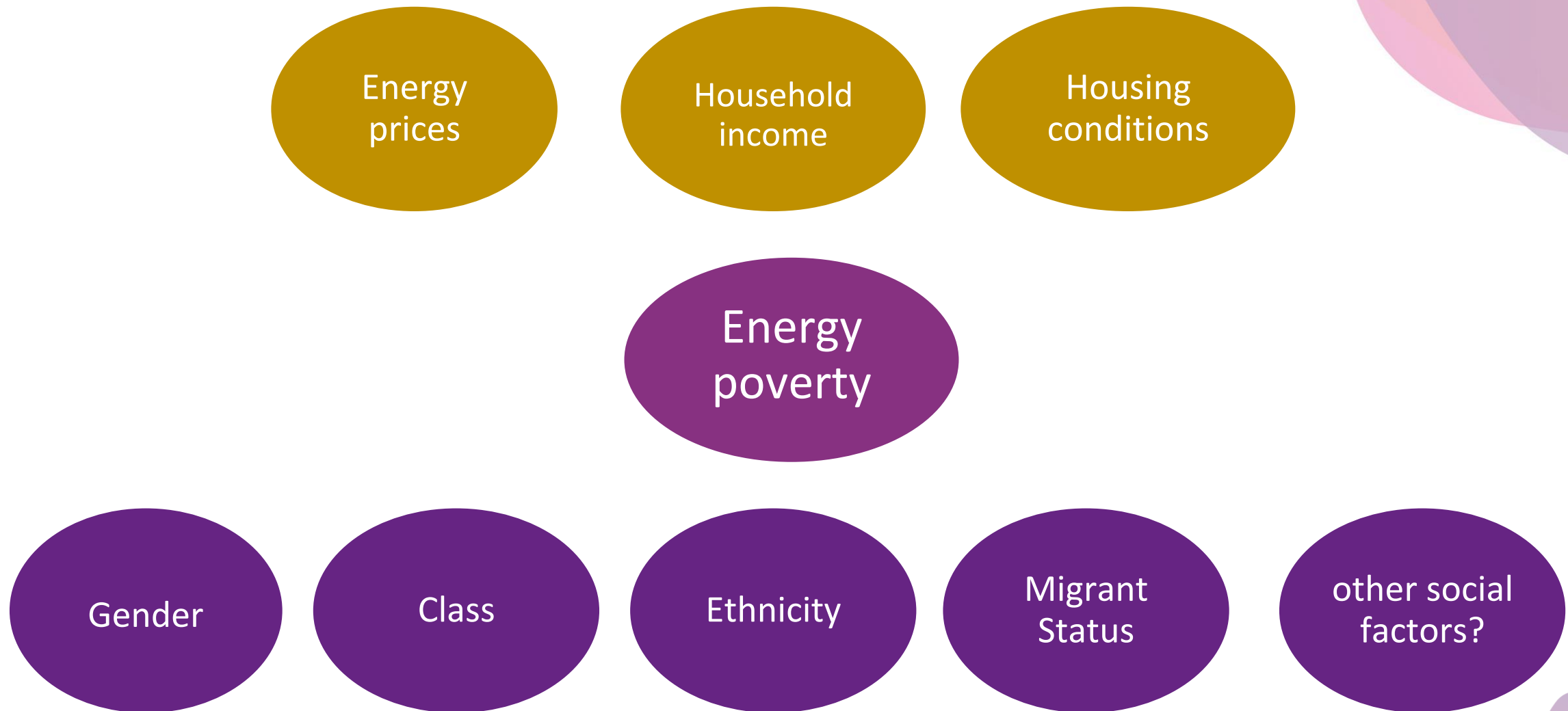
Level of energy poverty:

Low Moderate Moderately high High Very high Extreme

EDEPI scores show a divide reflecting GDP per capita levels in the EU.

Source: OpenExp, 2019.

# Main factors for energy poverty



# Social factors for energy poverty



- household roles & responsibilities
- decision-making routines
- gender (pension) pay gap
- presence of depending children in HH

BUT: women in energy poverty are not only vulnerable, helpless or oppressed -  
women are autonomous agents of their lives and of change!



Energy poverty (although not formally defined)  
disproportionately affects women!

# Energy and gender

- **Climate friendly behaviour!?**  
women have lower carbon footprints + higher interest and commitment to climate protection
- **Climate impacts!?**  
vulnerability of women is higher - well documented for developing countries, rather little for industrialized countries (apart from disasters, effects of heat waves)

# Energy and gender

- **Access to climate and energy-related resources and services!?**  
Access and options for actions differ due to interests, preferences, needs but also due to costs, old-fashioned laws & education
- **Decision-making power within energy sector!?**  
Women underrepresented in private sector, esp. higher positions
- **Decision-making power over energy and climate policy!?**  
Women\* (for women) underrepresented in conferences & negotiations, male structures, interests & needs dominate



# What is intersectionality?

Intersectionality can be seen as a tool that helps to analyse and understand the different factors by which each person is shaped (e.g. race, gender, age, ethnicity, physical ability, class) and therefore may face multiple types of overlapping discrimination depending on their race, gender etc. (Collins and Bilge, 2016)

- Socio-economic factors (low education / income)
  - Age, e.g. pensioners, students, children
  - Special health conditions, e.g. disabled persons
  - Migration background, ethnicity
- may exacerbate existing inequality, e.g. energy poverty





# Why do we talk about intersectionality?

When people who fit into multiple minority categories (e.g. a young single mother with a disability) experience discrimination, some of the protective mechanisms put in place by our society often fail to meet the needs associated with the multifaceted nature of their identities

→ potentially reconsider programs that are designed for people who are affected by energy poverty

→ potentially reconsider ways of approaching people who are affected by energy poverty (e.g. communication)



# Example 1 on intersectionality

Kati Unger, female,  
74 years old, pensioner,  
used to work in a supermarket,  
lives by herself in Germany

What are the intersectionalities in  
this case?

What are the challenges she faces and  
which opportunities does she may have?



Photo: [Benjamin Balazs](#), [Pixabay](#)



# Example 1 - Explanation

Kati lives in Germany and due to her little pension she struggles to pay energy bills and to heat her house properly during the cold winter months. She is affected by energy poverty.

Since she is a woman and 74 years old, she is likely to be more exposed to the effects of energy poverty since women and elderly generally feel the cold more than men and younger people, and elderly tend to be more prone to illnesses than younger people.

Kati is further disadvantaged in fighting energy poverty by herself due to her low pension compared to men (gender pension gap in Germany was ca. 53% in 2015). In terms of energy she might also be more disadvantaged than a female pensioner of the same age and income in France, because in France each household under a certain financial threshold receives energy vouchers whereas in Germany no such financial support scheme is in place.

**Therefore, several factors, such as gender, age, income and the geographical area matter!**





## Example 2 on intersectionality

Liliya, female, 80 years old, Roma, takes care of Atanasiya and Dimana (both 14); all three live in Albania in one room

What are the intersectionalities in this case?

What are the challenges they face and which opportunities do they may have?



*Photo: Emil Danailov*

## Example 2 - Explanation

Liliya is also affected by energy poverty since she is unable to adequately heat the room she lives in.

Liliya's daughter works in Greece and comes home once a year. She is a single mother and has left her twins with her mother. Liliya is not receiving any pension because she has been working in the informal sector. She continues to collect plastic and sell them in order to generate incomes for herself and her grandchildren. She would like to create good living conditions for her grandchildren so that they can get proper education and not follow her fate in life.

In this case Liliya faces old age poverty and has to look after her granddaughters. Her situation is worsened for being Roma ....

**Several factors worsen her family's situation are gender, age, income, ethnicity, migration, education and poverty.**



# Escape from the gender stereotype

2 films - bad example and good example:

- Not gender responsive:  
<https://www.stromspar-check.de/stromspar-check/im-ueberblick.html>
- Gender responsive:  
If possible, partners can provide good examples?

## Examples of measures against energy poverty from other countries

- ‘Energy cheque’ in France as direct financial support measures
- ‘Energy renovation’ of family households and residential buildings in Croatia as energy efficiency measure
- ‘Stromsparcheck’ as guidance in Germany




# Concrete steps

- Communication training
- Depending on target group,
- See presentation on communication and approaching women and tips on how to approach from a gender perspective





# Conclusion

- Be aware of gender and intersectional differences when it comes to energy access, consumption and preferences in order to reach more people and achieve more sustainable & efficient project results
- Concrete measures could be taken from the communication training, 



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# Any questions?

Contact:







# EmpowerMed

[www.empowermed.eu](http://www.empowermed.eu)



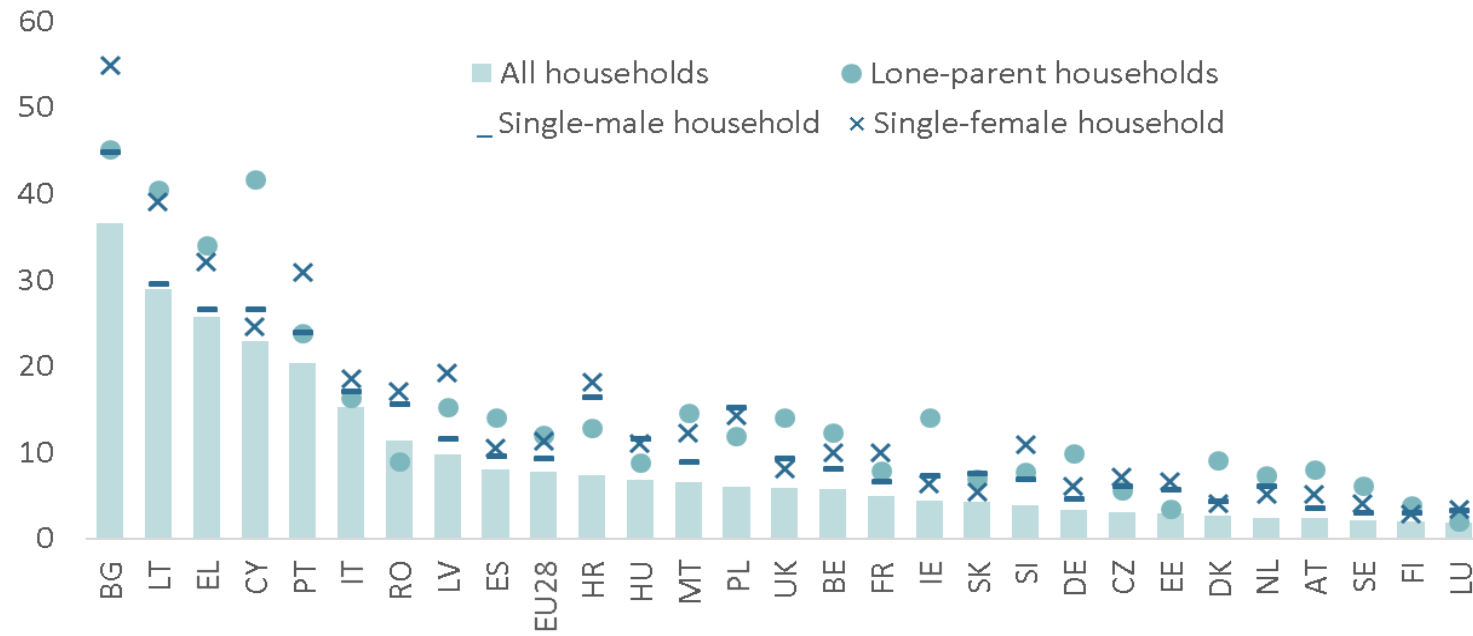
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 847052. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EASME nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

## Partners :



Backup - More info if needed

# Statistics: Warm Households in the EU





# Division of Labour and Roles

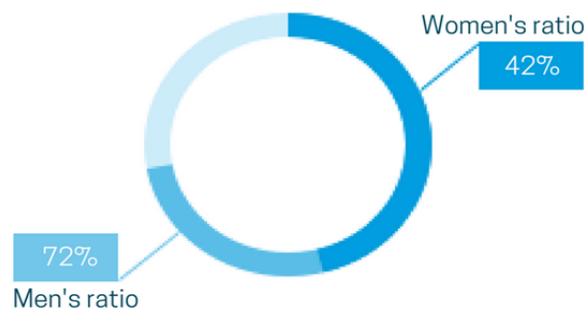
## Division of Labor



Employment for pay or profit



Gender Wage Gap



Employment-to-Population Ratio Gap

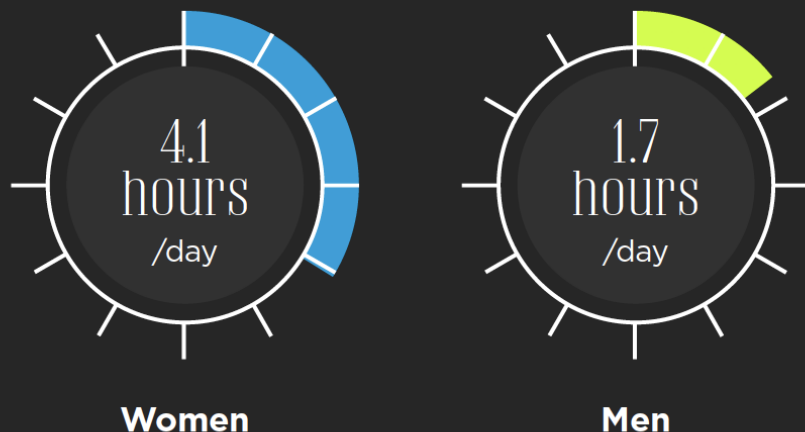


Sources:  
United Nations.  
International Labor Organization



# Workload and finances

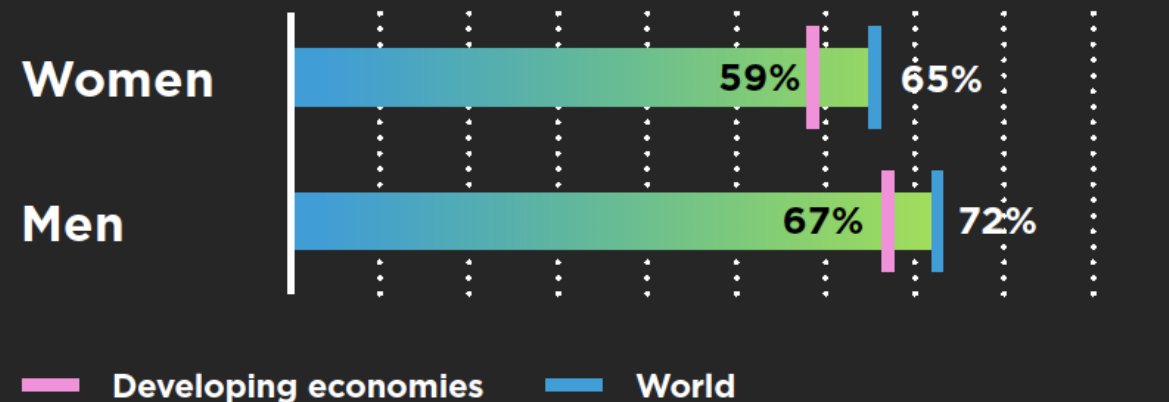
## UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK



Women on average do **three times** as much unpaid care and domestic work as men, with long-term consequences for their economic security.

## ACCESS TO FINANCE

Share of women and men with an **account at a financial institution**

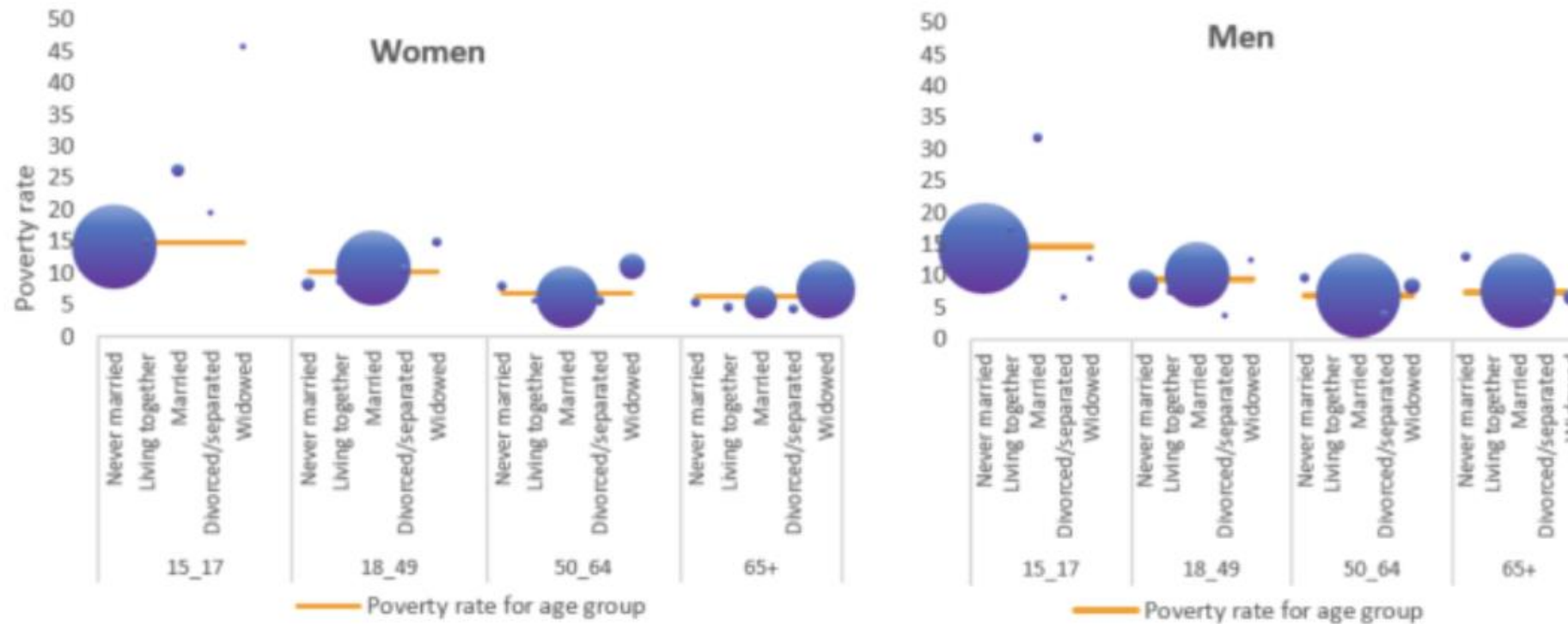




# Feminization of poverty

## Intersectionality

**Figure 2. Global extreme poverty rate by gender, age group and marital status**  
**Share of men and women living in extreme poor households (IPL of \$1.90 per day)**



Note: The size of the dot represents the relative weight of each group within the total number of poor for the age group.  
 Source: WB Staff's calculations based on GMD.

# Perceptions Gender Pay Gap

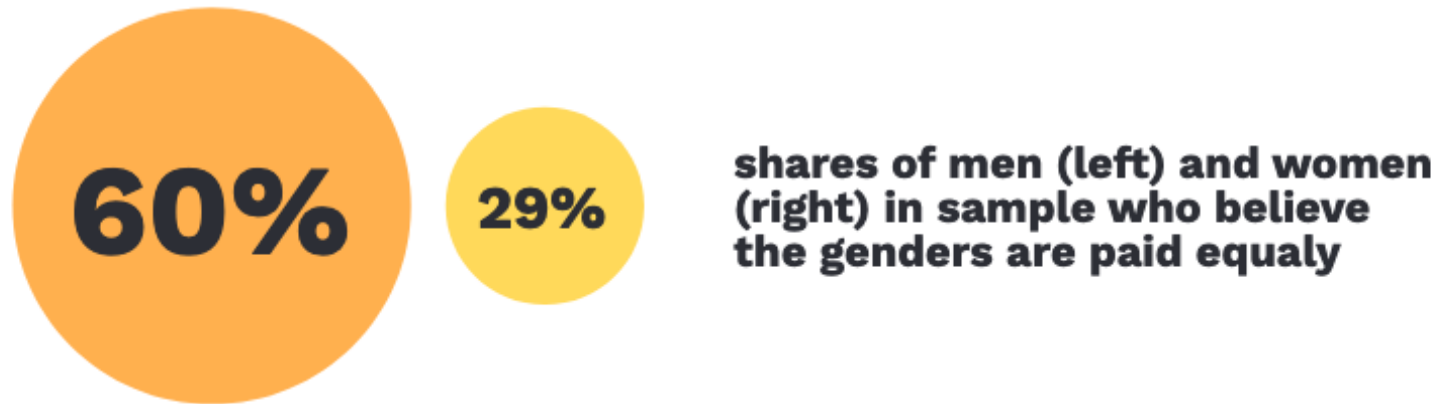
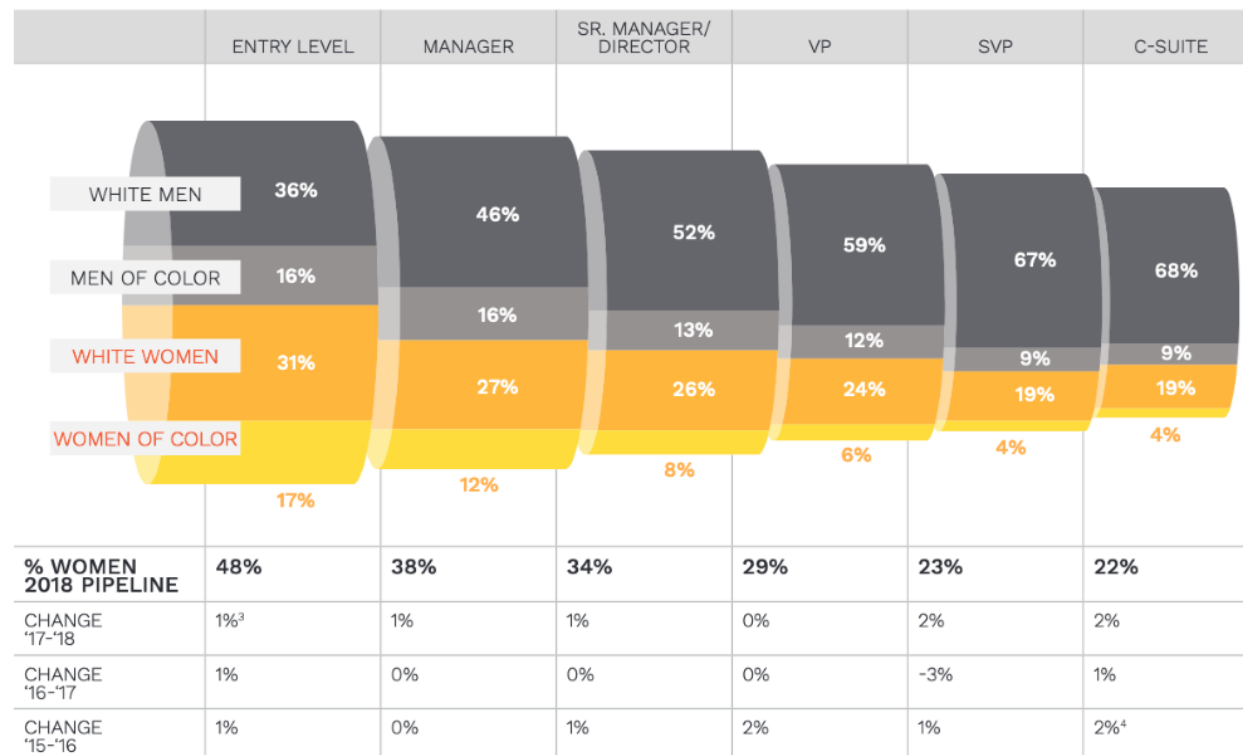


FIGURE 1: PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED PAY GAP  
Source: IRENA, 2019. Renewable Energy. A Gender Perspective



# Employees by level

% OF EMPLOYEES BY LEVEL IN 2018<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> In this study, women of colour include Black, Latina, Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or mixed-race women. However, due to small sample sizes, reported findings on individual racial/ethnic groups are restricted to Black women, Latinas, and Asian women. <sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, representation by race and gender may sum to 101 percent or 99 percent within some levels. <sup>3</sup> This represents percentage point change. <sup>4</sup> The small numbers at the executive level, combined with this study's methodology, which takes the average of companies, means that findings at the executive level are more sensitive to individual company variation.

FIGURE 7: A REPRESENTATION OF THE CORPORATE PIPELINE BY GENDER AND RACE<sup>1</sup>

Source: McKinsey & Company, 2018. Women in the Workplace



# Recommendations for individuals

- Avoid gender stereotyping and attempt to challenge implicit bias
- be aware of day-to-day interactions (e.g. speaking time at meetings, language used, decision made)
- if in managerial position, support and promote competent individuals and aim for diversity