



SAVE THE DATE:  
Friday, 6 December 2024

## WOMEN IN SOLIDARITY FOR ENERGY

Pan-European Conference

Sofia, Bulgaria / Boyana Complex

Across the EU, **single women** – of all ages and diverse backgrounds – are 3 to 4 times more likely (compared with the general population) to face situations of **energy vulnerability**.

The **Women in Solidarity for Energy (WISE)** Project aims to prioritise this group appropriately within action plans to deliver a just, clean energy transition.

The **WISE Pan-European Conference** is an unprecedented opportunity to:

- **Better understand the causes and impacts** of energy vulnerability among single women.
- **Collectively, build the case for making access to clean, affordable energy a basic human right, in line with the principles of** a just, clean energy transition.
- **Coordinate efforts to advocate and take action** locally and nationally through cross-country collaboration and at EU levels.
- **Ensure single women have a voice in co-creating policies and practices** that address their needs.

### Preliminary Agenda (Note: Each session will include a Q&A for active engagement)

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and Networking Coffee
09:00 – 09:20	<b>Welcome and Event Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Welcome / <b>Milena Stateva</b>, The Orion Grid</li><li>● WISE Overview / <b>Marilyn Smith</b>, The Energy Action Project (EnAct)</li><li>● Event Objectives / <b>Alice Corovessi</b>, INZEB</li></ul>
09:20 – 10:30	<b>Plenary Session: Current Status and Planned Actions in WISE Partner Countries</b> <b>Moderator: Marielle Feenstra</b> , 75inQ In October 2024, WISE Partner held Round Tables to establish <b>National Collectives</b> in seven countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Bulgaria / <b>Elitsa Kapusheva</b>, The Orion Grid</li><li>● Croatia / <b>Paula Damaška</b>, Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ)</li><li>● France / <b>Marilyn Smith</b>, The Energy Action Project (EnAct)</li><li>● Greece / <b>Polina Gkioka</b>, Wind of Renewal</li><li>● Hungary / <b>Ana Stojilovska</b>, HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences</li><li>● Italy / <b>Federica Ragazzo</b>, RETE Assist</li><li>● Netherlands / <b>Marlies Hesselman</b>, Faculty of Law, University of Groningen</li></ul>

10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break and Networking</b>
11:00– 12:00	<p><b>Plenary: Launching an EU-wide Energy Solidarity Movement for Single Women</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">Alice Corovessi</a>, INZEB</p> <p>This session will highlight how other countries can engage in WISE and leverage its actions and outputs to stimulate a genuinely EU-wide movement.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Saska Petrova</a>, University of Manchester, Generate Project, Western Balkans</li> <li>● <a href="#">Lidija Živčič</a>, Environmental Expert and Researcher, Co-founder of Focus</li> <li>● <a href="#">Irene Gonzales-Pijuan</a>, PhDc, Alliance Against Energy Poverty</li> </ul>
12:00– 13:00	<b>Lunch Break and Networking</b>
13:00– 14:30	<p><b>Workshop Session: Towards Holistic Approaches for Energy Solidarity</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">Marilyn Smith</a>, The Energy Action Project (EnAct)</p> <p>Participants will learn about practical actions in small groups and brainstorm how to scale them up in diverse contexts. Each group will have a facilitator to guide the discussion and a rapporteur to capture inputs and decisions. Each will prepare a short presentation with strategies and action plans.</p> <p><b>Session Topics</b> (see Page 3 for details): <b>Identifying and Engaging with Single Women</b> ● <b>Boosting Energy Knowledge and Know-how of Single Women</b> ● <b>Housing, Home Heating/ Cooling and Energy Efficiency</b> ● <b>Single Women as Energy Consumers</b> ● <b>Migrant and Marginalised Groups</b> ● <b>Raising Awareness and Empowering Advocates</b> ● <b>Policy Action for Single Women</b> ● <b>Special Session for Young People in Bulgaria</b></p>
14:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Consolidating Strategies and Action Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Session Recaps:</b> 3 minutes per group to highlight key discussions and decisions</li> <li>● <b>Summation:</b> Key takeaways to feed into the Event Report and next steps</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Coffee Break and Networking</b>
15:40 – 16:40	<p><b>A Just, Clean Energy Transition: Basic Human Rights Perspectives</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">Milena Stateva</a>, The Orion Grid</p> <p>Recent EU Directives related to the energy market, building performance, and energy efficiency require Member States to address systemic injustices that place unfair burdens on the most vulnerable members of society. As demonstrated, single women must be prioritised. This session will investigate the opportunity to apply human rights law and assess Participants' current knowledge and understanding of EU principles and pillars. and identify</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Marlies Hesselman</a>, Faculty of Law, University of Groningen</li> <li>● <a href="#">Rosalyn Park</a>, Women's Human Rights Program</li> <li>● <a href="#">Dr. Jacob Udo-Udo Jacob</a>, American University in Bulgaria</li> </ul> <p><b>EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation by Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme</li> <li>● Participants complete the EU Survey</li> </ul>
16:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Closing Session: Final Remarks and Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Next steps for WISE, opportunities to collaborate,</b> <a href="#">Marilyn Smith</a>, EnAct</li> <li>● <b>Establishing local, national and EU-level Action plans,</b> <a href="#">Alice Corovessi</a>, INZEB</li> </ul>

## Workshop Sessions / 13:00-14:30

In small groups, Participants will exchange knowledge and experience about ongoing challenges faced by single women, as well as practical actions and brainstorm on how to scale them up in diverse contexts. Each group will have a facilitator to guide the discussion and a rapporteur to capture inputs and decisions. Each group will prepare a short presentation with strategies and action plans in a short wrap-up session. (Please note that the Workshop Sessions will be open discussion, without formal presentations.)

Workshop 1: Identifying and Engaging with Single Women	
	<p>Single women in vulnerable situations can be particularly difficult to reach, even to offer services that would improve their situations. Often, they are simply overwhelmed with demands and have stretched resources. This session will focus on strategies to make contact and build trust.</p> <p><b>Co-Leaders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Alice Corovessi</a>, INZEB</li><li>• <a href="#">Irene Gonzales-Pijuan</a>, Alliance Against Energy Poverty</li></ul>
Workshop 2: Boosting Energy Knowledge and Know-how of Single Women	
	<p>Single women are solely responsible for ‘managing’ household energy. Many elderly women whose spouses have recently passed may have little knowledge of home systems. Young women may be taking on this role for the first time. Others who live in social housing may have little control. Migrant women may be learning to use unfamiliar appliances and systems. This session will examine what women need to know ‘about’ energy and what skills they need to develop to optimise the value they derive from using it.</p> <p><b>Co-Leaders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Federica Petraroli</a>, AISFOR</li><li>• <a href="#">Federica Ragazzo</a>, RETE Assist</li></ul>
Workshop 3: Housing, Home Heating/Cooling and Energy Efficiency	
	<p>Heating accounts for 63% of residential energy demand, and demand for cooling will certainly rise in the future. Poor-quality dwellings have the largest impact on thermal comfort, energy demand, and resulting energy bills. Currently, some ~42% of home heating in Europe relies on fossil fuels; another 22.6% comes from traditional biomass. Getting clean, affordable home heating and cooling is the biggest challenge in a just transition. How can it be achieved through energy efficiency and shifting energy sources?</p> <p><b>Co-Leaders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Eva Schwab</a>, FEANTSA</li><li>• <a href="#">Elena Milanovska</a>, Habitat for Humanity</li><li>• Dimitris Damigos, National Technical University of Athens</li></ul>
Workshop 4: Single Women as Energy Consumers	
	<p>Students living away from home for the first time in substandard rental housing, single mothers with young children and a lot of laundry, elderly women now alone in a large family home, and migrant women adapting to cold climates and unfamiliar energy systems and appliances. Circumstances often mean that single women have high energy needs or little control of energy demand or thermal comfort. This session will investigate their needs and how to meet them better.</p> <p><b>Co-Leaders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Marlies Hesselman</a>, Faculty of Law, University of Groningen</li><li>• <a href="#">Sandy Fameliari</a>, Climate and Energy Expert</li></ul>

### Workshop 5: Migrant and Marginalised Groups

Across Europe, some groups of women (particularly those who are single, of migrant/ethnic background, living in rural areas, and similar) have been marginalised for centuries. Others who have arrived more recently face identical challenges of stigmatisation that impact their access to and use of energy. Featuring ‘lived-experience experts’ from both groups, this session will examine the unique needs of energy-vulnerable women and how to engage with them in meaningful ways.

**Co-Leaders:**

- [Ana Stojilovska](#), [HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences](#)
- [Polina Gkioka](#), [Wind of Renewal](#)

### Workshop 6: Raising Awareness and Empowering Advocates

Single women in energy vulnerability, particularly those with dependents, face difficult choices every day – including whether to heat or eat. Anecdotal evidence suggests many other challenges remain below the radar. With the input of ‘lived-experience experts’, this session will probe below the surface. It will feature insights on how to a) empower women to become their own advocates and b) launch a national campaign to raise awareness and spur action.

**Co-Leaders:**

- [Andrea Vides de Dios](#), [Alliance Against Energy Poverty](#)
- [Claire Gagnaire](#), [STOP a l'Exclusion Energétique](#) (TBC)

### Workshop 7: Policy Action for Single Women

Recent revisions to key EU Directives oblige Member States to tackle energy poverty, starting with the most vulnerable groups. But policy needs to be informed by data, and—at present—disaggregated data are lacking. This session will feature a recent report from EESC and probe the question of how to collect and use data to ensure the government prioritises households led by single women.

**Co-Leaders:**

- [Corina Murafa](#), [European Economic and Social Council](#)
- [Marielle Feenstra](#), [75inQ](#)

### Workshop 8: Special Session for Young People in Bulgaria

In the context of a Pan-European Conference investigating why single women are particularly vulnerable to energy poverty – and what needs to be done to change that – WISE is pleased to offer a special session for students. Recognising this is a busy time for students, the session will be just 90 minutes – 13:00-14:30 (in parallel with the Workshop Sessions).

**The session will be in Bulgarian and will focus on specific challenges in the national context.** Topics will include:

- What is the status of single women facing energy poverty in Bulgaria?
- What actions are being taken at policy and practical levels?
- What does WISE aim to achieve?
- How can students become involved in WISE?

**Co-Leaders:**

- [Paula Damaška](#), [Green Energy Cooperative \(ZEZ\)](#)
- [Elitsa Kapusheva](#), [The Orion Grid](#)

## Speaker & Workshop Co-leader Biographies

<p><b>Alice Corovessi, INZEB</b></p>	
<p>Since 2009, Alice has actively promoted energy efficiency and sustainability in the building sector. She is a founding member of the Institute of Zero Energy Buildings (INZEB), a social enterprise serving as an aggregator, operator, documenter and disseminator of knowledge and expertise on issues related to energy saving in this sector. Working closely with various EU institutions, Alice has led all actions related to planning, management and dissemination of the mission and outcomes of Renovate Europe Campaign, of European Alliance to Save Energy and of the Coalition for Energy Savings in Greece. She also led formation of the Greek Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE).</p>	
<p><b>Paula Damaška, Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ)</b></p>	
<p>Paula Damaška is a sociologist from Green Energy Cooperative with a special interest in matters of energy poverty, energy efficiency, citizen engagement and impact measurement. She is passionate about interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to energy problems as well as broader climate change discussions. ZEZ has been a crucial partner in several EU projects aiming at reducing energy poverty through various actions.</p>	
<p><b>Dimitris Damagos, Technical University of Athens</b></p>	
<p>Dimitris is a Professor in the School of Mining Engineering – Metallurgy of the NTUA. His research interests include environmental, energy and mineral economics, financial and cost-benefit analyses, risk assessment and management. He teaches a number of under- and postgraduate courses. He has participated in more than 60 research programs and has published about 140 papers in the above-mentioned fields. He was the Scientific Responsible of the GEVAD (Greek Environmental Valuation Database).</p>	
<p><b>Sandy Fameliari, Climate and Energy Expert</b></p>	
<p>Passionate about addressing climate change from a justice perspective, Sandy is experienced in community organizing, advocating and campaigning for equitable and inclusive solutions, such as energy communities.</p>	
<p><b>Marielle Feenstra, 75inQ</b></p>	
<p>A pioneer in gender and energy policy research since 2000, Marielle has contributed to policy formulation and research design, which has been acknowledged by academics and international organisations. Her skills are diverse, from fundraising, project management, market analyses, research and public affairs to strategic advising, advocacy, policy design, and training and teaching</p>	
<p><b>Claire Gagnaire, STOP a l'Exclusion Énergétique</b></p>	
<p>Secretary General of HELLIO, a leading player in energy management, Claire is a leader across diverse aspects of tackling energy poverty in France. Notably, Claire is Vice-President of <b>STOP Exclusion Énergétique</b>, an initiative that aims to combat the energy insecurity experienced by 12 million French people, including more than 2 million in energy exclusion. Previously, she served as President of the <b>Les Transitionneurs</b>, an association in France that promotes and supports initiatives by accelerating the convergence of societal, ecological, economic, cultural, digital and democratic transitions at all levels in the French territories.</p>	
<p><b>Polina Gkioka, Wind of Renewal</b></p>	
<p>Polina is vice president and founder of the Greek Social cooperative Wind of Renewal. For more than 25 years, she has worked on environmental and social innovative projects as staff and/or</p>	

member of Greek NGOs. Polina was Secretary General and Women's Rights Coordinator of the Greek Section of Amnesty International.

### **Irene González-Pijuan, Alliance Against Energy Poverty**

Currently PhD candidate at Sheffield Hallam University, Irene is studying how energy poverty affects children and their agency. She also collaborated on the [Empowermed](#) project to tackle energy poverty and help improve health of people in the coastal areas of Mediterranean countries, with a particular focus on women.

### **Marlies Hesselman, Faculty of Law, University of Groningen**

An Assistant Professor, Dept. of Transboundary Legal Studies of the Faculty of Law, University of Groningen, Marlies teaches in the areas of public international law, human rights law, international environmental / climate law, and environmental health. She holds an LLB in Dutch Law from Leiden University; LLM in International Law, specialization human rights (cum laude, top 2%); LLM European Law; and PhD in International Human Rights Law on modern energy services access from Groningen University. She also studied at Copenhagen University and has been a GLOTHRO-funded Visiting Scholar at the London School of Economics.

### **Elena Milanovska, Habitat for Humanity**

Dedicated to promoting and advocating to eliminate energy poverty in Central Eastern Europe, Elena hopes to see access to energy as a basic human right. She has played key roles in promoting Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) as the leader in the housing finance sector across Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East region, securing over €1 bln investments in housing microfinance portfolios and over €1 mln loans disbursed with over 40 partner institutions in 20 countries. Her expertise is in developing a capital mobilisation strategy, focusing on partnerships with financial institutions and other investors or investment vehicles to structure and establish energy-efficiency funds.

### **Corina Murafa, European Economic and Social Council**

A university lecturer, activist and independent consultant in climate, energy and sustainability, Corina has 12+ years of progressive experience in large non-profits, international organisations and the private sector. She focuses mostly on the just energy transition, energy poverty, citizen participation in the energy sector and ESG transformations in corporations. Corina drives strategic interventions towards just and sustainable social transformations and has done so with organisations such as the World Bank, the European Commission, Frankfurt School of Management, Ashoka, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Prime Minister's Office, and various other national governments, NGOs and think tanks. Corina has covered geographies such as Romania, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Portugal, etc.

### **Rosalyn Park, Women's Human Rights Program**

Rosalyn has extensive human rights experience, particularly in the area of human rights monitoring, violence against women, UN advocacy, and volunteer management. She provides expert guidance to UN bodies and foreign governments on compliance with international legal standards and best practice standards. She has served as an expert for multiple NGOs, the UN, OSCE, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on women's human rights and was selected to join the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women's 2017 Expert Group Meeting on domestic violence best practice standards and 2020 Expert Group Meeting on sexual assault. She was a core member of the international UN Gender Network, a coalition established to examine gender equality policies within the UN and their impact on the UN's approach to the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Federica Petraroli, AISFOR**



Federica holds degrees in Political Science and International Relations, as well as Persuasive Advertising. She began her career as a Social Media Manager at a web agency and has recently transitioned to RETE ASSIST, where she assumed the role of Training Manager for green-themed projects. Currently, she is working as a Communication Officer at AISFOR, focusing on energy transition and empowering local authorities to combat social exclusion.

**Saska Petrova, University of Manchester, Generate Project**

Saska's research and policy contributions are situated at the intersection of precarity, gender and energy resource use. Working in under-represented communities across the United Kingdom, Europe, South Africa and China, she has interrogated the political governance and contestation of social and environmental injustices. Using insights from political ecology and feminist geographies, Saska seeks to transform knowledge and practice on low-carbon transitions. Currently, Saska is leading the £1.8m GENERATE project (Gender and Precarity at the Energy frontier), a Consolidator Grant funded by UK Research and Innovation, and the European Research Council.

**Federica Ragazzo, RETE Assist**

Having recently obtained a master's degree in Applied Social Sciences at La Sapienza University, Federica has carried work, study and internship experiences in England, France and Belgium. Building on experience gained as an assistant project management for educational projects funded by the EU, she is motivated to create and/or participate in social and educational projects that can contribute to bridging inequalities in any social and cultural sphere.

**Eva Schwab, FEANTSA**

An interdisciplinary researcher and consultant with expertise in social justice and urban green transition policies, Eva works primarily in Eastern Europe. She has consistently worked at the intersection of various stakeholders, including state actors, civil society, and research institutions. As an editor and research consultant, I coordinated pro-Roma civil society organizations to develop joint monitoring reports across multiple countries. Currently, I am authoring a report on Roma inclusion in the climate and energy transition in Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Ireland. Before that, as a research consultant for the German Cooperation, I co-conducted a research project on the impact of circular economy schemes informal waste collectors in Serbia.

**Marilyn Smith, The ENERGY ACTION Project (EnAct)**

Marilyn believes it is time for everyone to 'get' energy – i.e. to have access to affordable energy services and to understand the role of energy in society. As a writer/editor and multimedia producer, she juggles two roles with the shared aim of making energy news and information accessible to diverse audiences. EnAct is a journalistic entity, reporting on energy poverty and who is doing what to address it. ORENDA Communications provides creative services and communications training to the energy sector. Marilyn strives to make all content engaging and informative, thereby empowering individuals to make better decisions about energy.

**Milena Stateva, The Orion Grid**

Milena is a seasoned professional specialising in working with uncertain and emergent states, processes, and under-conceptualised contexts. With over 25 years of experience leading high-profile projects in social policy, security, empowerment and research, she has made a significant impact in her field. A qualified process consultant and expert in group and organisational dynamics, Milena excels in working with individuals, groups, collectives, organisations and movements. She has successfully led over 60 process consultancies, covering a wide range of social, group, and political processes, as well as organisational behavior. Her extensive portfolio includes more than 35 research projects and over 30 policy projects.

<b>Ana Stojilovska, HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences</b>
Ana Stojilovska is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Political Science, HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary. She has been working on energy poverty for over 15 years. Her research interests include an anthropological human-centred approach to studying energy poverty in the context of a socially just energy transition, questions of (in)justice and equity concerning infrastructure, heating, and fuel use, as well as new governance models uncovering systematic drivers of energy vulnerability. Currently, she is working on female energy poverty, transport poverty, and energy vulnerability in the public and private sectors in Hungary.
<b>Dr. Jacob Udo-Udo Jacob, American University in Bulgaria</b>
Jacob Udo-Udo Jacob is the Panitza Memorial Endowed Executive Director of the Center for Information, Democracy, and Citizenship at the American University in Bulgaria. He recently served as the Under-Secretary-General for Research, Evaluation, and Foresight at the Organisation of Southern Cooperation (OSC). He was the Dean of Graduate School and Research at the American University of Nigeria (AUN) and previously held academic appointments at the Center on International Cooperation at New York University and the Department of International Studies at Dickinson College.
<b>Andrea Vides de Dios, Alliance Against Energy Poverty</b>
Andrea Vides de Dios is a chemical engineer and gender expert, currently pursuing a PhD in Feminist and Gender Studies. She is part of Engineering Without Borders and the Alliance Against Energy Poverty, where she combines advocacy, training, awareness-raising, and research to address critical issues such as energy poverty, energy transition, and global justice, all approached through an ecofeminist lens.
<b>Lidija Zivcic, Environmental Expert and Researcher, Co-founder Focus</b>
A senior expert in Focus, Lidija covers sustainable development, climate, energy, transport, participation and degrowth. She has >20 years' experience in managing projects at Slovenia and EU levels, including the H2020 project <a href="#">EmpowerMed</a> (2019-23). Lidija is experienced in advocacy and policy work and connected to a broad network of experts, decision-makers and campaigners in Slovenia and EU. After undergraduate studies of economics in Ljubljana, Lidija completed an MSc in Environmental Science and Policy at Central European University in Budapest (2001) and obtained a PhD at Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana (2012).

WISE is also grateful for the support of the following individuals for providing key support.

Workshop Facilitators & Rapporteurs	Organisational Support	Additional financial support
<b>Sára Szabó</b> , HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences	<b>Eleni Papadopoulou</b> , INZEB <b>Deepal Khrtati</b> , EnAct	<b>European Climate Foundation</b>



## WISE Consortium Partners

### Bulgaria / The Orion Grid

**The Orion Grid** works for a democratic and caring world free from oppression and trauma, where autonomous individuals-in-communities can develop and enable everyone to participate fully in social and political life. The organisation works by amplifying and bringing together the energy of the bearers of the democratic impulse. We commit ourselves to: a) democratisation of political and socio-psychological knowledge; b) specific support to individuals, organisations and movements to address challenges and unlock their potential as democratic actors; and c) identifying and addressing fissures at the community and systemic levels through educational, consultative, artistic, public and other interventions. Orion Grid provides three main services: a) **consultations** (one-off and ongoing), both organisational and group (process facilitation to address blockages, problem solving and organisational development) and individual (coaching and role analysis); b) education related to feminist epistemologies; democratic, civic and political education; training for facilitators; training for primary psychological care; and digital skills; and c) **research** including monitoring and evaluation of social systems and institutions; developments on grid theory and practice; and socially and politically significant issues through mixed methodology. Orion Grid's focus is on tackling the most pressing issues faced by Bulgarian society, especially climate change communication, gender-based violence, far-right trends, discrimination, blockages in the processes of migration, structural and systemic violence.

### Croatia / Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ)

**Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ)** is a non-profit cooperative and social enterprise based in Zagreb. It focuses on community renewable energy projects and empowering local communities. Established in 2013 as part of the project *Development of Energy Cooperatives in Croatia* implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Croatia, ZEZ has been supporting community energy in Croatia and across borders. The Cooperative's 20 members have vast experience in coordinating and working in green energy projects and energy poverty on European and domestic scale, as well as on developing projects, designing policy recommendations and carrying out educational activities. ZEZ has an excellent background in the energy sector and understanding of the complex interactions of energy and economy, society and the environment. ZEZ promotes active involvement of stakeholders, particularly policy makers and citizen groups, in policy elaboration and implementation processes. The cooperative has a large network of specialists to carry out the research, innovation activities and implementation of solar PV projects. Its approach is based on experience and professional work in the field of energetics in Croatia, the Western Balkans and Central Asia.

### France / The Energy Action Project (EnAct)

EnAct is internationally respected for its ability to produce engaging and informative content about energy poverty and effective means to tackle it. It has led or been directly involved in campaigns to raise awareness of access to energy as a basic human right (through podcasts and editing/ production of a Right to Energy Toolkit). EnAct has also researched and verified a wide range of energy-saving tips that all EU citizens can apply in their daily lives to use energy more wisely and participate in reducing consumption and emissions. Additionally, EnAct substantial experience in coordinating projects with multiple partners.

Notably, in relation to WISE, EnAct anticipates creating a National Consortium within its own 'neighbourhood' – the Paris suburb of Aubervilliers, which is the fourth poorest city in France. Having a population of 95 000, citizens represent ~120 nationalities. Single women – the vast majority migrants – make up ~20% of the population and the vast majority live in social or substandard rental housing. The City of Aubervilliers has expressed strong interest in collaborating to tackle widespread energy poverty among this group, recognising the need to collaborate with multiple CSOs that have earned the trust of women through programmes for housing, food or other assistance.

## Greece / INZEB & Wind of Renewal

**INZEB** is a non-profit, independent organisation focusing on a sustainable and energy-balanced future, working on energy efficiency in buildings and the built environment, innovative financing for energy efficiency, energy poverty mitigation, and the evolution of energy communities. INZEB aims are achieved through an interdisciplinary team of experts who generate and disseminate scientific insights, research results and innovative programmes. INZEB endeavours to encourage and support the constantly evolving energy sector through research, documentation, consultation, and implementation of plans and capacity-building programmes for national, European and international projects. By working closely with an extensive network of EU institutions, national, regional, and local authorities, NGOs, and academic and business sectors at national, European, and international levels, INZEB has built valuable partnerships that enable knowledge exchange and empower the ability to implement, disseminate and exploit scientific-based project outcomes towards sustainable energy transition and climate change mitigation. INZEB has published numerous reports regarding energy poverty mitigation in Greece and the EU. It has an extensive track record in EU-funded projects, including POWERPOOR H2020 (2020-23). INZEB provides technical assistance to 20 municipalities in Greece (5 technical assistance contracts) for diagnosing energy poverty and organising awareness events to engage and inform citizens, civil society organisations, and the technical and social services of the local authorities, and provide the latter with options for mitigation actions.

**Wind of Renewal** (WoR) is a social cooperative focusing on social and green innovation, the just energy transition and energy poverty, climate protection, and intercultural dialogue. Its activities boost empowerment and social inclusion. WoR has worked closely with refugee and migrant communities in Greece as well as with diverse EU social and energy networks. It has developed a community model (welcommon, which means welcome in common, together) for empowerment and inclusion through building communities to promote coexistence and dialogue among cultures, working with refugees, asylum seekers, tourists and young volunteers from >50 nationalities and ethnicities. To date, WoR has offered accommodation to >2000 refugees and empowerment and/or information education to >3000 refugees from 25 ethnicities and nationalities, mostly from Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Africa. It has worked closely with Ukrainian women and children in Greece who have fled the Russian invasion. WoR seeks ways to create jobs or co-working opportunities related to the energy transition and sustainable living.

## Hungary / HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences (CSS)

CSS is the flagship research institute of social sciences in Hungary. More than 200 researchers conduct disciplinary and interdisciplinary research in sociology, political science, computational social science, network science, minority studies, and legal studies. CSS Budapest is dedicated to building collaborative, trans-disciplinary, and cross-sectoral networks both within Hungary and internationally. The Centre regularly hosts public events, engages citizens, and conducts research with social impact. Researchers at the Centre have actively participated in EU-funded H2020 and other international projects. The Centre coordinate the H2020 Research and Innovation Action project DEMOS, which won a €3 million grant from the European Commission. The Centre also acts as a work package and task leader in several ongoing H2020 projects such as BRIDGES, OPTED, RE-DWELL, ESS-SUSTAIN-2, and RURALIZATION and leads an EEA grant (CODE Europe). In the past, CSS took part in a variety of other H2020 and FP7 projects (such as MIME, MOPACT, FAMILIES & SOCIETIES), COST actions, and Visegrad grants. In the area of energy, research includes the study: of energy poverty in Europe; the status of vulnerable groups in the energy transition; and new governance models of participation.

## Italy / RETE ASSIST

RETE ASSIST is a national network created to consolidate, strengthen and carry on the work started within the European ASSIST project. RETE ASSIST aims to be a point of reference for all those involved in promoting the just energy transition and the fight against energy poverty. RETE ASSIST proposes multi-layered, holistic approaches in line with complex and multidimensional problems, embracing aspects ranging from the social to the technical. RETE ASSIST is the result of a research path carried out to define, test and subsequently scale an innovative model to address the problem of energy poverty. The ASSIST model is based on awareness that energy poverty does not fall exclusively within the energy sphere but has causes and consequences with strong social connotations. SMART-UP, a European project (H2020), has considered social workers – who already provide assistance to people in socio-economic difficulties – as potentially suitable to provide direct support on problems connected to the energy sphere, such as the inability to pay energy bills or living with only partial satisfaction of one's energy needs. SMART-UP trained social workers on energy issues and integrated their knowledge on technical issues, thus developing their assistance skills on energy poverty. The SMART-UP experience concluded that helping people in energy poverty requires both knowledge and soft skills. The latter includes empathic sensitivity, the ability to dialogue and to transmit trust. In turn, the ASSIST project profiled TED and built the TED-centric model for tackling energy poverty and improving the conditions of people in vulnerable/energy poor conditions. The project concluded that the TED, with horizontal skills on social and communication issues, and with vertical skills strengthened on a technical level, is a key player in the fight against energy poverty.

## The Netherlands / 75inQ & University of Groningen, Faculty of Law

**The 75inQ Foundation** works to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy by promoting gender equality in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It specifically focuses on the convergence of two of these goals, SDG7 and SDG5; the crossroads of the transition to sustainable and affordable energy and gender equality. These goals converge from the boardroom to the living room; i. Boardrooms within the energy sector are dominated by male directors; ii. Consequences of energy poverty are predominantly borne by women; iii. The gender component in the energy transition becomes more visible when the growing labour shortage and faltering labour participation in the energy sectors are viewed through a gender lens as a result of which innovation, strength and speed lag behind the ambitions of the Paris Agreement and reduce CO2 emissions. 75inQ has a membership community of over 700 female professionals working in the energy sector. 75inQ has written policy reports for the JRC of the EU, the Femm committee of the EU, EIGE, the UN, Asian Development Bank, Ministries of the Netherlands and ActionAid.

**Faculty of Law, University of Groningen.** In the department of TLS, the boundaries of and in law are investigated and explored, in research and by extension in education. In a highly technological and strongly internationalising society, many complex social issues transcend borders. This has an impact on the role of the law in the solution of these issues. Boundaries between traditional legal disciplines are broken to find appropriate outcomes. A one-dimensional approach to legal questions is often no longer possible. Law in the digital society, for example, is at the crossroads of public and private law, of international, European and national law, and requires knowledge of disciplines other than law alone. Technology law is a multi-dimensional discipline par excellence. In addition, new problems call for new solutions; this will often require cross-border law (international or European). As of January 2018, based on a fascination with the boundaries of law, various fields of expertise within the Faculty of Law have been combined. The aim is to bring together experiences with the changing transboundary aspects of law and to reflect on them in research and education. This is not an end in itself, but a means to enrich the further development of the areas of expertise on the basis of shared insights.