



WOMEN IN SOLIDARITY FOR ENERGY



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# Energy Poverty in the EU

Energy bills exceed 10% of household income

9.2% of households in the EU are unable to keep their homes adequately warm or cool.\*

Data show a significant gender gap:

- 44% single mothers
- 31% single women

\* Eurostat

\*\* [Eurofund, 2022](#)



# Energy Poverty affects women

Women have lower incomes: on average, they earn 13% less per hour than men.\*

Single-parent households, predominantly headed by women (83%), face greater energy pressure.

14% of single women are unable to keep their homes adequately warm — a higher rate compared to the general population.

Elderly women living alone in large or energy-inefficient homes face a higher risk of energy poverty due to low pensions \*\*

- \*Ε.Κ. Η διάσταση του φύλλου στην ενεργειακή φτώχεια
- \*\*Ευρωπαϊκό Ινστιτούτο Ισότητας των Φύλων (EIGE)



# Single women in the EU

Are more likely to live in poor-quality housing with:

- Inadequate insulation
- Old window frames
- Energy-inefficient systems and or equipment

May face barriers in accessing housing or appliance renovation schemes



# Quality housing is not a luxury

Inability to maintain healthy indoor temperatures is linked to:

- Excessive energy consumption
- Negative impacts on health and well-being

Women often reduce spending on other essential goods and services in order to pay energy bills



# An example..

## **Sofia – 67 years old**

Lives alone in an apartment of 65 sq.m. She owns the house which is old (more than 40 years) and she doesn't have any savings

**Monthly income (pension): 820 €**

### **Average monthly expenses:**

Food and Super market: 260 €  
Medicines & medical expenses: 100 €  
Other: 90 €  
Total 450

Building common expenses: 70 €  
Electricity bill: 150 €  
Total about 220

**Unexpected event: The water heater broke down.  
She needs 350 € to replace it**

# Policies and Challenges in EU

Since 2016, the European Parliament has called for the integration of a gender perspective in energy policies.

However, EU states still insufficiently incorporate the gender dimension into energy poverty policies

There is a need for improved data collection and monitoring in order to design more targeted policies and interventions addressing women's energy poverty in the EU.



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## **CERV Programme**

### **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values**

The programme aims to protect and promote EU rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

#### Partners:

- 9 entities (NGOs, Universities, Social Cooperatives)
- 7 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands)

# WISE Objectives

aligned with the objectives of CERV\*

To raise awareness about EU rights and values in relation to the transition to clean and just energy

To promote solidarity with a group of citizens that usually does not participate in decision-making processes

To empower and support women to participate in strategies for achieving energy justice

To strengthen social cohesion among women of different generations and cultural backgrounds

\* The **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values** programme (CERV) aims to protect and promote European Union rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights



# WISE activities in 7 countries:

Raising awareness about energy injustices experienced by women

Energy solidarity activities to provide women knowledge and practical skills

Holistic approaches to align policy and practice to eliminate women's energy poverty



<https://wise-energy-solidarity.eu>

Multilingual  
informational  
material

Tips and ideas for  
more efficient use of  
energy at home

Policies and  
proposals for the  
women's  
empowerment



# Women – Target groups



Single women



Single mothers



Elderly women



Migrants / refugees

## Film screenings

- Awareness
- Knowledge level assessment
- Encouragement of participation and dialogue

# Energy workshops



- Strengthening knowledge and technical skills in the energy sector
- Understanding women's specific needs
- opportunities to co-design policy and communication strategies



## Energy Solidarity Days

Supporting women in making small but meaningful improvements in their homes

# WISE Expected Results

**~140 women will benefit directly**

- Training
- Participation in democratic processes related to energy policy

**Awareness-raising among 700–1000 citizens**

- Public events on energy rights
- Participation opportunities in energy solidarity actions

**Supporting EU organizations**

- Creation of a multilingual information hub
- Identification of effective ways to support the most vulnerable



# Impact

By building on existing knowledge and developing new, more specific proposals, WISE will

Facilitate decision-making and strategic planning aimed at freeing women from energy poverty

Identify effective and cost-efficient actions that practically meet women's needs

Bring women's voices into the planning of improved policies for energy justice



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ENACT

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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