



GENDER4POWER - Two Key Outputs on Gender-Responsive Action Against Energy Poverty

The LIFE project GENDER4POWER is proud to announce the publication of two significant project outputs: Report on [Gender-Responsive Methods Against Energy Poverty](#) and [Gender-Responsive Action Manual](#) including a Gender Action Plan. Together, these outputs provide both the analytical foundation and the practical tools needed to embed gender equality at the heart of energy poverty action in Europe.

As a member of the [Energy Poverty Advisory Hub \(EPAH\)](#), GENDER4POWER contributes these outputs also to EPAH's growing set of gender-responsive tools, helping to ensure that gender considerations are systematically integrated into the guidance and resources EPAH provides to local and regional authorities across Europe tackling energy poverty.

Why Gender Matters in the Fight Against Energy Poverty

Energy poverty is not a gender-neutral issue. Women are disproportionately affected due to persistent income and pension gaps, higher rates of part-time employment, longer life expectancy, and a greater likelihood of living in single-parent or single-person households. In addition, women often carry a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic responsibilities, increasing their exposure to inadequate heating, cooling, and energy services, as well as to rising energy costs. Addressing these structural inequalities is not an optional add-on, it is a fundamental requirement for achieving a socially just and inclusive energy transition.

Report on Gender-Responsive Methods Against Energy Poverty

Developed under Task 2.3 "Design of Gender-Responsive Models to Combat Energy Poverty for Demonstrators" this report provides a comprehensive review of existing financial schemes and good practices at local, national, and EU levels. It examines whether current instruments effectively reach women and other vulnerable groups, assessing eligibility criteria, application procedures, governance structures, and distributional effects.

Key findings and recommendations include:

- Structural strategies such as targeted energy efficiency renovation programmes and one-stop-shop advisory models address root causes of vulnerability but often lack gender-sensitive criteria, requiring stronger integration of gender mainstreaming.
- Financial support mechanisms rarely integrate explicit gender equality objectives. Simplified procedures, automatic eligibility mechanisms, and solidarity-based financing can substantially improve accessibility for women and low-income households.
- Capacity-building and empowerment approaches including in-home energy advice, multilingual counselling, and training women as energy advisors or retrofit ambassadors are particularly effective complementary measures.
- Strategic use of EU funding instruments such as the Social Climate Fund can support community-led investments and vulnerable households while advancing gender equity.

Gender-Responsive Action Manual incl. Gender Action Plan

This manual provides project demonstrators with a practical, step-by-step framework for developing Gender Action Plans (GAPs), operational instruments that translate gender analysis into concrete project measures. The manual guides demonstrators through four core steps: gender analysis, identification of thematic areas, development of actions, and monitoring and evaluation. It also includes a practical checklist of guiding questions to support demonstrators at each stage, ensuring that gender sensitivity is embedded across all phases of project design and implementation.

Gender Action Plans in Action: Six Demonstrators Across Europe

A distinctive strength of D3.2 is that it goes beyond theory: it includes context-specific Gender Action Plans developed by six project demonstrators across Austria, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Spain. Each GAP was tailored to the specific social, institutional, and community context of the demonstrator, while remaining aligned with the project's overarching gender equality objectives.

Austria - Schweizer Haus Hadersdorf (SHH), Vienna

SHH is a non-profit therapy facility for people with addiction disorders. Its gender analysis revealed that clients, particularly women, face compound vulnerabilities including low energy literacy, limited financial resources, and discomfort in mixed-gender group settings. The GAP focuses on training staff as multipliers for gender-sensitive energy knowledge, delivering women-only energy literacy workshops, developing inclusive communication guidelines, and engaging supporter organizations such as Wiener Wohnen to broaden impact beyond the facility.

Germany - Energiegemeinschaften München, Neuperlach

The newly established Energy Community Munich in Neuperlach, a socially diverse, low-income district, is developing a solidarity-based membership model allowing people with limited means to contribute as volunteers. While the board is already gender-balanced, overall membership remains predominantly male. The GAP targets a 30% share of female and non-binary members, develops a gender-sensitive social media strategy, and works to embed gender-responsive procedures into the community's internal governance.

Greece - Hyperion Energy Community, Athens

Hyperion Energy Community already demonstrates strong gender representation; three of five board members and eight of nine vulnerable beneficiary households are women-led. Within the GENDER4POWER framework, Hyperion plans to expand to at least 20 female-led vulnerable households and integrate a gender-responsive demand-side flexibility research framework. The GAP also targets improved outreach, trust-based engagement with beneficiaries, and gender-sensitive energy literacy for all community members.

Lithuania - Atnaujinkime miestą (Amiestas), Vilnius

Amiestas is a One-Stop Shop initiative supporting multi-apartment building renovation in Vilnius. Its gender analysis identified that women: particularly elderly women, widowed homeowners, and single mothers; are among the most energy-poor yet least likely to engage with technical renovation processes. The GAP prioritizes systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data, family-friendly meeting formats with childcare support, and the goal of increasing female participation to 40–50% of workshop attendees.

Slovenia - Focus / Zeleni Hrastnik Energy Cooperative

In Slovenia, where energy communities are still nascent and gender considerations largely absent, Focus is supporting 10–15 vulnerable households in developing a community solar energy installation. Statistical data confirms that older women are the group most affected by energy poverty. The GAP addresses governance through gender quotas in leadership, capacity building for inclusive participation, exploration of solidarity-based funding models, and women-only energy literacy workshops.

Spain - Comunitat Energètica de La Bordeta (CELB), Barcelona

CELB is a citizen-led energy community in Barcelona's La Bordeta neighbourhood, already operating 48 kW of photovoltaic capacity and planning significant expansion to around 200 members by end of 2026. Currently, 48% of individual members identify as women, and the governing board maintains a 50/50 gender balance. The GAP focuses on

maintaining this balance during the growth phase, through gender-sensitive communication for the new members campaign, childcare provision at events, and a dedicated Solidarity Fund to support members in energy poverty.

Looking Ahead

These outputs represent a major step forward in GENDER4POWER's mission to promote a holistic, gender-responsive, multi-stakeholder, and people-centered approach to renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. The project will continue to share findings, engage with partner organizations, and support the replication and scaling up of gender-inclusive energy solutions across Europe.

Follow us on GENDER4POWER [webpage](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to stay tuned!

Join our [stakeholder group](#) if interested!



Contact

Project Coordinator: Rita Mergner, WIP Renewable Energies

E-Mail: Rita.Mergner@wip-munich.de

Dissemination & Communication Lead: Utku Ege Birgi, WIP Renewable Energies

E-Mail: utku.birgi@wip-munich.de



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

The GENDER4POWER project is a LIFE Programme co-funded initiative that started in November 2024 and will continue its efforts to alleviate energy poverty in targeted EU countries and beyond for the next four years. This LIFE project GENDER4POWER is co funded by the European Union under contract no 101167565



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

This LIFE project GENDER4POWER is co-funded by the European Union under contract n° 101167565