



Results of the “Gender & Energy / Climate Change” survey

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Background and participation

In the beginning of June 2005 we, WECF and the coordinator of the working group energy & climate change, send out a questionnaire to get a more in-depth impression on which WECF member organisations are working in the areas of energy and climate change and what the members want the working group to focus on.

Till now 17 organisations participated in the poll. They are from Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia (2), Greece, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands (3), Russia (2), Sweden and USA/Japan.

Energy

12 of the organisations who answered the questionnaire are dealing with ‚energy issues‘. The main focus are on energy saving (6) and education in the energy sector (6), energy efficiency (5), renewable energy (4), followed by energy policy in general (3) and nuclear energy (2).

Nine of the 11 organisations (82%) address gender issues or women’s issues within their work, five organisations think that they should address ‘gender’, but don’t know how to do it and all these organisations want to know more about gender issues in the field of energy policies and measures (see also below).

Knowledge and information on energy saving and energy policy

Nine organisations know the amount of energy consumption in the office and 15 know the amount of energy consumption at home. 15 organisations try to save energy in the office and at work and most of them switch of the lights when leaving a room (13) or switch of computers, when they are leaving for more than one hour (14). The use of energy saving bulbs (10) is also very common, as well as the reduce of heating/ room temperature (10). Aeration behaviour (5) and the use of energy saving office equipment (5) is not so common.

All of the responder (17) try to save energy at home: they switch off the lights when leaving a room (16), reduce heating / room temperature (12), reduce use of energy consuming household appliances (12), using energy saving bulbs (10), use public transport/bicycle instead of individual car (10), use energy saving household equipment (8) or use energy saving /renewable energy heating equipment (9) and adopted aeration behaviour (7).

Four of the responders use renewable energy sources (e.g. wind, solar, geothermie, biomass)at home, none at the office.

The question „Do you feel well informed about energy issues?“ were answered as follows: they feel well informed about how the energy they use is produced (9), the energy policy of their government (8), how to save energy (8) and the environmental impacts of energy use (7). More information are

required about the energy policy of the EU (10), the environmental impacts of energy use (9) and how to measure energy use or to save energy (in both cases 8). Some of the responders don't feel well informed about the energy policy of the EU (3) and how to measure energy use, but they don't ask for more information (maybe a problem of the questionnaire).

Knowledge and information on gender and energy

Most of the organisations (13) want to have more information about gender & energy issues. Only two of them mentioned to have information about the participation of women in the energy sector, only one knows about linkages between equal opportunities and energy issues, again only one about gender mainstreaming in the energy sector. But they are interested in: 13 of the 17 organisations (76%) want to take part in discussions about gender & energy issues.

Climate change

53% of the organisations (9) are dealing with 'climate change' issues. The main focus of the climate change issues is on education on climate change (6), national climate change policy (5), and environmental/ agricultural effects of climate change (5). Each with three organisations put their main focus on local climate change measures put four organisations, on EU/international climate change negotiations, on research on climate change three, health effects of climate change, social/equity aspects of climate change and on mitigation of climate change.

The main areas they address in climate change are energy (7) and transport (5), town planning is addressed two times, but also Agriculture, Research, Gender, water, Nuclear power or consuming more locally produced food (in each case 1) are areas in which the organisations want to mitigate climate change.

Within the nine organisations dealing with climate change five of them address gender issues or women's issues (and two more organisation not originally dealing with climate change), but another six don't know how to do to address 'gender'. Eleven organisations/ responder want to know more about gender issues in the field of climate change and climate protection policies and measures.

Information and knowledge about climate change

The organisations/responder are well informed about climate change issues in what causes climate change (9), environmental impacts of climate change (7), what they can do to mitigate climate change (6), climate protection policy of their government (6) and the international (UN) negotiations on climate change (5). On the other side they need more information about the social impacts of climate change (11), what they can do to mitigate climate change (9), climate protection policy of the EU (8), international (UN) negotiations on climate change (8), environmental impacts of climate change (8) and the climate protection policy of their government (7). Not good informed about the climate protection policy of the EU are four organisations/responder.

Information and knowledge about gender issues in climate change

Knowledge about gender issues is very low: two organisations each know about gendered risk perception or women's vulnerability to climate change, only one know about women's participation in this area, gendered contribution to or gender mainstreaming in climate change. According to the low knowledge level most of the organisations expressed their need for more information: women's participation in climate change (12), women's vulnerability to climate change (13), gendered risk

perception (14), gendered contribution to climate change (14) and gender mainstreaming in climate policy (14).

Eleven of the organisations are interested in taking part in discussions about gender & climate change.

Conclusion

The most noticeable result of the evaluation is the lack of information and knowledge regarding gender issues in energy and climate change, as well as the need for more information in most of the fields of action – also the level of knowledge is not bad. We were surprised about the high percentage of WECF member organisations dealing with energy (63%) and/or climate change (53%) issues. Admittedly we have to state that probably those organisations dealing with these issues were more motivated to answer the questionnaire than the others, this might distort the results.

Anyway, regarding our future work in the working group we should put a higher effort on information. Already in the end of 2005 we will start with an workshop on how to do a gender analysis – exemplified by the MAMA-86-project “Green Choice of Ukraine: Economic, Efficient and Safe Building”, in which energy saving will be addressed. Experiences of the training and implementation of the gender analysis shall result in a manual “How to implement gender analysis in energy projects”.

Another workshop we are fundraising for at the moment is one on gender and climate change: participation and capacity building of women’s organisations and researchers in EECCA countries. The aim is to inform about the state of the integration of gender issues in international climate change negotiations (UNFCCC and COP14/15) as well as to integrate women’s perspectives from these countries into positions and recommendations.

Despite our planning we want to encourage you to contact us if you need information or want to take part in our activities. We hope our network on ‘gender in energy and climate change’ will become stronger and will become an important voice in energy and climate change policy – on local, regional, national and international level, in ministries and official commissions as well as in NGOs.

Last but not least we want to thank all those persons and organisations who contributed to the survey by filling in the questionnaire. Those who haven’t done it yet are called to do so now. We will update the results every now and then.