

# empowering energy

Join us! Sharing our knowledge from the ground - we'll discuss how gender just energy cooperatives can act as important players in the fight for climate action and women's economic empowerment!

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MARCH 17, 2017  
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NEW YORK

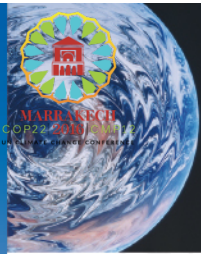
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# Empowering Energy: Gender Just Energy Cooperatives

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March 17, 2017

New York

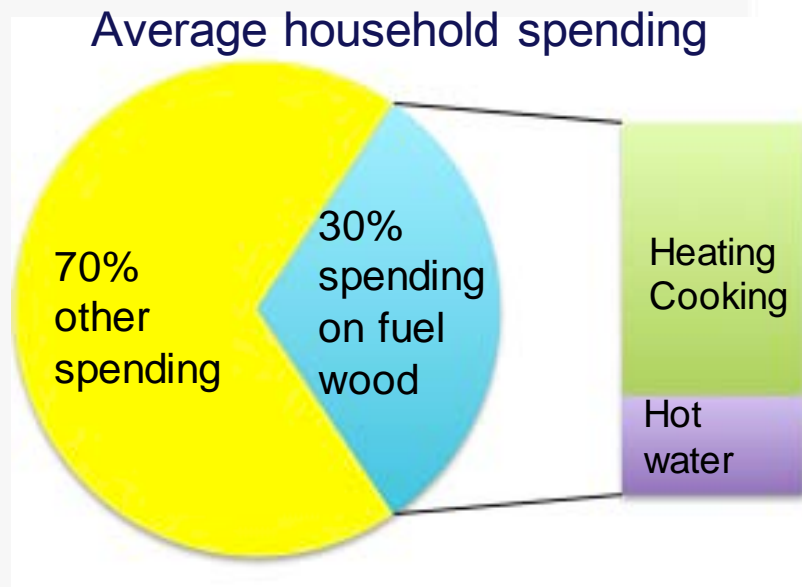


# Situation in remote areas of Georgia

- Wide spread energy poverty
- Dependence on firewood for water heating, heating and cooking
- Lack of participation opportunities for citizens



Usage of 10-14m<sup>2</sup>  
firewood per  
household / year



Impact esp. on women

- Labour burden
- Indoor air pollution
- Deforestation

=> increasing cost and effort of fuel  
wood supply and related workload



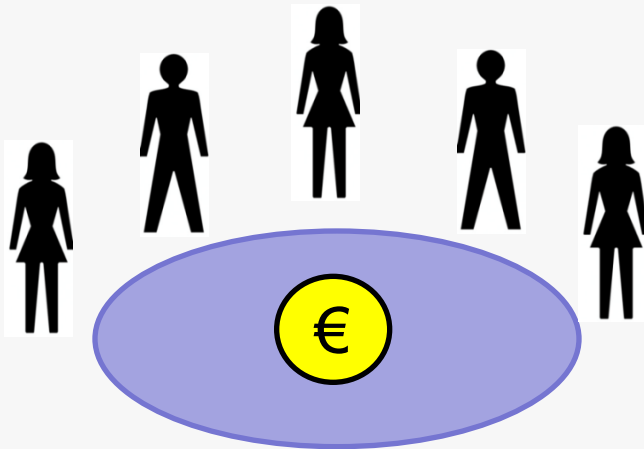


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# Energy cooperatives are ...

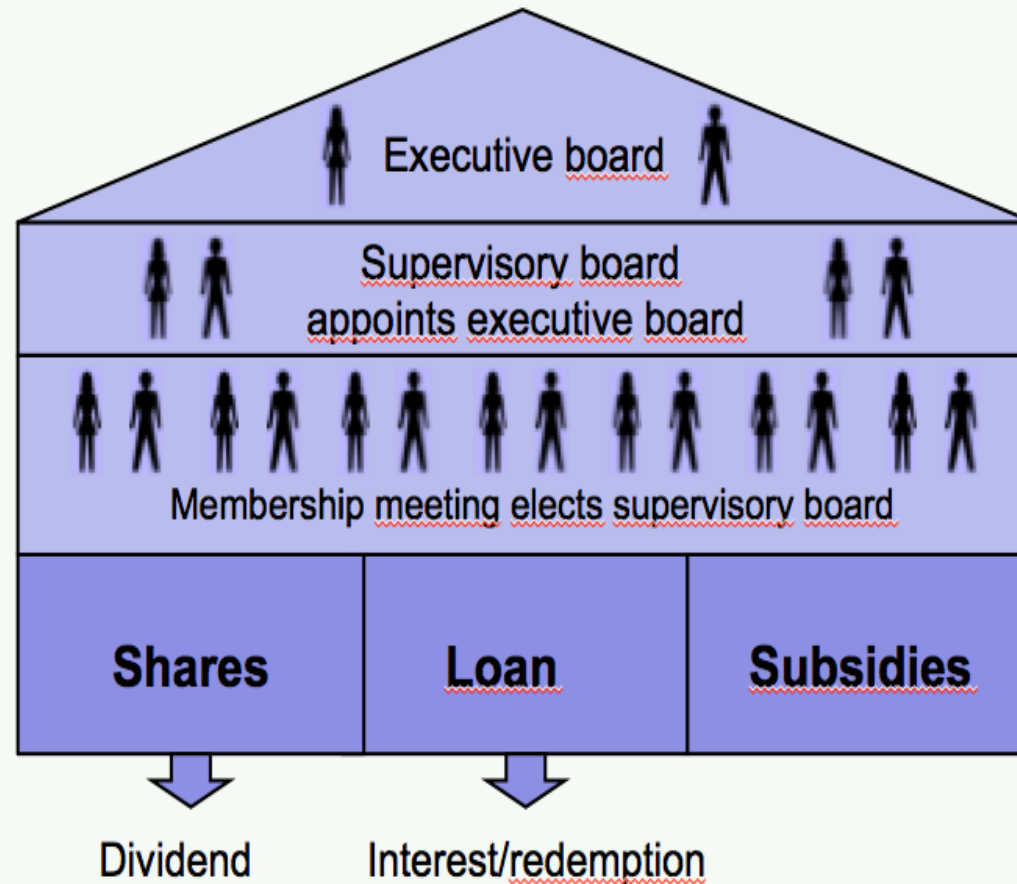
*A cooperative is a voluntary association of persons (women and men) with the aim to generate benefits for the members through a common business operation. Energy cooperatives promote the common idea of the members and allows through including the civil society a broad bottom-up development*



- ... **democratic:**  
one member - one vote, small-volume
- ... **flexible**  
easy way to become a member and to exit
- ... **secure:**  
nearly no insolvencies and risk diversion
- ... **ethical:**  
as ecological investment
- ... **expandable:**  
for more projects in the region
- ... **economic:**  
attractive and ecological investment
- ... **sustainable:**  
energy production free of nuclear and carbon
- ... **participative and decentral**  
people can create the energy turnaround from bottom up with small amounts

# 4 Gender Just Energy Cooperatives

- 40% women in board and membership
- Aiming 50%



# Gender Sensitive Energy Cooperatives

Gender equality institutionalized in the energy cooperatives

Increase women's participation through clear gender strategies:

- In the statutes it has quota in board for women in the board aiming 50%)
- Stimulation of women membership (cost 25 euro)
- Leadership training for women in management
- Awareness raising on gender and the importance of women equal participation for women and men

Gender equality results:

- More women have control over energy production
- More women are empowered & learn leadership skills
- Employment for women & men
- Income from dividend



4 energy cooperatives  
founded with more than  
130 members

# Cooperatives sell three types of products

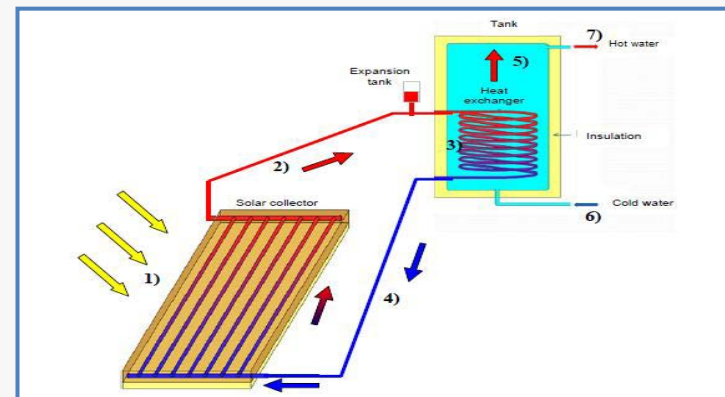


## Fuel Efficient Stove (FES)

- Double combustion mechanism
- use of dry wood
- avoid of indoor air pollution

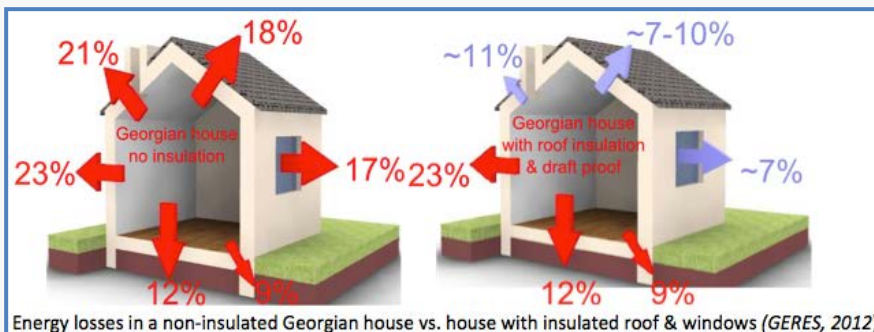
## Solar Water Heater

- Replace firewood stoves
- Local production and easy repair
- Provision of warm water throughout the day
- Expected lifetime: 25 years
- 600 SWHs already installed and in operation



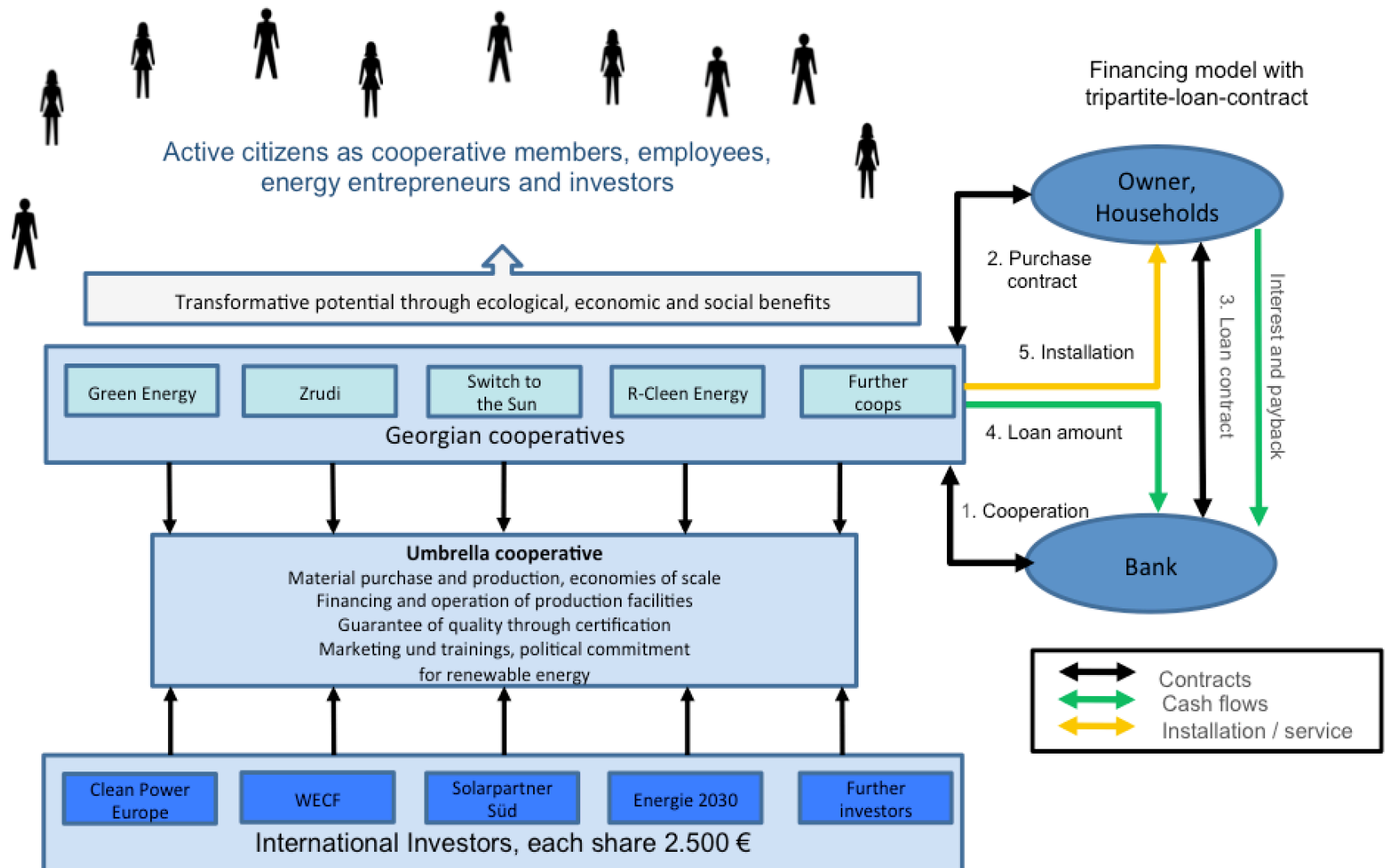
## Thermal Insulation

- window re-fitting
- insulation of attics
- Successfully tested in pilot phase





# Energy cooperatives combined with financial mechanism



# Energy cooperatives in Georgia

## Achievements



**2015/2016: founding of 4  
energy cooperatives**



**More than 130 members,  
40% women**

**Trainings about technologies,  
management and marketing**



**Consultation, selling and  
installation of 50 Solar  
Collectors & increased  
demand**

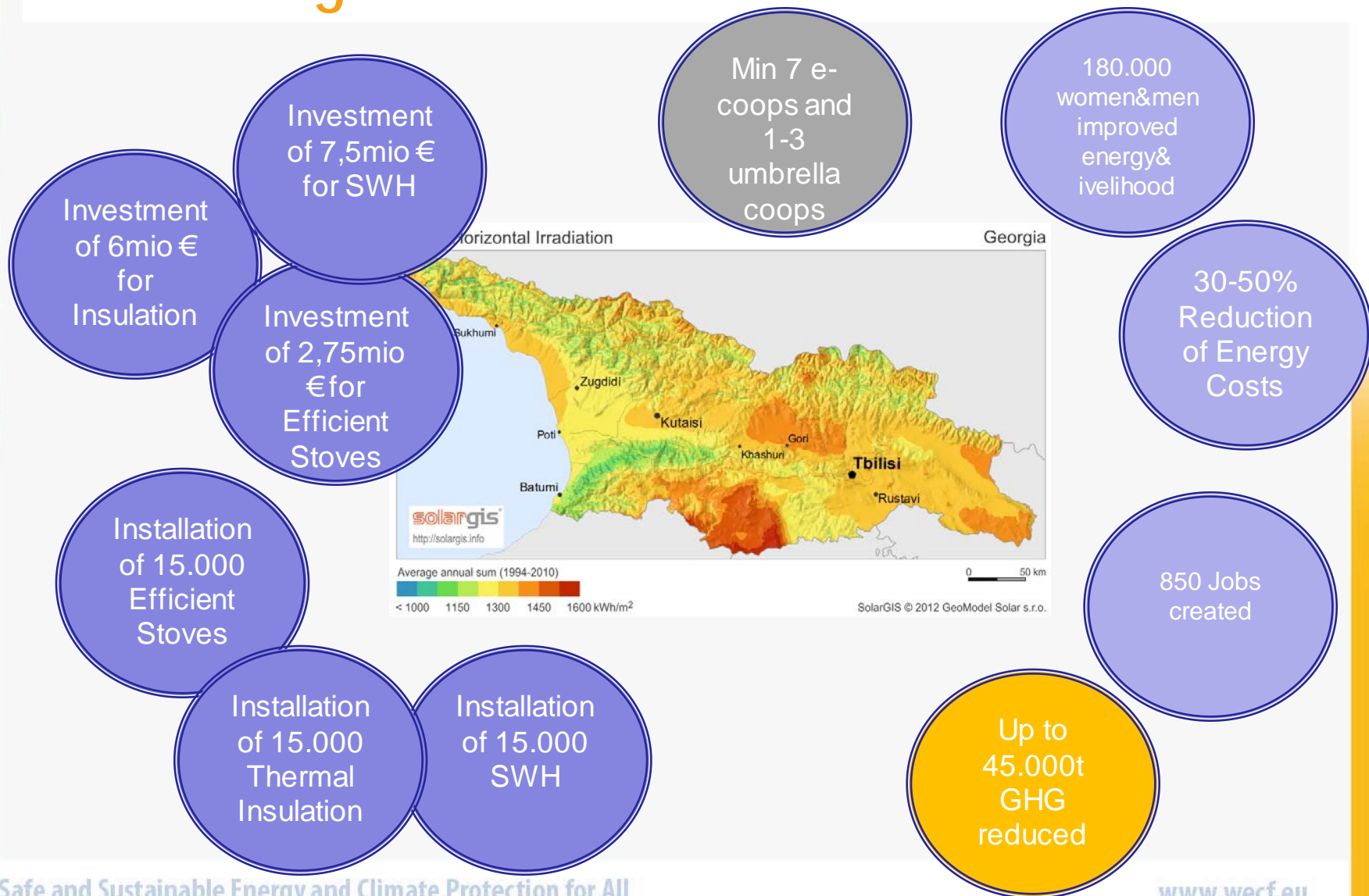


**Special trainings for women  
about leadership and  
organization**

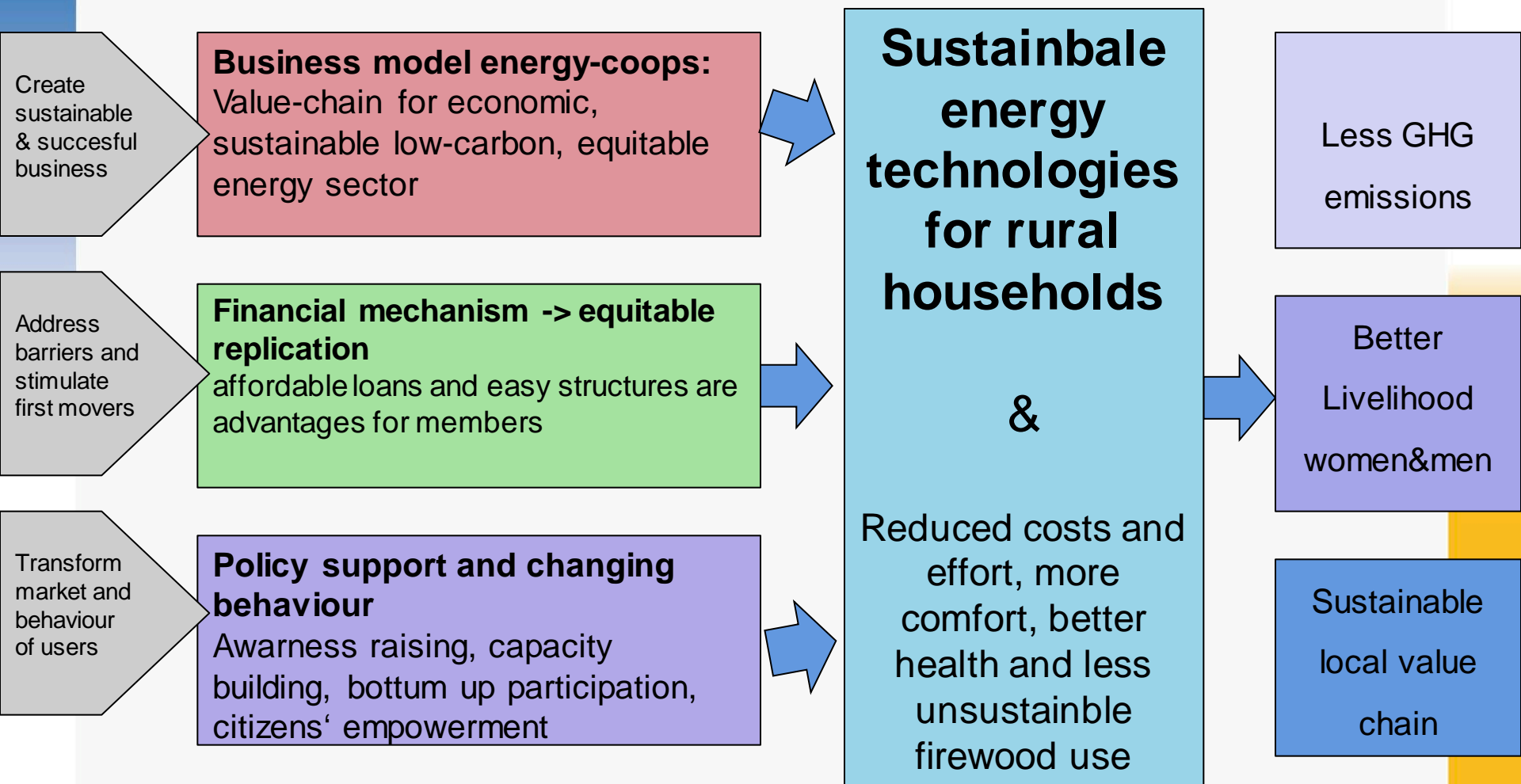


**Lobbying for national energy plan**

# Energy cooperatives as business model for NAMA in figures till 2022



# Cooperatives for gender-responsive climate policy implementation



# Where Do We Stand?

- Many women involved and motivated – but there are challenges
- Traditional roles (husbands don't allow wives to work, attend community meetings or trainings...)
- Gender-based violence (at home, public transport, workplace...)
- Stereotypes (women shouldn't be technical)
- Quotas work: 40% of women, critical mass make change)



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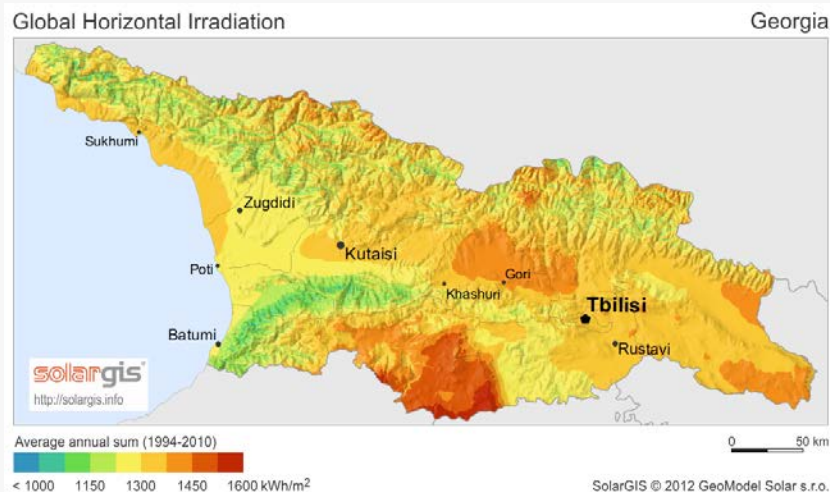


Questions or comments?



Thank you for your  
attention!

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