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# POWERING CITIZENS



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**Empowering energy citizenship among  
energy-poor people through joint actions**



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# Motivation

- Millions across Europe struggle to afford adequate heating and electricity.
- In 2018, nearly 34 million Europeans couldn't keep their homes warm.
- By 2021, 6.9% of EU households were behind on utility bills.
- 6.4% reported being unable to maintain proper indoor temperatures.
- The Western Balkans face severe challenges due to outdated financial measures and limited social protections.
- Young people play a vital role but often lack the tools and education to address energy poverty.



# Objectives

- Empower energy citizenship by equipping young people with skills to support energy-poor communities.
- Engage communities through joint energy actions and inclusive dialogue.
- Promote social inclusion of vulnerable groups such as single-parent households, rural residents, and young citizens.
- Align with European Youth Goals and the European Climate Pact for a sustainable energy future.

# Approach and Impact

- Use tailored educational initiatives (trainings, energy cafés) and policy advocacy to foster energy literacy.
- Create a network of young energy ambassadors to drive local and regional change.
- Aim to reduce energy poverty through informed action and strengthened community participation.

# Partners



Polytechnic University of Marche  
(UNIVPM) ITALY



Environmental and Territorial Management  
Institute (ETMI) ALBANIA



Balkan Green Foundation  
(BGF) KOSOVO



European Center for Researching, Education  
and Consulting (ECREC) NETHERLANDS



Initialising Energy Balance Towards Zero  
(INZEB) GREECE

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Comparative Research Network e.V  
(CRN) GERMANY





# Thank You

PROJECT CODE: **01147083-POWERINGCITIZENS-CERV-2023-CITIZENS-CIV**

DURATION: **01/06/2024 to 30/05/2026**



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# Gender Gap

in the energy sector



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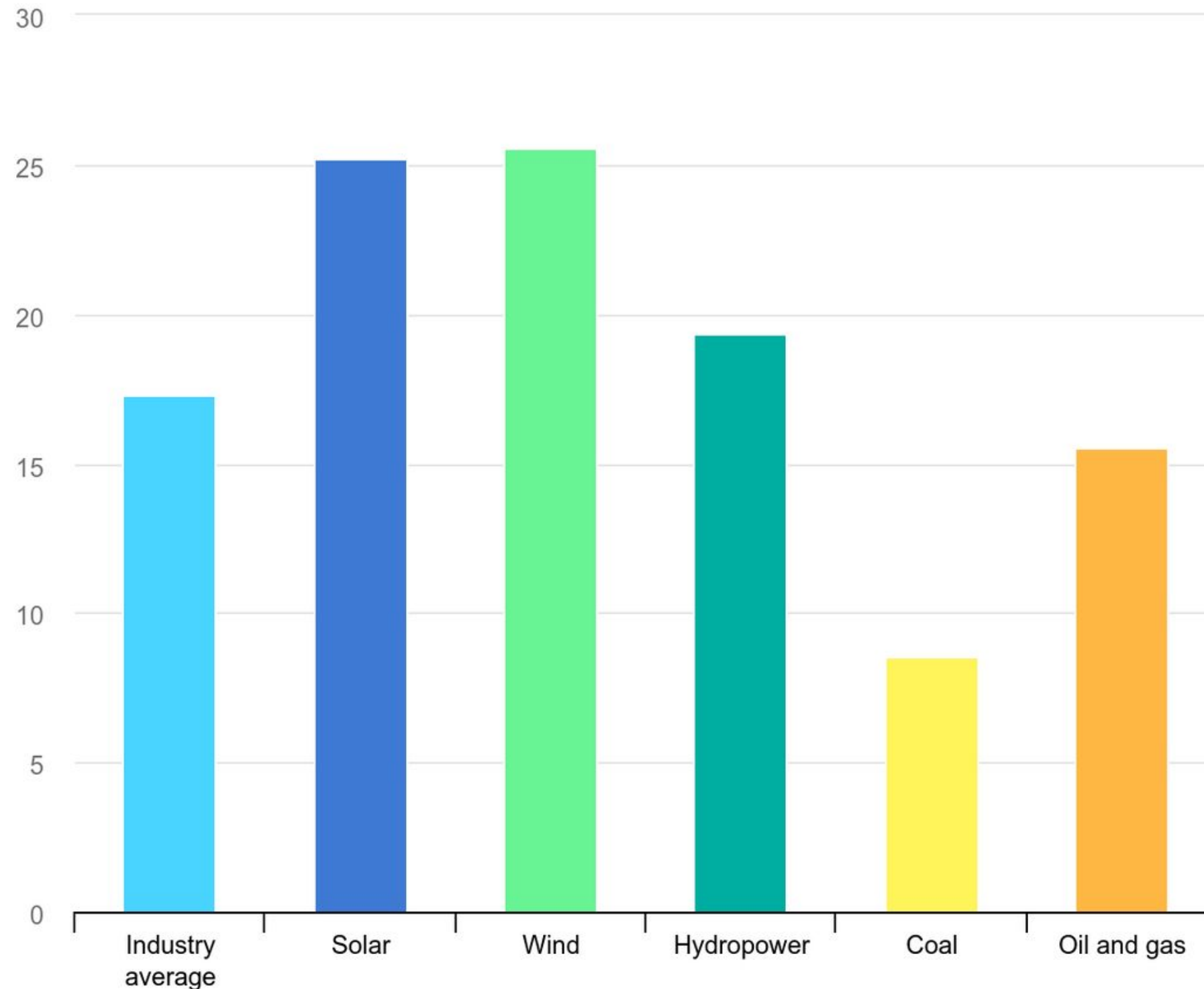
# Gender Gap

- Globally, energy is one of the least gender diverse sector
- In 2018 women accounted for 20% of the energy industry's workforce (they make up nearly 40% of the global labour force)
- Women wages are almost 15% lower than men at the same skill level
- Only 11% of the start-up founders in the energy sector are women



Sources: 1, 2, 3

# Women in Senior Leadership



- Women remain underrepresented in jobs in the energy sector.
- The solar and wind industry have the highest share of women in senior leadership.

IEA (2025), *Share of women in senior leadership by sector, 2023*, IEA, Paris

<https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/share-of-women-in-senior-leadership-by-sector-2023>, Licence: CC BY 4.0

Sources: 2, 3

# Gender balance in the EU27

**25%**

women in the  
workforce  
energy sector

**28%**

women among  
senior positions

**22%**

women among  
Research&Innovation  
staff



**To achieve minimum gender balance (40%) until 2050 the number of women employed in the sector across the EU27 must grow by 200 000**

Sources: 4

# Main causes

- Gendered image of the energy industry
- Corporate cultures that discriminate against women
- Lack of supply of female talent in labour markets
- Culturally embedded gender roles
- Masculine culture of engineering
- Systematic barriers & biases that deter girls from STEM

**The shift from fossil to green energy sources and related infrastructures will not automatically lead to a higher share of women in the energy sector**



# Sources



1. <https://www.iea.org/spotlights/understanding-gender-gaps-in-the-energy-sector>
2. <https://www.iea.org/topics/energy-and-gender>
3. <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2022/11/gender-gap-energy-sector/>
4. <https://www.equality-energytransitions.org/unveiling-the-gender-gap-in-the-energy-sector-new-insights/>



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