

PANEL 2: Climate change and gender, a feminist approach: adaptation strategies, gender environmental justice, migration and displacement, Climate Action Plan under the UNFCCC, gender dimensions of national climate laws and National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Europe's energy transition and gender equality: unlocking Europe's talent and leadership potential in energy and climate through education.

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Leading the energy transition at global level and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 is an enormous challenge and, at the same time, a unique opportunity for Europe. The energy sector finds itself at the very heart of this transition, and its speed is set to increase thanks to the ambitious European Green Deal. The transformation of the industry and the regulatory framework, driven by decarbonisation, cross-sectorial synergies, digitalisation and consumer empowerment create an increasing need for unlocking Europe's talent pool and ensuring equal professional opportunities for Europeans, irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Europe's transition to a carbon neutral economy therefore goes hand in hand with the need for strengthening inclusion and equality in the field of energy and climate education/executive training, as science and academia have a crucial opportunity to address the gender equality issues in the field of energy and climate. Indeed, universities and executive education providers have a highly important role to play in preparing and encouraging women to become innovative entrepreneurs driving the energy businesses, climate initiatives and the policy agenda of tomorrow.

This presentation aims to address the challenge of facilitating Europe's transition to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050, by way of unlocking talent and fostering gender equality in the field of energy and climate. It focuses on the role of universities and executive education providers within the debate of fostering gender equality and inclusion in achieving Europe's energy and climate targets, as well as in fostering green growth. The presentation will discuss the status quo on gender balance in the field; illuminate good practices in strengthening gender equality through

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education and training, and ultimately; identify pathways to promote equality through University education and explore synergies between the 2050 strategy and the upcoming European Gender Strategy announced by the Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

More specifically the presentation will address *inter alia* the following questions:

- How do universities and executive education providers contribute to strengthening gender equality in the field of energy and climate? What are the good practices? What is currently missing?
- What are the existing bottom-up initiatives addressing gender gaps in energy-related education and professional development programmes?