



SFI Public Service Fellowship 2023

1. Name of Governmental Department or Agency

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

2. Title of the Project

SEAI4 Investigating gender aspects of Ireland's clean energy transition

3. Description of the Project

The Irish government has increased its climate ambitions over the past number of years and has set challenging emission reduction targets. The scale of the challenge is such that there is a need for the inclusion and contribution of all citizens to the actions required to reduce our emissions. The United Nations (UN) has compiled 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. There is a global commitment to the SDGs including access to sustainable energy for all by 2030.

The gender dimension of the energy transition is integrated into both the fifth SDG - 'Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls' (https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5) and the seventh SDG – 'Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all' (https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7). The EU is also committed to ensuring gender equality in the transition to a sustainable energy model.

4. Project Scope

SEAI is a leading authority driving Ireland's sustainable energy transformation and works with Government to allow the smooth implementation of policy thus helping to deliver the ambitious and necessary national climate targets. It is assumed that energy policy is gender neutral, and that all benefit from it equally. However, that is not necessarily the case and there is a growing interest in understanding gender aspects of the energy transition.

Climate action needs to ensure that all citizens and genders are engaged in decision-making processes, development and use of technologies, and benefit from their outcomes. Different genders may experience different impacts of climate change and therefore, it is important that the needs of all are addressed to ensure effective and equitable climate action. Different and varied perspectives can also bring new insights and innovations in identifying and implementing solutions.

This project should support SEAI in ensuring gender aspects are considered and catered for in its policies and programmes.

5. Skills/Expertise Required

- A PhD or equivalent in a relevant discipline
- Demonstrated expertise in gender dimensions of policy



6. Expected Outputs of Project

Fellowship proposals to this topic could address the following points, among others:

- Review available literature on gender considerations in the energy sector such as awareness, access, consumption, leadership, decision making and assess the level of sex disaggregated data available for the energy sector;
- Consider whether energy policies in Ireland are gender neutral or gender blind;
- Assemble detailed data and information and/or review available databases on the different policy implementing programmes in SEAI;
- Investigate whether gender plays a role in the implementation of programmes by examining related available gender data;
- Where gender data is unavailable provide recommendations for whether gender data should be collected and the process that would need to be followed to implement the data collection;
- Make recommendations about how gender considerations could be included in the design phase of new programmes;
- Consider the impact of gender on the communication strategies for policy implementing programmes;
- Conduct additional research activities relating to gender in the energy sector which may be required to support SEAI in delivery of relevant activities.

7. Working Arrangements

Fellows will be based in the Research and Policy Insights Directorate at SEAI, Three Park Place, Hatch St Upper, Dublin 2. A hybrid working arrangement is in place with SEAI staff in the office 2 days per week.

8. Expected Timeline

12 months full-time or 24 months part-time

9. Contact Details