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International Workshop: “Gender and Climate Justice, A European feminist dialogue to explore future action”

6 June, 2025, Brussels, Belgium



This is a report about the international workshop: “**Gender and Climate Justice: A European feminist dialogue to explore future action**”, held on 6 June 2025, in Brussels, Belgium. This was the final transnational training of the Erasmus+ project entitled: “**Gender and Climate Justice: Knowledge for Empowerment**”, in brief **COPGendered**.

This project builds up tools, knowledge and methodologies for learners to upskill themselves (in groups, individually or with a teacher) in the relationships between gender inequality and the climate crisis. This includes providing tools for adult education providers. The project which lasts for three years ended in November 2025. The associations involved are in this project: WIDE+ (Europe), GenderCC-Women for Climate Justice/LIFE e.V in Germany, WIDE in Austria, GADIP in Sweden, KULU Women and Development in Denmark, Mundubat in Spain and CSCD in Bulgaria.

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Author(s): Maëllann Yvin based on the contributions from the speakers, and with notes taken by Gioia Buonsanti and Allis Millegård

Proofreading: Gea Meijers

Lay out: Gea Meijers

With special thanks to all conference participants

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1. Introduction

The international Workshop: “Gender and Climate Justice, A European feminist dialogue to explore future action”, was the final closing training for all project partners and other interested participants of the COPGendered project. As with the previous two international trainings, it was again held in June, this time in 2025. This time it was held in Brussels, Belgium, in order to exchange with gender and climate advocacy experts targeting EU policies, thus providing insight into the current political contestations and opportunities at the EU level to promote and hold on to measures that favour gender and climate justice.

The workshop brought together 33 participants that travelled from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Bulgaria, Austria, Denmark, and Spain to Brussels. However, many participants brought with them an enriching mix of identities and background experience, thus in fact there was much more (transcontinental) diversity and knowledge present.

The one-day workshop centred around two plenary panel debates and two rounds of workshops, in which two sets of workshops were held simultaneously. The workshops provided the final opportunity for the project partners to practice and experiment with their chosen method for the online trainers’ hub, one of the three main project materials. The day started with icebreakers provided by the team members of Mundubat: Andrea Rey Lopze and Cecilia Galimberti.



Participants got to know each other during one of the icebreakers

1.a. Ice breakers by Andrea Rey Lopez and Cecilia Galimberti

Activity 1

The participants were divided into two groups: group 1 and 2. The tables in the room were reorganised into an oval space to form couples:

- Group 1 members positioned themselves inside the table space and distributed themselves at 1 meter distance from each other.
- Group 2 members positioned themselves in front of a person from group number 1 in the outer layer of the tables.

The couples discussed three questions, in which first number one answered the question and then, after the clapping in the hands of the facilitators, the second person answered the question. Or in the other order:

- Question 1: What is the history of your name: is it after somebody else, etc.?
- Question 2: Discuss something you really enjoyed in the last month.
- Question 3: What is something that you love to cook for someone you love?

Activity 2

The aim of the activity is for the participants to find their way to be a group. The facilitators asked everyone 'What is a group?' and then gave the assignment to each to move around the room:

- People disseminated freely in the room. Each person chooses an object and goes the closest possible to it.
- Now the people are disseminated and at different distances from each other: they need to find a way to link with one another and be a group.

The members in the room started to hold hands: some people were at arm's length from one another but everyone in the room was connected.

2. Introduction Plenary Panel: “The future of the gender and climate justice agenda in Europe”

Cristina Reyna, WIDE+ board member, welcomed everybody and introduced the topic for this panel session. Experts in advocacy and policy provide a review of current European climate justice policy in different facets from a gender lens. Through this angle, the key question for this panel will be address: ‘**Is there room in the current political climate of EU politics to promote additional measures for gender and climate justice?**’, ‘Or should we focus our energy into preserving what was achieved in the past years?’. There was an additional perspective of a young feminist climate activist introduced that explained current forms and topics for climate justice action. She also presented the three speakers of the panel.

3. Climate finance, feminist policy, and the risk of regression

Rachel Simon, a senior advisor at Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, specializes in climate finance and feminist advocacy within EU institutions. With extensive experience in development policy and gender-responsive funding, Simon works to ensure that climate strategies are inclusive, equitable, and grounded in justice. She took on the task to set the scene for the current European political context around gender and climate justice.

In addition to explaining current policy debates, she detailed the practical and political dynamics of working with EU institutions while advocating for feminist and gender-aware climate policy. She also highlighted the EU's role in global climate policy and the growing importance of gender-sensitive climate finance. She set the stage by acknowledging the recent shifts in EU foreign policy and the increasing retreat of feminist principles under new political realities. Drawing on the concept of "petromasculinity," she linked climate denial and fossil fuel dependency to rising authoritarianism and patriarchal power structures. Simon called for a feminist just transition centred on participation, care, and redistribution.

Turning to the EU, she noted the role the European Green Deal once played in emphasizing sustainability, including through "green diplomacy" and initiatives that linked environmental action with gender. However, these advances are now at risk. As she explained, the **EU is shifting its external policy priorities away from justice and sustainability, and toward militarization, raw material extraction, and economic competitiveness.**

Why we need a feminist lens: Petromasculinity



"As the planet warms, new authoritarian movements in the West are embracing a toxic combination of climate denial, racism and misogyny. Rather than consider these resentments separately, this article interrogates their relationship through the concept of petromasculinity, which appreciates the historic role of fossil fuel systems in buttressing white patriarchal rule. Petro-masculinity is helpful to understanding how the anxieties aroused by the Anthropocene can augment desires for authoritarianism. The concept of petromasculinity suggests that fossil fuels mean more than profit; fossil fuels also contribute to making identities, which poses risks for post-carbon energy politics. Moreover, through a psycho-political reading of authoritarianism, I show how fossil fuel use can function as a violent compensatory practice in reaction to gender and climate trouble."

Cara Daggett, Petro-masculinity: Fossil Fuels and Authoritarian Desire

3.1. The rise of petromasculinity

To explain this shift, Simon shed light on Cara Daggett's concept of 'petromasculinity', a framework for understanding how fossil fuel dependency is deeply intertwined with authoritarianism, patriarchy, and nationalism. According to Daggett, fossil fuels are not just energy sources, but political symbols that evoke masculine ideals of self-reliance, control, and domination.

Trump and Putin are living examples of this concept, and the consequence of their authoritarian approaches is a drive of politics towards militarization and the absence of solutions to tackle the climate crisis. Simons argued that petromasculinity drives a militarized response to the climate crisis, and that instead of addressing root causes, authoritarian leaders are choosing repression.



Participants listening to Rachel Simon

This has profound implications for feminist climate advocacy. Petromasculinity marginalizes care-based, equity-focused solutions, reinforcing extractive models that disproportionately harm women, racialized groups, and communities in the Global South. The climate crisis is being reframed not as a justice issue, but as a security risk, further sidelining intersectional approaches.

Simon detailed how this ideological shift is becoming visible in EU policies and global spaces, for example the climate is less prominent in the G7 meetings. Climate finance is more and more geared towards enabling European access to ‘green’ resources, as evidenced by the ‘Clean Industrial Deal’ that promotes access to raw materials and Clean Energy Transition Partnerships. Such policies do not integrate a framework of ensuring human rights and justice, as evidenced by the many harmful impacts of mining rare raw materials in the Global South for green products in the Global North.

3.2. A feminist response: participation, financing, and accountability

In response to this retreat away from promoting climate justice, Simons outlined feminist strategies for reclaiming space. She highlighted recommendations from a [shared CAN Europe policy paper developed with Women Engage for a Common Future \(WECF\)](#) in 2023. It’s key priority actions entail to:

- Ensure meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in all levels of climate policy development and implementation.
- Increase direct financing for gender-just solutions.
- Mainstream gender justice into all EU climate diplomacy and external action.
- Monitor and evaluate EU Green Deal initiatives through intersectional and feminist criteria.

Simon emphasized the importance of reframing climate action as socially and economically beneficial for societies. A recent [CAN Europe study](#) highlights how **ambitious climate policies can improve**

public health, reduce energy poverty, and increase access to basic services, benefits that disproportionately support women, children, racialized communities, and people with disabilities. With these data available, they campaigned for climate just policies leading up to COP30 in Brazil. The goal is to promote just transition frameworks that are equitable, inclusive, and feminist-informed. Obviously, they will advocate for the agreement to the Belem Action Mechanism for Just Transition (which was accepted in the end by the states). Key to this effort is public engagement: **climate policy must speak to everyday concerns like care work, housing, and economic justice.**

Simon ended with a powerful call to bridge the climate and gender movements. Too often, she argued, the climate community fails to address labour rights, care infrastructure, or intersectional justice. Feminist movements cannot be expected to shoulder this responsibility alone.

“We must work together to define what a just transition really looks like, from the perspective of care, community, and justice.”

4. Feminist economics and the EU Green Deal: towards an inclusive transition

Katharina Wiese is a seasoned policy advocate from the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), a Brussels-based NGO working on environmental justice in Europe. The EEB is the largest network of environmental citizens’ organisations in Europe. It currently consists of over 190 member organisations in 41 countries, including a growing number of networks, and representing some 30 million individual members and supporters. She coordinates the Economic Transition and Gender Equality portfolio, with a particular focus on integrating feminist economics into mainstream EU climate policy.

Her presentation reflected both optimism about past breakthroughs and realism about the current anti-environmental and anti-feminist backlash unfolding (also) within EU institutions. Throughout her presentation, Wiese outlined the work of the EEB’s Economic Transition Team. She emphasized the organization’s projects and the importance that justice must be embedded in economic policies.

4.1. From gender blindness to ecofeminist policy

While the European Green Deal marked a turning point in making climate a core EU concern, Wiese emphasized that it was initially designed without a gender lens. In response, she and colleagues launched an internal EEB initiative that evolved into a comprehensive ecofeminist approach. This included thematic working groups, policy assessments, and advocacy campaigns aimed at reframing climate policy through a feminist economic approach.

Gender and climate justice starts with including a gender analysis into climate policy, and in its most comprehensive form centres around promoting eco-feminist economic policy. Wiese gave several examples of economic areas that impact the environment, which are clearly not gender neutral. Still, they are dominated by androcentric perspectives, in which proposing sustainable and gender-sensitive alternatives is needed. European policymakers have a long way to go to achieve gender equality and full respect of human rights into climate policy. One area where these biases are particularly evident is transport. Wiese noted that existing EU strategies promote electric vehicles and technological innovation but fail to address gendered mobility patterns. Men are more likely to drive private cars, while women rely more on public transport, yet policy remains skewed to the facilitation of cars. Instead, she argued for a model based on accessibility, affordability, and collective infrastructure. This includes implementing inclusive planning models such as the “15-minute city,” where daily needs are accessible within walking or cycling distance. Lowering public transport costs, investing in safety, and rebalancing public funding are essential to this shift.

The most effective way in policy to achieve these shifts in policy thinking is to reframe the economic model that is driving the policies that impact the environment. **We need a shift from Gross Domestic Product (GDP) focused growth to a well-being economy that is feminist.**

Wiese defined ecofeminist policy as intersectional, rooted in justice, and attentive to structural inequalities, not merely additive to existing economic models. Thus, Wiese stressed that **ecofeminism is not a thematic addition, but a structural perspective rooted in justice and inclusivity. Central to this is the recognition that environmental harm and social inequality stem from the same extractive and patriarchal systems.** An alternative framework emphasizes the protection and promotion of human rights, acknowledging that the rights of marginalized communities are inseparable from environmental sustainability. Ecofeminism demands systemic change that upholds dignity, equality, and the fundamental freedoms of all people, especially those disproportionately impacted by climate and social injustices.

Wiese briefly outlined how the EEB work towards promoting a gender perspective into climate policies. She highlighted the EEB’s key publications, “[Why the European Green Deal Needs Ecofeminism](#)” (with WECF) and “[A Feminist European Green Deal](#)” (with WECF and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung). Both argue that gender-blind climate policy fails both environmental and social justice goals. They call for mechanisms that promote gender sensitivity, including:

- Challenge the existing norms that work against gender equality.
- Make social and gender equality conditionalities explicit and mandatory for all policies. Including mandatory assessments and new instruments for monitoring gender equality against a benchmark with agreed indicators.
- Collect gender-disaggregated data with an intersectional perspective for all policy areas.
- Introduce systematic gender budgeting.
- Ensure gender-balanced representation in all negotiations and decision-making.
- Address gendered economic inequalities that lead to the pay and pension gap.

- Actively promote the diversification of the workforce to allow women in all their diversity to join sectors that impact the climate disproportionately.
- Promote the redistribution of unpaid care work in society, addressing the care trap,
- Promote sector-specific interventions (inclusive public transport, support for small-scale women farmers, promoting agroecology, and recognize unpaid rural labour).



Why the EGD needs ecofeminism?

- EGD policies are largely gender-insensitive & dominated by androcentric perspective
- Other mention gender but fail to propose concrete measures
- Besides, EGD is framed as a growth strategy not breaking with the traditional approach of green growth



The image shows two book covers. The left one is titled 'WHY THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL NEEDS ECOFEMINISM' and features a collage of people holding signs. The right one is titled 'A Feminist European Green Deal' and features a landscape with wind turbines and a rainbow.

4.2. Pushback and policy regression

Wiese also addressed the real-time political pushback across the EU, arising from shifting political dynamics in recent years. The resurgence of neo-liberal economic policies and the growing influence of fiscally conservative governments have shifted priorities toward deficit reduction, deregulation and economic competitiveness, often at the expense of climate and social justice goals. This new context reflects broader geopolitical uncertainties and a rightward shift in parts of the European political landscape. **The impact of the deregulation agenda at EU level is not yet fully visible (as the efforts are ongoing), but it seems to rollback recent gains. And there is a marked reduction in public investments necessary for the environmental transition, and a backlash against feminist achievements** and the integration of a social and gender justice lens.

Under the current EU programming cycle that was agreed upon by the previously elected European Parliament, external financing is subject to clear targets: 85% of funded projects must have gender equality as a principal or significant objective, and 35% must focus on climate action. These benchmarks were important tools for accountability and feminist engagement. In the negotiation for the new financial framework, so far, the proposals removed all such targets related to gender, climate, and development. She cautioned that while this is being presented as “flexibility,” it is in fact a major regression that strips away the political leverage activists had gained. This trend threatens to erase gender-transformative policies and undermine global commitments to climate justice.

These developments threaten hard-won gains in feminist policy and reduce transparency and accountability. Wiese also noted that institutional access has diminished, making it harder for civil society to engage directly with decision-makers.

4.3. Defending transformative change

Despite the political pushback and setbacks, Wiese identified clear strategic entry points to advance an ecofeminist agenda and resist regressive climate policies. She stressed how the EU's adaptation and resilience strategy offers a crucial opening to embed intersectional approaches, but only if feminist actors sustain an active coordinated engagement.

She also emphasized the need to shift narratives around green jobs, economic value, and climate responsibility. She criticized narrow definitions of "green work" that prioritize energy and infrastructure over care, agriculture, and community-based sustainability. The latter sectors, although underpaid and undervalued, are critical to an equitable transition.

She called for intersectional monitoring of all climate-related policies, even when gender is not explicitly mentioned, and urged actors to make feminist contributions visible, strategic, and practical.

In closing, Wiese's presentation offered a clear call: to protect and expand feminist influence in climate policy, solidarity must extend beyond sectoral lines and national borders. Feminist climate justice, she affirmed, is not a regional proposal, it is a global necessity.

"We are still here. We haven't given up... But let's be clear: we're not pushing forward; we're holding the line. And that's not enough. We need help. We need solidarity."

5. Intersectionality, online organizing, and disrupting privileged activism

Kiara Titze, student at the University of Vienna and a WIDE (Austria) member, and above all **a young climate activist in online, offline, local, national and transnational spaces**, including being a representative in 2025 at the UN Commission of the Status of Women. She offered an activist-driven perspective that cut across youth organizing, climate advocacy, and feminist critique. Rooted in both grassroots mobilization and institutional advocacy, **she modelled a new generation of activists**

leveraging tools to have impact in the online and face-face world, with anti-colonial critique, and intersectional frameworks to transform movement spaces and policy discourse.

Titze reflected on the exclusions and contradictions within European movements around climate justice and feminism(s), emphasizing the need for genuine intersectionality. She critiqued activism with a Eurocentric perspective and that is dominated by white people. Instead, she called for greater accountability and inclusivity, particularly for racialized, queer, and disabled voices. Highlighting the political power of digital platforms, she suggested using online tools as vital spaces for feminist organizing and mutual support. In her view solidarity must be more than symbolic and that activism must be reimagined around care, joy, and co-creation.

The concept of (feminist) intersectionality

Today, many feminists say they adopt an intersectional approach in their fight for women's human rights. Kimberlé Crenshaw introduced the term intersectionality to describe how black women experienced forms of discrimination that move beyond just 'adding' discrimination of being black with that of being a woman. She did this in her seminal article, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex" (1989) where she used it to describe "conceptual limitations of ... single-issue analyses", and that sources of discrimination, such as racism, sexism, classism, etc, intersect or "meet" to create overlapping systems of disadvantage.

Intersectionality is now largely used as an analytical tool for studying, understanding, and responding to the ways in which for example sex and gender intersect with other personal characteristics of identities that then for each person contribute to unique experiences of discrimination. Like with feminism, there are also different understandings among feminists on how they envision and implement an intersectional and inclusive feminist approach. The bottom line is to ensure that the movement and efforts are inclusive and diverse.

5.1. Social media as a political terrain

Titze framed her activism as hybrid, which means navigating street protests, institutional advocacy, and online platforms with equal fluency. She emphasized how online and offline spaces are now inseparable for youth organizers, as it is part of the current generation that is basically phone-addicted, which she meant in a proud manner. She described **social media as an annoying battlefield in which activists should engage**. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter offer rapid tools for mobilization and public pressure but also reflect deeper structural biases including promoting algorithmic 'censorship' and reinforcing Eurocentric narratives. It is a space that can be used for exclusion, but also empowerment.

She presented several tools and platforms that can serve human rights and climate activists. Memes, she noted, are one of her preferred tools. These humorous and accessible visuals carry serious political messages, critiquing injustice and exposing contradictions without relying on institutional jargon. Memes are radical. They expose injustice, but they also make people laugh. And laughter is

resistance. Other platforms, like Substack, have become spaces for uncensored political education and direct outreach, especially for topics shadow-banned elsewhere (e.g., Palestinian solidarity, trans rights, or anti-colonial analysis). And she highlighted The Bloom, a grassroots alternative to LinkedIn where activists can share opportunities, offer mentorship, and build solidarity-based networks rooted in care and equity.



Kiara Titze introducing her activism

5.2. Confronting privilege in climate movements

Titze positioned her critique towards whiteness and privilege in European climate activism within a larger pattern of imperialism being reproduced inside European movements, where privileged actors often speak for others rather than with them. This dynamic has led to a loss of trust and increasing scepticism from activists in the Global South and racialized communities in Europe to such movements, organisations, and/or activists.

However, Titze did not suggest that white people or those with more privilege should retreat from the movements. It is not about being the perfect activists, but about acknowledging mistakes and learning together. That makes the basis of trust.

She called out similar exclusionary trends within some feminist circles, including the marginalization of trans women and other forms of resistance to LGBTQ+ inclusion, as well as the ongoing invisibility of disabled activists. Intersectionality, she warned, is not optional, it is the baseline for any credible justice movement. Her message was clear: solidarity is no longer enough if it remains symbolic or surface-level. **Movements -especially those in power and with more privilege- must be willing to acknowledge their failures, expand their scope, and rebuild with genuine inclusion.**



5.3. Movement tools for a new generation

Titze showcased how younger feminists are building alternative infrastructures to sustain activism. And the tools she shared, reflect values like non-hierarchy, mutual aid, and emotional resilience, which is often lacking in older, more institutional spaces. Finally, she highlighted as a useful resource the book: 'Beyond Small Talk', co-written during the pandemic by 50 young anti-authoritarian activists across the world, focused on digital organizing and cross-border solidarity.

“Movements must be joyful, radical, and ready to laugh as well as resist. But above all, they must make space for those historically excluded—not as an add-on, but as leaders and co-creators. The moment we choose comfort over solidarity, that’s when we lose.”

6. Questions and discussion with the audience

Following the panel presentations, participants engaged in a lively discussion. One of the first questions asked about how shifts in the EU political context have affected advocacy. Rachel Simon noted that access to the EU Commission has become more limited compared to previous cycles, and **although a new budget has been allocated for the Global South, funding for gender and climate justice remains a low priority.** Katharina Wiese added that **environmental activists have faced public attacks and parliamentary scrutiny, draining their energy and resources, while NGO funding remains critically low.**

Another question challenged the implementation of "green jobs" in the Global South through a neocolonial lens. Wiese emphasized the need to align climate policy with human rights and ILO standards. She called for rethinking employment in a post-growth economy, with a focus on care work, working time reduction, and a job guarantee scheme. She also stressed the right of local communities to say no to resource extraction, thus advocating for a decolonial approach. Simon added that raw

material extractivism often involves human rights abuses and that declining civic space globally is undermining participation and advocacy.

One audience member highlighted the whiteness of European climate justice agendas. Kiara Titze acknowledged this challenge, noting that many European activists operate within inherited systems of privilege and bias. She stressed the need for inclusive practices, diverse communication platforms, and representation of marginalized voices, including people of colour and those excluded by language barriers. Another participants warned that progressive sounding concepts like "post-colonialism" are often misused, while current practices continue to marginalize rural and less-educated groups.

When asked about future advocacy within EU institutions, Simon cited a recent strategy meeting, "Holding the Line," emphasizing that **even as policies are renamed or reframed, advocacy must continue**. Wiese pointed to emerging global initiatives, like wealth tax proposals in South Africa and Brazil, as potential models. She called attention to the imbalance in EU spending, where social and climate funding is minimal compared to massive investments in military budgets. Both agreed: **now is the time for civil society to demand transparency, equity, and bold commitments from EU leadership**.



6.1 Closing by moderator: the importance of building collective knowledge

Cristina Reyna closed the panel through stressing the importance of the dialogues that have taken place after the impressive presentations with a wealth of information that speakers shared. She thanked all, including the participants, for the feminist environment created.

The reflections that arose on the ongoing context did not lead to losing hope towards activism but encouraged all to work more together for future actions in advancing gender and climate justice. Although there's persistent pushback against women's rights and climate issues, the support by

committed allies participating in the COPgendered project and in the final conference is a great motivation to keep on fighting.

Several participants thanked WIDE+ for the panel debate and highlighted how important sharing common knowledge is in these events. They all shared a common feeling of being determined and motivated to keep on supporting the gender equality and climate justice cause.



The COPGendered partners stayed on for another day in Belgium to learn about local feminist herstory (in Ghent, 7 June 2025) and did a small action of solidarity

7. First Session COPGendered workshop methods

Participants could choose to take part in one of the two workshops in which COPGendered methodologies to train groups are presented and practiced. In each methodology, there is the possibility of further work in small groups. The following two workshops were held:

-Gender and Climate Bingo, moderated by Nancy Contreras and Allis Millegård, GADIP

The aim of Climate Justice Bingo is to spark discussions on Climate Justice and LGBTIQ topics in an engaging and inclusive way. Participants will work in groups to reflect on key issues, encouraging critical thinking and participation.

-Climate Bet, moderated by Susanne Wolf-Eberl, WOMEN

The Climate Bet is a method to deal with ecological knowledge and/or eco-friendly behaviour on the basis of a competition and a contract. Important: The competition is not against each other; it is a challenge to reach a self-defined goal or not. The “contract” is the key issue, it is negotiated within the group in terms of what, how, and timespan.

As all the methods practiced during this day of international workshop will be part of the third key educational material (the online trainers’ hub) in detail, this report will focus on the summarizing the reflections shared about the methodologies and not explaining fully the methods.

8. Climate Justice Bingo workshop

About the method: Participants worked in small groups of three, randomly assigned using a counting method. Each group received a bingo sheet alongside a deck of color-coded cards: red cards represented behaviours or statements perceived as problematic or unconscious, while green cards highlighted positive, inclusive behaviours. Beans were used to mark statements on the bingo sheet, as in traditional bingo. During each round, a group member would draw a card and read it aloud. For red cards, the guiding question was: “Have you met someone online or in real life who has done or said this?” For green cards, the question was more personal: “Have you yourself done or said this?” If all members of the group responded “yes,” they placed a bean on the sheet.

The goal of the game is to create a line of four or five marked spaces, thus achieving “bingo.” The underlying goal of the method is to encourage rich conversations, in which participants can share their thoughts, stories, and critical reflections on how different communities and individuals navigate climate justice, identity, and activism.



Small group discussion in Bingo

8.1. Reflection and feedback

Participants praised the format as both fun and thought-provoking, and several commented that it helped bring forward perspectives not usually discussed in traditional workshop settings. Participants appreciated the open environment and the opportunity to learn from one another’s experiences, especially across different cultural and national contexts. The game format offered a novel way to address heavy topics with both seriousness and levity.



A green card in Climate Justice Bingo

Several thoughtful suggestions were shared on how to strengthen the activity further. One major recommendation was to shift the framing of questions to use “I” statements—for example, asking “Have I ever experienced this?” instead of “Have you met someone who has...?” This change would promote more direct self-reflection rather than distancing the topic.

Participants also pointed out some redundancies in the prompts, particularly where two cards addressed the notion of “proof of climate crisis”. They suggested merging or rewording these to avoid repetition and maintain variety.

A card claiming that: “Everyone is affected equally” prompted debate about its validity and clarity. Participants felt it oversimplified the different ways communities experience climate impacts, especially queer communities, and recommended that such questions be revised to more clearly acknowledge inequality and intersectionality.

Another important point concerned the colour coding of the cards. Some participants felt that red cards might unintentionally imply shame or judgment. A suggestion was made to switch to neutral or alternative colours, like yellow or purple, to preserve emotional safety and maintain a non-judgmental atmosphere. Finally, the suggestion was made to encourage storytelling across cultural contexts, as it enriches understanding of how climate and queer issues are experienced differently around the world.

9. Climate Bet workshop

About the method: Through the climate bet, a group of people are signing a contract with a supporter, which formalizes each participant’s personal and group commitment. The group of people commit to doing something to promote climate justice and in return the supporter will do something to signal acknowledgement when they achieve the goal they agree to. WIMN has implemented this method with students at school, in which for example the mayor of their town was the supporter. The bet or the wager element is more symbolic in nature to increase motivation and visibility.

WIMN has used this method especially as an educational tool for rural youth. And a way to engage the public, especially in rural settings, through visible community action. In these areas promoting climate justice might be seen as something ‘woke’, or controversial. The method proves an inclusive and participatory way to learn about climate issues and to encourage action.

The climate bet is a participatory tool designed to:

- Raise awareness about new knowledge and sustainable behaviours.
- Encourage trying new things in a welcoming, enjoyable environment.
- Foster teamwork and collective motivation.
- Highlight both ecological and social dimensions.
- Promote self-empowerment.
- Create space for shared action and fun.

The workshop focused on practising and reflecting on a certain case study of a bet. In the case study a group of 15-year-old girls from rural areas were brought together and introduced to the idea of exploring technical professions — fields traditionally underrepresented by women. Inspired by this, the girls made a symbolic bet: “9 out of 10 of us will succeed in life”. This positive and playful challenge became the heart of the Climate Bet case study. The participants received an explanation on how this case study worked in practice and had the chance to ask questions and give comments.



Participants during the workshop with the facilitator

9.1. Group reflection and feedback

The participants agreed that one of the main challenges is **connecting with young people** and capturing their interest in topics like sustainability, climate justice, and gender equity. The workshop used creative and sensory-based methods to spark curiosity and make learning enjoyable.

The group explored interactive activities. Examples of such activities that help participants feel connected to nature and aware of their surroundings in a playful way, are:

- **Blind tasting of local nuts and seeds** – Encouraging connection with local biodiversity and food awareness.
- **Recognizing signs of wildlife** – Listening to and identifying animal sounds in the environment.

10. Plenary Panel: “the future of the gender and climate justice mobilization in Europe”

This plenary panel brought together experienced feminist activists and policy advocates working at the intersection of gender and climate justice across Europe and Africa. Framed within the ongoing threats to civil society, rising far-right nationalism, and deepening inequalities intensified by extractivism and environmental degradation, **the session focused on the future of feminist climate justice mobilization in Europe**. The speakers highlighted both systemic challenges and strategies for resistance, from decolonizing language to reshaping funding mechanisms and engaging new generations in cross-border activism.

11. Decolonizing climate Justice through story, grief, and embodied knowledge

Rose Wanjiku is a feminist activist with International Women* Space (IWS), a Berlin-based, migrant-led organisation centring the voices and rights of refugee, displaced, and racialised women and other marginalized genders. She works to amplify refugee and marginalized women’s voices and challenging colonial narratives within climate and feminist movements. As a migrant woman living in Europe, Wanjiku brings both personal insight and political urgency to the conversation around climate justice also in connection to gender inequality and migration, arguing for a fundamental shift in how climate policy is framed, communicated, and implemented.

Wanjiku delivered a powerful call to decolonize the language, frameworks, and structures that currently shape climate justice discourse. **She critiqued Western technocratic approaches that reduce climate justice to data and emissions, arguing instead for grounding activism in lived experience, embodied knowledge, and community storytelling, particularly that of migrant and**

racialized women. Terms like sustainability, adaptation, and even geopolitical labels like Global South carry colonial and exclusionary weight, often erasing embodied knowledge and grassroots leadership. By exposing how climate displacement is erased and colonial hierarchies persist in terms like “adaptation” and “Global South,” **she challenged the audience to rethink who defines the problem and who gets to lead. Through deeply personal narratives and ancestral memory, she proposed grief, story, and healing as political tools of resistance.**

11.1. Reframing climate justice: from survival, not emissions

Wanjiku argued that dominant climate frameworks fail to reflect the realities of those most affected by climate breakdown. She argued that climate justice is not only about emissions or technical adaptation, but about survival, particularly for communities living under the weight of capitalism, colonial legacies, and systemic exclusion.

“When we talk about climate, we often think it is about saving the planet. But in reality, it’s about saving ourselves.”

Current dominant climate justice approaches are (still) shaped by Western technocratic narratives and colonial knowledge systems. In this framing, **climate-affected women, especially migrants and refugees, are often positioned as passive recipients of aid or adaptation, rather than as political agents.** Language, she insisted, is not neutral.

11.2. Language as a political battleground and grief as resistance

Wanjiku suggested recognising language as a site of struggle. The frameworks most often used in climate discourse too frequently privilege technical data over lived experience, positioning knowledge as something “scientific” rather than relational or emotional. Terms that define how climate action is designed and funded can also determine who is visible, who holds authority, and who is left out. In particular, she highlighted how climate-related displacement is rarely acknowledged in Europe. Migrants are considered a refugee from war, but not from drought or floods. This means that are group of people are denied protection, denied rights.

As an alternative to a technical discourse, Wanjiku called for centring storytelling and intergenerational memory as core components of feminist climate activism. She shared how knowledge passed down from her grandmother, stories about rivers, harvests, and changing seasons, shaped her understanding of environmental change. She explained that storytelling can help people to emphatically understand climate change impacts. Without such storytelling, for example through a PowerPoint presentation one can receive information about heating and heating patterns, but without addressing the people affected by it, it becomes a very academic form of communication.

Grief, too, is a form of knowledge often excluded from climate spaces. She called for the **recognition of climate grief, especially among women who are displaced, whose lands are disappearing, and whose agency is denied**. Honouring this grief, she argued, is a political act, an act of healing and resistance that restores voice and dignity.

11.3. Challenging feminist tokenism and with a vision for radical inclusion

Wanjiku addressed exclusions within feminist spaces themselves. She described being invited to panels but not to influence agendas, but as a form of tokenism and performative inclusion. True feminist climate action must go beyond symbolic gestures to fundamentally redistribute leadership and decision-making power.

Drawing on examples from African feminist contexts, she showed how structural gender inequality persists despite “empowerment” rhetoric. Women, she noted, provide the bulk of agricultural labour but are denied ownership and control over land. Even when they take food to the market and come back with money, it is the man who decides what percentage is used. Empowering women’s economic contribution is therefore not enough to transform power relations fundamentally. Thus, feminist policy, she insisted, must be rooted in local realities, not abstract frameworks.

Wanjiku closed with a call for climate justice that begins not with targets or treaties, but with people’s bodies, homes, grief, and memory. **She urged participants to reflect personally: Where does the climate crisis show up in your body? What has changed in your environment? Are you naming your grief?**



Picture from an exhibition with IW*S

Her vision is one of radical inclusion: where storytelling is valued as knowledge, grief is recognised as resistance, and climate action is redefined through the lived realities of those most affected. She argued that if climate justice does not start from where you live, from what you’ve lost, from what your grandmother knew, then it is not justice.

Her central message this is that climate activism must come from a place of connection, not distant abstraction.

12. Feminist Foreign Policy under pressure: shrinking space and strategic resistance

Marjolein Quist is the Programme Manager at WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform, which has played a leading role in shaping gender-aware foreign and development policy in the Netherlands. Over the past two decades, WO=MEN has supported feminist movements globally and secured institutional access for civil society to influence international diplomacy, trade and development policy. Quist offered a sobering analysis of the shrinking civic space in the Netherlands, detailing how feminist policy infrastructure is being actively dismantled under a rising far-right coalition. **She highlighted how the shrinking of civic space and anti-gender politics is not limited to the Global South or authoritarian regimes but is happening within long-standing European democracies.**

12.1. From feminist leadership to political backlash

Quist began by situating the Netherlands' earlier achievements around gender equality in foreign policy, which included civil society participation in UN and EU diplomacy, and strong government support for feminist organising in the Global South. These advances, she emphasized, were the result of sustained advocacy, not a given. Women's rights/feminist civil society worked together and had built mechanisms to make sure feminist voices were heard, and more than that, respected.

That progress has come under sharp threat since 2023, with the formation of a new far-right coalition. Obviously plans for significant budget cuts to development aid, including the targeted aid for women's rights associations in the Global South, have been rolled out. But also, civil society in the Netherlands are not spared and now a target when they carry out advocacy actions. Civil society groups like WO=MEN are now accused of "undermining democracy". The intent is to reduce or remove public funding for NGOs engaged in advocacy in the Netherlands as well¹. Quist stressed that these developments are not unique to autocratic regimes or the Global South, they are happening within long-established European democracies.

"We tend to assume that attacks to reduce the space for civil society to speak out is something that happens elsewhere, not in a so-called progressive country like the Netherlands. But here we are; we face such plans as well."

One of the most alarming aspects of this backlash, according to Quist, is the quiet censorship occurring within ministries. Civil servants have begun to avoid using the word gender altogether, fearing its removal from official documents or unwanted scrutiny. This self-censorship is symbolic of deeper institutional retreat.

¹ Just two days before the presentation provided by Quist, the Dutch government had disbanded, and it was not clear what would happen next. It turned out there were new elections in 2025 leading to another coalition in power.

“Imagine trying to talk about the climate crisis, or conflict zones, or migration, without naming gender. That’s where we are now.” **Without being able to use gender equality language, she explained, entire areas of analysis become impossible to discuss, let alone address through policy.** In parallel, feminist advocates and their staff are increasingly facing online harassment and threats and are being delegitimized in the media.

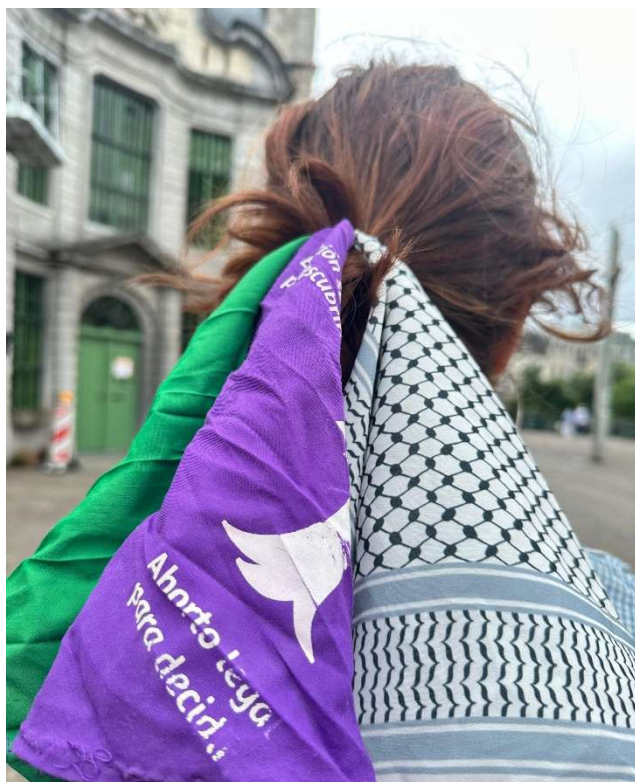
12.2. Holding the line: strategic resistance

Despite these challenges, Quist emphasized that the feminist movement in the Netherlands is not retreating. Rather, it is adapting, defending existing gains, maintaining formal and informal alliances, and preparing for long-term resistance. At the policy implementation level, there are still allies, people who know what’s at stake. But feminists can’t push for new things right now. All they can do is holding the line.

She warned that this kind of rollback is often underestimated, especially in countries with democratic traditions. The Netherlands was once a leader in gender equality. The pace in which the roll-back has happened the past few years, suggest that also those countries that are assumed to have a strong tradition of promoting democracy and gender equality are not immune to far-right political movements. **Rather than waiting for backlash to arrive, Quist urged participants to build resilience, invest in cross-border solidarity, and recognize early warning signs.**

Throughout her presentation, Quist outlined several key recommendations for feminist and climate justice activists, association and networks alike:

- Do not assume stability. Progressive policy environments can change quickly.
- Track institutional language. The removal of words like “gender” from public discourse is deliberate and dangerous.
- Continue to support advocacy groups. Particularly when political risk increases.
- Invest in informal alliances. When formal access shrinks, technical and interpersonal networks remain crucial.
- Build transnational solidarity. Anti-gender movements are globally coordinated, so feminist responses must be as well.



A picture taken during the field visit for the COPGendered representatives, 7 June

12.3. Climate justice and the risk of fragmented struggles

Quist also reflected on the specific threats this backlash poses to climate justice. She observed that gender is still not viewed as central to climate policy, and therefore its removal from policy frameworks often goes unchallenged. She concluded that climate justice without gender is just another version of injustice. **She called for feminist movements to work across silos, pointing out that those most affected, especially women in the Global South, do not experience gender, economic, and climate injustice as separate.**

Quist concluded with a warning and a call to action. She urged participants not to treat the Dutch case as exceptional, but as a sign of what is possible, even likely, when feminist infrastructure is not actively defended. “Don’t wait until your feminist gains are under threat. Build resilience now. Build alliances now. Speak up when it’s not your organization being targeted, because it will be, eventually.”

Her message was clear: defending feminist foreign policy and climate justice is not only about pushing for new policies, but also about protecting the hard-won ground that is already being eroded.

13. Extractivism as patriarchal violence and the power of feminist resistance

Stanimira Hadjimitova is a long-standing advocate and leader for gender equality, environmental justice, and community-led development in Eastern Europe. **As founder and director of the Center for Sustainable Communities Development in Bulgaria, she has worked across national and international platforms**, linking grassroots women’s experiences to global policy debates, from the conference in 1995 that founded the Beijing Platform for Action to EU environmental policy. Hadjimitova addressed the patriarchal and militarized system(s) behind extractivism that inflicts violence on women’s bodies, lands, and communities. And she reflected on women as experts in sustainability, adaptation, and survival, yet remain invisible in policy frameworks. Calling for real power rather than token representation for women’s rights activists, she urged movements to build coalitions beyond short-term projects.

Her presentation focused on extractivism. According to wikipedia: “extractivism is a model of economic development characterized by the intensive, large-scale removal of natural resources—such as minerals, oil, gas, and timber—primarily for export with minimal local processing, often causing significant ecological damage and social disruption. It is rooted in colonial history and fuels modern capitalism, frequently creating “sacrifice zones” in the Global South” (and some in the Global North).

Hadjimitova started her presentation by explaining that extractivism is not just as an economic model for accessing raw materials, but also a structuring of power that enables violence, against land,

communities, and especially women's bodies. She described extractivism as an inherently patriarchal and militarized system, where women are excluded from decision-making yet suffer the harshest impacts. Women are always outside this structure, until it harms them.

She linked extractive projects to a rise in gender-based violence, especially in areas where security forces, military, police, or private, are deployed to protect corporate interests. In these spaces, women face increased sexual exploitation, displacement, and psychological harm.

Hadjimitova also addressed how environmental degradation caused by extractivism, through polluted air, poisoned water, and dead soil, forces people to migrate. She emphasized that this form of displacement is gendered and often goes unrecognized. Unlike more visible forms of migration, this kind of internal climate displacement receives little policy attention, leaving women especially vulnerable, without shelter, safety, or support systems. Policies must evolve to reflect these slower, less visible forms of crisis, which disproportionately affect rural, low-income women.

13.1. Women's invisible role and climate migration

Beyond critique, Hadjimitova emphasized that women are not only victims but holders of crucial environmental knowledge and survival strategies. She highlighted how women adapt to droughts, recycle water, and organize informal markets, yet these contributions are rarely recognized in

economic data, macro-economic policy or development projects. Although they remain invisible in the statistics, they play very important roles in the communities. She cautioned against treating women as charity cases or mere beneficiaries of aid. Instead, **women must be acknowledged as experts and leaders. Recognition must also be matched by resources, decision-making power, and access to land, water, and funding.** Without these, women's innovations remain unacknowledged, and their roles continue to be undercut by technocratic, top-down approaches.

Her comments provided a critique of her experience of symbolic inclusion: "I'm so tired of being the woman on the panel. Or the woman on the board, while nothing changes." She argued that true feminist solutions require structural change: handing over power, land, and resources. Similarly, and well-known to the running of non-profit associations: transformational change will not come through project-based funding cycles or symbolic gestures, it needs bold redistribution and unconventional thinking.



Hadjimitova presenting

Hadjimitova also turned the lens inward, asking of feminist leaders to confront ego and embrace humility. “Even in our feminist spaces, ego is a problem. Everyone wants to be the leader. But we must learn to share the struggle.” She called for long-term coalition-building that goes beyond short-term projects and funding structures.

In her closing remarks, **Hadjimitova urged the audience to name extractivism for what it is: systemic, gendered violence. She called for multilevel feminist action, local, national, and transnational, that prioritizes care, regeneration, and collective wisdom over profit and control.**

“Sustainable change requires rethinking who controls capital and who gets to decide what solutions look like”.

14. Ecofeminist strategies for climate finance, decolonial solidarity, and structural justice

Yveline Nicolas, coordinator of the French NGO Adéquations and co-founder of FACE (Feminists for an Alternative Climate and Environment), brought decades of experience working at the intersection of ecology, gender, and global justice. Combining grassroots activism with policy expertise, she has long monitored international processes such as the UNFCCC and the Beijing Platform for Action. Her presentation offered a sharp critique of current climate finance systems and a call to put feminist values, justice, care, equity, and grassroots power, at the core of climate strategies. Yveline Nicolas critiqued the gender-blindness of climate finance systems and she presented the FACE model, which delivers direct support to grassroots feminist climate initiatives across Africa. Emphasizing postcolonial dynamics, she advocated for horizontal solidarity and movement-building that challenges extractivism and greenwashing.

14.1. Feminist climate finance: who decides, who receives?

Nicolas emphasized that control over funding flows is where real power lies, and that feminist actors are routinely excluded from those decision-making processes. **While climate finance mechanisms speak of inclusion and sustainability, funds rarely reach the grassroots feminist organisations most affected by the climate crisis.**

There are expectations where funding reaches grassroots associations at the ground for them to decide implementation. She showcased a notable success: the FACE initiative in which €5 million fund is managed in six African countries through the collaboration among French NGOs, distributing grants directly to small feminist climate initiatives, including unregistered groups. **“If the organization**

doesn't have a bank account, we still fund them, through intermediaries. This is how you reach real grassroots groups.”

At the same time, she acknowledged the model's limitations: large NGOs often act as intermediaries, creating dependency and hierarchical structures. She urged for a regular scrutiny of who holds decision-making power within supposedly feminist funding models.

14.2. Decolonizing Climate Solidarity

Nicolas stressed that climate justice must go hand-in-hand with postcolonial analysis, particularly in the context of France's relationships with African nations. Despite extensive climate cooperation agreements, she pointed out that grassroots African women are rarely at the negotiating table.

She emphasized the need for horizontal, decolonial partnerships that learn from, rather than speak for, African feminist movements. Supported initiatives in the framework of FACE included feminist agroecology networks in Burundi and Rwanda, legal funds for land defenders in South Africa, and land rights campaigns that link bodily autonomy with environmental sovereignty.



Nicolas presenting to the audience

Nicolas challenged dominant “green economy” narratives that promise sustainability while masking extractive practices and excluding feminist critique. **Terms like green growth, net-zero, or circular economy, she argued, often serve as technocratic smokescreens.** “These terms are used to hide extractivism, to pretend there is no violence behind the minerals, the displacement, the debt.” She warned that even agroecology, often promoted in EU development plans, risks exploiting women's unpaid labour if land rights and agency are not guaranteed.

Nicolas addressed the political nature of gender erasure in climate spaces. She noted that international reports often speak vaguely of “vulnerable groups” without naming gender, patriarchy, or colonial legacies. She pointed out that major EU climate programmes in France and beyond often mention sustainability without once addressing gender. When feminists raise the issue, they are told by policymakers that it is not their issue.

14.3. From participation to power: feminist movement building

For Nicolas, inclusion is not enough. She called for feminist movements to move beyond reactive participation and shape agendas from the start. This requires cross-sectoral alliances that connect climate justice with care work, migration, biodiversity, health, and economic justice.

She emphasized that many feminist groups, even well-intentioned ones, operate in silos. Overcoming that fragmentation is essential for building durable, transformative power.

She challenged also progressive spaces to ask deeper questions: “Are we counting emissions, or are we measuring justice? Are we calculating profit, or are we building dignity?”.

Yveline concluded with a roadmap rooted in ecofeminist principles:

- Ensure gender-just climate finance, with direct support to grassroots groups.
- Build horizontal alliances between feminist, ecological, food, and energy movements.
- Leverage moments like Beijing+30 to push for accountability on “Women & Environment” commitments.
- Move beyond symbolic inclusion to true agenda-setting power.
- Use feminist analysis to critique green capitalism, not reinforce it.

15. Questions and discussion with the audience

The panel concluded with a dynamic audience discussion also facilitated by the panel’s moderator **Edmé Dominguez, former Associate Professor, and board member at GADIP as well as member gender and trade working group at WIDE+**. One participant asked whether actors that promote a neo-liberal agenda, particularly those from the private sector, can ever be part of climate justice solutions. This led to a broader reflection on the contradictions inherent in funding models and public-private

partnerships. Panellists stressed the importance of ethical fundraising and avoiding collaborations that contribute to land grabbing or exploitative resource extraction.

Another question addressed the erosion of democracy and how to sustain feminist mobilization within increasingly authoritarian contexts. Quist noted that it’s not just about visible repression; often, governments co-opt feminist language while dismantling the movements behind it.

The discussion closed with a powerful reminder from Hadjimitova; She stated that **collective action must span personal, local, and global levels. Only through strategic alliances and mutual support can feminist climate justice movements withstand political backlash and mobilize lasting change.**



Participants contributing to the plenary debate

16. Second session COPGendered workshop methods

Two other COPGendered methods that can be used to train groups were presented and practiced. Both methods were practiced for the first time. The participants could choose from the following two workshops:

-Body Mapping: Connecting Experiences with Climate Change, moderated by Elena Georgiadi from LIFE e.V.

Understand and articulate the connection between personal bodily experiences and climate change, emphasizing how environmental injustices impact our physical and emotional well-being.

-Hunting for fake news on Climate Change and Women's rights, moderated by Stanimira Hadjimitova from CSCD.

In this inquisitive method people seek out fake news in order to expose it concerning climate change and women's rights. It set out using powerful and modern methods to make more people laugh at lies.



Elena Georgiadi introduced the body mapping

As with the previous two workshops practiced, a full description can be found in the non-formal educational tool 'the online trainers' hub'. The focus is therefore on the feedback shared for the methods.

17. Body mapping workshop

This participatory workshop introduced body mapping as a creative feminist tool for exploring how climate change and patriarchal structures manifest in our bodies and communities.

About the method: The method engages participants in both mental and physical activities that foster a deeper connection of participants to the gender and climate justice. They are encouraged to reflect on how climate change and environmental violence affect them not just intellectually, but also physically and emotionally. As they engage in this process, participants will likely gain a greater understanding of their own needs, feelings, and experiences, empowering them to take more active political or social action on climate change.

The workshop began with participants introducing themselves by sharing their names, pronouns, and current emotions. This helped create a supportive and open space. Each participant then traced the outline of their own body on a large sheet of paper. They were guided to mark areas on their body where they feel the impacts of climate change, intersections with gender-based violence, and the emotions connected to climate injustices.

Participants reflected on several guiding questions:

- Where does the climate crisis show up in your body?
- How does patriarchal violence manifest physically and emotionally?
- What emotions arise when you consider the intersectional impacts of environmental violence?
- How do you feel about climatoscepticism?
- Where in your body do you feel hope or positive energy?

After completing their body maps, participants shared their reflections in a group discussion. They identified both common themes and differences, recognizing that experiences vary significantly depending on factors such as race, class, and other identities.

17.1. Reflections and feedback

The exercise involved emotional work, as it required connecting personal embodied experiences with large-scale global crises. Some participants requested more time for sharing and discussion to process the feelings fully.

It was noted that including gender-related questions earlier in the exercise could deepen the connection to feminist frameworks. Participants also recommended incorporating emotional support mechanisms, such as grounding or physical release exercises, at the beginning and end of the workshop to help manage the emotional intensity.

Learning from others' body maps and sharing feelings openly was valued as a way to foster empathy and mutual support. The following suggestions were also made:

- use creative, participatory methods like body mapping in workshops on gender and climate justice to make abstract issues more tangible and personal.
- Emphasize the intersectional nature of participants' experiences to acknowledge diverse impacts and foster empathy.
- Consider alternating questions during the mapping exercise to manage emotional load.
- Encourage participants to draw large body outlines to allow fuller expression.

This workshop demonstrated the power of body mapping as a tool for connecting embodied experiences of climate and patriarchal violence, creating space for reflection, healing, and solidarity.



Participants working on their body map

18. Hunting for fake news on Climate Change and Women's rights

About this method: This workshop consists of small group work doing two exercises to build the online skills of participants, combined with group reflection. It starts by doing media research to find fake news on two topics: one on climate change and the other on feminism, followed by a reflection on common misleading claims and how to overcome them.

In the second part of the workshop the groups will have to make one meme each, in order to make fun of fake news and show how the information found was wrong in an innovative way that can attract online views and engagement with posting the meme.

It was the first time that this workshop was organised and it proved to work well. With some support

from the a few young feminists among the participants, the group that consisted of feminists of different ages and from different backgrounds was able to come up with memes. There was no additional feedback given, other than that the method worked and provided for a lot of fun.

The two main memes developed:



I'm not denying climate change, I'm saying it could very well go back!

ANNEX 1: Workshop Programme

9.30-10.00 Opening of Workshop

Welcome and Ice Breaker(s), with asking questions, etc.

10.00-11.30 Plenary Panel: “The future of the Gender and Climate Justice Agenda in Europe”

This panel session provides a review of current European climate justice policy in different facets from a gender lens. And it will give insight into several current policy debates. We also explore what a feminist/gender equality/human rights approach to climate justice would entail, or in other words what is most needed to ensure a just solution to climate threats.

Panellists:

- **Kiara Titze**, activist and student of @University of Vienna and @WIDE member focusing on climate and Gender.
- **Rachel Simon**, Senior Policy Coordinator on International finance & Development, @CAN Europe.
- **Katharina Wiese**, Policy Manager for Economic Transition and Gender Equality, @European Environmental Bureau (online).
- **Moderated by Cristina Reyna**, Project Manager at Free a Girl, member board and gender and migration Working Group @WIDE+.

11.30-12.00 Coffee Break

12.00-13.15 First Session COPGendered workshop Methodologies

Two of the COPGendered methodologies that can be used to train groups are presented and practiced. In each methodology, there is the possibility of further work in small groups. We will highlight methods that we did not yet practice in this international context.

-Gender and Climate Bingo, moderated by Nancy Contreras and Allis Millegård, representatives @GADIP

The aim of Climate Justice Bingo is to spark discussions on Climate Justice and LGBTIQ topics in an engaging and inclusive way. Participants will work in groups to reflect on key issues, encouraging critical thinking and participation.

-Climate Bet, moderated by Susanne Wolf-Eberl @WIMEN

The Climate Bet is a method to deal with ecological knowledge and/or eco-friendly behaviour on the basis of a competition and a contract. Important: The competition is not against each other; it is a challenge to reach a self-defined goal or not. The “contract” is the key issue, it is negotiated within the group in terms of what, how, and timespan.

13.15-14.15 Lunch in the Matonge Building

14.15 Plenary Panel: “The future of the Gender and Climate Justice Mobilization in Europe”

In this panel we will delve deeper and highlight the experience of gender and climate justice activists. Topics that we will address are: Extractivism in Europe and beyond and gender-based violence, climate activism from the perspective of a young woman in digital spaces, international feminist climate action from a refugee experience,

and feminist collaboration on climate impacts in Europe and Africa.

- **Stanimira Hadjimitova**, founder and director @CSCD in Bulgaria.
- **Marjolein Quist**, Programme Manager Gender and Sustainable Development @WO=MEN the Dutch Gender Platform (online).
- **Rose Wanjiku**, climate officer @International Women* Space, in Germany (online).
- **Yveline Nicolas**, coordinator @Adéquations, member of Feminists for Climate and Environment Alternatives.
- **Moderated by Edmé Dominguez**, former Associate Professor, and board member @GADIP as well as member gender and trade working group @WIDE+.

16.00-16.30 *Coffee Break*

16.30-17.40 Second Session COPGendered workshop Methodologies

Two of the COPGendered methodologies that can be used to train groups are presented and practiced. In each methodology, there is the possibility of further work in small groups. We will highlight methods that we did not yet practice in this international context.

-Body Mapping: Connecting Experiences with Climate Change, moderated by Elena Georgiadi @LIFE e.V.

Understand and articulate the connection between personal bodily experiences and climate change, emphasizing how environmental injustices impact our physical and emotional well-being.

-Hunting for fake news on Climate Change and Women's rights, moderated by Stanimira Hadjimitova @CSCD.

In this inquisitive method people seek out fake news in order to expose it concerning climate change and women's rights. It set out using powerful and modern methods to make more people laugh at lies.

ANNEX 2: Biographies

Allis Millegård is a board member of GADIP and has recently joined WIDE+ as a consultant with coordinating tasks. She has a master's degree in global studies at the University of Gothenburg, specialising in Migration, and has experience from working with other Erasmus+ projects such as WE-EMPOWER and COPGendered.

Cristina Reyna is a board member of WIDE+ and an active member of the migration working group and the Caucus, she joined the WIDE network already in 2000. She has a long trajectory working in women's rights, gender, migration, SRHR and Women Peace and Security. She has worked in different countries and NGOs across the world. She is based in Amsterdam where she is currently working on topics related to sexual exploitation of girls.

Edmé Domínguez R. is a former Associate Professor (docent) in Peace and Development Studies. She worked for more than 30 years as lecturer in Latin American Studies, Gender studies and Global Political Economy at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. During the last 20 years she has been working and publishing on gender issues related to citizenship, political participation, labour, transnational activism and free trade agreements particularly in the case of Mexico, El Salvador and Bolivia. She is also chairwomen of GADIP (Gender and Development in Practice) in Sweden, has been member of the board of WIDE+, where she has been active for several years and nowadays coordinates the working group of Gender and Trade.

Elena Georgiadi joined GenderCC in 2022 and became its programme officer for the COPGendered project when GenderCC merged with LIFE e.V in 2024. She is currently part of the department for international projects in LIFE e.V and responsible for coordinating and preparing a lot of the COPgendered e-learning modules.

Katharina Wiese is Policy Manager for Economic Transition and Gender Equality at the European Environmental Bureau. She completed a Master of Science in Environmental and Sustainability Science in Lund, Sweden. Previously, she has been working for different renewable energy development projects in West and East Africa and as technical consultant for a social impact consulting firm in Berlin, Germany. She has also been investigating gendered impacts of environmental policies in the Global South and Europe, publishing scientific articles on that nexus.

Kiara Titze is an environmental advocate, youth leader, and sustainability strategist dedicated to creating meaningful social and environmental change. Currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Environmental and Bioresource Management at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, Kiara has emerged as a passionate voice in the climate and women rights movement. She has represented youth at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) with Servas International, moderated discussions on women's health, and plays a key role in organizing and leading the Servas Women International Youth Group, fostering global connections and youth empowerment. In 2025, she is honored to be part of the Austrian delegation at CSW69, advocating for gender equality and environmental justice on an international stage.

Marjolein Quist is Programme Manager Gender and Sustainable Economy at WO=MEN. She coordinates WO=MEN's lobby and advocacy efforts on inclusive and fair economic policy. She focuses on the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, as well as the European Union and the WTO. Additionally, she is part of the Feminist Economic Realities working group of Count Me In! and is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Nancy Contreras is employed by the civil society association of adult education for workers, ABF (Arbetarnas bildningsförbund). Nancy has been a project leader for GADIP in two Erasmus projects WE-EMPOWER and COPGENDERED in cooperation with WIDE+. And she is a WIDE+ board member. She is an experienced operations developer and coordinator with solid creative expertise in project development and project management within non-formal adult education, focusing on integration, environment, and sustainable development. Nancy has several years of experience in adult education, cultural activities, and organizing study circles.

Rachel Simon is International finance and Development Policy Coordinator at Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe. She has worked at CAN Europe for 8 years, and in her most recent position focuses on the international climate negotiations mainly the UNFCCC, and how the EU should deliver on those commitments in its policies and financing.

Rose Wanjiku is a climate and social justice activist based in Berlin, committed to amplifying the voices of those affected by systemic oppression. She is involved in climate justice collectives that highlight the disproportionate impact of climate change on African communities. Currently she is with International Women Space (IWS), where she engages in activism, community organizing, and documentation, working to amplify refugee women's voices and strengthen their agency in the fight for justice and self-determination. With 15 years of experience as a journalist in Kenya, she has worked as a writer and editor, covering issues of inequality, human rights, and social justice. Her work has focused on collaborative knowledge-building and community-driven advocacy, particularly with marginalized women navigating structural barriers.

Stanimira Hadjimitova is the founder and director of the Center for Sustainable Communities Development Foundation (CSCD). In 1995, she established one of Bulgaria's first advocacy groups in the field of gender equality—the Gender Project Foundation in Bulgaria—and in 2004, she founded the Bulgarian Fund for Women. She holds a degree in production automation engineering and has been an entrepreneur for many years. Since 1999, she has served as the National Coordinator of the Gender Task Force of the Stability Pact. Under her leadership, numerous projects have been implemented across the country, along with preparations for the establishment of the Bulgarian Coalition for Gender Equality, which unites representatives of institutions, NGOs, media, and political parties. Since 2004, she has been a founder and member of the Board of Trustees of the Bulgarian Fund for Women.

Susanne Wolf-Eberl, is chairperson of WIMEN, which is an Austrian association, works for equality, for socio-ecological concerns and better visibility of female experts. It is committed to fact-oriented and creative work based on facts and figures. In critical analysis and discussion, WIMEN formulates position papers e.g. against discrimination. In terms of Susanne Wolf-Eberl's education, she is a business economist with focus on (market) research and data analysis. She has long experience in research in the fields of youth, mobility, energy and gender. In her work she combines creative methods with knowledge to get in touch and discuss with people. She advocates against violence towards women and is also chairperson of a local dementia association.

Yveline Nicolas is since 2006 coordinator of the Adéquations association. Her long career in French associations and international networks center around promoting international solidarity, environmental protection, human rights and sustainable development. She has coordinated collectives and awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns aimed at public authorities, notably at international conferences. She has been responsible for citizenship and international solidarity education projects and development projects in West Africa, particularly on food, agricultural, and environmental issues.