



EQUALITY PLATFORM

for the energy sector

Meeting conclusions – 25 November 2022

Setting the right example: Equality Platform for energy sector

There is a lot of interest in the issue of making workplaces in the energy sector more equal, not only focusing on the topic of gender, but bringing it wider – this is the main conclusion of the recent Equality Platform for energy sector.

Members and signatories of the Equality Platform for energy sector met in Brussels to discuss upcoming activities, share experiences and good practices.

Engagement of the participants, vivid discussions and exchanges showed there is a willingness to engage and a need to learn from each other. As Director-General Ditte Juul Jørgensen rightfully pointed out, the energy sector is lagging behind in terms of equality, but recent developments such as the European Parliament adopting the EU law on gender balance in corporate boards brings good and necessary progress.

The meeting primarily addressed the topic of making workplaces inclusive to people with disabilities. Participants gave very diverse and inspiring presentations of their activities and perspectives. Thomas Bignal from the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities indicated that disability occurs when the environment is not adapted. Examples of activities and outcomes were shared by Emino, a supported employment services organization that focuses on creating more inclusive workplaces in Belgium.

Equality is not only about gender-related issues. We put emphasis on all the aspects of equality and understanding it as everyone's right to be different, said Małgorzata Nowak, member of the Equality Platform Secretariat.

The Platform gives room for members to engage with each other, share valuable experiences and encourage members and signatories to make their workplaces more equal. Within organisations women encouraging and supporting other women is a key element for women to grow within their organization and step up, said Irene Giner-Reichl, speaking on behalf of the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNEN). The event further served as an opportunity to welcome new members, including RETE ASSIST, Ecoserveis, Energy Community, Florence School of Regulation, Deloitte Poland, Next Energy Consumer and CEN-CENELEC.

Within the Equality Platform, we are bringing people together to share innovative solutions to ensuring equality in the energy sector. The Platform is constantly growing and so is the cooperation spirit, said Yoei Dijkhof, member of the Equality Platform Secretariat.

Creating and encouraging collaboration in an (international) network greatly supports opportunities for women, disabled persons and other vulnerable groups to build capacities and encourage leadership. The Equality Platform for the energy sector aims to facilitate and advance this process.

Sign up as a member and become part of the platform to stay updated on all events and activities.