

# One swallow doesn't make a summer:

## A Success history of women network in the Solar Energy in Brazil

### Promoting gender equality



The project “Energy Systems of the Future” (ESZ) has been supporting MESol since its

foundation, in 2019, during the First Meeting of Women in Solar Energy in Brazil. Besides given an institutional support, the project has facilitated the articulation with GWNET and colleagues from Central America to be speakers and share experiences. In the occasion, GIZ Brasil also presented its activities regarding gender mainstreaming and gender framework in international cooperation. Itaipu (world’s second-largest operational hydroelectric power plan) Universities and WWF-Brazil were also among the panelists.

In 2020, ESZ Project has supported MESol to become better structure itself as an institution, through a training for the coordination group (formed by 5 women from different institutions and profiles). The training was

focused on the preparation of a business model and projects development. By helping the coordination group to better define their aims and organizational framework, ESZ has encouraged MESol to achieve a more efficient governance and to be well-prepared to seek financial support. Since then, they have been implementing a vast number of activities with the collaboration of nearly 20 voluntary members, such as monthly newsletter and awareness campaigns in its social media and webinars.



Also in 2020, MESol has worked together with ESZ in the conception and launching of a campaign to encourage young Women to pursue careers in the solar energy field. It has included a [video](#) to raise awareness of the target audience and show women working in this area.

In 2021, [a webinar in cooperation with Permanent Committee for Gender, Race and Diversity Issues \(COGEMMEV\)](#) from Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) was held to debate women careers in renewable energy. During the event, MESOL was invited to present the preliminary results of the first national study about women in the solar sector, that was produced with the support of C40 CCF Project.



## Gender as a quality feature of our work

After GIZ's support in the aforementioned events, MESOL became a widely known social and political group, having been invited to participate in several lectures and webinars, also influencing the conception of renewable energy events in Brazil. In three years of existence, they have been involved in 36 events, which have reached about more than 7000 people.

An example of this is the recent invitation to participate in the INTERSOLAR fair in October 2021 in São Paulo, the largest fair in the solar sector in Latin America. In addition to an exclusive panel to connect women in the



sector and discuss the opportunities and challenges of gender inclusion, MESOL also influenced the event to adopt the manual “Best Practices in Events and Fairs for the Solar Energy Sector” published by the network (Portuguese and English version).



Despite of all the restrictions caused by the Pandemic, they have reached the total capacity of the room for the “Women Connect” meeting, with nearly 50 women presented. The organizers have observed that most women present at that meeting did not know Mesol network yet. Therefore, this activity was a great opportunity to give more national visibility to the network and to raise more awareness regarding the importance of gender equality in the solar sector in the country.

National associations such as Brazilian Solar Photovoltaic Energy Association (ABSOLAR) have also been interested in MESOL studies and invited the network to participate in different events. One of the invitations was an exclusive interview on the ABSOLAR podcast entitled [“Solar energy: jobs, opportunities and women’s participation” nationally broadcasted.](#)

Another very important participation was in a webinar organized by Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), Friedrich Ebert-Brasil Foundation and UN Women. In February 2021, MESOL participated in the webinar [“The Gender Dimension in the Big Push for Sustainability in Brazil”](#). The webinar was attended by experts and was moderated by the blogger and influencer Nátaly Neri, a representative of the black feminist movement in Brazil.

## A glimpse of remarkable events



- >> [Launching of Women in Energy Brasil, promoted by GWNET and Columbia University](#)
- >> [Summit Solar 2020 \(06/06/2020\)](#)
- >> [FOTOVOLTALKS - Rede MESol: a mulher no setor fotovoltaico](#)
- >> [Ministério de Minas e Energias \(MME\) - 18/03/2021 - Webinário "Mulheres na Energia Renovável"](#)
- >> [Parent in Science](#)
- >> [TV Campus UFSM \(08/03/2021\)](#)
- >> [Renewable Energy: Empowering Women ISES](#)
- >> [Fórum GD Sul – Mulheres na Energia Solar](#)
- >> [The Smarter E - Energia solar no Brasil: quais são as barreiras e oportunidades para as mulheres no setor? | Webinário - The smarter E South America](#)

## Publications and Stories:

- >> [Pesquisa revela os desafios das mulheres no mercado de energia solar - InfoSolar](#)
- >> [Protagonismo feminino na pesquisa sobre energia solar – Revista Arco \(ufsm.br\)](#)
- >> [Rede MESol lança vídeo - Campanha valoriza mulheres que atuam na área de energias renováveis - FIERN](#)
- >> [Mulheres na energia solar: sua formação e o mapeamento da atuação no setor \(canalsolar.com.br\)](#)

## Gender and result-based monitoring

In the third phase of the Project Energy Systems of the Future, which has started in July 2021, two indicators with gender aspects were included in the Outcome level and one in the Output level:

**Outcome 4** - Relevant actors from the State, the private sector and civil society jointly developed a vision with a roadmap for a “Transformed Energy System of the Future of Brazil”, which includes the economic, social and environmental dimension of sustainability, as well as gender aspects

**Outcome 5** - 6,360 (including 636 women) of the 10,600 qualified graduates of the RE/EE courses selected from the educational institutions (vocational) of SENAI (National Service of Industrial Training), the Ministry of Education and its partners are employed in the labor market of the RE and EE sector.

**Output 3.1** – Relevant actors requested funding for the implementation of 5 projects and/or model processes in the field of sustainable energy and green growth, one with an additional focus on equal opportunities and/or human rights.



The project is preparing an operational planning with specific indicators for gender, especially for mainstreaming activities with the main partners

with support of a gender consultant. This contract includes execution of knowledge exchange between partners gender committee and women’s networks, such as MESol.

Also MESol has its own indicators, as for example, the number of women participants in sectoral events. MESol has more than 2

thousand followers in social media, and more than 500 people (mostly women) in discussion groups in instant messages apps.

## Cooperation

Different projects from the Energy and Urban Transformation cluster have joined efforts to support MESol Network. C40 Climate Finance Facility (CFF) has financed the first study about the status of women’s participation in the Brazilian solar energy market, called [Solar energy in Brazil: which are the barriers and opportunities for women professionals in the field?](#). The study was launched in online webinars that promote the debate about some topics that were brought out by the publication with different national and international specialists. [Portuguese Version](#) and [English Version](#). The Project Energy Partnerships has supported the first face-to-face meeting of MESol during the Intersolar South America 2021, in October this year, which was mentioned above.

Other institutions were important partners in the activities that GIZ projects has implemented with MESol Network, such as Brazilian and German Chamber of Commerce (AHK-RJ), Ideal Institute and the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC).

The impact of our work supporting MESol Network has been shared with colleagues from GIZ Jordan and, as a result, MESol coordinators have been exchanging experiences with another energy women professional network from Jordan, called Nashmyat AlTaqa.



More about

MESOL

### GIZ Team

Paula Scheidt Manoel  
Caroline Dutra  
Stephanie Gomes  
João Favaro  
Roberta Knopki  
Bruna Bezerra