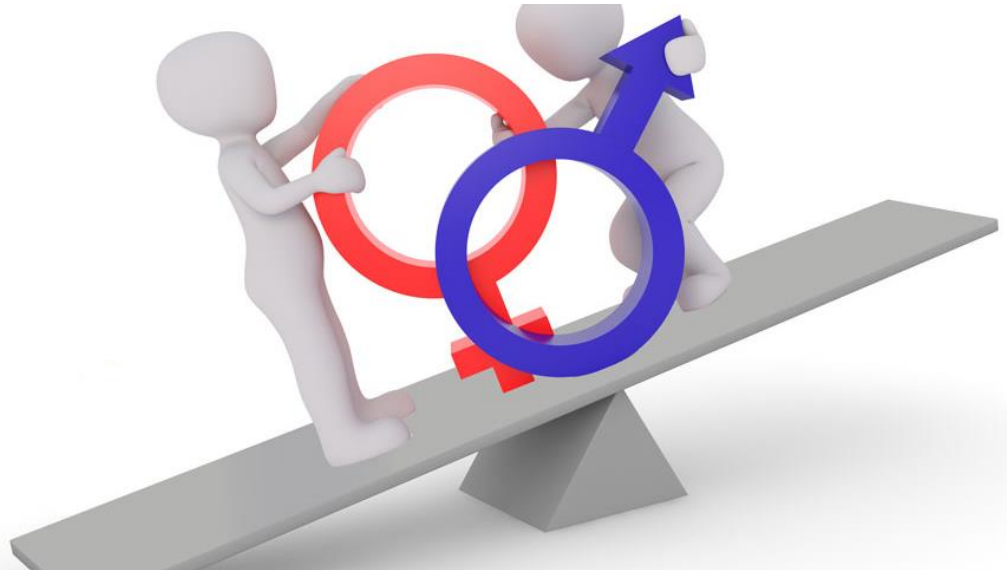


# Women in rural development policies – Where do they contribute? Where do they benefit?

Petra Raue

3rd RuralGeo Conference  
WG 13 Gender and  
diversity studies in rural  
areas



Groningen,  
6/27/2023

# Outline

## Introduction

- Context of the study
- Research questions and Research approach

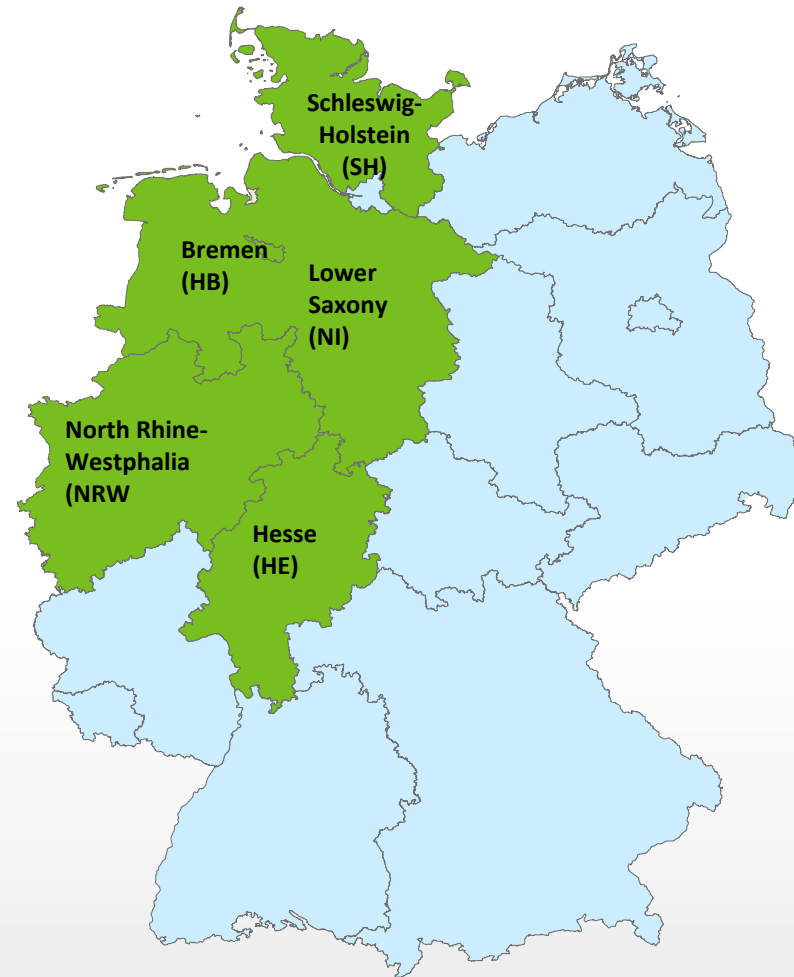
Results: Analysis of selected funding measures

Conclusions and further research questions

# Introduction – Context of the study

Evaluation of four German Rural Development Programmes (2007-2013, 2014-2022)

- To address Gender equality is an obligation of the umbrella regulation for funding programmes co-financed by EU, but this was not taken up in the specific regulation for RDPs
- Gender equality is not addressed in the EU-evaluation framework for RDPs
- Nevertheless we integrated into the evaluation design in accordance with the responsible ministries



# Introduction - Research Questions and approach

## Research Questions

- To what extent is gender mainstreaming put into practice in the design of RDPs?
- Where and how are women involved/affected?
  - as beneficiaries
  - in decisions on project design /funding of projects

## Research approach

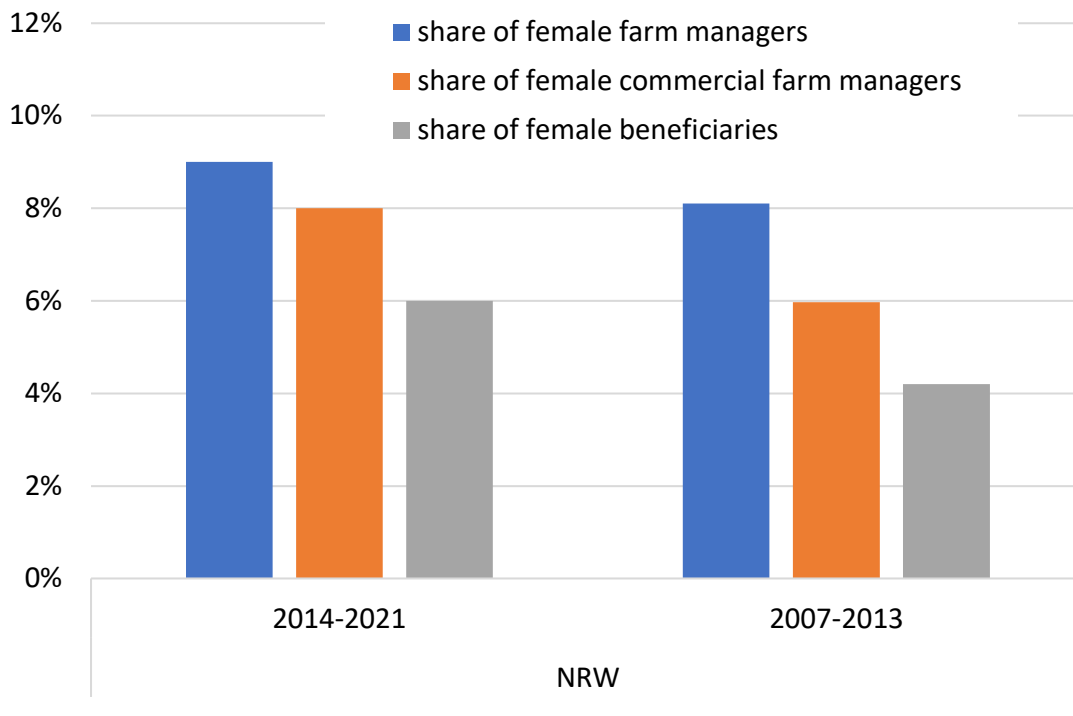
- Screening of the programme and other relevant documents: SWOT-Analysis, programme strategy, guidelines of funding measures
- Gender budgeting: Categorizing funding measures according to relevance for gender equality
- Gender differentiated analysis of available data (project data base, structural data of LAGs, relevant statistics)
- Integration of gender-related questions in surveys of different stakeholder groups (e. g. beneficiaries, LAG-members) and case studies

# Results: Analysis of selected funding measures

- **Agricultural investment support**
- **Training measure**
- **LEADER**

# I. Agricultural investment support

- Share of women among farm managers and beneficiaries of agricultural investment support



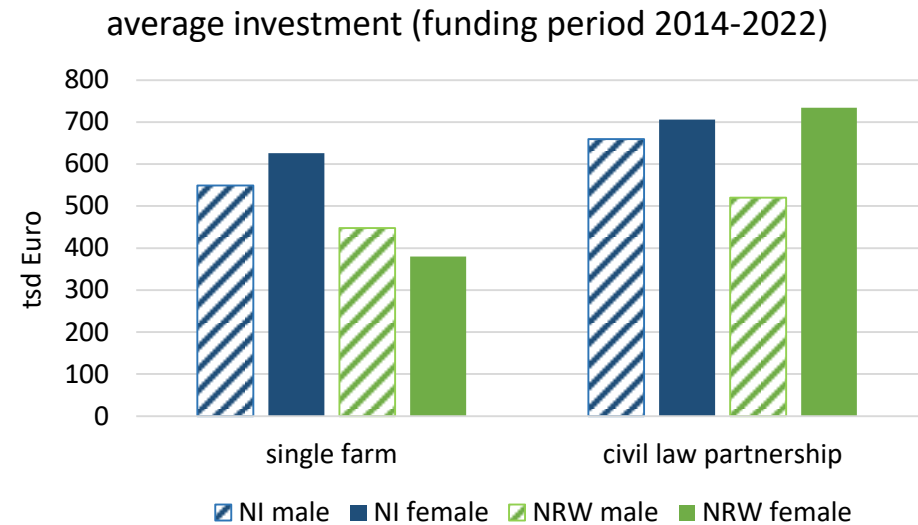
Source: own figure, destatis (2016, 2010), Moser et al. (2016), project data base (several years)

- Share of women in farm management is low, but has increased over time
- Women were clearly underrepresented among beneficiaries of investment support in funding period 2007 – 2013
- Underrepresentation still continues in funding period 2014 -2022
- Potential reasons?
  - Women have in average smaller farms than men.
  - Further structural differences?
  - Is Investment behaviour different?
  - Is it more difficult for women to get loans from the bank?

# I. Agricultural investment support

## Is investment behaviour different?

- Women are said to be partly more cautious in their investment behavior  
(OECD 2021, Lehmann et al. 2020)
- Comparing the size of supported investments, it cannot be confirmed that women are more reluctant/cautious concerning investments
- But absolute numbers of female beneficiaries are small
  - limited validity of comparisons



Source: own figure, Project data base

## II. Considering gender equality: Training measure

- Wide Range of topics, mostly related to agriculture, are fundable
- Project selection criteria contain among others criteria which might be relevant for GE
- Women participate predominantly in courses on
  - Farm office management
  - Diversification
  - On-farm education
  - Courses on agricultural technique for women only

Share of female participants in supported trainings

Funding period	NI	NRW	SH
2007 - 2013	59 %	54 %	35 %
2014 - 2022	47 %	63 %	40 %

Source: list of courses (several years), see Raue (2021, 2022,2023, forthcoming)

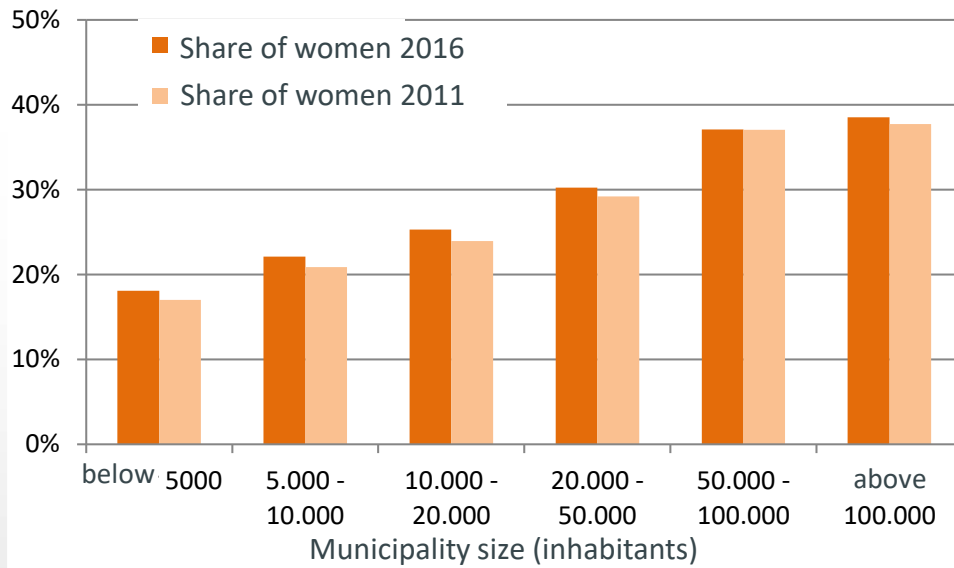
- Contribution to better qualification of women in the agricultural sector
- Uptake of courses follows somehow traditional role models



# III. LEADER: Who decides on plans and projects?

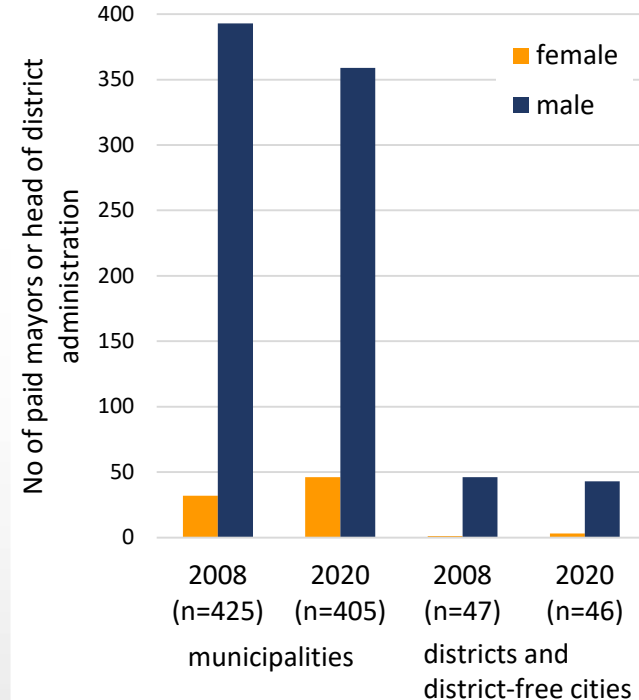
Municipalities decide about national/local contribution to financing of projects

- Share of women in councils (example Hesse)



Source: Raue (2023a)

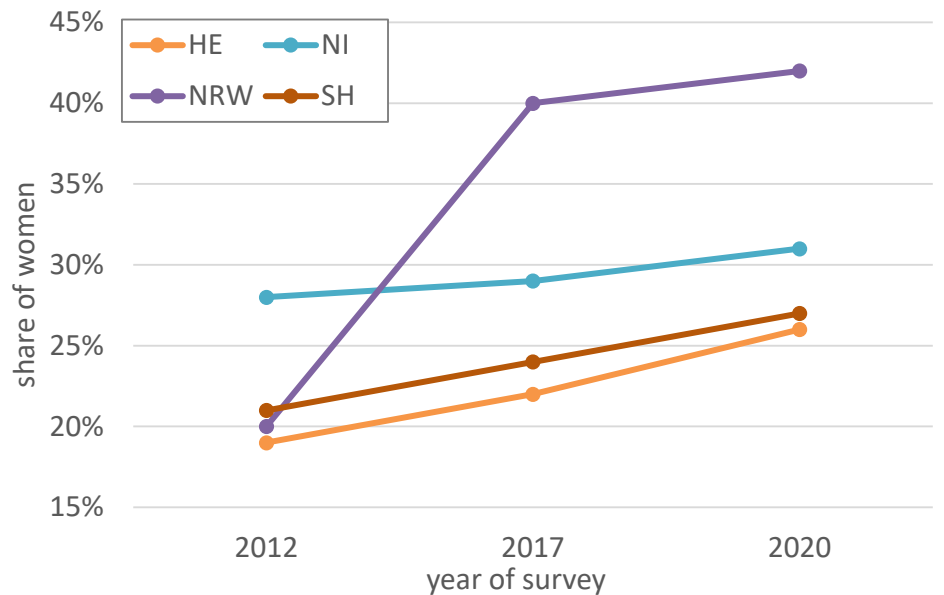
- Share of female mayors (example Lower Saxony)



Source: Raue (2023b)

# III. LEADER: Who decides on plans and projects?

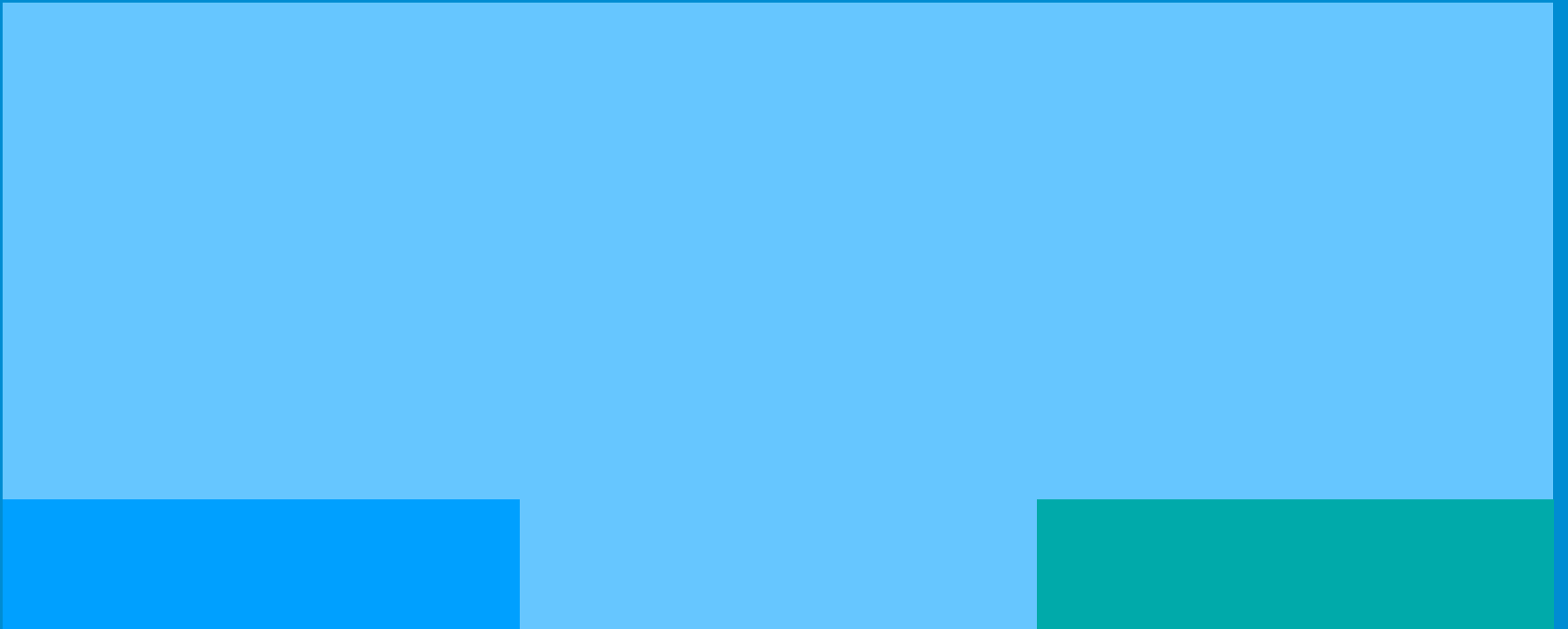
- Share of women in decision-making bodies of LEADER Local Action groups



Source: own figure, Pollermann et al. (2013), Pollermann und Trostorf (2017), Fynn und Pollermann (2020),

- Organisations (municipalities, associations, enterprises, etc.) at local level decide whom to send to the LAG
- Regulations: balanced share is desirable > little effect
- NRW: Quota of at least 1/3 men/women was required for selection in 2014/2015
  - significant increase
  - increase maintained during funding period

# Conclusions and further research questions



# Conclusions and further research questions

## Conclusions

- Presence of women follows, to a great extent, traditional role models
  - Underrepresentation in investment measures and decision-making bodies
  - strong presence in office management and pedagogic training courses and in LAG management
- Changes can be observed over time, but they are minimal
- Funding programmes reproduce structural inequalities, if they do not explicitly take measures to avoid that

# Conclusions and further research questions

- Limits of the evaluation
  - Adequate references to compare with are not always available (for example ownership of old buildings)
  - Identifying whether funded public infrastructure e.g. social meeting points, village shops, consider gender mainstreaming is difficult with standardised questionnaires

## Further research needed i. a. on

- Women as farm managers
  - structure of agricultural holdings managed by men and women
  - investment behaviour and access to finance
- Gender mainstreaming in rural planning

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