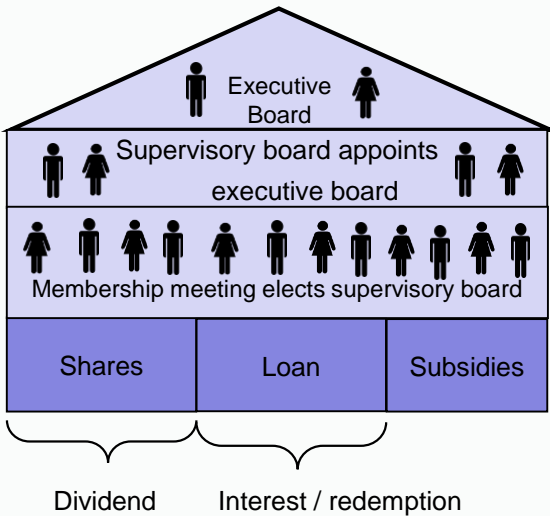


# Energy cooperatives in Georgia for gender just climate solutions

## What are cooperatives?

A cooperative is a voluntary association of persons (women and men) with the aim to generate benefits for the members through a common business operation. Energy cooperatives promote the common idea of the members:

→ Improvement of living standard, especially reducing unpaid domestic labor burden on women, environmental protection, expansion of renewable energies and energy efficiency



## A cooperative is:

- ... **democratic**  
regardless of the number of shares = one vote
- ... **gender-equal and gender-responsive**  
approx. 50% women's participation
- ... **flexible**  
easy to join / quit the membership
- ... **safe**  
due to control and experience
- ... **ethic**  
through ecological and regional contribution
- ... **expandable**  
for more projects within the region
- ... **economic**  
attractive returns for members
- ... **sustainable:**  
renewable and decentralized energy production

## The goals: What do energy cooperatives want to achieve?

- Economic and social empowerment (saving costs and time for fuel)
- Expand Renewable Energy technologies (e.g. solar collectors, energy efficient stoves, solar dryers, biogas digesters) with high quality and quantity
- Give access to these technologies for citizens, especially women
- Service & consultation for communities in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector
- Expand the local value chain / generate employment for women and men
- Build-up technical know-how
- Increase women's participation in public life through awareness raising of women and men
- Create safe and climate friendly energy supply for women & citizens

**Members can be all citizens of the municipalities, where energy cooperatives are established.**

## Advantages for the members:

- ✓ Incomes from dividendes
- ✓ Access to affordable energy technologies
- ✓ Access to improved services for home
- ✓ Training and technical know-how
- ✓ Employment opportunity within the cooperative
- ✓ Less expenses on energy and wood

