WOMEN IN BLUE ECONOMY

INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND CAPACITY BOOSTING

WIN-BIG MEDITERRWIN-BIG MEDITERRANEAN EVENT

WIN BIG

Co-funded by the European Union

Panel 4:
Women in science, research, innovation in BuE emergent sectors, a space of opportunities

Gender Equality in Marine Sciences

Pierpaolo Campostrini

Co-funded by
the European Union

Gender Equality in Science: Challenges and Perceptions in Marine Conservation

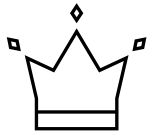
- **Gender equality** and women's empowerment is one of the 17 Global **Goals in the United Nations 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development. Despite this commitment, women in scientific careers worldwide continue to face **significant biases and barriers** throughout their professional journey.
- Giakoumi et al. have conducted a global survey and analyzed questionnaires from 42 countries To **explore scientists' perceptions of gender imbalance in marine sciences and conservation**

The Gender Gap Across Career Stages

The results showed a consistent pattern of women being under-represented across institutions and nations, in particular:

Early Career Stages
Relatively equal gender representation exists among early-career marine scientists.

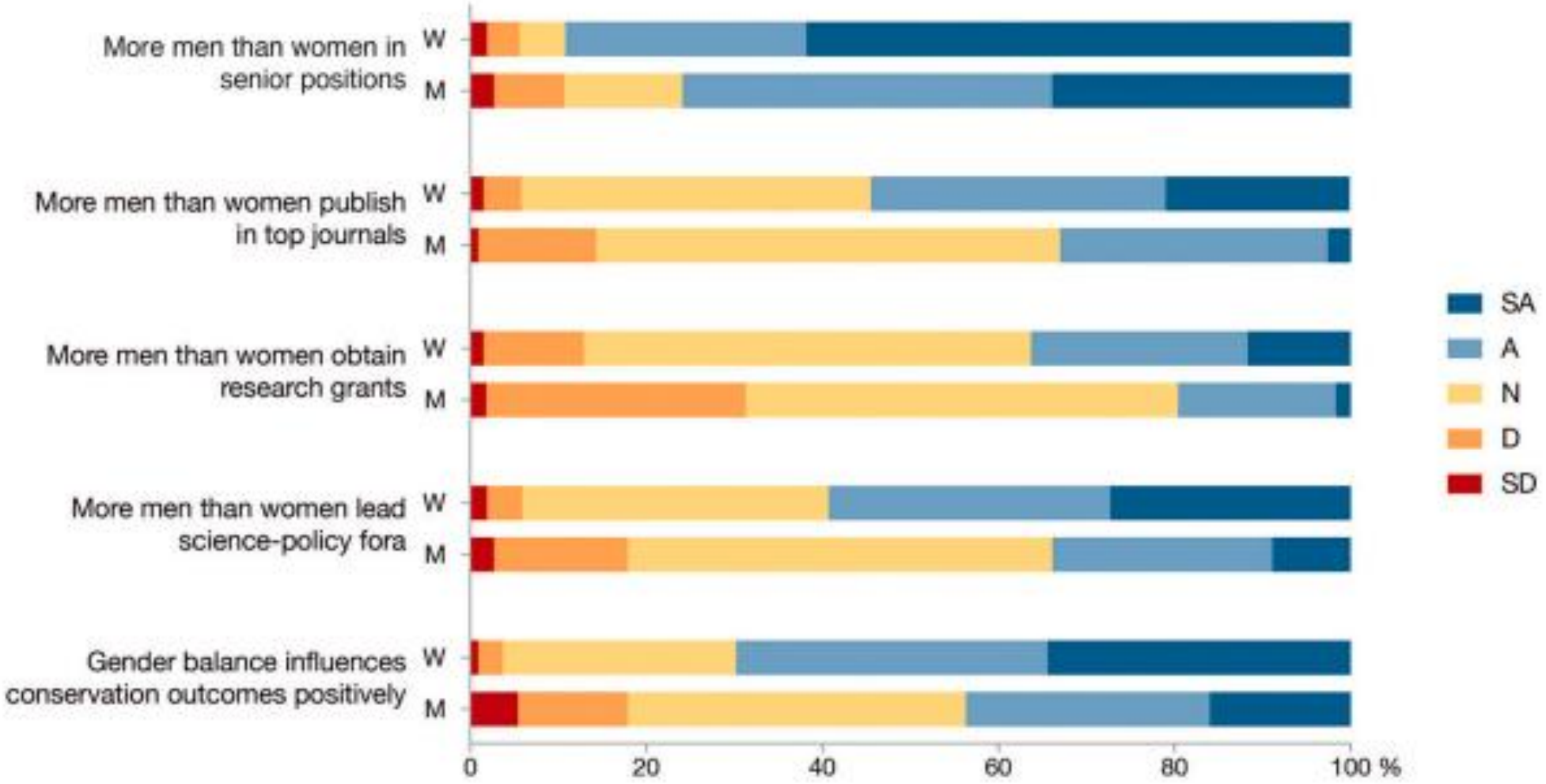
Growing Disparity
A widening gender gap emerges as careers progress.



Senior Leadership
Only 13-24% of senior marine science positions are held by women.

The same pattern was found in publishing, funding, and leadership of research institutes.

Topics under discussion



Stacked bar chart showing the frequency distribution of the level of agreement of women (W; n = 576) and men (M; n = 188) respondents with five statements. SA = strongly agree, A = agree, N = neither agree nor disagree, D = disagree, SD = strongly disagree. (Giakoumi et al. 2021)

Measures that promote gender equity

The outcomes of survey

- Measures aimed at ensuring fair evaluations (e.g., in hiring) and supporting work-life balance received strong support
- In contrast, gender-focused initiatives, such as scholarships specifically for women, received less support

Gender balance influence positively marine conservation outcomes

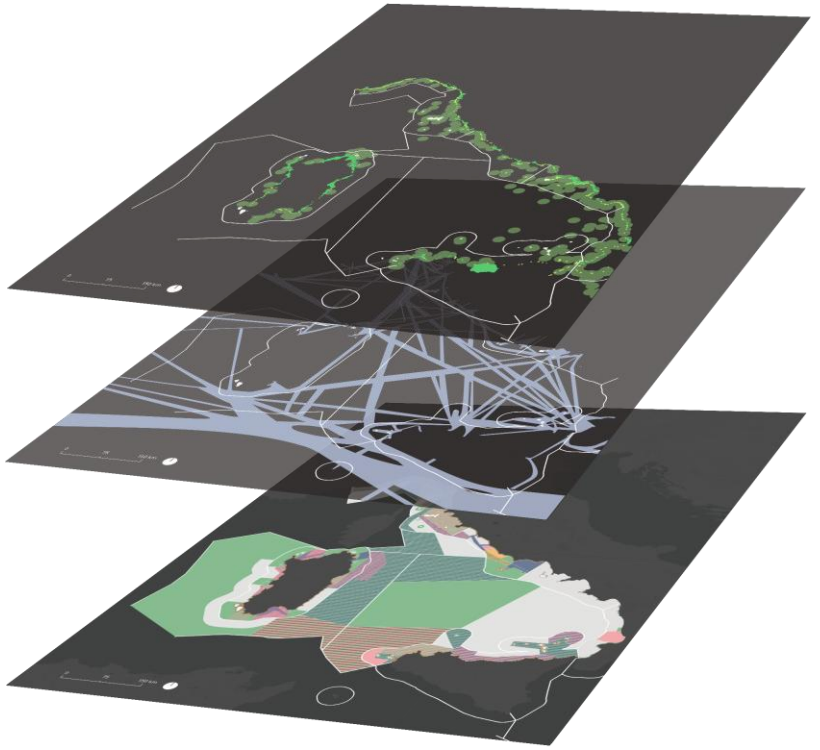
Why improve gender balance

Gender diversity enhances problem-solving efficiency, particularly in environmental issues.

- Women demonstrate higher levels of social sensitivity: teams with a higher proportion of women exhibit greater collective intelligence in scientific collaboration and improved cooperation in natural resource conservation.

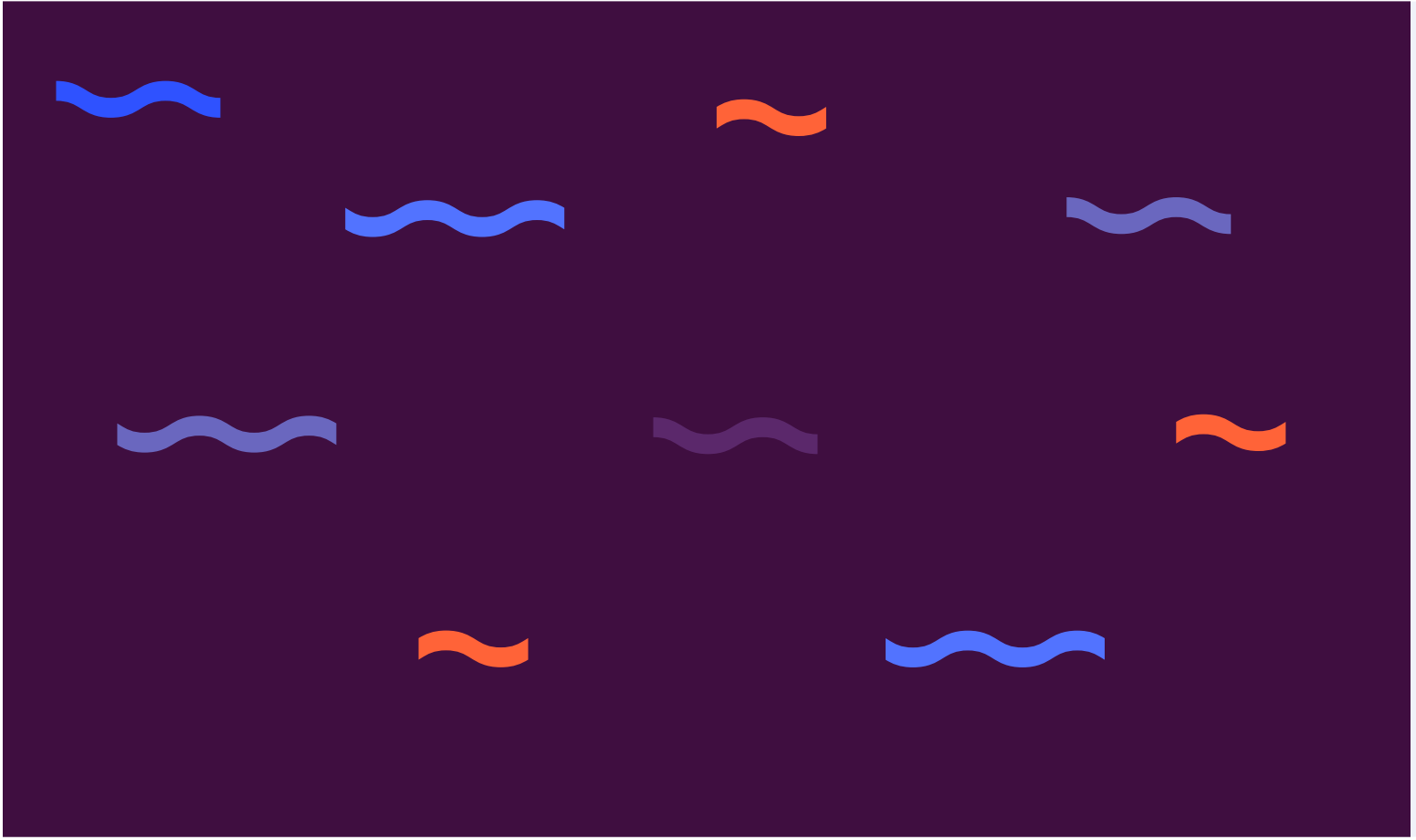
- Additionally, women researchers have raised important concerns in marine conservation, and their increased participation in the editorial boards of conservation journals could contribute to developing innovative solutions to conservation challenges.

The challenge of Maritime Spatial Planning



- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is the process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that have been identified through a science-policy process.

- MSP should be percevied as a practical way to establish a more rational use of the marine space, balancing economic demands and environmental stewardship.



WIN BIG

Co-funded by the European Union

Pierpaolo Campostrini

CORILA - *Consortium for coordination of research activities concerning the Venice lagoon system*

campostrini@corila.it

FOLLOW US!