

# AFFIRMING ACTIONS: RESEARCH ON WOMEN-LED ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES

Can architectural practices run by women set up an example for a new model of architectural practices?

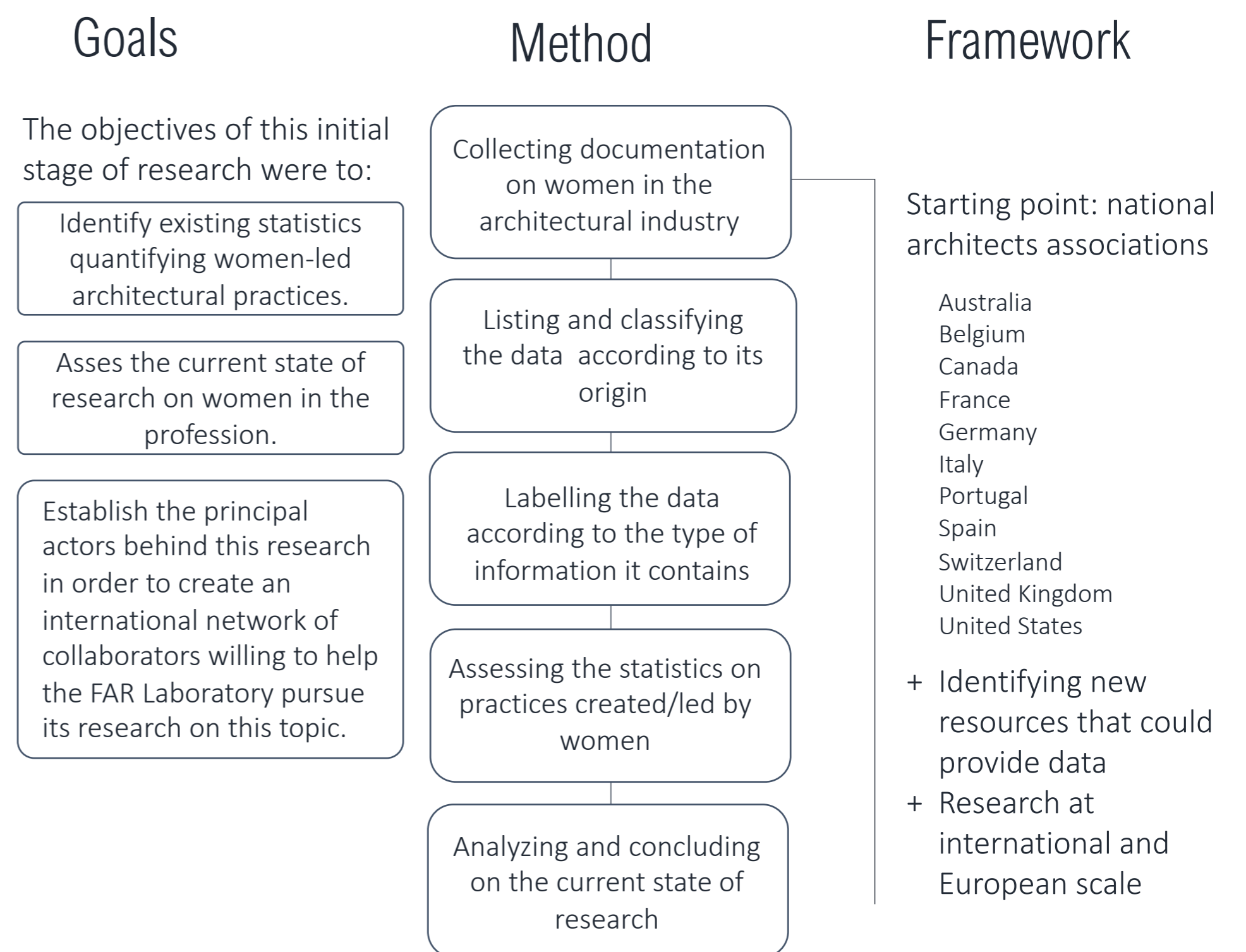
## Presentation of the research project

Is there an unconventional model of architectural practices more prone to be led by female architects? And if so, why? What could the potential of such a model be for the architecture industry? These are some of the questions that Prof. Tombesi started to ask himself after observing, from the sample collected by his students for a class assignment, that female firm directors seemed to be numerically over-represented in architectural practices with a specific type of practice (inclusive, economical, concern on the local population...), in comparison to the actual proportion of female directors in the conventional architecture industry.



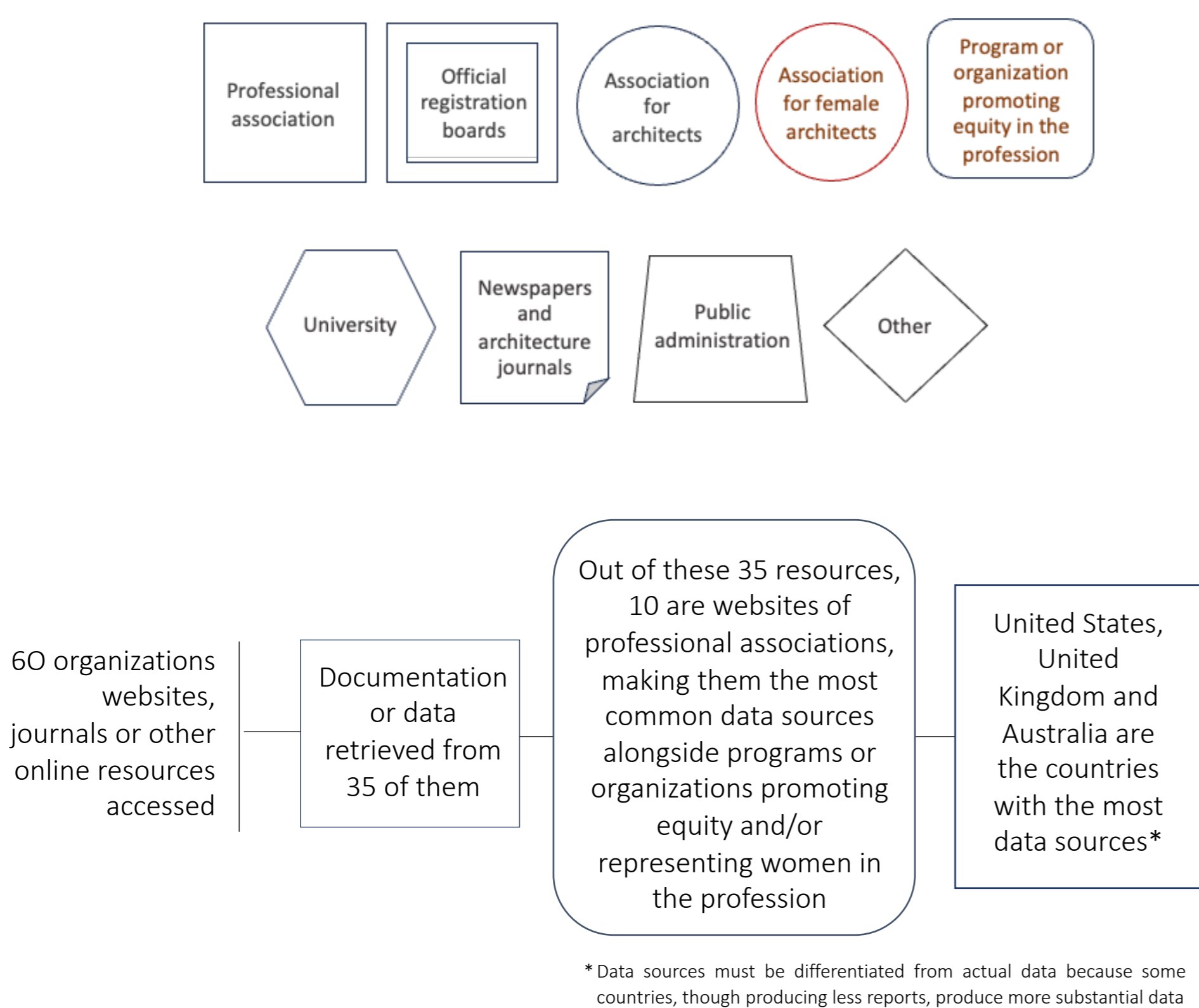
Based on that observation, Prof. Tombesi organized a symposium with the support of the Latsis International Foundation and invited 15 female architects to share their experience and insight on the profession in relation to the multidimensionality of their own work. Just like the Tapiraré gourd food bowls displayed above, which all withhold a common function despite their unique shapes, all these women appeared to have a similar way of operating through their unique work, transforming their personal ideologies into architectural productions.

## Preliminary research phase : Assessing the up-to-date available data

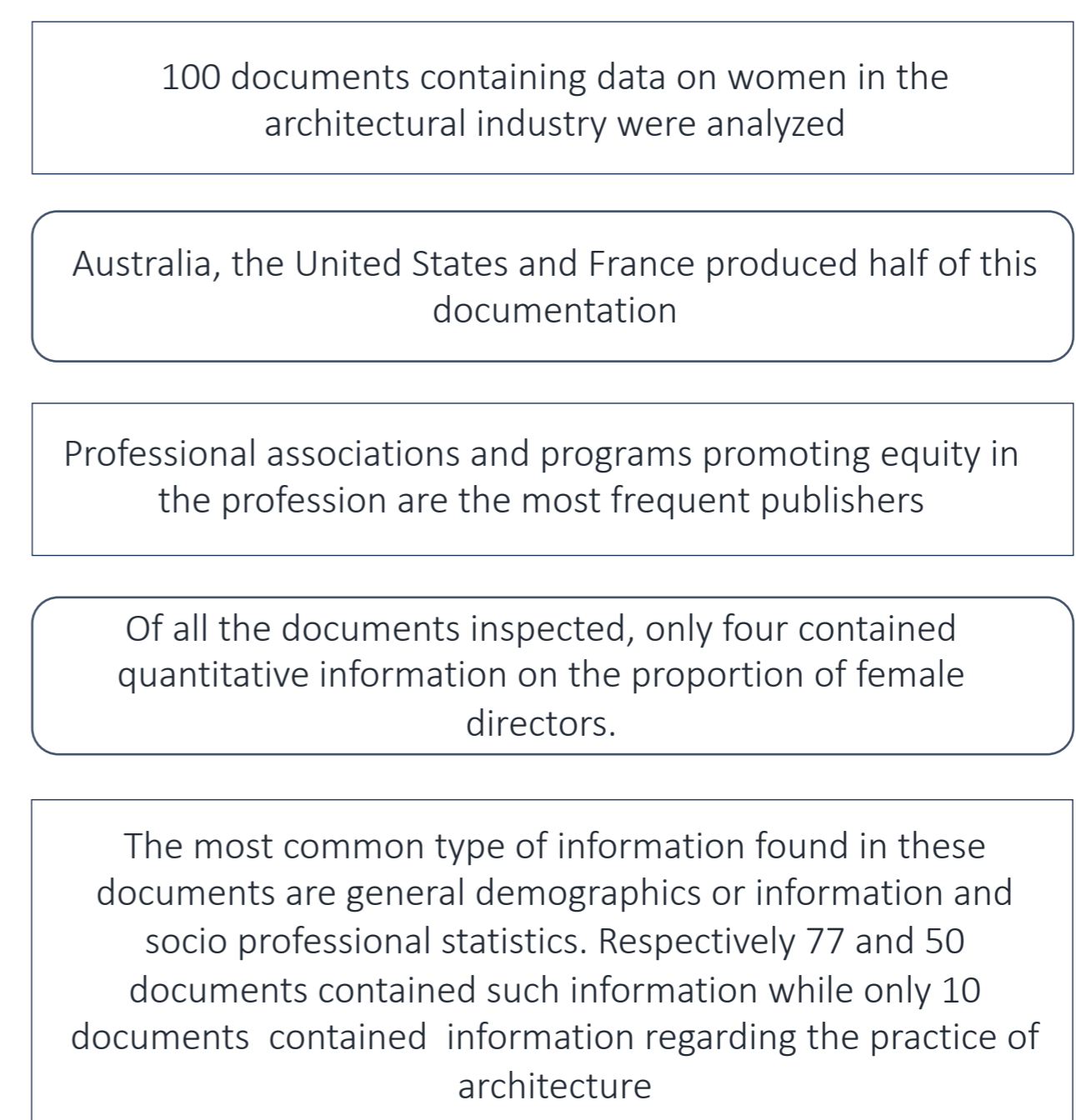


## Results

### Types of sources investigated



### Current state of research on women in the profession



### What about figures?

There are few figures available on women who run their own architectural practices. Most of the data concerning the professional status of women does not specify if they are running their practices alone or with men.

According to a German report on self-employed members of the Federal Chamber of German Architects, 21% of the architectural practices are owned by women

(BAK Strukturbefragung Gesamtbericht Selbstständige, 2022)

According to the American organization Equity by Design, between 1 % and 2 % of the respondents work in an all-female led firm

(EqxDesign, 2018)

## Conclusion

This initial phase of research led us to conclude that there are very few data concerning women-led practices, but also that most of the existing data on women in the profession does not allow a thorough understanding of their contribution within the architectural industry.

As most of the up-to-date statistics relate to their professional position and the inequalities they may experience as women, the information the FAR laboratory is aspiring to collect in the future should be more specific to their work as architects and not only as professionals. This could permit to identify a new model of architectural practices, hypothetically more susceptible to be directed by women and having potential for the future.

