

# Energy Citizenship in Europe

## EnergyPROSPECTS Factsheet Series

### Part 4: Funding



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## Introduction

This document is Part 4 of the EnergyPROSPECTS Factsheet Series. We have created the Series to publish the results of the mapping of energy citizenship in Europe, along with the first stage of our analysis of the data. The EnergyPROSPECTS consortium mapped 596 cases of energy citizenship (ENCI) and collected data on many aspects of the latter. Although the analysis is a work in progress, we believe it is important to share our data and, through it, contribute to the understanding of energy citizenship in Europe.

The methodology for the data collection and analysis is presented in [Part 1 of the Factsheet Series](#) (Vadovics, Szöllőssy, 2023); for this reason, it is not repeated here.

The Factsheet Series includes the following parts:

1. [Part 1: Introduction and Methodology](#)
2. [Part 2: Motivations and Objectives](#)
3. [Part 3: Actors and Organisations](#)
4. **Part 4: Funding**
5. [Part 5: Aspects of ENCI I.: Hybridity, private/public, passive/active forms](#)
6. [Part 6: Aspects of ENCI II.: Frontrunners and late adopters, pragmatic and transformative ENCI](#)
7. [Part 7: Aspects of ENCI III.: Towards social sustainability: citizen power and equity/justice issues](#)
8. [Part 8: Aspects of ENCI IV.: Towards environmental sustainability: levels of environmental sustainability and recognising ecological limits](#)
9. [Part 9: Aspects of ENCI V.: Contesting the current system](#)

## Part 1: Sources of funding for ENCI operations

Q46. What is the **primary/main source of funding** for this case?

Q47. Are/were there any **other sources of funding** for this case?<sup>1</sup>

Energy Citizenship case studies have also been researched in terms of financing issues. **The largest proportion of the mapped 596 cases had European public funding (17.6%) as the primary source.** Due to the fact that information about funding sources are often unavailable, the second category was “cannot be determined” (15.8%). This was followed by national funding (10.6%) in third place, “other” forms (8.6%) of funding in fourth place and local public funding (7.9%) in fifth place.

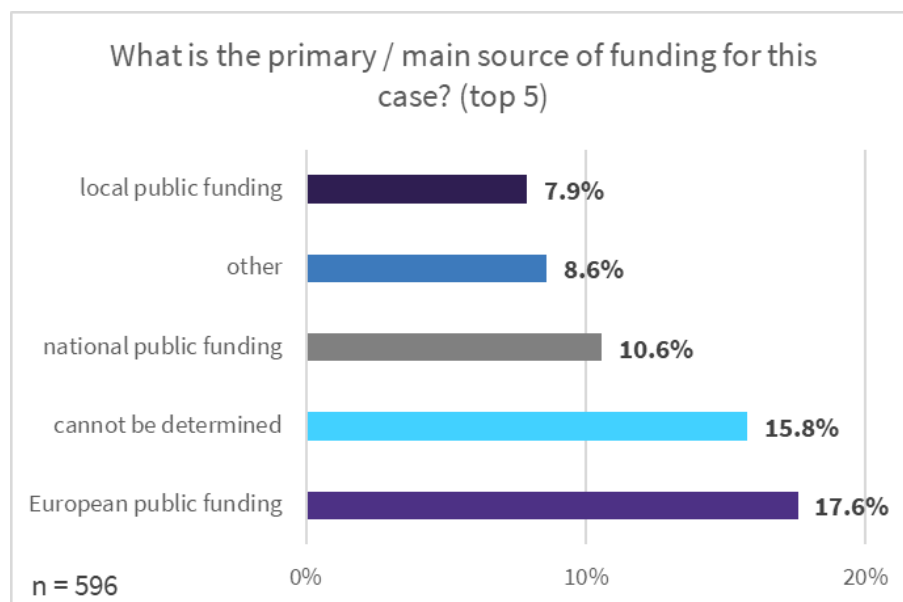


Figure 1: Main source of funding

Regarding “**other**” sources of funding, the analysis shows a similar pattern. In most cases, it cannot be determined (17.6%) whether there was an additional source. This is followed by the “other” category (15.8%). Third place is tied between “no additional funding” and “national public funding” (14.3%), and in fifth place is local public funding (11.6%).

<sup>1</sup> Questions from the mapping questionnaire. Methodology and questions are available here: [https://www.energyprospects.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ENERGY\\_PROSPECTS.EU/Deliverables/EnergyPROSPECTS\\_D3.1\\_310122\\_Final.pdf](https://www.energyprospects.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/ENERGY_PROSPECTS.EU/Deliverables/EnergyPROSPECTS_D3.1_310122_Final.pdf)

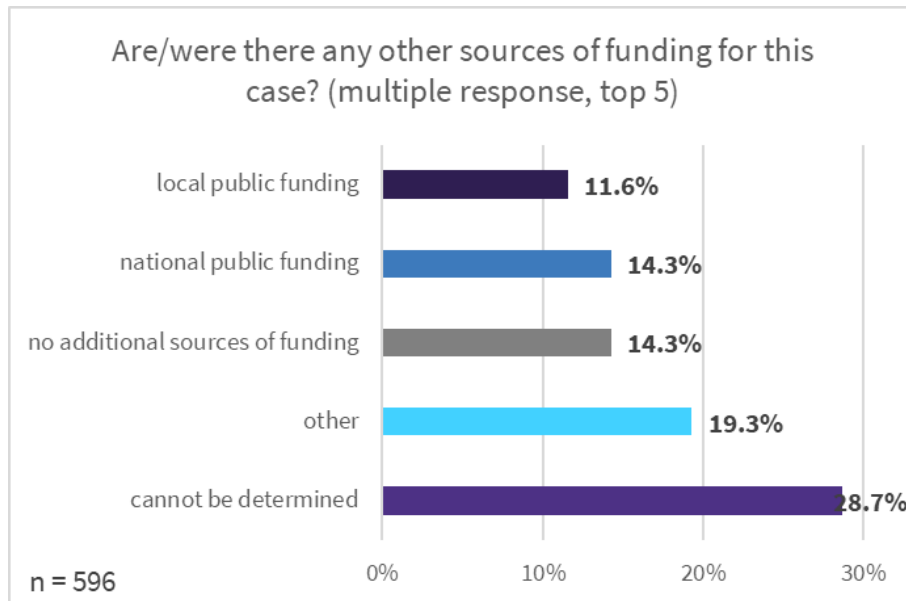


Figure 2: Other sources of funding

The “other” category includes cases that highlight a specific funder, such as a network of organisations or a specific programme: “As a coordinator, the EnergyNeighbourhoods programme supported him and his community”. Alternatively, there may be a specific source of income, such as “entrance fees” or “income from the cafe, or renting rooms, events, [or a] hotel”. Answers include bank loans or specific donations of material (including programme venue and other equipment).

## Reformative and transformative cases

In terms of **primary sources**, there are several differences in relation to the **reformative and transformative breakdown of cases.**<sup>2</sup> For transformative cases, the category “cannot be determined” is ranked first (17.5%). This is followed by European public funding (11.4%) in second place, cooperative or community shares in third place (9.3%), national public funding (7.5%) in fourth place and “local public funding” and “income generated by the owner” in a tie (6.8%) for fifth place.

For reformative cases, European public funding is very important, as indicated by the fact that it is the primary funding source (22.6%), and the “cannot be defined” category comes second (14.5%). In third place is national public funding (12.8%), in fourth is the “other” category (11.1%), and in fifth is local public funding (8.8%).

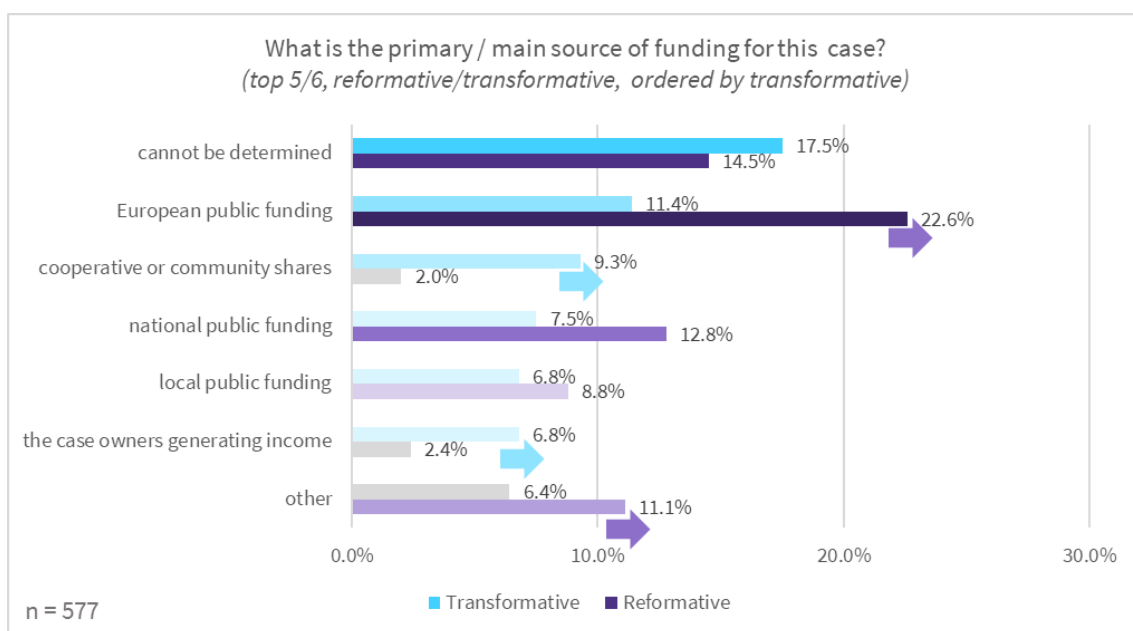


Figure 3: Main sources of funding according to a reformative-transformative split

It is worth pointing out that among the transformative cases, the proportion of cases where cooperative or community shares are the primary source of funding is significantly greater, as is the proportion of initiatives whose primary source is income generated by the

<sup>2</sup> For the methodology used to create the various forms of data breakdown, please consult [Part 1 of the Factsheet Series](#).

case owners. Among reformative cases, the proportion of cases where the primary source is from Europe is significantly larger, as is the proportion of cases associated with “other” as a primary source.

**Concerning the question of whether there was an additional source, in both reformative and transformative cases, the category “cannot be determined” ranked first (t: 34.6%; r: 22.6%).** For transformative cases, voluntary work ranked second (13.6%), national public funding (11.8%) third and income generated by owners (10.7%) fourth. For reformative cases, the second-ranked category is “no other source of income” (18.5%), the third is national public funding (16.5%), and the fourth is local public funding (13.5%).

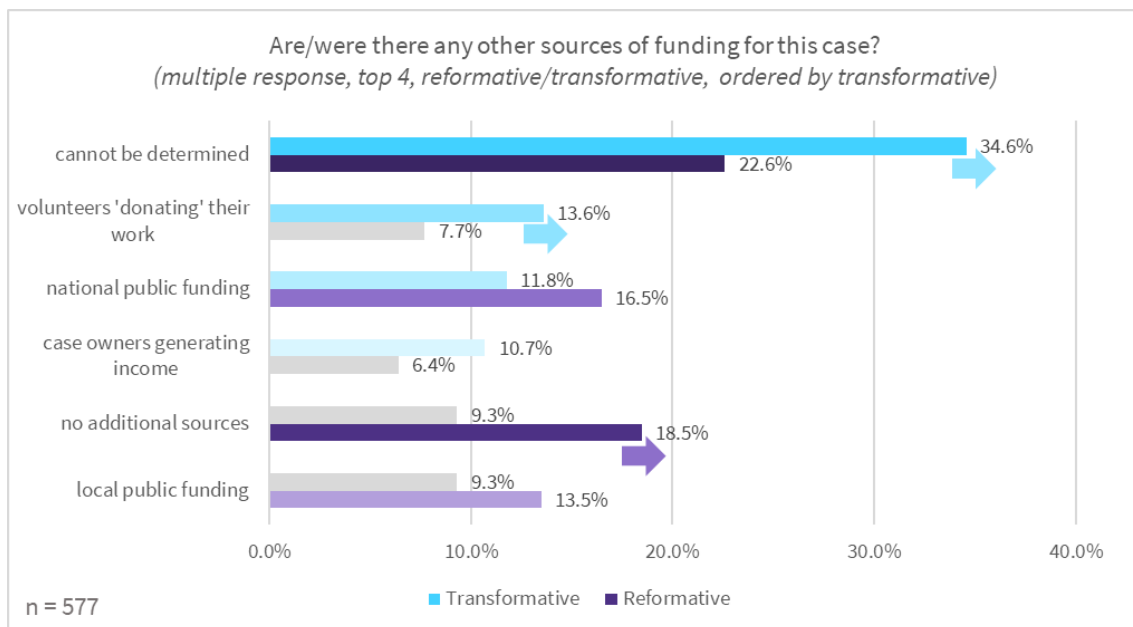


Figure 4: Other sources of funding according to a reformative-transformative split

Even though undetermined sources were ranked first in both groups, the proportion of the latter in the transformative cases is still significantly larger. The proportion of cases with no additional funding source is significantly greater in the reformative cases. Last but not least, it is worth noting that the proportion of voluntary work among the additional sources is also significantly greater in the transformative cases.



If we look at **the primary sources of funding when applying the “High/Medium” and “No/Low” data breakdown, the order of sources is slightly different, but no significant difference is found.** In the “High/Medium” cases, the category “cannot be determined” comes first, followed by European funding. For the “No/Low” cases, the order is reversed.

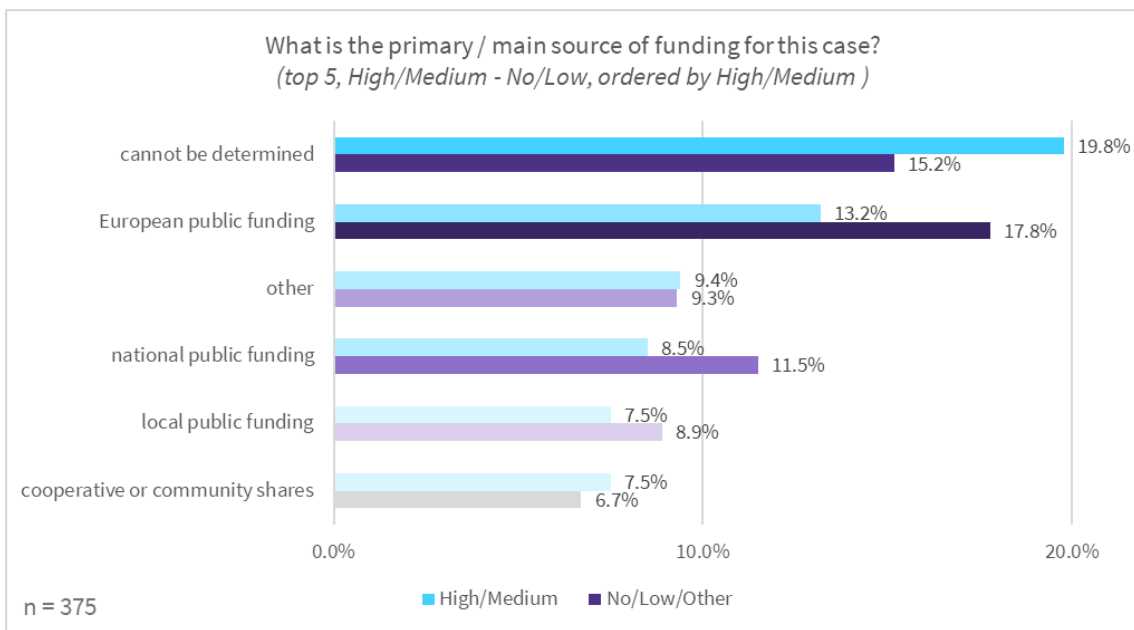


Figure 5: Main sources of funding according to a “High/Medium” – “No/Low” split

**There are some minor differences in the secondary sources, although in both groups, the “cannot be determined” option is ranked first.** Volunteers 'donating' their work ranked second in the “High/Medium” cases and are significantly more prevalent. For the “No/Low” group, the fifth-ranked “company funding” was significantly more likely to be chosen.

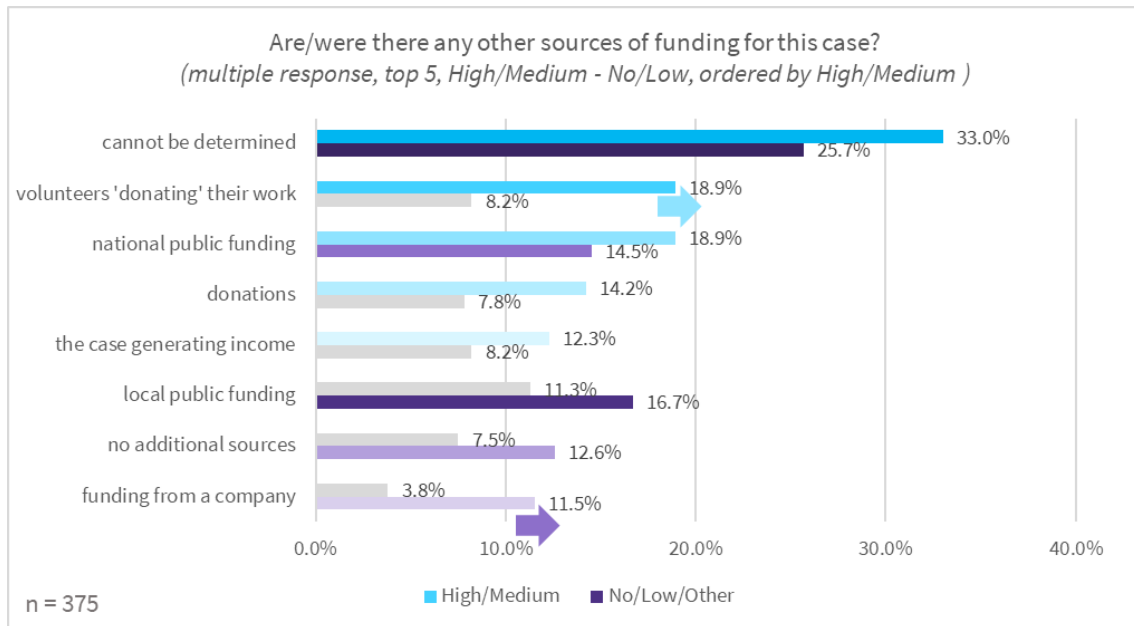


Figure 6: Other sources of funding in reformative cases using a “High/Medium” – “No/Low” data split

It can also be examined whether there are **differences in the primary or additional sources between the 10 ENCI ideal types.**<sup>3</sup> There is no significant difference in the distribution of primary sources. Regarding additional sources, one aspect is worth mentioning: donations are significantly more prevalent in Type 10: “Make their claims” cases (which are collective, transformative cases), but only compared to Types 1, 7 and 8.

<sup>3</sup> For the ten ENCI ideal types distinguished in the EnergyPROSPECTS project, please see [Debourdeau et al., 2021](#) or alternatively, [Part 1 of the Factsheet Series](#).

## Regions of Europe

There are **quite a few differences in the primary sources of funding among European regions.**

In Western Europe, national funding (13.9%) is ranked first, followed by cooperative or community shares (12.4%), then local funding (11%) third. In Southern Europe, European public funding (25.8%) comes first, followed by “cannot be determined” (11.8%) and funding from an NGO (7.5%) third. In Central Europe, “cannot be determined” (24.4%) is first, followed by European (22.8%) and then national public funding (15%). In Eastern Europe, the first is European public funding (24%), the second is “cannot be determined” (18.6%), and the third is “other” (13.8%).

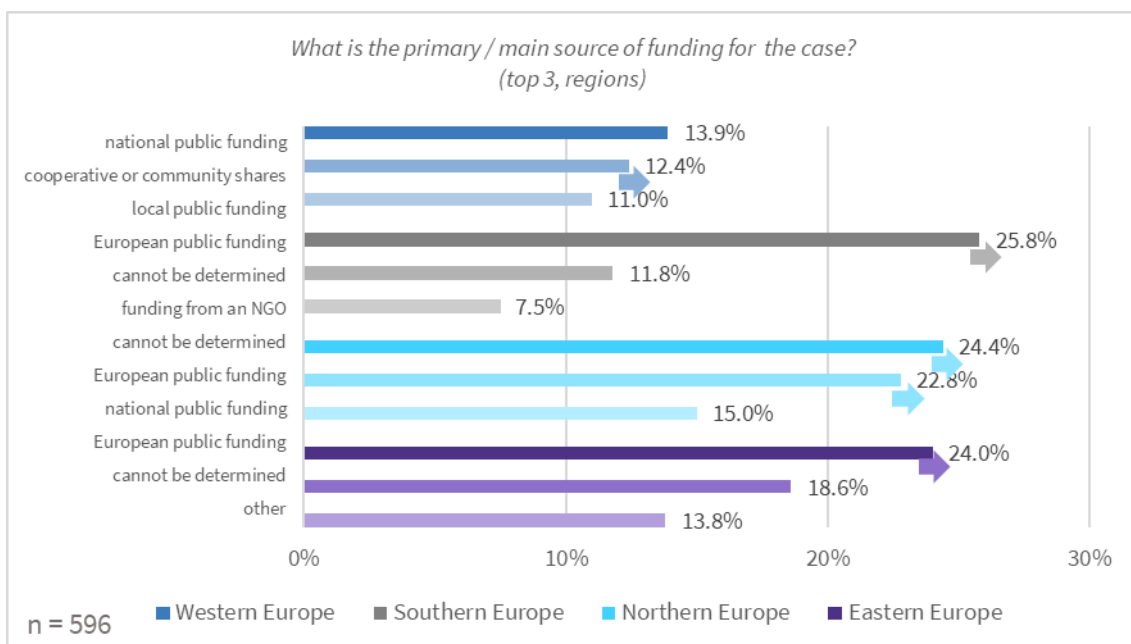


Figure 7: Main sources of funding by region

Regarding primary sources of funding, some significant differences in the regional breakdown are also worth highlighting. In Western Europe, the share of cases with a cooperative or community share is significantly larger than in the East and South. In contrast, European public funding is significantly greater in all regions compared to in the West.

There are also some differences between regions in terms of additional sources, but the first option in all areas is “cannot be determined” (W: 28.2%; S: 24.7%; N: 26.8%; E: 32.9%;). In second place in the East, South, and West is "no additional sources"(W: 12.9%; S: 21.5%; E: 16.2%), while in the North, the second is local public funding (22.8%). Voluntary work is ranked third in the West and East (W: 12.4%; E:15%), and national public funding in the South and North (S: 15.1%; N: 21.3%).

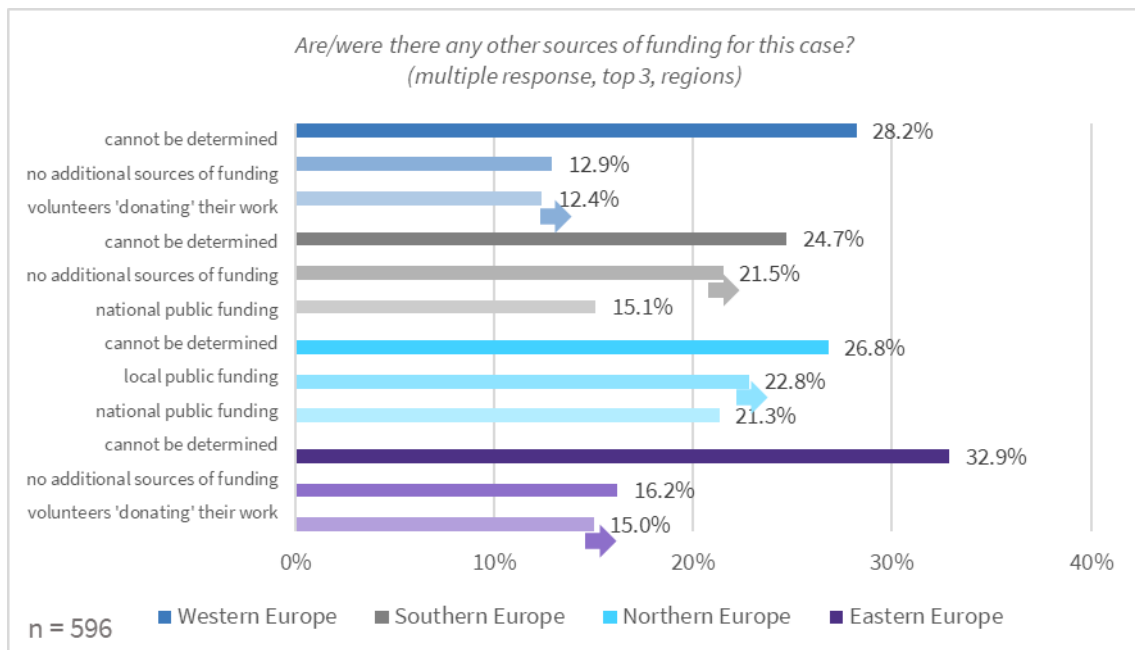


Figure 8: Other sources of funding by region

Some significant differences can also be highlighted regarding this issue. The proportion of locally publicly funded cases is significantly greater in the North than in other regions. As with the previous question, European public funding is greater in all regions than in the West. The number of people donating their voluntary work is also significantly larger in the East and West compared to the other two regions.

## References

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