

Energy Citizenship in Europe

EnergyPROSPECTS Factsheet Series

Part 5: Aspects of ENCI I.: **Hybridity, private/public, passive/active forms**



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Case researchers participating in the identification and data collection of cases:

Adriana Dimova (ARC Fund), Anita Szöllőssy (GDI), Anna Farady (GDI), Ariane Debourdeau (TUB), Benjamin Schmid (UG), Camille Defard (JDI), Cecília Lohász (GDI), Claudia Buse (TUB), Desislava Asenova (ARC Fund), Edina Vadovics (GDI), Fanny Lajarthe (ULB), Ivars Kudreņickis (LU), Jānis Brizga (LU), Juan Carlos Brenlla Blanco (UDC), Karin Thalberg (JDI), Kristóf Vadovics (GDI), Linda Zsemberovszky (GDI), Luisa Losada Puente (UDC), Manuel García-Fernández (UDC), Marianna Markantoni (UM), Marie Delair (JDI), Marko Hajdinjak (ARC Fund), Myrto Ispyridou (ARC Fund), Nuria Rebollo Quintela (UDC), Orsolya Antal (GDI), Petar Kanchev (ARC Fund), Rasa Ikstena (LU), Rene Kemp (UM)

Proofreading by Simon Milton

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Table of Contents

Introduction..... 4

Part 1: Level of hybridity in the cases of energy citizenship 5

Reformative and transformative cases..... 6

Regions of Europe..... 8

Part 2: Private and public forms of energy citizenship 9

Reformative and transformative cases..... 11

Regions of Europe..... 13

Part 3: More and less active forms of energy citizenship 14

Reformative and transformative cases..... 16

Regions of Europe..... 18

References 19

EnergyPROSPECTS partners 20

Introduction

This document is Part 5 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: Level of hybridity in the cases of energy citizenship

Q52. In terms of the form of ENCI it shapes/enables/supports (or shaped/enabled/supported), please select the **appropriate level of hybridity** for the case...¹

- **no hybridity:** only one type of actor/institutional logistic is involved or represented by in the case
- **low hybridity:** 2 or 3 types of actors/institutional logistics are involved or represented by in the case
- **medium hybridity:** 4 or 5 types of actors/institutional logistics are involved or represented by in the case
- **high hybridity:** more than 5 types of actors/institutional logistics are involved or represented by in the case

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the hybridity level of the cases for the whole database. It is mostly balanced, but there are slightly more cases with low hybridity (i.e., with two or three types of actors), representing almost two-fifths of the cases (39.8%). The share of other types of cases is around one-fifth each. The proportion of no hybridity cases with a single type of actor is 18%, medium (four or five types of actors) 21%, and high (more than five types of actors) 21.3%.

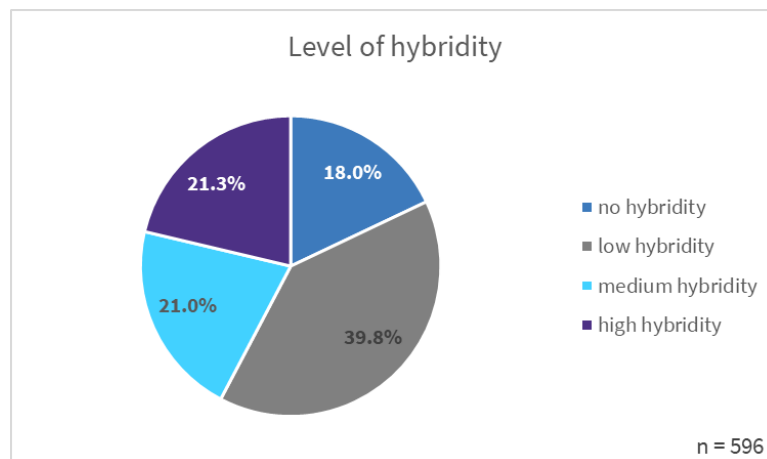


Figure 1: Level of hybridity

¹ 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

Reformative and transformative cases

In terms of hybridity, the analysis found no significant differences between transformative and reformative types² of cases (Figure 2). However, Figure 2 shows that transformative cases, on average, are slightly more likely to be high hybridity ones (T: 23.2%; R: 17.2%), while the reformative cases are associated more strongly with a moderate ('medium') level of hybridity (T: 17.5%; R: 24.9%).

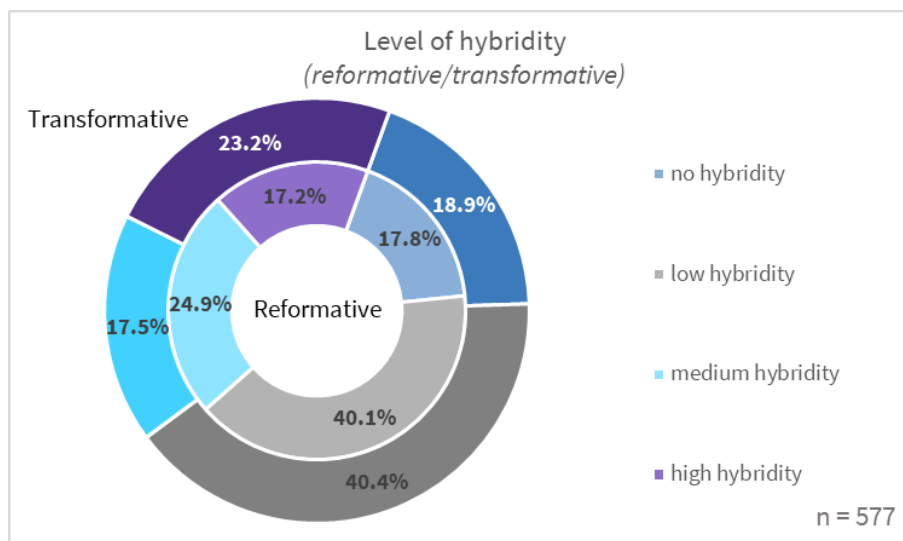


Figure 2: Level of hybridity according to a reformative-transformative data split

In terms of the “High/Medium” and “No/Low” data breakdown (Figure 3), there is also no significant difference in the level of hybridity. The proportion of cases with moderate hybridity is slightly greater in the “High/Medium” category (H/M: 24.5%; N/L: 20.8%).

² For information on the various forms of data breakdown applied in our analysis, please refer to [Part 1 of the Factsheet Series](#).

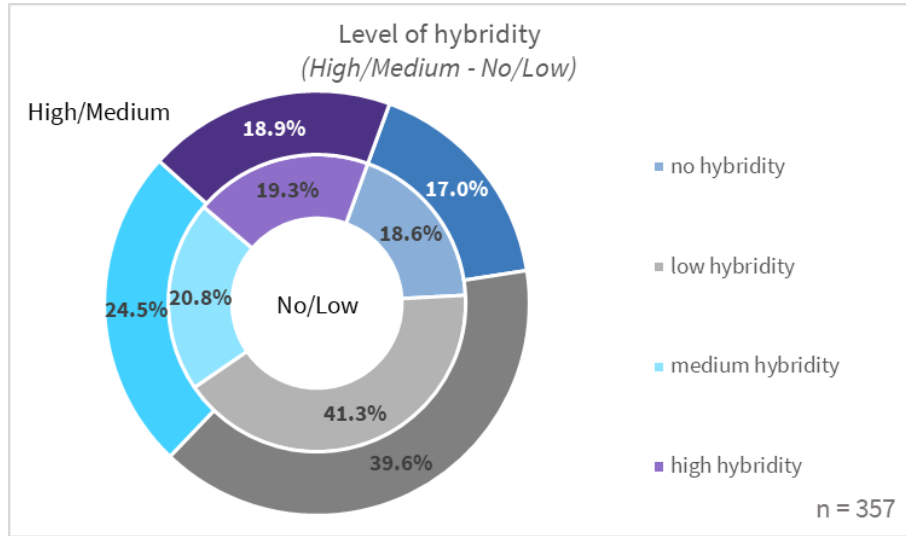


Figure 3: Level of hybridity according to a “High/Medium” – “No/Low” data split

Regions of Europe

Looking at the level of hybridity (Figure 4) across the four European regions, some significant differences can be highlighted. Northern Europe (29.9%) has significantly more cases with moderate hybridity than Western Europe (16.3%). In Southern (25.8%) and Western Europe (21.1%), the proportion of “no hybridity” cases is larger than in the North (7.9%).

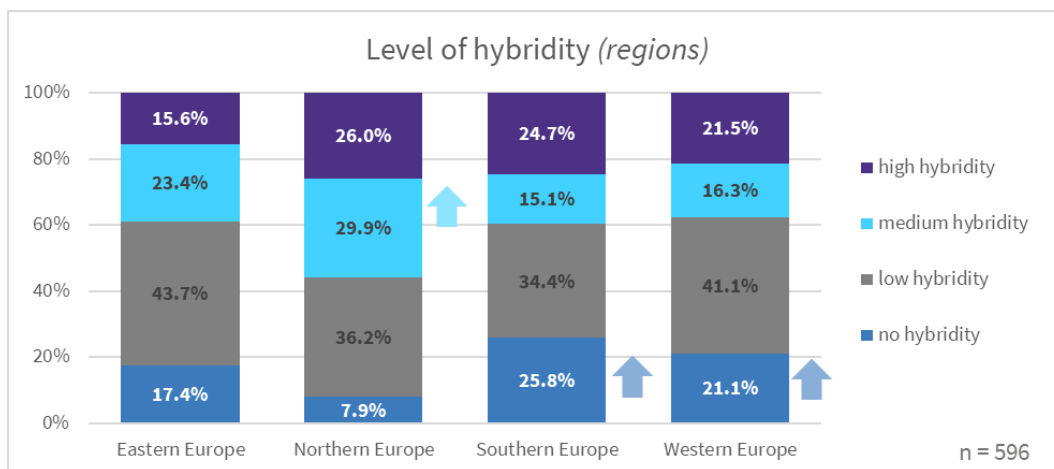


Figure 4: Level of hybridity by region

Part 2: Private and public forms of energy citizenship

Q50. In terms of the form of ENCI it shapes/enables/supports (or shaped/enabled/supported), considering the **private-public distinction**, please select which applies most to this particular case.³

- **Private - individual level** action and change (e.g., individual-level action in the home, individual lifestyle change, low-carbon consumption)
- **Private - household level** action and change (e.g., household-level action, still in the home, including more radical change like prosumerism, energy self-sufficiency)
- **Private/public at organisations** - change and action at organisations
- **Public, smaller scale** - change and action in smaller groups and/or on a smaller scale (e.g. community groups, local shared-ownership and/or renewable energy projects)
- **Public, larger-scale** - change and action at district, settlement level or even larger scale, incl. societal (e.g., low-carbon districts/towns, city-level public consultation, protests, transition towns)

Concerning the issue of the private-public distinction, Figure 5 shows that the largest share of cases is associated with the “public, larger scale” category (41.3%), and a further quarter of them are defined as “public, smaller scale” (26.7%). The private side is less well represented in the sample, with the household at 13.9%, and the individual level at only 6.2%. The proportion of responses related to an organisation was 6.4%, while 5.5% of cases were classified as “other”.

³ 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

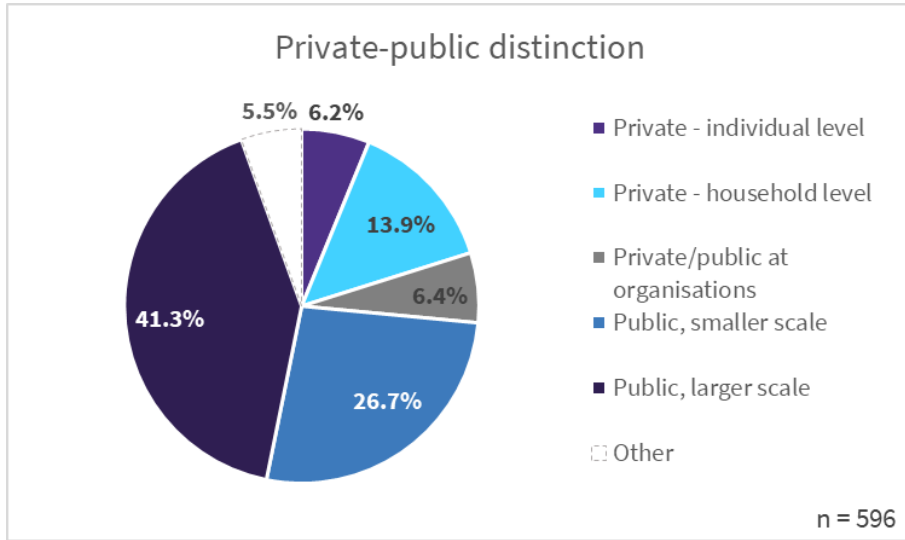


Figure 5: Private-public distinction of ENCI

Figure 6 shows the distribution of cases without the “other” category. This figure is even more illustrative of the fact that most of the cases included in the analysis operate in the public sphere.

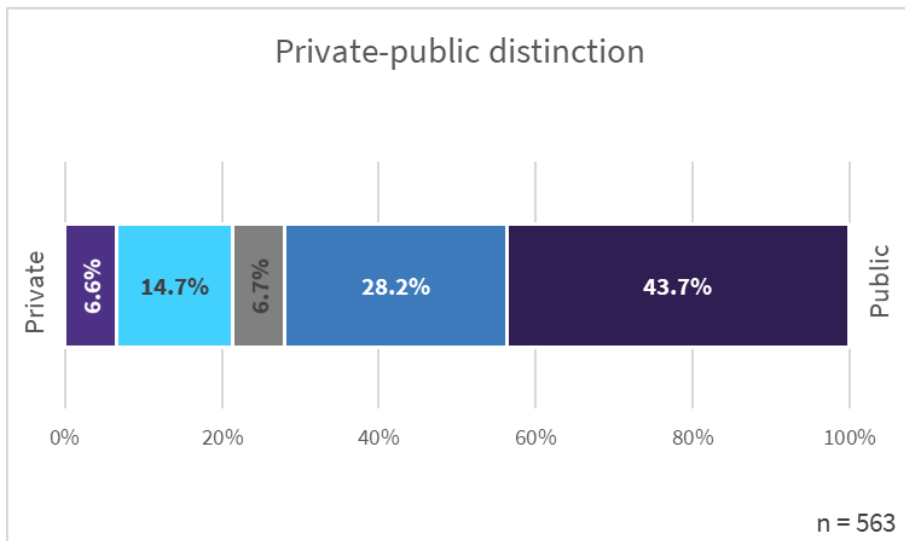


Figure 6: Private-public distinction of ENCI

Reformative and transformative cases

Applying the reformative and transformative case breakdown highlights some significant differences in the private-public distinction. Half of the transformative cases are associated with the public, larger-scale group (50.7%), while the proportion of reformative cases is barely a third (32.7%). On the other hand, the reformative group is associated with a significantly larger proportion of both private, household level (r: 17.8% - t: 10.4%) and organisational cases (r: 8.4% - t: 3.6%).

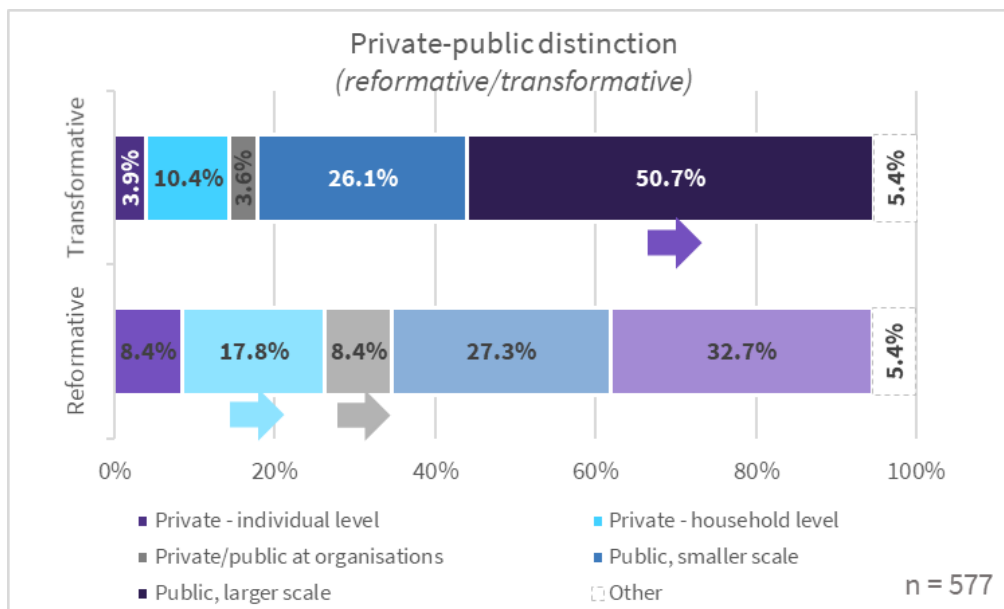


Figure 7: Private-public distinction of ENCI according to a reformative-transformative data split

Looking at the breakdown by aspects of energy citizenship⁴ (“High/Medium” vs. “No/Low”), similar significances can be highlighted. The “High/Medium” group of cases is associated with an even larger proportion of public, larger-scale cases (64.2%) than the “No/Low” group (37.2%). The proportion of private, household-level cases is greater in the “No/Low” group (N/L: 14.5%; H/M: 4.7%), as well at the public, smaller scale level (N/L: 29.7%; H/M: 18.9%).

⁴ For details, please refer to [Part 1 of Factsheet Series](#) that describes the methodology for creating the various data breakdowns.

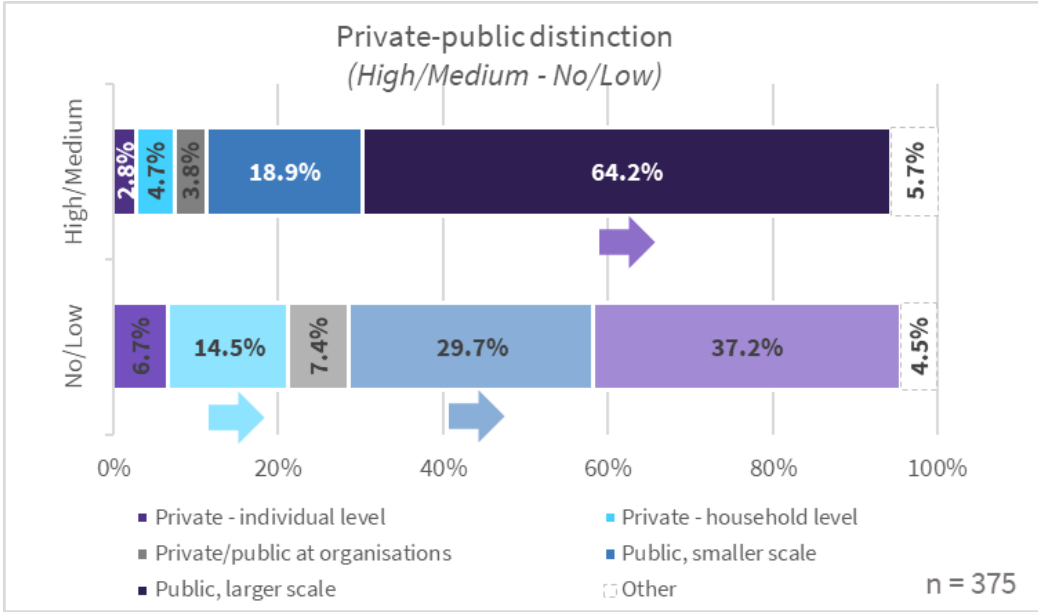


Figure 8: Private-public distinction of ENCI types according to a “High/Medium” – “No/Low” data split

Regions of Europe

Figure 9 shows the breakdown between European regions, where there are few significant differences in the private-public distinction. What can be mentioned is that among the 596 cases that were mapped for the EnergyPROSPECTS database, Southern Europe has a greater proportion of public, smaller-scale cases (35.5%) than Eastern Europe (19.2%), and Northern Europe has a larger proportion of the “other” type of cases (11.8%) than Eastern (3%) and Southern Europe (1.1%).

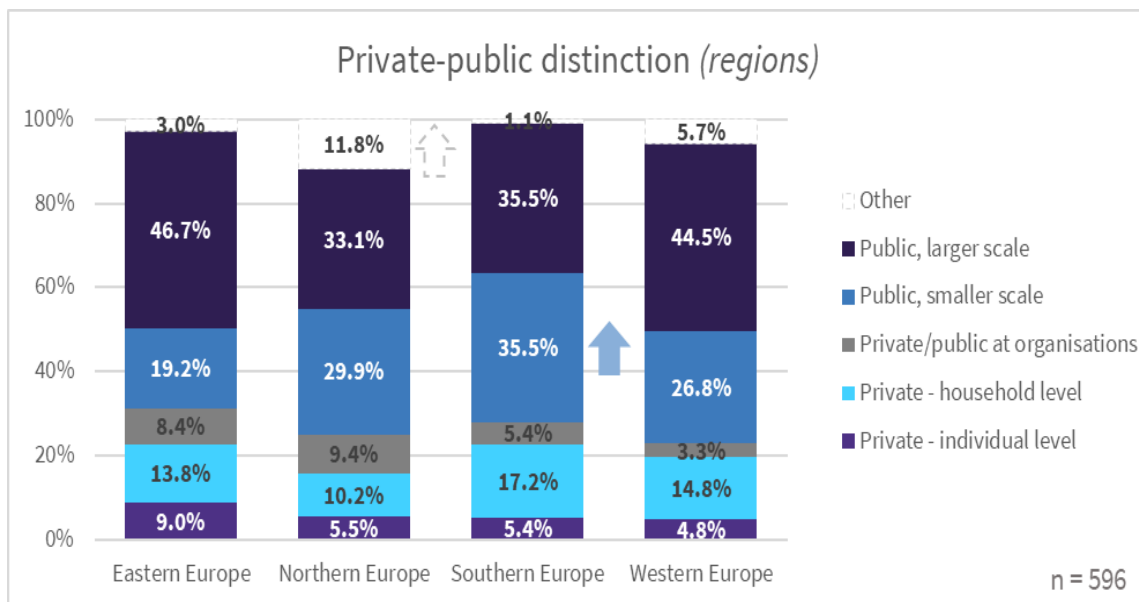


Figure 9: Private-public distinction of ENCI by region

Part 3: More and less active forms of energy citizenship

Q48. In terms of the form of ENCI it shapes/enables/supports (or shaped/enabled/supported), please place the case on a **scale of passive-active** below by moving the slider.⁵

- **PASSIVE:** Consuming energy... not an ENCI yet, but rather a passive consumer of energy due to disempowerment, disillusionment, or disinterest
- **ACTIVE:** Aware, empowered and active: not only changing individually, and joining others, but activating and empowering others and helping others to become active

Responses were collected on a scale of 1 to 100 for this question. Figure 10 illustrates how the cases are distributed according to scaled responses in the active-passive dimension.

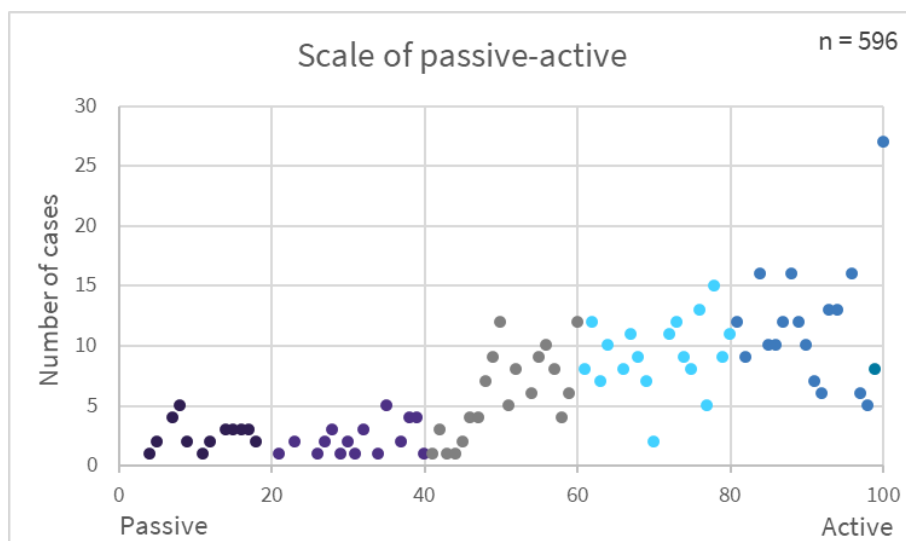


Figure 10: Scale of passive-active forms of ENCI - scaled

The answers were divided into the following five categories: 1-20 “very passive”, 21-40 “passive”, 41-60 “moderately active”, 61-80 “active”, and 81-100 “very active”. The more “passive” a case is, the more it focuses on addressing energy consumption, suggesting that it may not yet be a case of energy citizenship (ENCI) but a passive consumer of energy due to disempowerment, disillusionment, or disinterest. The more active a case is, the more

⁵ 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

aware, empowered and active it is, suggesting that it is not only changing individually and joining others but activating and empowering them and helping them to become active.

Figure 11 shows the categorical distribution in the passive-active dimension. Not surprisingly, due to the nature of the ENCI, the size of the groups decreases from active to passive. The largest proportion of cases is very active (38.8%), followed by the active category (30.2%), then moderately active (20.3%), and finally passive (5.5%) and very passive (5.2%) groups.

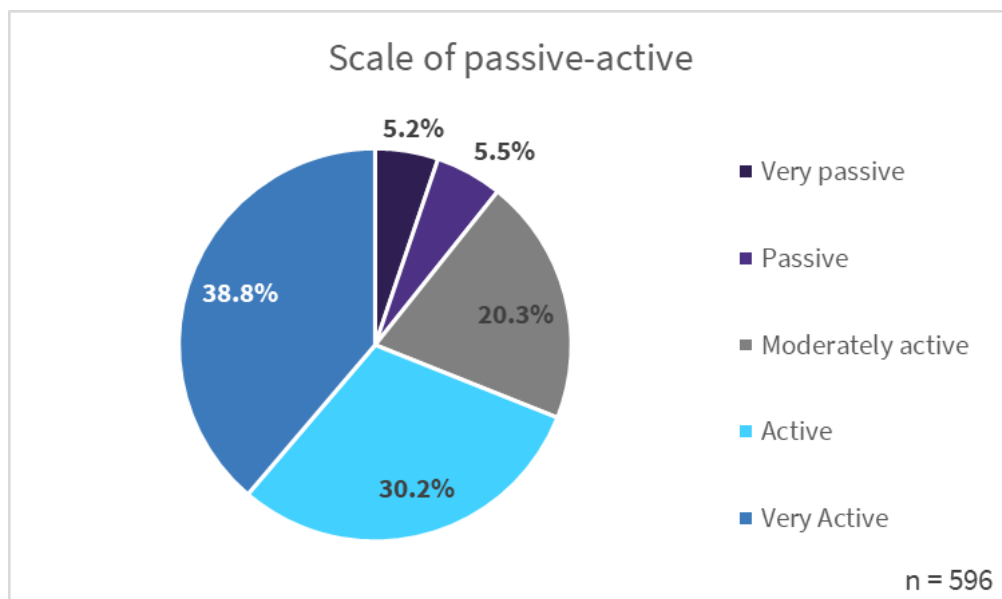


Figure 11: Scale of passive-active forms of ENCI - categorised

Reformative and transformative cases

The expected results are confirmed by the significant differences in the level of activity of the cases according to the transformative vs. reformative breakdown. The proportion of very active cases (61.8%) is prominent in the transformative cases compared to the reformative ones (17.8%). In contrast, the proportions of moderately active (r: 28.6%-t:10.4%), passive (r: 9.8%- t: 1.4%) and very passive (r: 9.7%- t:0.4%) cases are significantly larger in the reformative group.

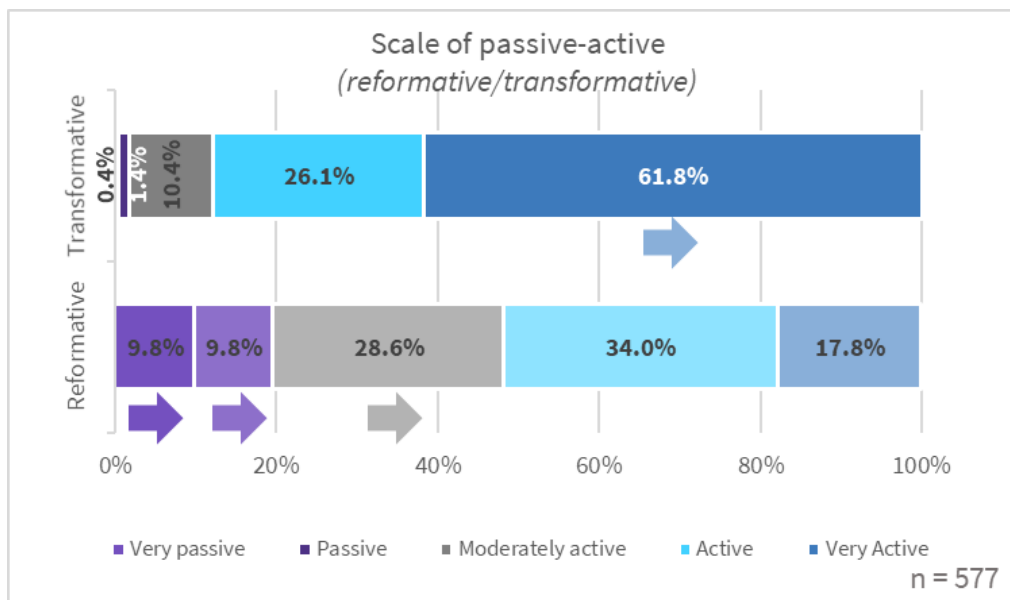


Figure 12: Scale of passive-active forms of ENCI according to a reformative-transformative data split

There are also some significant differences in the “High/Medium” vs. “No/Low” breakdown. The “High/Medium” category (53.8%), also unsurprisingly, is associated with a significantly greater proportion of very active cases compared to the “No/Low” group (29%). In the “No/Low” category, moderately active cases (24.9%) are in the majority compared to the other (15.1%).

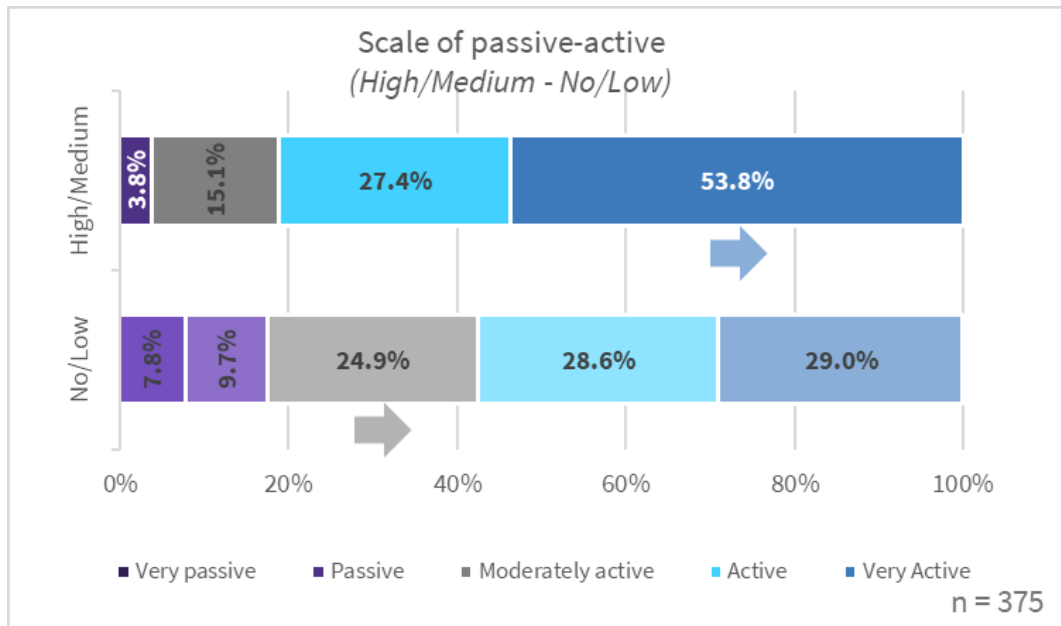


Figure 13: Scale of passive-active forms of ENCI according to a “High/Medium” – “No/Low” data split

Regions of Europe

Regarding the level of passivity and activity of energy citizenship in the mapped cases, the regional breakdown also shows some significant differences. Most strikingly, the proportion of moderately active cases is significantly greater in Northern Europe (33.1%) than in any other region (W: 18.75, E: 16.8%; S: 12.9%). Southern Europe (44.1%) has a larger proportion of very active cases compared to the North (25.2%), and the West (48.8%) also has a larger proportion of very active cases compared to both the North (25.2%) and the East (33.5%). In Eastern Europe, there are significantly more active (38.9%) and also very passive (7.8%) cases compared to in the West (a: 23%; vp: 1.9%).

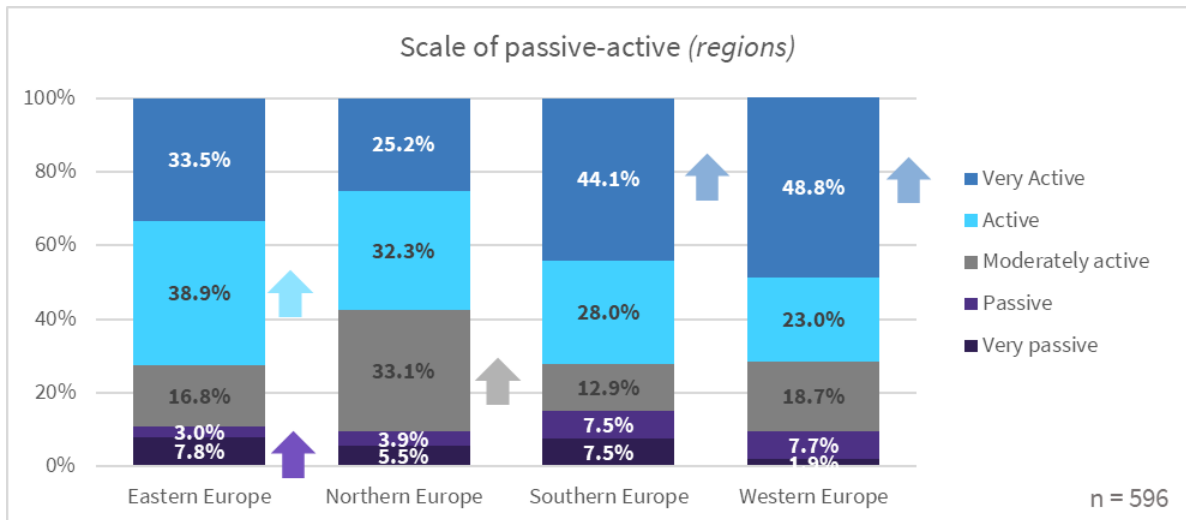


Figure 14: Scale of passive-active forms of ENCI by region

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EnergyPROSPECTS partners

National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway),
University Road, H91 TK33, Galway, Ireland



Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB),
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 50-1050, Bruxelles, Belgium



GreenDependent Institute (GDI),
2100 Gödöllő, Éva u. 4., Hungary



Universiteit Maastricht (UM),
Minderbroedersberg 4-6, 6200 MD, Maastricht, Netherlands



Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund),
Alexander Zhendov Street 5, 1113, Sofia, Bulgaria



Notre Europe – Institut Jacques Delors (JDI),
18, rue de Londres 75009, Paris, France



University of Latvia (UL),
Raiņa bulvāris 19, LV-1586, Riga, Latvia



Technische Universität Berlin (TUB),
Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623, Berlin, Germany



Universidade da Coruña (UDC),
Rúa da Maestranza 9, 15001 A Coruña, Spain

