

**Project acronym:** EnergyPROSPECTS  
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for Energy Citizenship Transformation  
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# EMPOWERMENT TOOLKIT AND KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY

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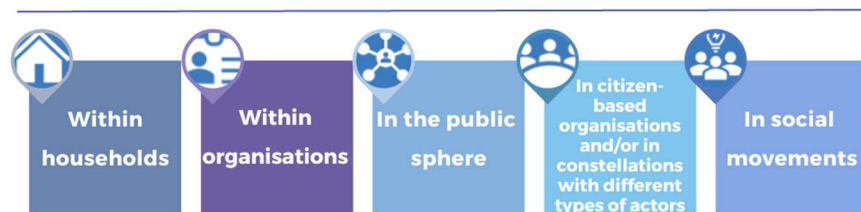
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## Introduction to the ENCI concept: what it entails and why might be relevant for you?

Within the context of the EnergyPROSPECTS project, energy citizenship has been formally defined as

[...] forms of civic involvement that pertain to the development of a more sustainable and democratic energy system. Beyond its manifest forms, energy citizenship (ENCI) also comprises various latent forms: it is an ideal that can be lived up to and realised to varying degrees, according to different framework conditions and states of empowerment ([Pel et al., 2021, p. 4](#))

This concept has been created to assert the significance of active involvement of citizens in energy systems. It is a social construction. It is not something that can simply be observed. Would you be able to count how many energy citizens live on your street or in your apartment block? Probably not, neither would we, but we can consider how citizens, households, and organisations (both public and private) are enacting and practising energy citizenship in different ways. That is precisely our aim by mapping 596 cases of ENCI across Europe ([ENCI Database](#)). These cases cover a highly divergent pool of ENCI (individual agency in household, organisational and public settings, collective agency in citizen and hybrid collectives and social movements).



Energy citizenship is also an emerging set of political ideals that feeds the social construction of the concept. Just as citizenship more generally, it encompasses radical and moderate versions. Across the different interpretations, it refers to

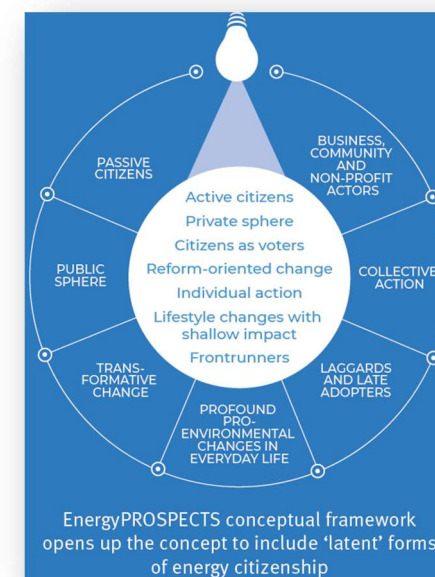
somehow more active, engaged, sustainability-oriented, democratic, or more desirable ways of participating in energy systems. Whilst keeping our eyes open to its less active, empowered, enlightened forms, an analysis has been made of the societal conditions that allow for sustainable, democratic, fair or otherwise desirable forms of ENCI to thrive.

It relates to practices concerning both...



EnergyPROSPECTS opens up the concept of energy citizenship by:

- Examining multiple and heterogeneous manifestations of ENCI across Europe, that set the stage for renewed political decision-making and democratic settings.
- Including multiple 'latent', less visible, forms of ENCI that also form part of the energy transition. These 'manifest', visible and exposed, types of 'active', 'engaged', 'sustainable' or desirable energy citizenship arguably solely unveil a one-sided image of the actual practices enacted across Europe.



More detailed definitions of ENCI are available here

[Synthesis brief No. 1](#)

[D2.1. Conceptual framework](#)