

Energy Citizenship in Europe

EnergyPROSPECTS Factsheet Series

Part 6: Aspects of ENCI II.: Frontrunners and late adopters, pragmatic and transformative ENCI



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Introduction

This document is Part 6 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: Frontrunners, early adopters and laggards

Q63-Q64. In terms of the form of ENCI it shapes/enables/supports (or shaped/enabled/supported), considering the **laggard-frontrunner distinction**, please select which applies most to this particular case – national and European level context.¹

- **frontrunner**: unleashes the change process, starts the innovation, whether technological or social and takes it through the first difficult stage, i.e., pioneers, trend-setters, those who wish to lead and/or have the resources to lead the change process
- **early adopter**: opinion leaders who become enthusiastic about new products/ways of doing things/solutions, etc., share their benefits with others and adopt first
- **early majority**: adopt early, but deliberate, less venturesome and independent than earlier adopters
- **late majority**: only adopt change when there is a strong feeling of being left behind or missing out
- **laggard/late adopter**: traditional, slow to change, not yet in a position to change, or those who are resisting change, or who do not wish to ‘adopt’ and change

The frontrunner-laggard categorisation of cases was evaluated at both the national and the European levels. Figure 1 clearly reveals that the proportion of frontrunner cases at the national level is twice as large as at the European level. Also, the proportion of cases for which there was not enough information to answer this question is much greater at the European level.

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

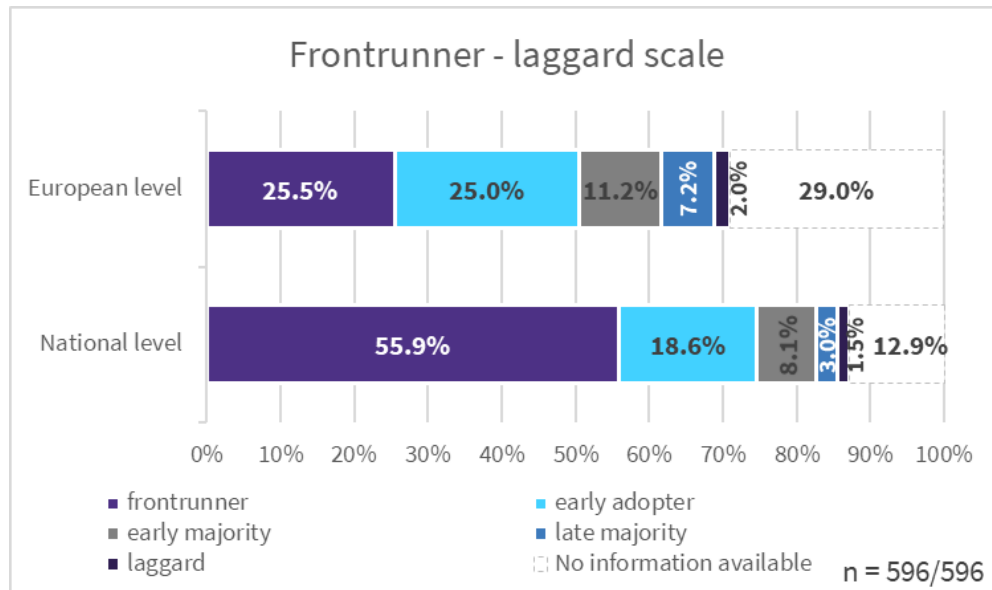


Figure 1: Laggard - frontrunner distinction between the national and European level

The basic characteristics of ENCIs are illustrated by the fact that at the national level, more than half of the cases belong to the frontrunner category (55.9%), with the second largest group being early adopters (18.6%). The third most common response was “no information available” (12.9%).

At the European level, the picture is different, with a lack of information being the most populated category (29%), followed by frontrunners (25.5%) and early adopters (25%), each with a quarter of the total.

Reformative and transformative cases

Figure 2 presents the national-level frontrunner and laggard scales applying a reformative vs. transformative data breakdown, where few significant differences can be highlighted. Among the transformative types, the proportion of frontrunner cases is significantly larger (t: 63.2% - r: 48.5%). Among the reformative cases, late majority (r: 5.4% - t: 0.7%) and laggard (r: 2.7% - t: 0.4%) cases are in the majority.

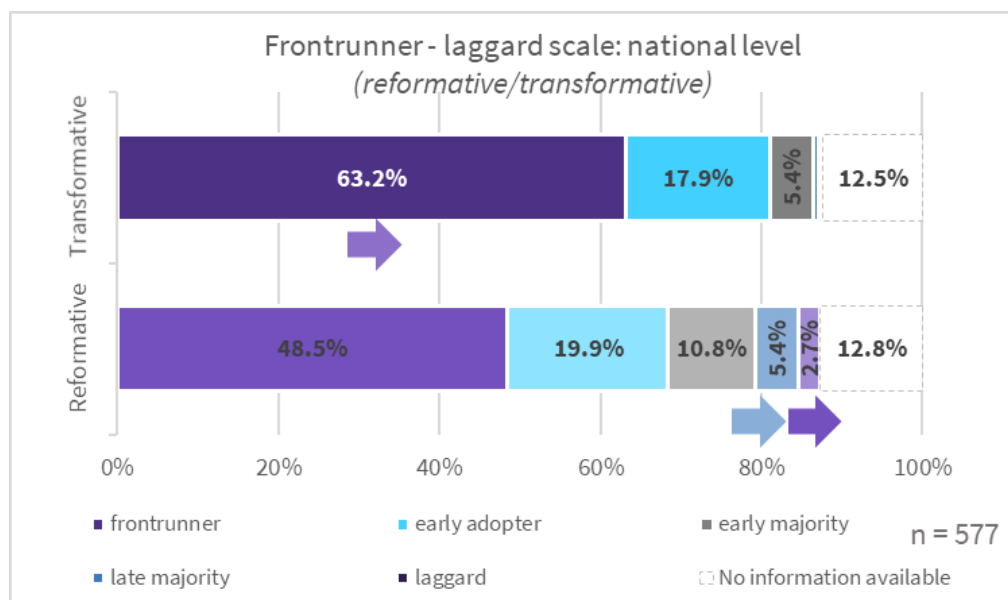


Figure 2: Laggard - frontrunner distinction (national level) according to a reformative - transformative data split

Figure 3 presents the European-level frontrunner and laggard scales applying the reformative vs. transformative data breakdown, where some significant differences can also be highlighted. The transformative group is associated with a larger proportion of frontrunner cases (t: 31.8% - r: 19.5%), while the reformative group is associated with a greater proportion of laggards (r: 3.4%; t: 0.7%).

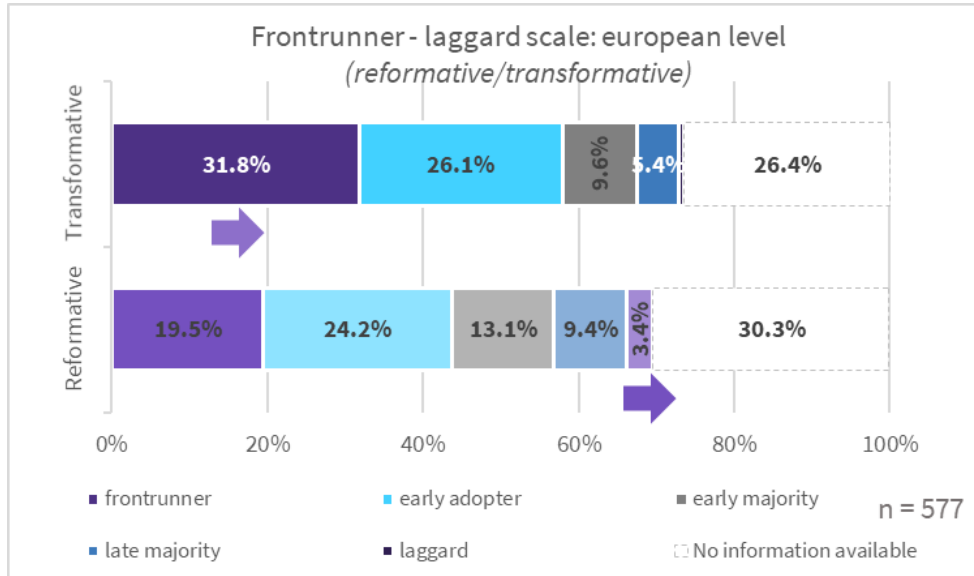


Figure 3: Laggard - frontrunner distinction (European level) according to a reformative - transformative data split

This question was also examined according to the “High/Medium” vs. “No/Low” breakdown, with few significant results at the national level. Figure 4 shows that the “High/Medium” group is associated with a larger proportion of early adopters (H/M: 30.2% - N/L: 16.4%), while the “No/Low” group is associated with a greater share of the early majority (N/L: 11.5% - H/M: 3.8%).

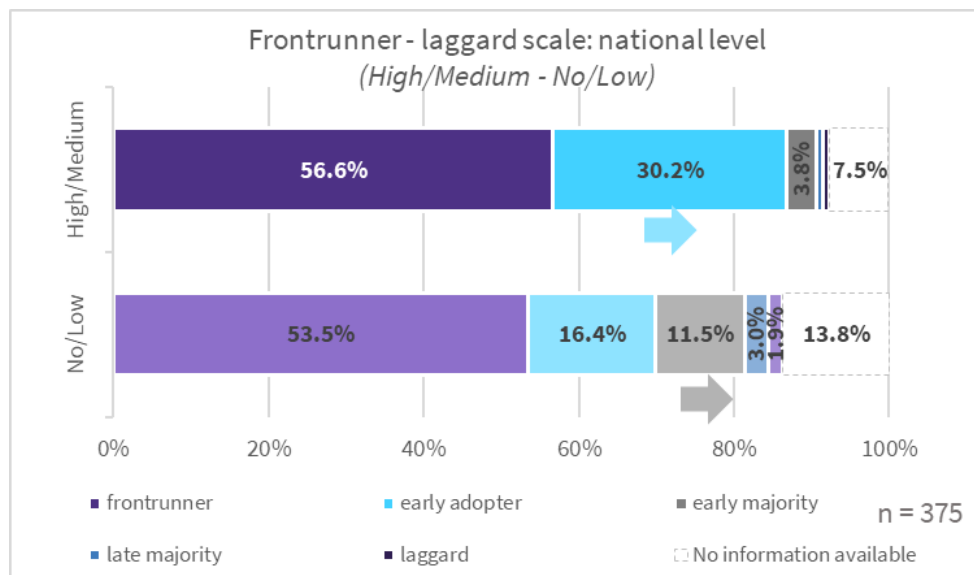


Figure 4: Laggard - frontrunner distinction (national level) according to a “High/Medium” - “No/Low” data split

Figure 5 presents the European-level breakdown of the frontrunner-laggard scale in the “High/Medium” vs. “No/Low” categories. The only significant difference in this regard is

with the category “no information available”, with a larger proportion of the latter in the “No/Low” (32.7%) cases than in “High/Medium” ones (21.7%).

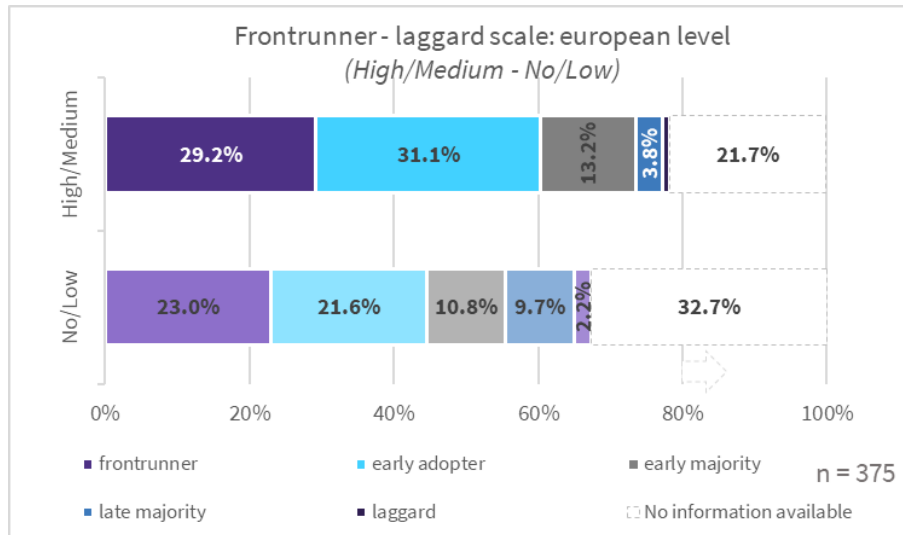


Figure 5: Laggard - frontrunner distinction (European level) according to a “High/Medium” – “No/Low” data split

Regions of Europe

The frontrunner-laggard scale shows several significant differences by region. Figure 6 illustrates the issue at the national level. The proportion of frontrunner cases is larger in the East (70.1%) and North (66.1%) compared to the South (35.5%) and West (47.4%). In contrast, the early majority is better represented in the West (14.4%) than in the East (1.8%) and North (4.7%) and in the South (9.7%) compared to the East (1.8%). The share of late majority cases is larger in the West (5.7%) than in the East (0.6%), and the amount of laggards in the North (6.5%) is larger than in the West (1%). The proportion of undetermined cases is also larger in the North (24.7%) than in the East (9%) and West (10.5%).

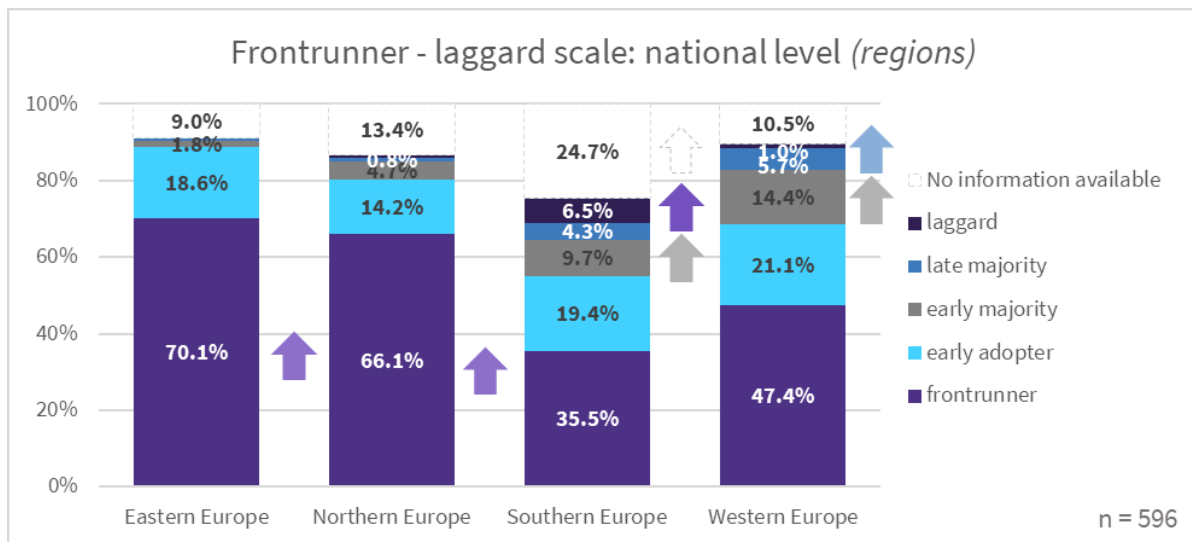


Figure 6: Laggard - frontrunner distinction (national level) by region

Figure 7 illustrates responses to the question at the European level, where some significant differences can also be highlighted. The proportion of frontrunner cases is greater in the West (34%) than in the East (19.2%) and South (18.3%). The share of early adopters is larger in the East (34.1%) than in the North (18.9%) and West (19.6%), and the share of late majority cases (13.8%) is slightly larger than in the West (12.4%). The share of late majority cases (13.8%) is slightly larger than in the West (12.4%). The share of late majority cases (13.8%) is slightly larger than in the West (12.4%). The share of late majority cases (13.8%) is slightly larger than in the West (12.4%). The share of late majority cases (13.8%) is slightly larger than in the West (12.4%).

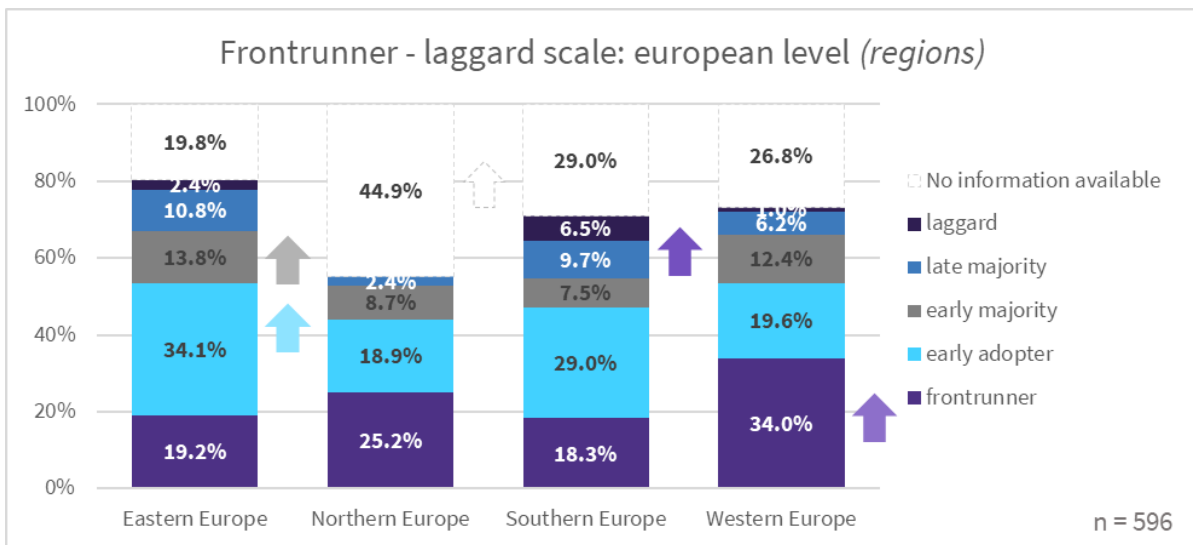


Figure 7: Laggard - frontrunner distinction (European level) by region

Part 2: Pragmatic and transformative change

Q66. In terms of the form of ENCI, it shapes/enables/supports (or shaped/enabled/supported), please place the case on a **scale of pragmatic-transformative change** by moving the slider.²

- **Pragmatic:** pragmatic involvement, often involvement within “concrete projects” or activities, often characterised by pre-occupation with technology and efficiency
- **Transformative:** transformative involvement, embracing broader energy transition goals and climate change, concern with and focus on energy democracy and/or sufficiency

Responses were collected on a scale of 1 to 100 for this question. Figure 8 illustrates how cases are distributed according to scaled responses according to the pragmatic-transformative dimension.

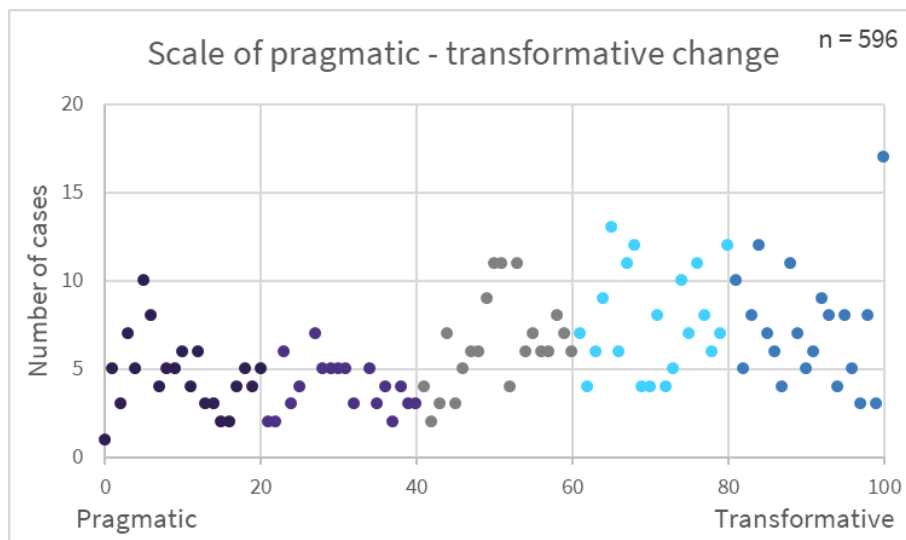


Figure 8: Scale of pragmatic - transformative change - scaled

The answers were divided into the following five categories: 1-20 “very pragmatic”, 21-40 “pragmatic”, 41-60 “moderately transformative”, 61-80 “transformative”, and 81-100 “very transformative”. A case is understood to be more pragmatic if it is more about practical involvement, which typically refers to involvement through concrete projects or activities and is often characterised by a preoccupation with technology and efficiency. A

² 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_31022_Final.pdf

case is defined as more transformative if it is more about transformative involvement, such as embracing broader energy transition goals and climate change and concerned with and focused on promoting energy democracy and/or sufficiency.

Figure 9 shows the categorical distribution according to the pragmatic-transformative dimension. The distribution for this question is more or less even across the whole sample. The greatest proportion of cases are transformative (25.8%), followed by very transformative (24.5%), then moderately transformative (21.5%), very pragmatic (16.3%) and finally pragmatic (11.9%) ones.

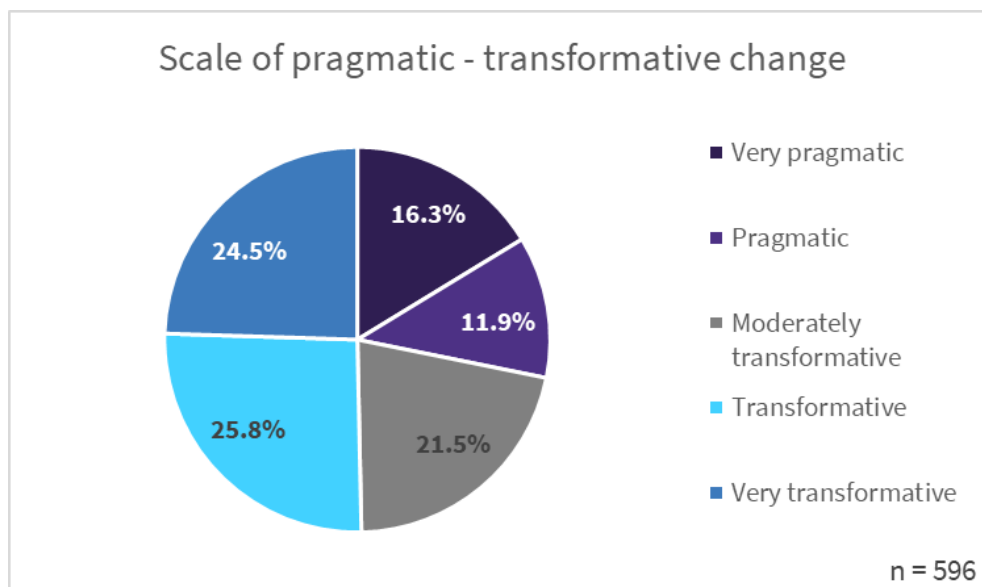


Figure 9: Scale of pragmatic - transformative change - categorised

Reformative and transformative cases

The expected difference is visible according to the transformative vs. reformative breakdown of cases regarding this topic. Among the transformative ones, the proportion of both very transformative (t: 45.4% - r: 6.4%) and transformative (t: 33.6%- r: 18.5%) cases is significantly larger, while among the reformative ones, the proportion of moderately transformative (r: 28.6% - t: 12.5%), pragmatic (r: 18.5%- t: 4.6%) and very pragmatic (r: 27.9% - t: 3.9%) cases is significantly larger.

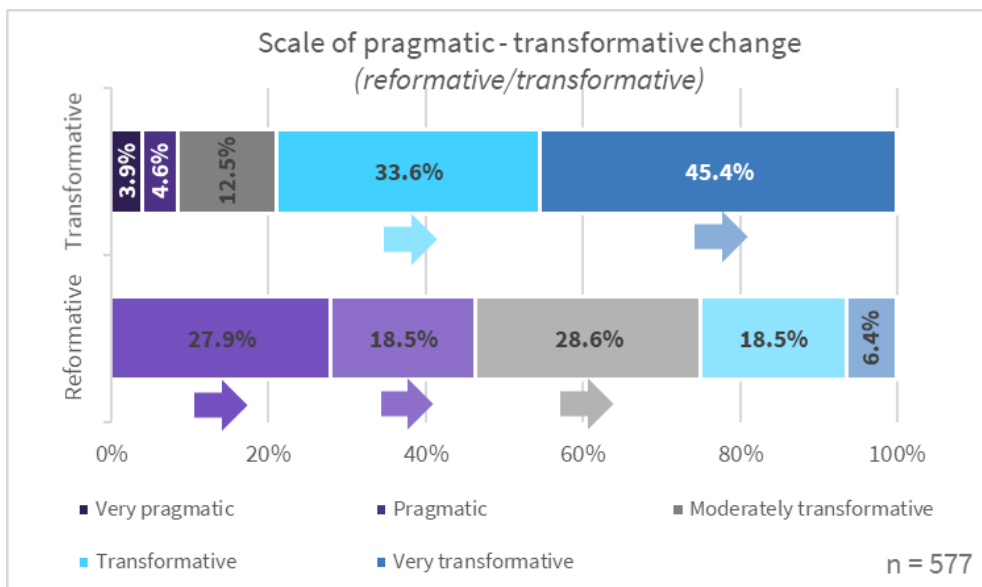


Figure 10: Scale of pragmatic-transformative change according to a reformative-transformative data split

The situation is similar for the “High/Medium” vs. “No/Low” breakdown, although the differences are less striking. Here too, it may be highlighted that the “High/Medium” group (49.1%) is associated with a significantly greater proportion of very transformative cases compared to “No/Low” ones (16.4%). And in the latter group, the proportion of very pragmatic (22.7%) and pragmatic (16.7%) cases is greater than in the other type (vp: 0.9%; p: 3.8%).

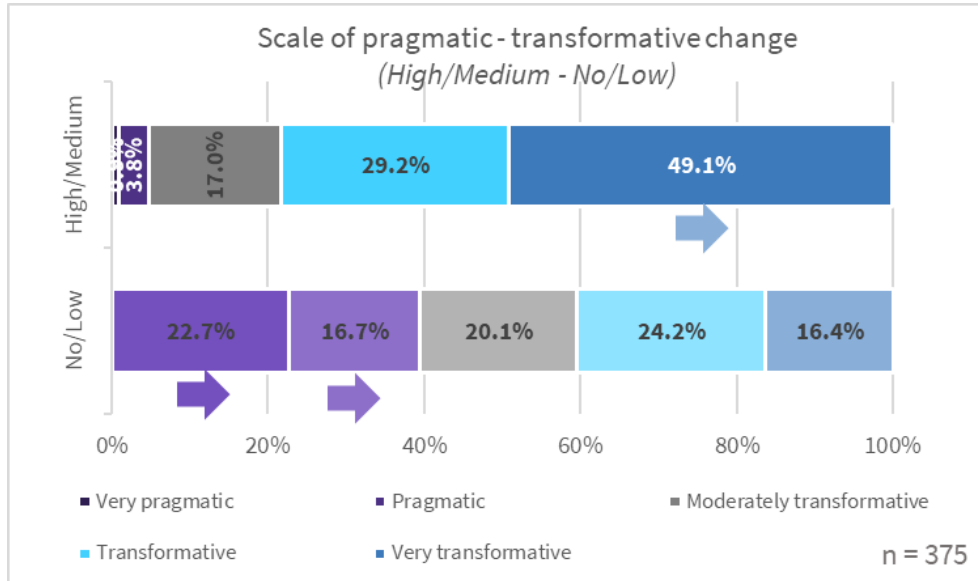


Figure 11: Scale of pragmatic - transformative change according to a “High/Medium” - “No/Low” data split

Regions of Europe

The pragmatic transformative scale was also examined at the level of regions. Figure 12 shows no major differences between regions in this regard, and no significant differences were found in the analysis.

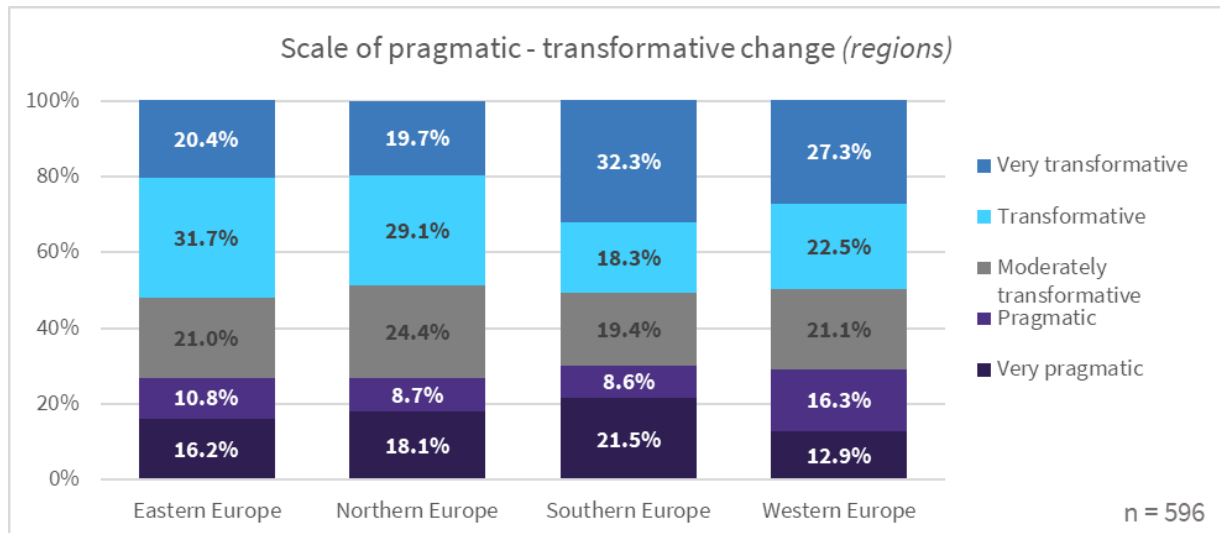


Figure 12: Scale of pragmatic - transformative change by region

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