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ENERGY PROSPECTS

Energy Citizenship in Europe

EnergyPROSPECTS Factsheet Series

Part 7: Aspects of ENCI III.: Towards social sustainability

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For further information about the factsheets, please contact GreenDependent Institute at info@greendependent.org.

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Table of Contents

This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 101022492.

Introduction

This document is Part 7 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, Szőllőssy, 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

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Part 1: Citizen power/control

Q54. In terms of the form of ENCI it shapes/enables/supports (or shaped/enabled/supported) considering ***effective citizen power/ control****, please select which applies most to this particular case.*[1]

- ***No*** *effective voice citizen power/control*
- ***Low****: When expressed (e.g., within "invited" deliberative processes), citizens' voices remain hardly heard or taken into account. Being a minority, citizens' voices do not really count, or in a voting process, the framings tend to limit the possibility of expressing an opinion.*
- ***Medium****: Citizens can express their views, but their voices are not compulsory (within deliberative, representative or consultative processes). Within organised / participative structures, citizens remain a minority group, i.e., unable to impose their views on other groups.*
- ***High****: Citizens are committed to deeply renewing and restructuring the energy system toward a more democratic and sustainable one. Narratives, actions and proposals are part of the contestation of the dominant system and result in critics and protests against energy policies and actions as well as in forms of engagement that aim at fundamental changes (e.g., achieving autonomy).*
- *This is a case of an individual actor, so this is not relevant.*
- *This consideration is not relevant to this case for another reason.*
- *I don't know / not enough information is available about this aspect*

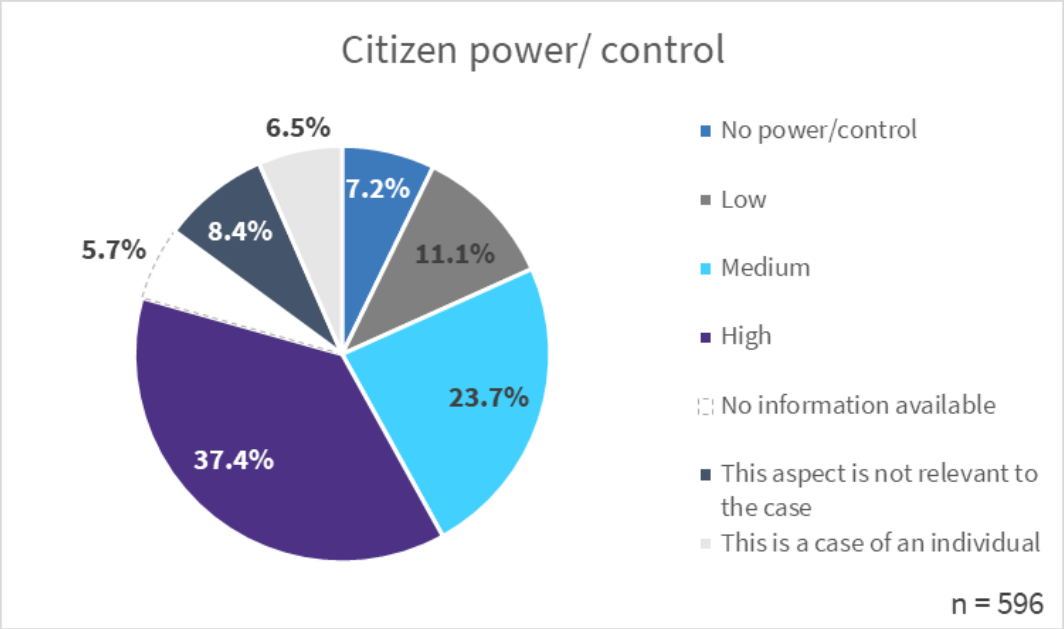

Figure 1: Distribution of mapped cases according to citizen power/control

[1] The questions listed at the beginning of sections are in the form included in the ENCI mapping survey. For the full survey, please consult Vadovics et al., 2022.

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Figure 1 shows the distribution of responses to the question about citizen power/control for the whole database. As could be expected given the focus of the energy citizenship mapping exercise, for the whole database, the largest number of cases could be categorised as "High" in terms of citizen power/control,[2] followed in number by those defined as "Medium". Figure 2 shows the distribution of cases, omitting those for which this aspect could not be assessed.

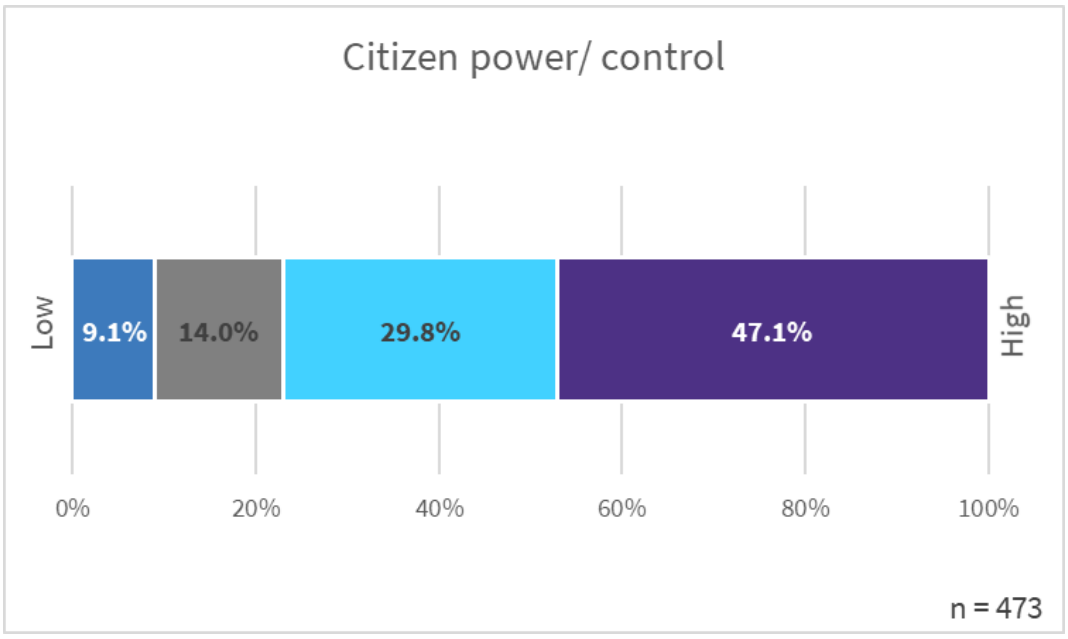

Figure 2: Distribution of mapped cases according to citizen power/control – omitting cases that could not be evaluated from this perspective

[2] Please refer to D2.2 (Debourdeau et al., 2021) for more background details about how citizen power is understood within the EnergyPROSPECTS project.

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Reformative and transformative cases

Figure 3 displays the respective distribution between cases categorised as reformative (Types 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 in the EnergyPROSPECTS conceptual typology) and transformative (Types 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10). It can clearly be seen that those cases considered transformative by the researchers are significantly more likely to be classified as "High" in terms of citizen power than reformative ones. Similarly, they are significantly less likely to be associated with "Low" or No citizen power.

This finding confirms an important distinction between reformative and transformative cases of energy citizenship in terms of citizen power (similarly to environmental sustainability, as shown in Part 8 of the Factsheet Series). At the same time, it also highlights the fact that reformative cases can also be categorised as "High" and transformative as "Low" with regard to citizen power. This illustrates the complex nature of energy citizenship.[3]

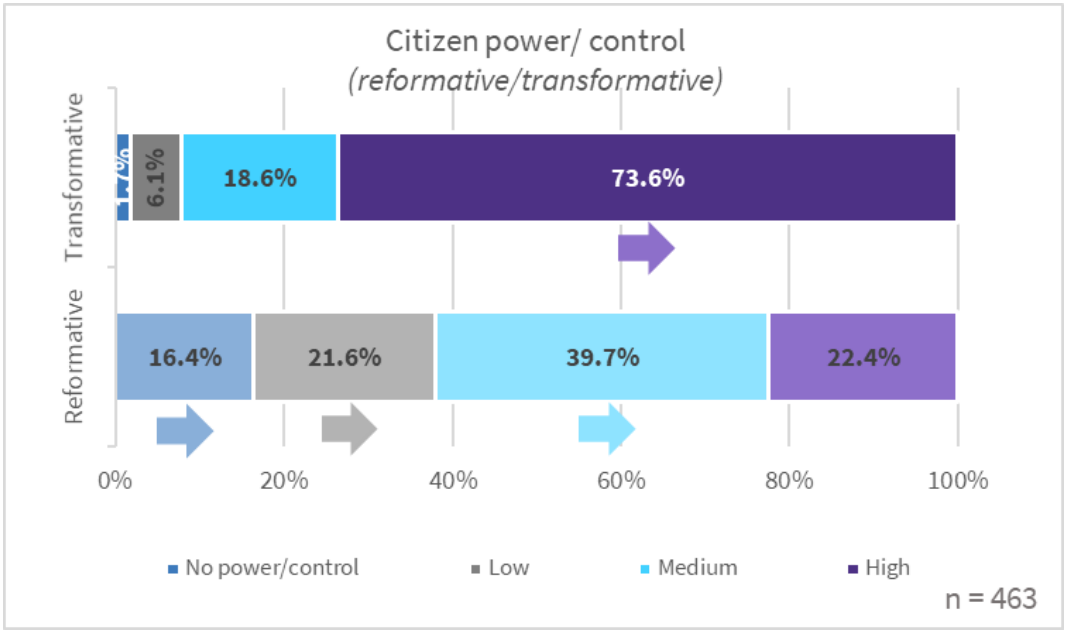

Figure 3: Distribution of reformative and transformative cases according to their approach to citizen power/control

[3] Please see more details on this issue in Debourdeau et al., 2023 and in upcoming project deliverables and papers.

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Figure 4 shows the differing approaches to citizen power/control between cases that were evaluated as “High” or “Medium” vs. “Low” or “No power” concerning all four aspects of energy citizenship used to create this specific form of data breakdown.[4] It can be seen that among the “High/Medium” cases, none have low or no consideration for this aspect. In contrast, in the “Other” group, the proportion of those categorized as “High” and “Medium” is significantly smaller. We can also find cases that do not consider this aspect of energy citizenship.

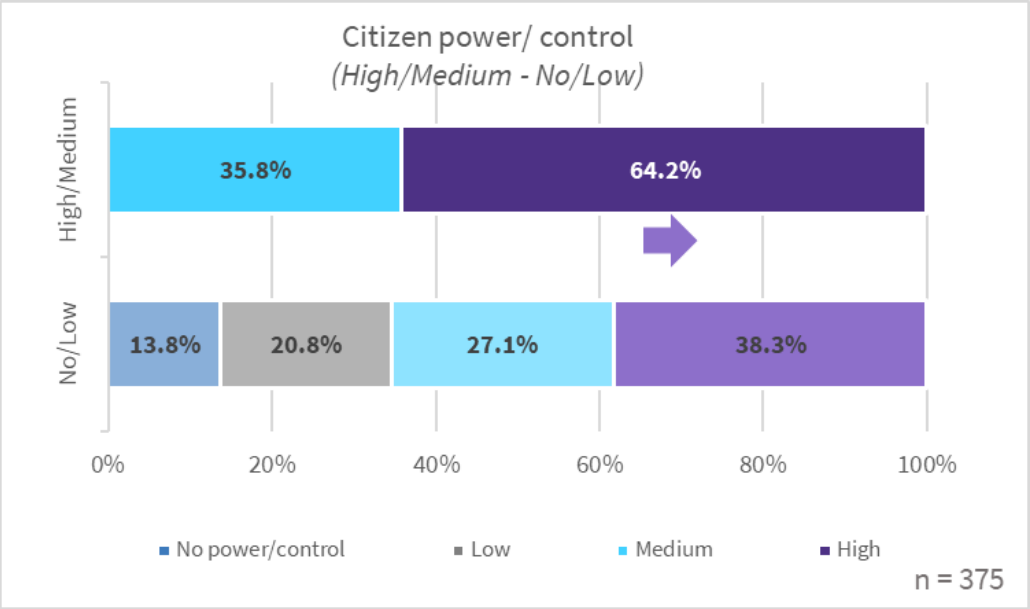

Figure 4: Distribution of “High/Medium” and “No/Low” cases according to their approach to citizen power/control

[4] The four aspects are the following: citizen power/control, equity/justice, environmental sustainability and recognition of carbon limit; see details in Vadovics, Szőllőssy, 2023.

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Regions of Europe

From the point of view of citizen power/control, no significant difference was found between the mapped cases in the different regions of Europe.[5]

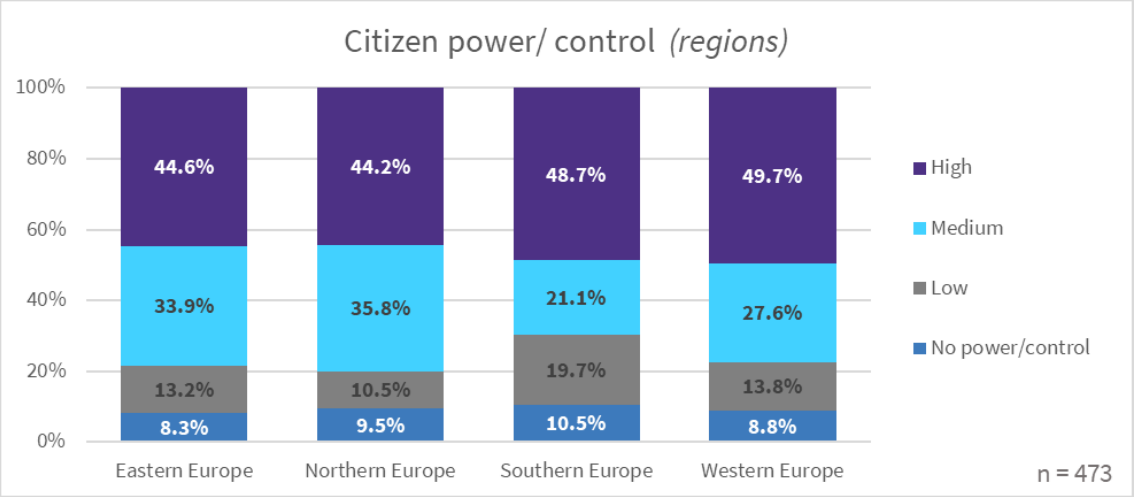

Figure 5: Distribution of cases in different European regions according to their approach to citizen power/control

[5] Please see Vadovics, Szőllőssy, 2023 (Part 1 of the Factsheet Series) for the distribution of researched countries among regions.

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Part 2: Justice and equity

*Q56. In terms of the form of ENCI it shapes/enables/supports (or shaped/enabled/supported) considering energy, mobility or more holistic **justice and equity issues**, please select which applies most to this particular case.*

- *Energy justice/equity is **not considered***
- ***Low**: Justice or equity is essentially outside the scope or restricted to equal access to markets*
- ***Medium**: Equal access is granted to all concerned citizens, but the framings tend to limit them to a certain geographical area or amount of financial contribution that does not guarantee "real" equity*
- ***High**: involvement is fully open, without specific belonging conditions. Issues such as energy poverty, gender and inclusivity are taken into account and foster adaptive measures to guarantee more justice/equity*
- *This is a case of an individual actor, so this is not relevant.*
- *I don't know / not enough information is available about this aspect.*
- *There is another consideration/issue that prevents me from categorizing this case as Low/Medium/High in terms of energy justice and equity (please explain below).*

Regarding justice and equity, considering the whole database (see Figure 6), there is hardly any difference between the number of cases classified as "High" and "Medium" by the case researchers. However, many cases do not (yet) consider justice and equity issues (15.6%). Figure 7 shows the distribution of cases, omitting those that do not consider this aspect for some reason.

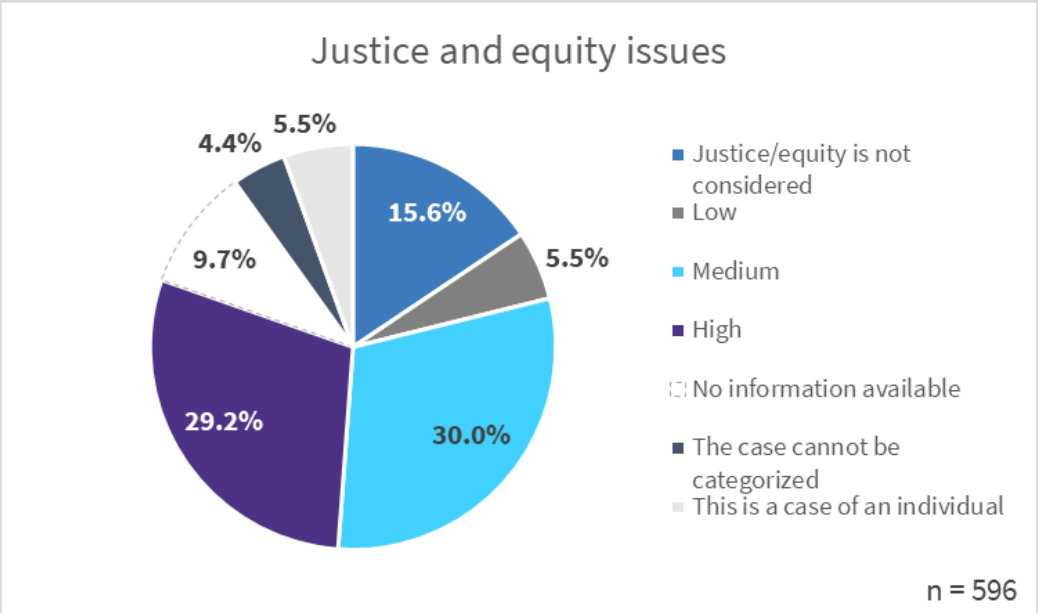

Figure 6: Distribution of mapped cases according to justice and equity issues

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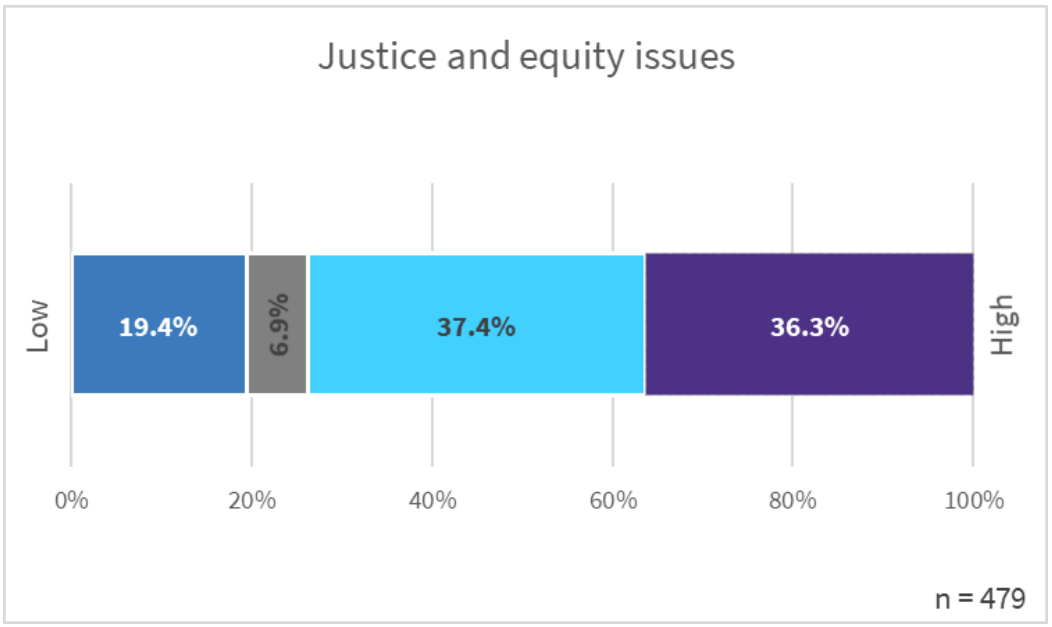

Figure 7: Distribution of mapped cases according to justice and equity issues, omitting cases that could not be evaluated from this perspective

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Reformative and transformative cases

As Figure 8 shows, the number of cases categorized as "High" is significantly greater for transformative cases (51.6%), although some of the reformative cases fall into this category as well (23.5%).

Just like in the case of citizen power/control, regarding justice and equity there is a statistically significant difference at the two ends of the scale between reformative and transformative cases. Furthermore, looking at the distribution of "High/Medium" and "No/Low" cases regarding justice and equity issues in Figure 9, it can again be seen that the cases assessed as "High/Medium" are significantly more likely to be evaluated as "High" for this particular aspect. Again, this confirms that this aspect of energy citizenship – similarly to citizen power/control – is important in delineating the reformative/transformative distinction regarding outcome orientation when using the EnergyPROSPECTS conceptual typology (Debourdeau et al., 2021).

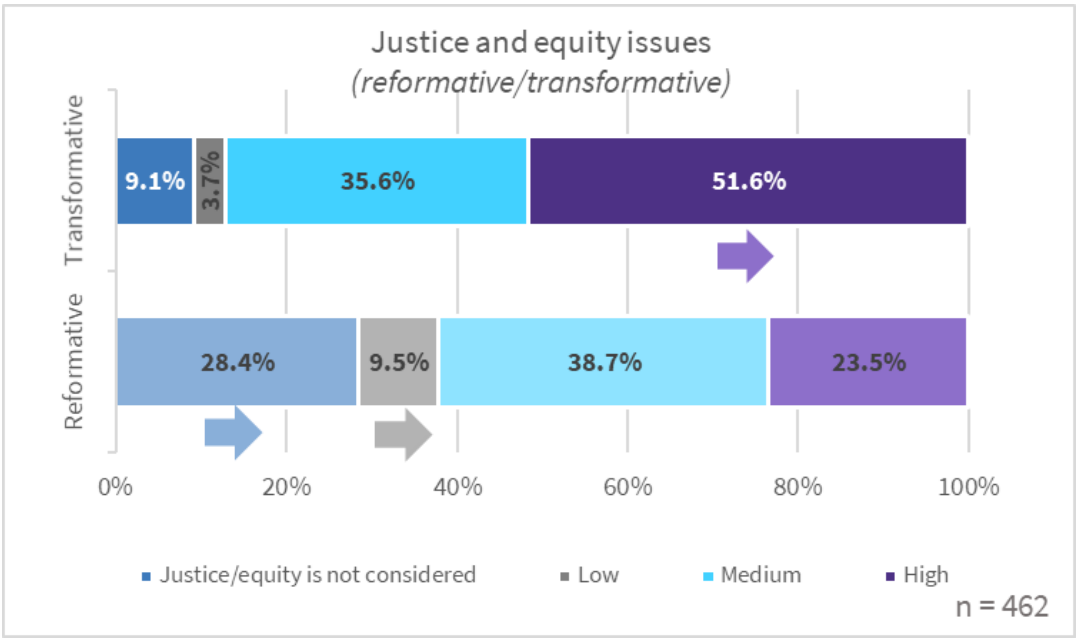

Figure 8: Distribution of reformative and transformative cases according to their approach to justice and equity issues

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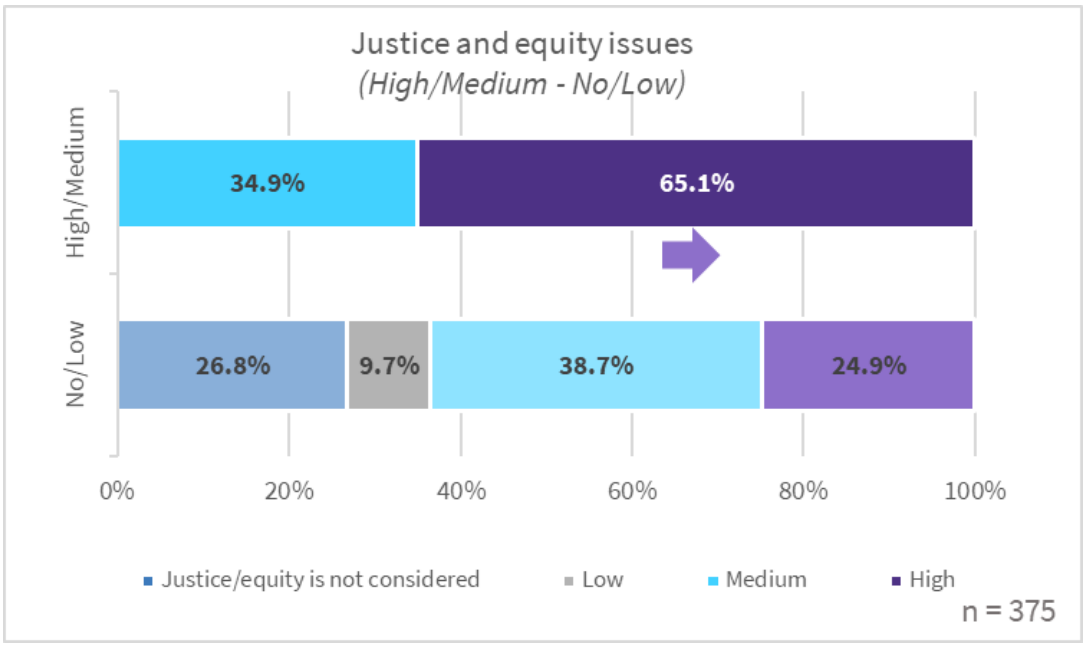

Figure 9: Distribution of "High/Medium" and "No/Low" cases according to their approach to justice and equity issues

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Regions of Europe

From the point of view of equity and justice issues, concerning the 596 cases mapped we found that Eastern, Southern and Western Europe are home to significantly more cases classified as “High” (importance awarded to equity and justice) than Northern Europe. At the same time, in Norther Europe significantly more cases were found to be “Medium” relating to justice and equity issues than Eastern or Western Europe.

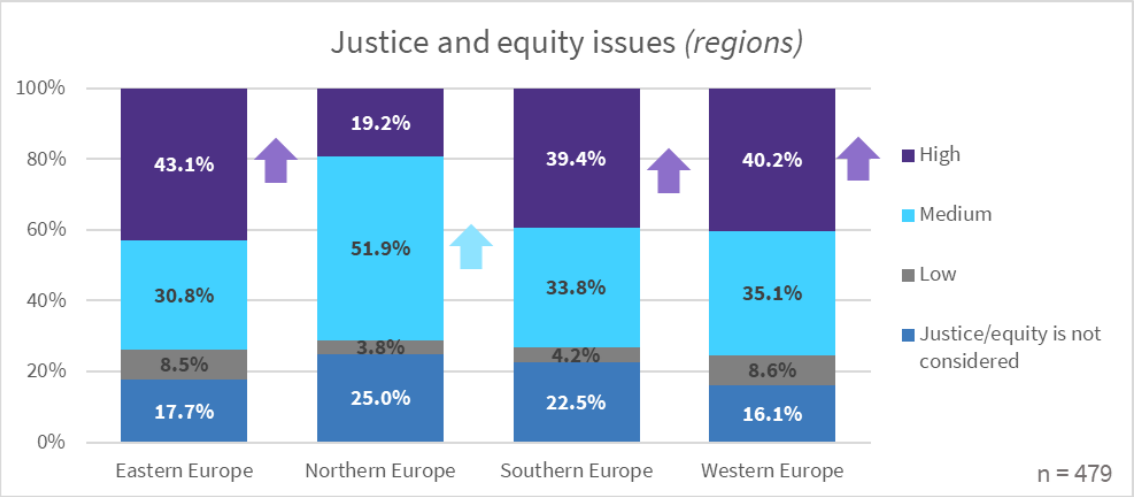

Figure 10: Distribution of cases in different European regions according to their approach to justice and equity issues

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Part 3: Citizen power and Justice/equity

In this part, we look at how the two aspects of energy citizenship related to social sustainability, citizen power/control and justice/equity, are represented in cases in relation to one another. Our assumption is that these two aspects should be relatively similarly represented, and those cases that score "High" on equity/justice should not really be classified as "Not considered" or "Low" on citizen power (see area circled in purple). In other words, the top left cells of the coordinate system below should rather be empty. However, instead, we find cases located there. Similarly, the cells circled in blue should be empty as well, so any cases located there, especially in the two bottom cells, should be examined more closely. They will be studied in more detail in an upcoming project deliverable to shed light on this apparent discrepancy (Vadovics et al., forthcoming).

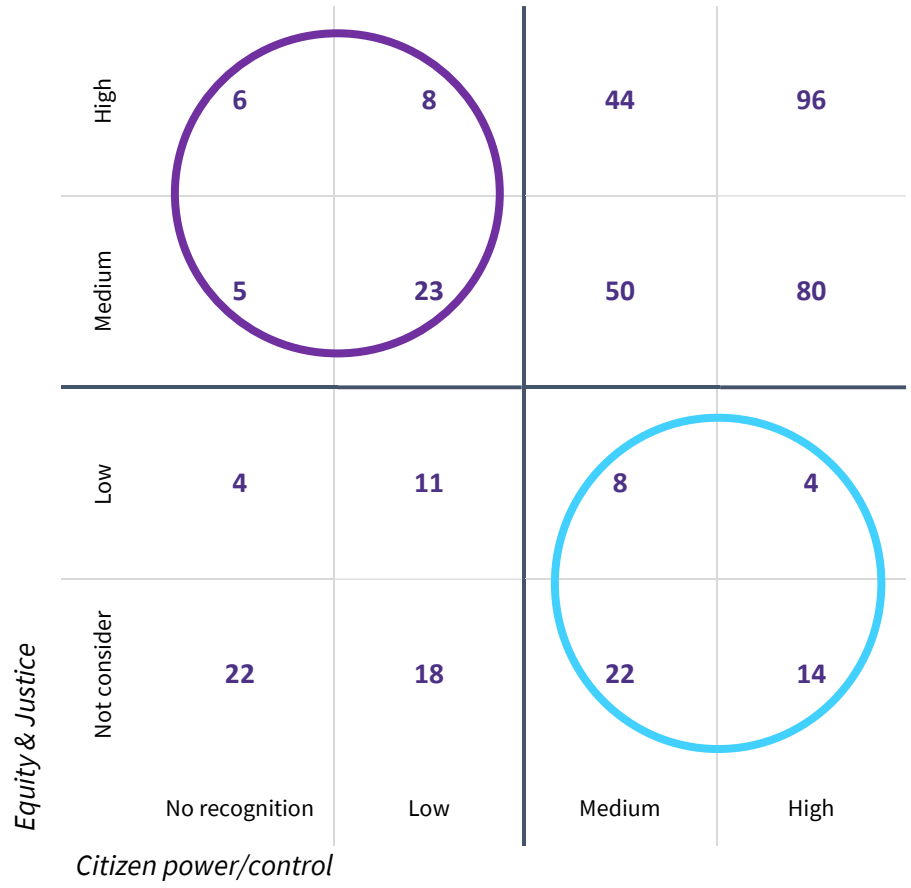

Figure 11: Mapping cases according to their approach to citizen power/control vs. equity/justice

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