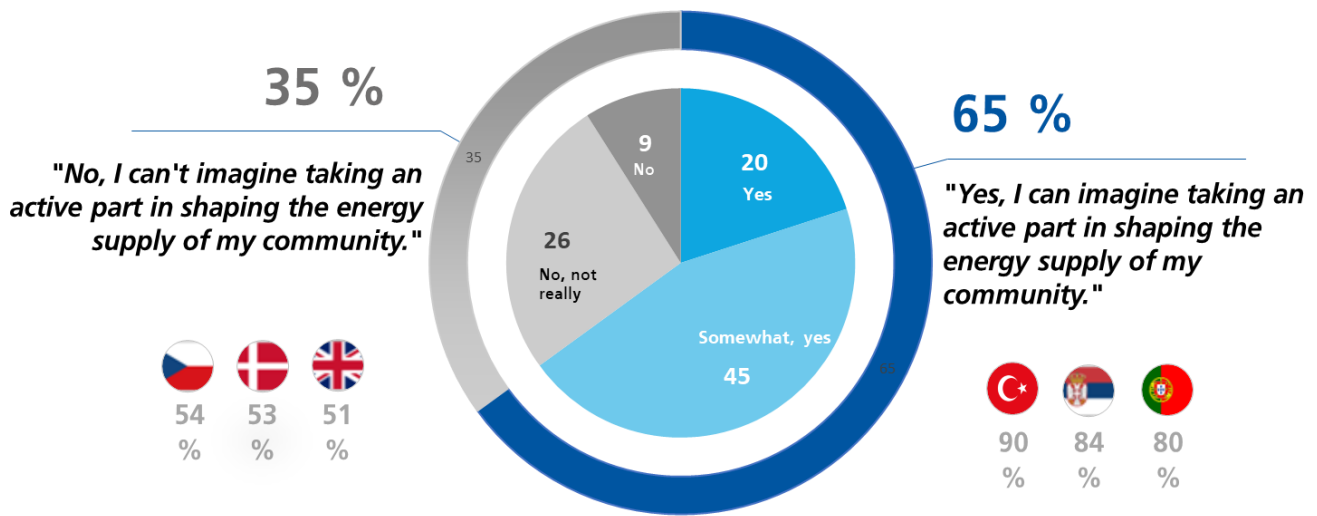


Actively involving citizens, reducing elitist perceptions

Climate policy measures have a direct impact on the everyday lives of citizens. This applies both locally and in the workplace. The results of the FES population survey on socio-ecological transformation in 19 countries show that citizens in Europe and North America want to participate in decision-making and shaping the climate-neutral transition.

Active participation in shaping the energy supply



Source: SINUS, on behalf of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

METHODOLOGY

- Standardised Online Survey in 19 countries from April till July 2023
- Resident population aged from 18 to 69 years
- Total sample size 22.823 people; min. 1.200 per country

The full methodology report and reading examples are available as a download on our website.

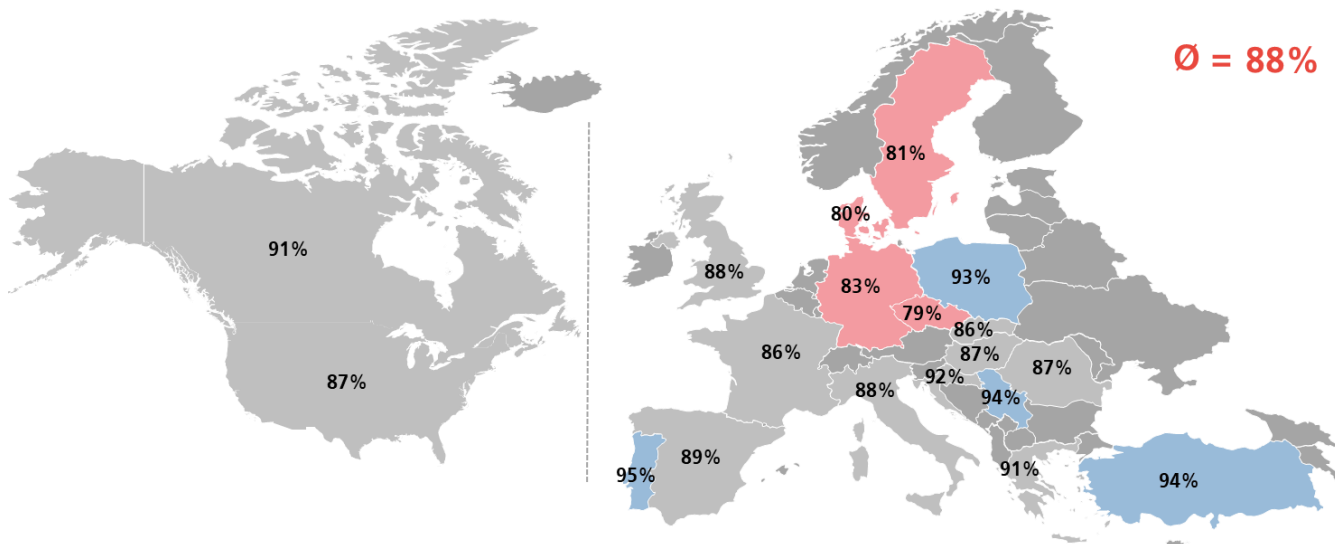
Shaping the common good together

The study shows that 88% of respondents agree that citizens should participate in public and political life (e.g. in citizens' forums, planning forums, etc.) in order to help shape the community. Almost two-thirds of respondents can imagine playing an active role in shaping the energy supply in their own community. These figures are highest in south-eastern Europe and Portugal, and lowest in the Czech Republic (46%) and Denmark (48%), followed by the UK (50%) and Germany (55%). However, the differences in social milieu are also considerable here. Generally said: A high social status correlates with significantly higher approval for these statements.

Further 75% of respondents could imagine generating their own energy and a further 7% already do so. Again, these values are highest in south-eastern Europe and Portugal, and lowest in Poland, the UK, North America, France and Germany. Here too, approval increases with rising individual income. 64% would view the construction of a solar park in their community positively if the resulting profits were to benefit the community. These values are highest in the Balkan countries (73 - 76%) and lowest in the Czech Republic (45%) and France (51%).

When converting the electricity and heat supply to renewable energies such as solar, wind, etc., ... citizens should participate in public and political life (e.g. in citizens' forums, planning advisory boards) in order to help shape the community.

"Fully agree / Somewhat agree"



Source: SINUS, on behalf of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Our study shows that **anger and exhaustion** at the prospect of change are felt much more **strongly by the lower milieus**. This must be addressed politically.
- The **opportunities and benefits** of ecological modernization must be **distributed** in such a way that they can reach majorities. This is possible, for example, by expanding the opportunities for participation - for example through citizens' councils or transformation councils at company level.
- Opportunities and benefits of the **transformation** must also be **felt at the local level**. Citizens can generate their own electricity in a system based on renewable energies, for example, either on their own roofs or through membership in an energy cooperative or energy community.
- The **profits of energy production** could be used **locally** or distributed to the members of energy communities.
- The role of progressive actors is to **ensure** that such **participation models** are also **open** to **financially weaker groups** of the population and are not only used by the upper middle class.
- The lower status milieus in particular need offers that effectively combine social justice, climate protection and the opportunity to use their own skills. This also includes retraining, upskilling and qualification.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung | Department International Cooperation

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 „Climate Crunch Questions“

