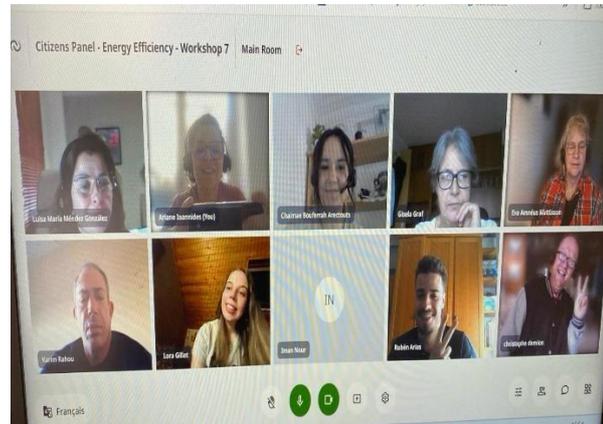




European Citizens' Panel on Energy Efficiency

Summary of Session 2

[15-17 March, 2024]



From obstacles to solutions: Summary of the interactive online session

The second session of the European Citizen’s Panel on Energy Efficiency gathered up to 144 participants from across the EU for a weekend of online debate, hosted within a ‘Hyperfair’ virtual online environment and Interactio.

The objective of the session was to discuss and draft first recommendations on the basis of six key topics identified during Session 1: three sectorial topics (buildings, transports, and energy infrastructure) and three overarching questions (social justice, EU in a global economy, interests of different actors).

As with the first Session, the online session saw citizens divided into 12 sub-groups on the Saturday, with the discussions following the following structure:

- **Brainstorming:** Each group worked on an assigned topic and explored ideas to improve energy efficiency. Through a process guided by experts, the citizens drafted 1-2 draft recommendations each, related to this topic.
- **Development:** After a short break, citizens refined their recommendation and chose an ‘ambassador’ to present their ideas to another working group.
- **Feedback and review:** During the afternoon, each working group was invited to work on another group’s recommendation to comment, complement and elaborate. This meant that groups could work on more than one topic and maximised oversight and feedback.

Session 2 : Day-by-day

DAY 01

Welcoming words by Mechthild Wörsdörfer, Deputy Director-General - Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER): *“The principle of “Energy Efficiency 1st” goes beyond a legal application. This principle must be implemented not only in time of crisis but it must be followed in all sectors at any time.”*

Look back at the contributions on the Citizens' Engagement Platform

The contributions to the platform focused on nine dimensions for greater energy efficiency: awareness, energy retrofit, support and subsidies, mobility, solidarity, heating, store green energy, lightening, green and respectful spaces.

Hearing from experts

Experts from the Knowledge Committee provided feedback and expertise on the content of session 1 in preparation for the discussions that followed.

DAY 02

On Saturday, discussions took place in sub-groups. The virtual format required a few technical adjustments at the start of the day, but gave way to rich discussions and exchanges.

Brainstorming on key topics

Depending on their group, participants discussed three sectors (buildings, transport and energy infrastructure), asking themselves how to make these sectors more energy efficient, as well as more cross-cutting issues (such as social justice, the EU in a global economy and the divergent interests of stakeholders), to develop a complete view of the energy system and its components.

Gather online

At the end of the day, participants were invited to take part in a more social and relaxed event, which enabled them to stay in touch with one another and enjoy a friendly virtual atmosphere.

DAY 03

Two sub-plenaries with 75 participants introduce the final day of this session. The objective was to exchange participants' views on the online session and react on the recommendations. From obstacles to solutions, these sub-plenaries allowed participants to share their personal stories and experiences, what they learned from their group and to further explore the tensions and complexities alongside the exercise of drafting a recommendation.

Meeting in plenary :

Participants were able to observe that even though they had not worked on the same topic or did not have the same entry point for their reflection, there was similarities and challenges between the ideas and solutions brought up on Saturday. By offering nuances from their experiences, the panel was able to expand the participants' perspectives and improve the drafts recommendations that will be finalized during session 3. Some openings questions remain, that will feed the last session of this panel.

Session 2 Agenda

DAY 01	
14:30 - 15:30	Welcoming words and exploring the Hyperfair environment
15:30 - 16:20	Presentation of results from Session 1 and input from the Citizens' Engagement Platform
16:20 - 18:00	Deep dive with the experts of the Knowledge Committee on key topics raised in Session 1
18:00 - 18:30	Looking ahead to Day 2

DAY 02	
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome and brainstorm on topics
11:00 - 12:15	Working phase 1: Drafting a first recommendation on one of the six key topics
13:45 - 16:30	Working phase 2: Improving one recommendation to present to another group Working phase 3: Breaking silos, working on recommendations from another group
16:30 - 17:30	Reflection and social event on the Hyperfair platform

DAY 03	
10:00 - 11:40	Sub-plenaries: discussing the draft recommendations with fellow citizens to gather feedback and questions for Session 3
12:40 - 13:25	Plenary: Feedback from the sub-plenaries and presentation of Sylvain's graphic recording of the weekend discussions
13:25 - 14:00	Evaluation of the weekend and looking ahead to Session 3

[Click here to watch the recording of Friday's plenary session](#)

[Click here to watch the recording of Sunday's plenary session](#)

Expert insights on the 6 key topics

Yves Marignac, Association négaWatt, France: *How does the energy system work? What are the energy sectors concerned?*

Linda Steg, Psychologist: *How is energy efficiency first related to information and behavioural change?*

Claudia Canevari, DG ENER European Commission: *What is the state of the art of current energy efficiency efforts by the EU?*

Arianna Vitali, The Coalition for Energy Savings: *What are the main aspects of regulation and bureaucracy when talking about energy efficiency?*

Camille Defard, Jacques Delors Energy Center: *What are the opportunities and challenges when looking at the question of skills and workforce related to energy efficiency?*

Reinhard Six, Independent consultant on energy efficiency financing: *The “1 million dollar” question: energy efficiency first and finances?*

Two expert views from the plenary

Yves Marignac, Association Négawatt

“The energy system is complex. In order to understand it, we have to analyse and evaluate all its components. Whether we are talking about transport, buildings or energy infrastructure, we have to make sure that everyone is able to make the same changes. It is a question of social justice. We also have to take into consideration the issue of energy dependence. Today, most of the energy used in the EU is imported. We could think about another energy system that would be based on circular and local economy.”

Linda Steg, Professor of Environmental Psychology

“If we put forward the environmental advantages of a behaviour change, people will be more encouraged to act if they are sensibilized to these topics. Information that citizens receive is sometimes not feasible or attractive enough to act on (Ex: isolating homes for tenants, inefficient electric vehicles if unaffordable for citizens). We must remember that equity enhances acceptability of new measures.”

The key figure to remember

30 sub-groups interventions

Throughout the Saturday members of the Knowledge Committee answered questions posed by the working groups via both written answers and some live intervention in sub-groups. These helpful insights provided citizens with additional input to progress on their discussions and related recommendations, provide new perspectives, define key elements, clarify some technical points or access more information on a certain subject.

Q&A with José (72), from Portugal

How do you feel after this online weekend?

"I feel great, listening to the different questions and opinions shared by participants, it is very interesting. This Panel is really a learning process. I found the intervention of the experts very useful to answer our questions and go deeper into the topic raised during discussions. I am happy because I also kept in touch with some citizens that I met during the first session and we were able to discuss again during this weekend."

What are your main outputs of the session?

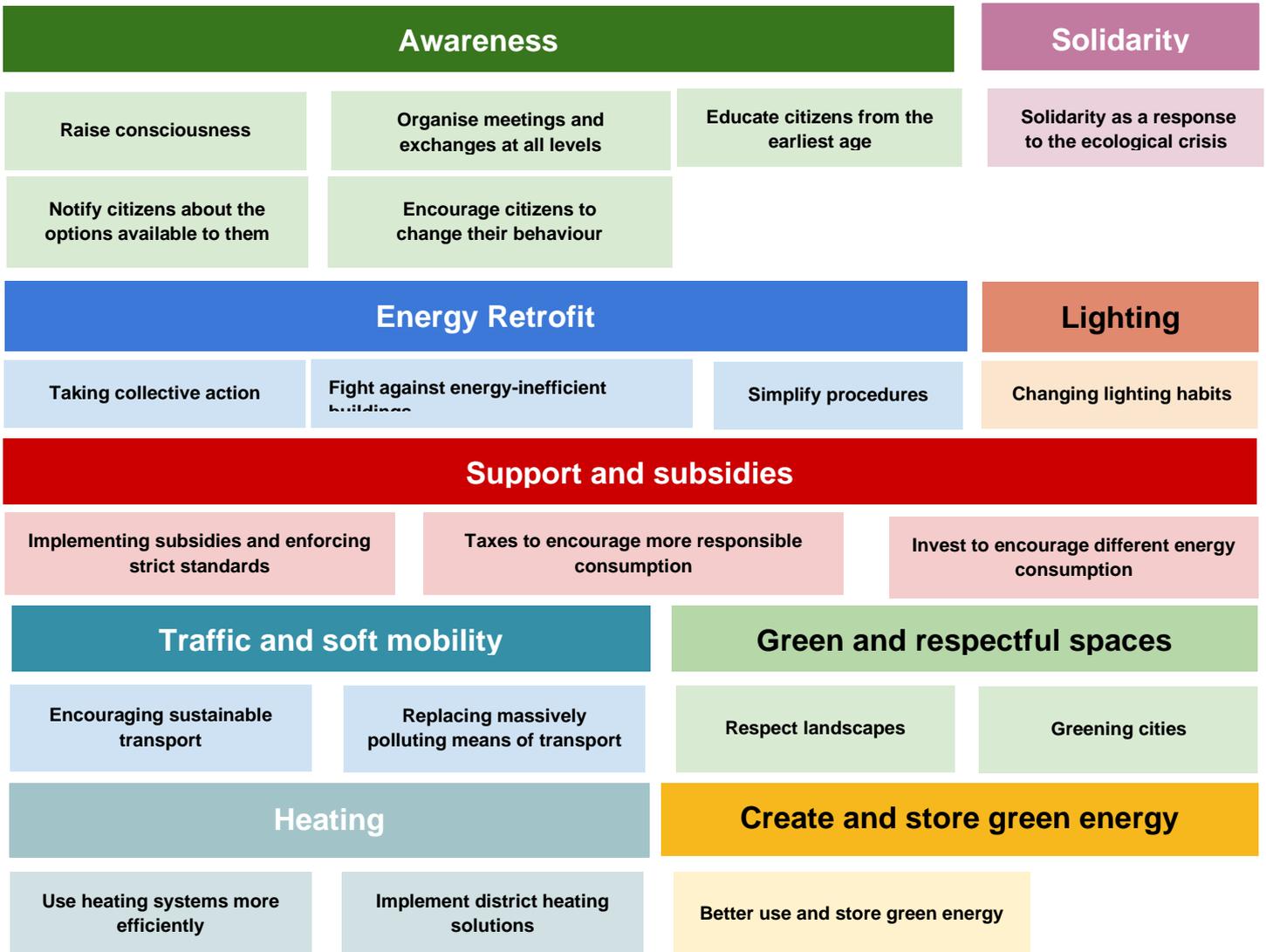
"I was able to compare the differences between EU countries: here in Portugal, there is a huge bureaucracy, it takes a lot of time with long procedures which makes it harder to implement and to invest in renewables energy system, for example. I was able to see how energy communities could work as a solution to ensure energy supply, avoid waste of energy and reduce the cost. I also think students should be sensitised to this topic at school because this is our future, and they should learn about it."

Did you talk about the Panel with people close to you?

"Because I had some technical issues, I asked two of my friends, who are younger than me, to help me and they have been able to learn about energy efficiency, renewable energy, transport, buildings, bureaucracy... We talked about a lot of topics with the Panel. It made me realize how important it is for everyone to be able to access to information about energy efficiency."

Key insights on the Citizens' Engagement Platform

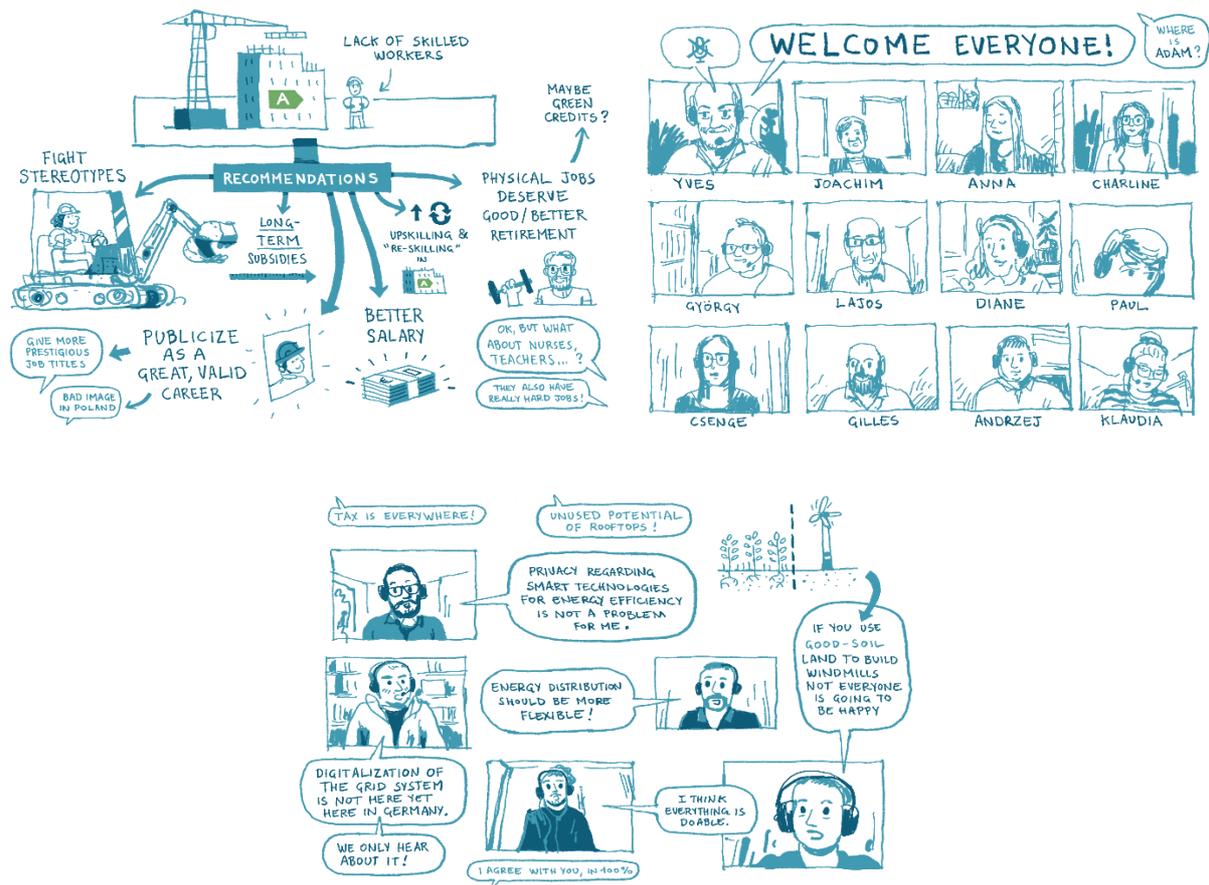
9 dimensions and 20 citizen topics



[Check out the Citizens' Engagement Platform](#)

The weekend as viewed by our graphic recorder, Sylvain Mazas

For Session 2, Sylvain Mazas presented the evolution of discussions with graphics. Below is a glimpse of his work, showcasing how he captured the plenary's proceedings in a visually engaging way, greatly enriching the session's dynamics.



Reminder and objectives of all 3 sessions

Session 1, 23-25 February 2024: Citizens' experiences with energy efficiency and their understanding of the main challenges for the entire energy system.

Session 2, 15-17 March 2024: Focus on going from challenges to solutions and draft recommendations.

Session 3, 12-14 April 2024: Consolidating, debating and endorsing recommendations.