

ECP Energy Efficiency, Session 1

Obstacles, enablers and their justifications identified during working groups

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Group1

Obstacles	Enablers
No adequate/affordable public transport alternatives to private cars or planes.	More financial support at EU, member states and local level for the expansion and operation of public transport network. Justification: Increase taxes on (short haul) flights and use the extra income to strengthen the public transport network.
Often financial and economic interests take priority in energy efficiency.	It is important to have neutral approaches to achieve energy efficiency.
Too many (bureaucratic) obstacles to make processes efficient.	In terms of public support to energy efficiency, bureaucracy-reduction measures must be implemented together with strict funding control measures, i.e., ensure funding is used for its intended purposes.

Group 2

Obstacles	Enablers
Insufficient financing. Justification: lack of incentives, incentives in some countries are too low.	
Excess of bureaucracy. Justification: the number of documents you must go through does not incentive energy efficiency investments, lack of communication to get clarification of documents, waste of personal time.	

Lack of information. Justification: lack of clear information, lack of accessibility to information (sometimes all digitalized, sometimes not at all), unclarity of where to go.

Group 3

Obstacles	Enablers
<p>Lack of Infrastructure: One significant obstacle to achieving energy efficiency is outdated or inexistent infrastructures necessary for energy transportation. In many regions, outdated infrastructure presents challenges in efficiently transmitting electricity from power plants and wind parks to end-users, resulting in energy losses and decreased efficiency. Justification: Lack of sufficient and modernized energy infrastructure prevents efficient energy transmission.</p>	<p>Public actors and private actors: investing in new infrastructures, research and development via joint partnerships leading to the modernization of infrastructures.</p>
<p>Lack of information and awareness: on subsidies; benefits of energy efficiency projects; allowing citizens, industry, companies to make more energy efficient changes in their daily routines / projects. Justification: Information and awareness equip citizens, businesses, industry, etc., to make the informed decisions; In addition to information governments should ensure transparency about sector developments</p>	<p>Media, authorities, schools, energy providers, municipalities; non-governmental actors and associations: raising awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency and the tools used to achieve corresponding objectives; encouraging the use of energy efficient appliances, using more user-friendly labels, and making energy efficient technology more accessible.</p>
<p>Lack of adequate policy and regulation: Inadequate or inconsistent policies and regulations can hinder energy efficiency efforts. The lack of clear mandates or enforcement mechanisms may fail to incentivize businesses, industry, and individuals to invest in energy-efficient technologies and practices. Justification: here is a discrepancy in standards and regulations between EU member states; the system will be more successful in their efforts if they adopt harmonized energy efficiency measures.</p>	<p>EU Member States, EU institutions; Enforcement agencies: harmonization of standards and regulations as well as building more integrated and interconnected infrastructures on EU level.</p>

Group 4

Obstacles	Enablers
Bureaucracy. Justification: Too complex and timely bureaucratic procedures de-incentivize citizens and businesses to implement energy efficiency measures. Also, usually it is difficult and takes a long time to submit applications for subsidies (e.g., for the installation of a photovoltaic system).	Reducing bureaucracy through European standards/ concrete time frame for the implementation of projects.
Tenants' dependence on property owners. Justification: Tenants have little influence with regards to energy efficiency in their homes, because they are not the once responsible for implementing energy efficiency measures there, e.g., better insulation, investment in better windows, etc. At the same time, they bear the higher energy costs. As landlords do not bear these costs, they have no incentive to take energy efficiency measures.	Education and information: The younger generation in particular should learn to behave in an energy-efficient manner at an early age. This plays a role at school, but also at home/ in their upbringing. There should e.g., be discussions about energy efficiency with children in school.
Subsidies are paid out too late. Justification: Different countries offer different possibilities for getting subsidies for energy-efficient measures.	Better training for skilled workers.

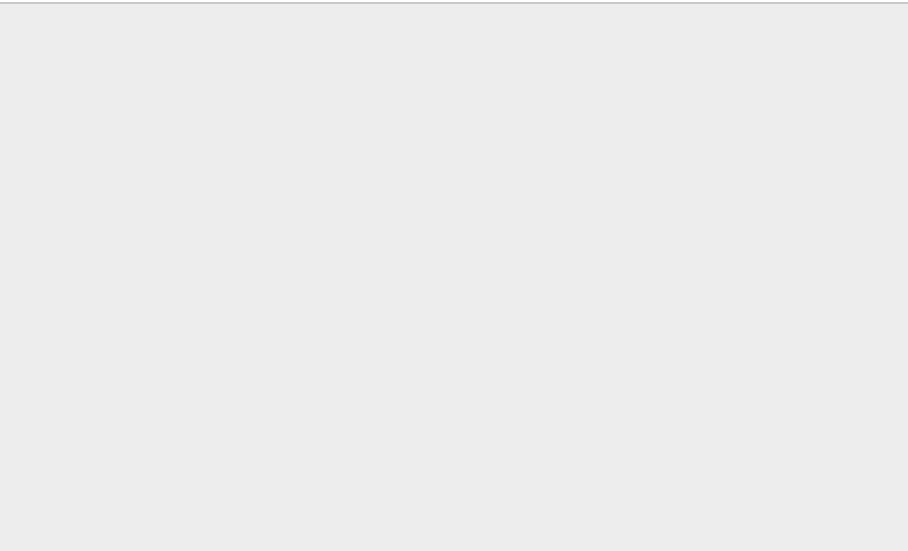
Group 5

Obstacles	Enablers
Financial and budget concerns for consumers. Justification: If we want to get the result that we want we need to make sure that the prices are affordable and if the prices are affordable if people want to do something, the prices need to change for the change to take place. Does it have to be affordable to everyone? When we talk about being fair, part of that is to make sure to my own means, if I own 5 buildings, I should make a certain choice as a manager, so I can make the necessary investment, to become more efficient.	Education; Young generations learning better habits; Knowledge sharing and EU being a point of reference to share knowledge.

Redistribution of means. When it comes to affordability, when it comes to make it affordable for the everyday consumer, the lower wage earners, you need to make sure to have more impact on them, it is about to make appliances and electricity more affordable, budgeting there are two layers, and the local/national governments choose to use the budget and the allocation of the EU money. The EU budget should be better measured, if we are going to work together it needs to be considered. Proportionality of the investments. The EU is not capable of defining a common market of energy, the common access of energy and there is not a common vision. Insulating your house and improving it, where you do not have to do major renewals, much more straightforward solutions, smart home solutions when you are building the house for the first time.

Technological limitations; Energy stock and recycling. Justification: Lots of energy that gets lost, and we do not know where, for that reason, it is super important to solve the questions with the storing. If we solve the questions with the electric grid, the technology cannot be widely distributed between all the Member States and the means to do so, it is very much important.

Geopolitical dependance + Shareholders of energy companies third countries. Justification: Portuguese distributor is hold mostly by China, that is a problem. Golden/natural hydrogen, in Africa, another geopolitical situation, as it happened with other countries due to the rare raw materials, to not follow the same path, since it might be an intermediate solution for the transition. Above all, it is over all the others because if the geopolitical situation does not allow for a proper distribution of goods, we cannot have local and budgetary impact. EU might solve the question of recycling, but we are putting the trash in Indonesia and other countries. The EU



Energy communities and better allocation and control of national and local budget.

Emergent energies, like the golden hydrogen.

should be at fore front, and we should trade knowledge with African, Middle East, South America, we should promote trade. If we want to be more efficient, we should cut "ties" with other countries, if we want to focus on productivity we should engage with the other countries.

Group 6

Obstacles	Enablers
<p>The differences between rural and urban areas, in terms of infrastructures and services is top 1 obstacles for the participants. Justification: Since the rural and urban areas does not have the same infrastructures and services, we need to think about how people, wherever the live can be more energy efficient and how the different public authorities can facilitate their access to energy efficient public transport, amenities, or information. For example, having public transports that are energy efficient allows to use less cars and reduce the consumption of the transport sector. The offer can lead to behavioral changes, therefore, if we want to assure an accessible and just implementation of the directive of energy efficiency, we need to put the differences between rural and urban areas as a top obstacles to tackle.</p> <p>Member States are free to choose where they make investments and where they make changes, so if they choose to make changes to urban areas, there will never be a change in rural areas.</p>	
<p>Being energy efficient can be too expensive for a consumer the cost when it comes to buying something more energy efficient (affordability). Justification: The cost to be more efficient is currently very high, the consumer needs to buy the latest</p>	

<p>technology. There is a need for incentives and subventions to help behavioral changes and to facilitate the access to energy efficient technology at a fair price for everyone. Furthermore, the cost associated with infrastructural improvement of the production and distribution sector can trickle down to the consumer who will have to pay higher taxes. Therefore, we must make sure that Energy efficiency will not be expensive. This obstacle represents an important part of the discussion around finance and who should pay, and even if the participants do not have answers to provide, they clearly rely.</p>	
<p>The search for profits and the place of private actors' lobby. Justification: Participants share their concerned that if energy will not be considered as a common good and will be part of a market logic, the research of the profit by private actors will always be an obstacle to ensure an accessible energy efficiency transition. They mentioned that the lobbying of producers and suppliers as an impact on the consumers.</p>	

Group 7

Obstacles	Enablers
<p>Energy efficiency of buildings. Justification: it determines 1/3 of energy consumption in the EU.</p>	<p>We can produce all these components and use different materials. In buildings we can use bio-sourced and geo-sourced materials. Industrial waste can serve as insulation material. Local markets could be encouraged rather than import materials from afar. There could be international treaties on this. Also there needs to be economic support towards insulating buildings.</p>
<p>Distance source – consumption. Justification: energy waste during transport, overproduction of energy on the global level.</p>	<p>Small solar, water, wind power stations in each area, producing according to the specific demand. Regulations that would allow the</p>

	local production and exchange of energy. That would as well spare energy waste.
Role of regulators as key players. Justification: need for up-down actions to have a big impact.	Stricter sanctions, more authority from the EU. Ecodesign: warranties on products should be made longer to encourage producers to make more high-quality and lasting products

Group 8

Obstacles	Enablers
Lack of motivation on the part of manufacturers in producing more durable and efficient products. Justification: from an economic point of view, manufacturers have no interest in producing more durable and efficient products. In particular, manufacturers need to be encouraged to fight against programmed obsolescence, a major source of energy waste. We also need to strengthen our offering of long-life products, which is still very marginal.	Market incentives and constraints (carrots and sticks).
Industries outside the EU can generally escape the standards and constraints applied to European industries. Justification: Participants highlighted the unfair competition that this phenomenon can produce. It is necessary to rebalance prices to ensure a coherent offer and encourage citizens to consume more efficiently.	Impose customs duties to rebalance costs when non-EU products that do not meet European standards enter the European market. Justification: This addresses obstacle 2: Industries outside the EU can generally escape the standards and constraints applied to European industries.
Energy retrofitting remains a major financial obstacle. Justification: Today, costs are still too high! Some schemes have been set up, such as loans, but this is not enough and above all very difficult to bear by citizens ($\frac{1}{3}$ contribution from residents in buildings but still very expensive, residents have appealed to banks ($\frac{1}{3}$ owner, $\frac{1}{3}$ State)).	Financial aid, favorable bank loans. Justification: many citizens still face too steep costs for renovations. All stakeholders need to be involved, such as tenants, Member States, EU, owners, banks.

Group 9

Obstacles	Enablers
Bureaucracy. Justification: We have heard from the KIC that 3000 billion euros are redistributed to Member States, however, citizens cannot see that this money is being put to good use. There are crucial problems within the systems, such as having to pay fines and sometimes it is unclear what the citizens are paying for. We must look into the problems of the bureaucracy as we do not want to waste these EU resources.	Accessibility and incentives. Justification: Ensuring that knowledge is accessible to all and that institutions, just as the EU are leading by example, therefore incites citizens into turning towards more energy-efficient systems. An incentive could be that switching to energy-efficient systems produces jobs, provides us with communities.
Technical skills. Justification: Without the technical knowledge of how these energy-efficient measures can be installed, it is impossible to improve. We need the technical knowledge to make these systems more cost-efficient too.	Knowledge about the energy system. Justification: Including energy efficiency in our education is an easy step to be taken. The citizens, just like students, should be educated on the topic, it could be included in the national curriculums.
Financial issues. Justification: Main concerns for citizens, as everything needs money and unfortunately everything revolves around cost-efficiency. If the energy-efficient systems are not cost-efficient, people won't be willing to change.	Inspiring vision and practical action. Justification: Citizens should be provided with an inspiring vision by governments, they need a motive to change, to work towards something. This panel is an excellent example, as those who had lost hope, are feeling more hopeful and think that this challenge can be tackled. Seeing the younger generation participating is really inspiring already.

Group 10

Obstacles	Enablers
Insufficient investment in technological innovation to reduce implementation costs due to high initial cost and insufficient funds for implementing energy efficient measures. Justification: Most people cannot afford to buy energy efficient devices and materials.	

Lack of a centralized planning mechanism at the EU level results in unmet needs and inefficient resource allocation. Justification: Some EU member states use more EU funding than others.	
The bureaucracy involved in public support contributes to the difficulty in accessing it and existence of corruption in the implementation of public support. Justification: The average citizen doesn't know how to access funding.	

Group 11

Obstacles	Enablers
Costs. Justification: energy efficient technology is expensive as well - municipalities, individual users, many actors cannot afford them (especially young people) - a big part of the cost come from the fact that the technology is produced outside the EU.	Knowledge exchange. Justification: it would make it easier to work on technology, exchange ideas, get together the best experts in EU.
Storage. Justification: excess energy - how to use it and not waste energy that has already been produced? We don't seem to have good mechanisms and technology for storage.	Diversification of energy sources. Justification: more energy sources mean less dependency on one source and more self-sufficiency. In cases of crisis or war or international unrest it can be the only way to remain stable and not have the prices rise dramatically.
Knowledge and consumer actions. Justification: energy consumers don't always have sufficient knowledge on what source of energy they are using, they don't always understand the impact of choices and their long-term consequences. A lot of information is available, but it can be misleading or overwhelming. + even if we achieve energy efficiency in all areas of life, but we keep consuming unnecessarily, we will keep on coming back to the same issues.	Energy exchange and sharing. Justification: countries produce energy in the ways that are best for them and share the surplus with other member states. This way we have more international cooperation in EU, we can share the energy we overproduce and waste less of it. It also helps with diversifying energy sources.

Group 12

Obstacles	Enablers
<p>Difficulties (technical, legal...) storing cleaner or more efficient energy that is being locally produced and could therefore be sold to other local consumers. Justification: in many sectors (e.g., agriculture) we see the tendency to prioritize options where food is both being produced and consumed as close as possible to consumers. However, it seems that in the case of energy this has not been fully developed yet as there are obstacles (firstly technical but to a lesser extent also legal) against the storage of energy at the local level that cannot be immediately consumed but could, however, be used or sold at the local level.</p>	
<p>Need of high investments upfront coupled with the inherent nature of companies as they want (or even) need to maximize profits and present results to their shareholders. Justification: in many cases, energy efficient measures require high upfront investments (from consumers) that not every citizen can afford. At the same time, due to their inherent nature, companies seek to maximize their profits and the benefits they give back to their stakeholders without necessarily putting energy efficiency considerations first.</p>	
<p>Increasing costs of energy efficient measures being pushed to consumers. Justification: it is difficult to consumers to see the benefits (notably to their pockets) of energy efficiency measures as e.g., even if companies claim to be taking them, energy prices are still very high, and consumers feel and notice that they bear much part of these additional costs.</p>	