



SHAPE ENERGY evaluation report

Participant feedback from core
face-to-face Platform events



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731264.



Authors

Deniz Demircioglu, Middle East Technical University (Turkey)
Ramazan Sari*, Middle East Technical University (Turkey)
Ugur Soytaş, Middle East Technical University (Turkey)
Chris Foulds, Anglia Ruskin University (UK)
Melek Mercantas, Middle East Technical University (Turkey)

*rsari@metu.edu.tr

November 2018

Suggested citation: Demircioglu, D., Sari, R., Soytaş, U., Foulds, C. and Mercantas, M., 2018. *SHAPE ENERGY evaluation report - Participant feedback from core face-to-face Platform events*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.



Executive summary

This report aims to summarise the results of SHAPE ENERGY project activity evaluations. To this end, the statistical descriptions of responses to our structured activity feedback questionnaire are summarised. The evaluations shed light on the effectiveness of activities in meeting project targets. Hence, they implicitly act as a prompt for activity planners to reflect on when considering activities (and associated evaluations) with similar targets in mind. The quantitative evaluation process also provides important feedback for SHAPE ENERGY as a project to consider how it has performed and who has been involved during its lifetime.

A structured questionnaire was implemented after Platform activities, in either hard copy or electronic format. All responses were compiled together in electronic format. For the quantitative assessment in this report, statistical results are summarised using descriptive statistics, tables and visual displays.

Regarding the profile of respondents, the average participation rate in the survey by people attending the core face-to-face SHAPE ENERGY activities is 65%. The detailed demographic distribution of respondents is provided in the report. Age, gender, nationality, workplace and occupational distributions of the attendees are presented using both descriptive statistics and graphical displays. The results reveal a male dominant participant sample, but, in other demographic aspects, all other targets seem to be met. One cautionary note is to use a better, more detailed breakdown of occupations in future evaluations that, for instance, better recognises possible dual participant roles.

Following the presentation of sample characteristics, responses to the questionnaire are used to assess the perceptions of respondents on whether the activity reached its targets or not. The statistics show overwhelming agreement (above 80%) that the project's targets and core objectives are achieved. In particular, participants said that the multi-stakeholder workshops encouraged interdisciplinary collaborations across sectors.

In addition to the summary of participant evaluations, suggestions for other Horizon 2020 Platforms as well as for future activity evaluations are provided in this report. Our main findings suggest that platform activities facilitate interdisciplinary interactions. Only 17% of the participants were unsure of whether the activities will be taken into consideration at the European level energy policy. To explore the reasons behind this result, further research involving open-ended questions would be required.



Contents

Executive summary	2
Contents	3
List of tables	4
List of figures	4
1. Introduction	5
1.1. Report aim and rationale	5
1.2. Evaluation activities in SHAPE ENERGY	5
1.3. Quantitative evaluation of SHAPE ENERGY	5
1.4. Structure of this report	6
2. Quantitative evaluation findings	7
2.1. Question 1: Have you completed this form before in another SHAPE ENERGY activity?	7
2.2. Question 2: Gender?	7
2.3. Question 3: Age	8
2.4. Question 4: Nationality?	9
2.5. Question 5: What country do you currently work in?	10
2.6. Question 6: Please select the option that best describes your employment status and answer the relevant questions accordingly:	10
2.7. Question 7: The SHAPE ENERGY Platform's work covers four, broad, energy topics. Please indicate which, if any, your work aligns to (you can select more than one):	11
2.8. Question 8: Which SHAPE ENERGY activity are you evaluating?	12
2.9. Question 9: The activity was well organised.	13
2.10. Question 10: I benefitted from participating in the activity.	13
2.11. Question 11: ...demonstrated or helped develop innovative approaches to encourage interdisciplinary working across sectors.	14
2.12. Question 12: ...involved a range of stakeholders in framing the priorities of the SHAPE ENERGY Platform.	14
2.13. Question 13: ...supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-related Social Science and Humanities experts.	15
2.14. Question 14: ...actively involved and built on current relevant networks and initiatives (e.g. through who was invited/involved).	15
2.15. Question 15: ...will be useful in informing and supporting European level energy policy, such as the Horizon 2020 vision, Energy Union strategy and The European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan).	16
2.16. Question 16: ...included space for discussion of novel questions that challenge the status quo. ...	16
2.17. Suggestions for other Horizon 2020 platforms.	17
3. Conclusions	18
4. Acknowledgements	19
5. References	20
6. Appendices	21
6.1. Appendix 1: World Population Median Age	21
6.2. Appendix 2: SHAPE ENERGY Activity Evaluation Questionnaire	22



List of tables

Table 1: Gender distribution of sampled participants of all SHAPE ENERGY activities	7
Table 2: Gender distribution of sampled participants of SHAPE ENERGY Horizon 2020 sandpits	7
Table 3: Occupation frequencies and percentages of the sampled SHAPE ENERGY activity participants.	10
Table 4: Headline overview of multi-stakeholder city workshops: date, number of workshop participants, and survey complete rates.	12

List of figures

Figure 1. Gender distribution of sampled participants in the SHAPE ENERGY multi-stakeholder city workshops.	8
Figure 2. Overall age distribution of participants in the SHAPE ENERGY activities	9
Figure 3. Nationality distribution of participants in the sampled SHAPE ENERGY activities	9
Figure 4. Current country working location of the sampled SHAPE ENERGY activities.	10
Figure 5. Percentages of SHAPE ENERGY topics aligned to the sampled participants' work.	11
Figure 6. Participants' evaluations regarding the quality of organisation.....	13
Figure 7. Participants' evaluations regarding the benefit of organisation.	13
Figure 8. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity demonstrated or helped develop innovative approaches to encourage interdisciplinary working across sectors.	14
Figure 9. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity involved a range of stakeholders in framing the priorities of the SHAPE ENERGY Platform.	14
Figure 10. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-related Social Science and Humanities experts.....	15
Figure 11. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity actively involved and built on current relevant networks and initiatives (e.g. through who was invited/involved).....	15
Figure 12. Participants' evaluations on the usefulness of activity in informing and supporting European level energy policy.	16
Figure 13. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity included space for discussion of novel questions that challenge the status quo.	16



1. Introduction

1.1. Report aim and rationale

The aim of this report is to provide the findings of the quantitative evaluations of SHAPE ENERGY project activities, as explained in the earlier project evaluation methods pack – Sari et al. (2018). This report is thus intended to be one assessment of project progress against the project's set targets. Evaluation of projects is not only useful for understanding whether the targets are met or not, but also to see how effective tasks were in achieving these targets (Samset, 2003). There are mainly two aspects of project evaluation – operational performance and evaluation processes (Galas et al., 2018) – and this report aims to point out important findings in both aspects.

The results are important because a structured quantitative evaluation enables the project partners to find ways to align project activities with overall targets or to improve project progress. This evaluation also implicitly provides basic guidelines for future platforms in their own assessment of similar targets. Furthermore, lessons learned from the evaluation process itself can be incorporated in the assessment processes of future interdisciplinary platforms.

1.2. Evaluation activities in SHAPE ENERGY

We have quantitatively evaluated participation in the SHAPE ENERGY Platform, as part of a wider exercise to consider how we may seek improvements to possible future activities, as well as to assist us in considering effective business plan strategies for the continuation of the Platform after project completion (Pálka et al., 2018). In addition, the evaluation data collected from platform activities will feed into the production of other SHAPE ENERGY materials, including communications materials (e.g. videos for our website).

In parallel to this quantitative stream, the SHAPE ENERGY project also undertook a complementary qualitative evaluation stream (led by ENTPE¹ and KIT²), which was based on participant observation diaries, netnographic analysis of online SHAPE ENERGY activities, and an explicit focus on detecting 'reference problems' via documentary analysis. That evaluation stream is dedicated to primarily developing a method to undertake a reflexive review of SSH and interdisciplinary working in the project (Sumpf et al., 2018) that will inform the development of new SSH evaluation tools.

1.3. Quantitative evaluation of SHAPE ENERGY

Our quantitative evaluation – the basis of this report – is based on descriptive statistics of quantitative measurements of:

1. *Participants' demographics*

For instance, a key part of this quantitative evaluation is to reflect on progress made against the participation targets which we set out in SHAPE ENERGY's original proposal, of involving approximately 25% academics, 25% business, 7% policymakers, 8% NGOs, 35% citizens during SHAPE ENERGY's two-year lifetime. Furthermore, SHAPE ENERGY also aimed to balance a number of key characteristics, including gender and European geography and Social Sciences and Humanities/other disciplines. It was therefore vital that we recorded and transparently published details across our various activities.

2. *Participants' perceptions regarding achievement of platform goals*

Did participants enjoy the event? How did they feel it aligned to the wider strategic aims of SHAPE ENERGY (when presented to them)? What other aspects were they keen to feed back to the event organisers and/or wider SHAPE ENERGY consortium?

1 École Nationale des Travaux Publics de l'État

2 Karlsruhe Institute of Technology



To investigate these, we developed a simple methodology for easy application. It involved a questionnaire³ that aims to capture demographics and impressions of alignment with objectives (sub-section 6.2 [Appendix 2]). The questionnaire was implemented during (via hard paper copies) or immediately after face-to-face activities (via online forms sent over email) with a few participants of non face-to-face activities also submitting responses. Partners were provided with guidelines to conduct questionnaires and how to transfer them to METU⁴ in electronic format. Whilst both hardcopies and online versions of the questionnaires were utilised, the vast majority of the participants completed the hardcopy version in person, which was the preferred option for us as that helped to ensure higher response rates and that the responses were given when the experiences were still 'fresh' in the participants' minds. The organiser (or partner) converted (uploaded) all completed hard copies via the online questionnaire version on Google Forms. As such, all the hard copies were then automatically compiled in the same Google spreadsheet.

Data were checked for possible errors and missing values. We have not observed errors of more than 1%. We issued warnings/reminders on a regular basis, usually every two or three weeks, to ensure that all completed forms were included in the final dataset, and sent to us in a timely manner for checking. Once we had a complete dataset, we used the data in raw format, without any transformations of numerical values except for percentages. A total of 320 forms were uploaded by organisers and participants.

The project activities that we received completed questionnaire on were predominantly the SHAPE ENERGY Horizon 2020 sandpits and the city-focused multi-stakeholders workshops (our main face-to-face events). Sandpits are activities where energy projects are presented to an audience of 20-30 multidisciplinary participants with a team of facilitators monitoring the progress and a director oversees the activity. In these sandpits, academics and practitioners came together to freely discuss innovative ideas to increase SSH incorporation in energy projects (Arrobbio et al., 2018). Our city workshops brought together local people from industry and NGOs, academics, in addition to local policymakers and policyworkers to exchange ideas and propose solutions to local energy issues, and usually one specific city energy 'problem'. In that respect, the interactive nature of the workshops, which also employed storytelling techniques to aid facilitation, differed from traditional presentation-based workshops (Robison et al., 2018).

Other core activities of SHAPE ENERGY – such as our edited collection of think pieces (Foulds and Robison, 2018), early stage researcher programme of PhD internships and a PhD summer school (Ortar et al., 2017; Ortar et al., 2018), and a 'research design challenge' edited collection (Sumpf and Büscher, 2018) – were not the main subject of this quantitative evaluation, because these activities involved alternative evaluations via immediate feedback from participants⁵.

Although the quantitative evaluation provides some useful information, the results may not be readily generalisable. First, the data is opportunistically collected based on voluntary participation in the survey. Although 65% may not be a bad response rate (the rate for our workshops and sandpits combined), self-selection in voluntary participation reduces generalisability. Second, survey participants may (consciously or not) provide biased responses to please the activity organisers, since they were guests at these events. We acknowledge that there is a co-construction of data taking place here, through how the survey distributor, survey organiser, and survey participants organise themselves and relate to one another socially. Third, the demographic distribution and broad social characteristics of the sampled respondents may not reflect the actual distribution of all activity participants.

1.4. Structure of this report

The rest of this report is organised as follows: Section 2 reports our core findings based on the quantitative evaluation via the participant questionnaire, relating to SHAPE ENERGY's sandpits and multi-stakeholder city workshops. We finish with some key conclusions on the importance of gender balance of the participants, occupations, the need for open-ended questions, and the perceptions of the participants about the events (Section 3).

³ The online version of the evaluation questionnaire is available at: <https://goo.gl/afmWTv> [Accessible as of 18 November 2018]. See sub-section 6.2 (Appendix 2) for a copy of the feedback form questionnaire.

⁴ Middle East Technical University

⁵ For more information on how SHAPE ENERGY activities incorporate SSH energy research that transcend disciplines, see Foulds and Robison (2018).



2. Quantitative evaluation findings

This section provides a quantitative evaluation of each question in the structured survey (sub-section 6.2 [Appendix 2]). We now present the findings in the order of questions in the questionnaire, and the structure is ordered accordingly (sub-sections 2.1 to 2.16). We finish this section with some reflections and suggestions that may be helpful for other Horizon 2020 projects considering doing something similar in terms of evaluation (sub-section 2.17).

2.1. Question 1: Have you completed this form before in another SHAPE ENERGY activity?

For multi-stakeholder city workshops, 92% of the participants did not complete this form before through another SHAPE ENERGY activity and, as such, they were regarded as new participants in SHAPE ENERGY activities. Only 7% had previously completed this form through their participation within other SHAPE ENERGY activities, with the final 2% opting to not answer this question⁶. When we consider overall responses to all SHAPE ENERGY activities, the same ratios are valid for this question.

2.2. Question 2: Gender?

Gender distribution in all SHAPE ENERGY activities primarily the including Multi-Stakeholder City Workshops and Horizon 2020 Sandpits, but also the Stakeholder Interviews, Academic Workshop, Call for Evidence and PhD Summer School, were male-dominated as indicated in Table 1. Gender distribution in the Horizon 2020 Sandpits activity was similar to the overall distribution (Table 2).

Table 1: Gender distribution of sampled participants of all SHAPE ENERGY activities

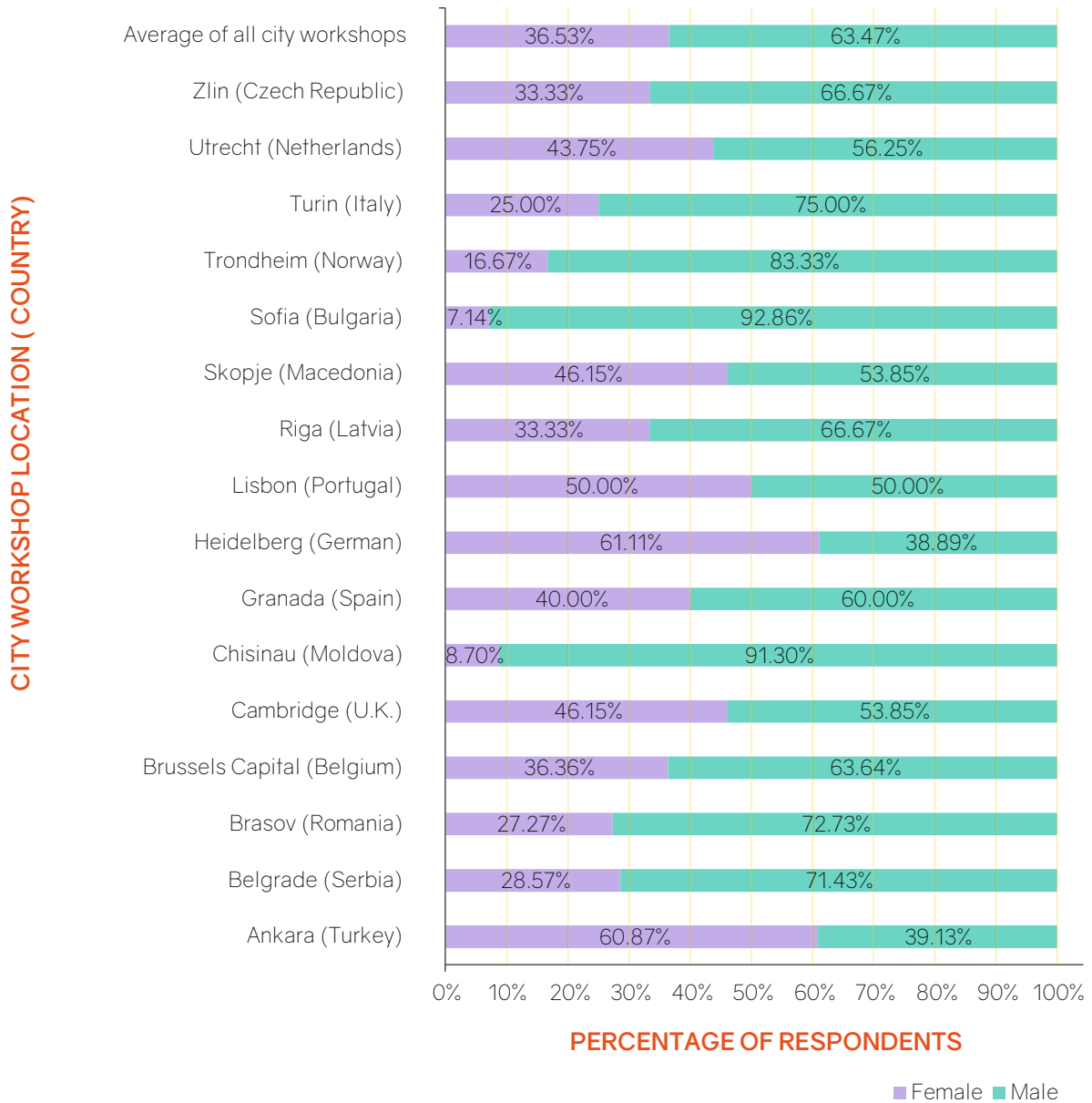
GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	202	63.1%
N/A	1	0.3%
FEMALE	117	36.6%
TOTAL	320	100.0%

Table 2: Gender distribution of sampled participants of SHAPE ENERGY Horizon 2020 sandpits

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Male	26	65.0%
N/A	1	2.5%
Female	13	32.5%
Total	40	100.0%

The gender distribution across multi-stakeholder city workshops is presented in Figure 1. The multi-stakeholder city workshops, in general, were male-dominated (Female 37%, Male 63%) with the exceptions of Ankara (Turkey) and Heidelberg (Germany). In these two cities, the workshops were female-dominated; each one having 61% female participants. In the Cambridge, Skopje, Utrecht, Lisbon, and Granada workshops, an even gender balance seems to have been maintained, assuming that the sampled participants are representative of the wider workshop 'population'. In the Sofia and Chisinau workshops, the participants almost totally consisted of male participants; each having more than 90% male participants.

⁶ Note that the percentage presented in this paragraph do not add up to 100%, only because of rounding.



*Grand Lyon gender distribution data is not included since the data was not submitted.

Figure 1. Gender distribution of sampled participants in the SHAPE ENERGY multi-stakeholder city workshops.

2.3. Question 3: Age

60% of all survey participants who completed the survey, indicated that their ages are between and/or equal to 30 and 50 years (Figure 2). 9% of them are younger than 30 years old, while 28% of them are older than 50 years. Overall, 8 participants (2%) preferred not to share their age. In the multi-stakeholder city workshops, 58% of the sampled participants were between (and equal to) 30 and 50 years old; 31% were greater than 50 years, and 8% were less than 30 years.

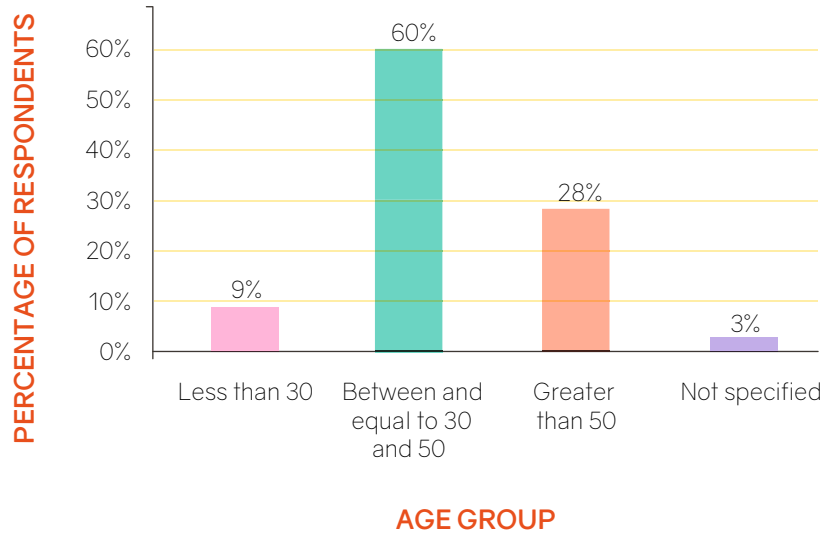


Figure 2. Overall age distribution of participants in the SHAPE ENERGY activities

This finding is very interesting to note, given that the age of the sampled participants is averaged around the median age of countries (see sub-section 6.1 [Appendix 1]). This indicates that the Activity participant pool is a reasonable representation of the age distribution of the countries as it can be seen in Appendix I.

2.4. Question 4: Nationality?

As for nationality of the survey participants, Figure 3 shows that the participants had various nationalities. These were: Belgian, Bulgarian, British, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Latvian, Macedonian, Moldovan, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Serbian, Spanish and Turkish. A small group of participants were from other nations (7.2%). British, Czech, German, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian and Turkish participants had the highest shares in the overall activities, each of which consisted of 7% of all participants, Italy being the location of the sandpits which may have increased this figure. Only two participants stated that they had dual nationality. It seems that participant nationality distribution reflects the fact that we had a wide geographical area with decent coverage.

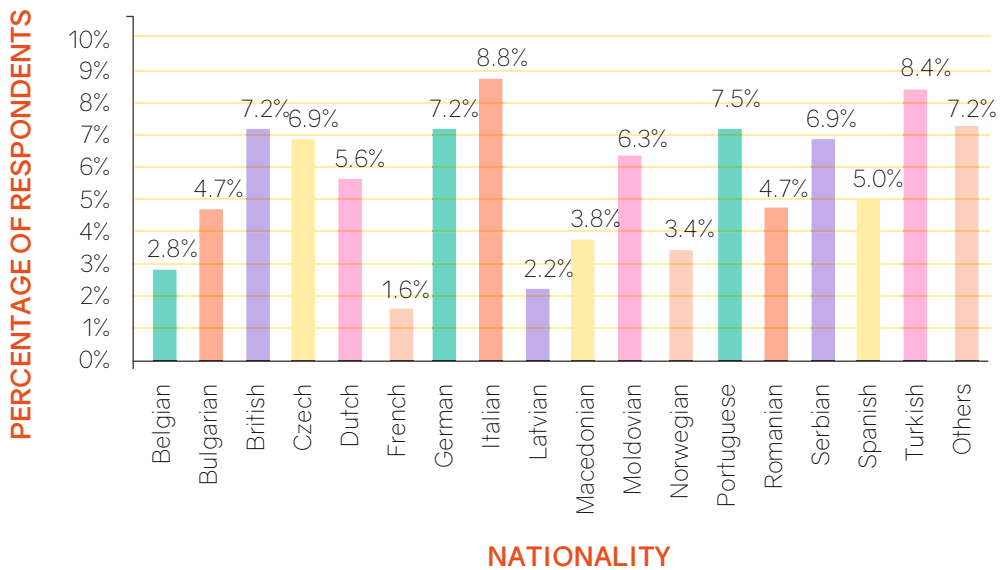


Figure 3. Nationality distribution of participants in the sampled SHAPE ENERGY activities



2.5. Question 5: What country do you currently work in?

The findings for this question are consistent with the findings in question 4 (sub-section 2.4). As it can be seen from the distribution chart in Figure 5, most of the survey participants were currently working in Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Moldova, Portugal and Serbia and Turkey; each of which constitute around 7% of all participants. Comparing this result to that of Question 4, we see that nationality and work location does not necessarily coincide, with the largest percentage differences arising between UK-British and Moldova-Moldavian.

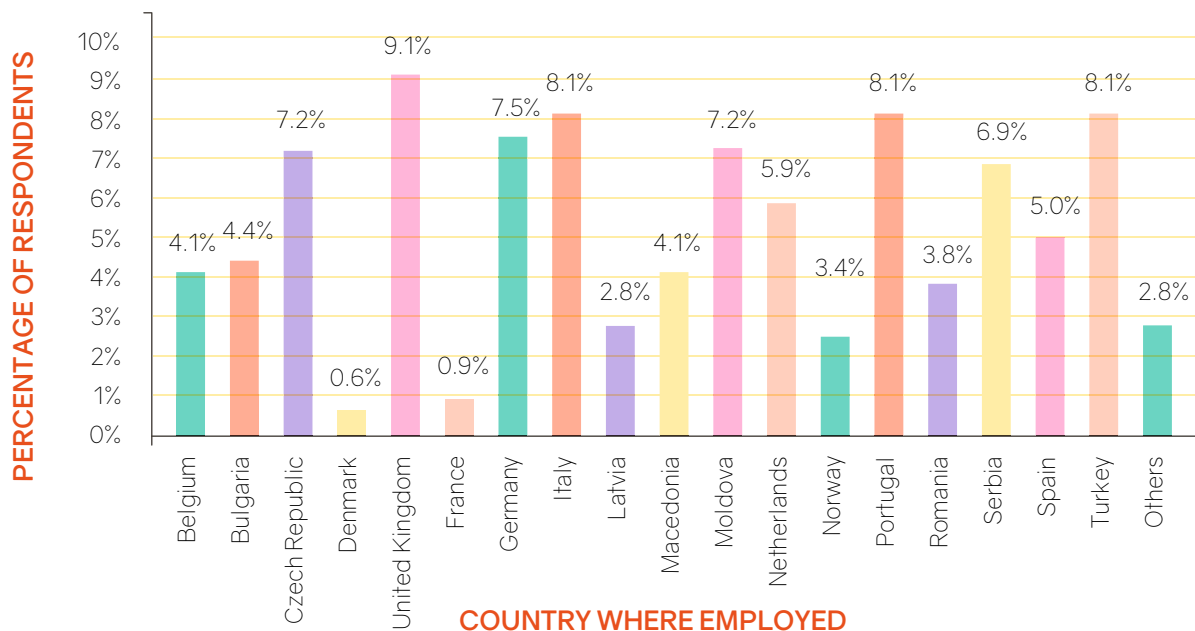


Figure 4. Current country working location of the sampled SHAPE ENERGY activities.

2.6. Question 6: Please select the option that best describes your employment status and answer the relevant questions accordingly:

Classifications related to survey participants' jobs are academia, business, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Policy. Overall, the employment-related classifications in Table 3 indicates a well-balanced representation between academia, business, NGOs and policy. A total of 24 participants indicated that their employment status was related to more than one of these classifications.

Table 3: Occupation frequencies and percentages of the sampled SHAPE ENERGY activity participants.

OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Academicians	77	21.9
Business People	83	23.6
Policy Makers	66	18.8
NGOs	66	18.8
Citizens	19	5.4
Others	40	11.4
Total	351	100



The highest participation rate was from business (24.6%), followed by academics (22.8%). The formal targets in the project's Description of Action (DOA; i.e. the contractual basis for the consortium's collaboration with the European Commission), were 25% academics, 25% business, 7% policy, 8% NGOs, and 35% citizens. These were almost achieved consistently in the sampled activities. Policyworkers and NGO percentages were also higher than targeted amounts.

Whilst the low percentage of citizen participation may initially seem alarming, we note that the planning of the activities (for which these feedback forms were monitoring) evolved to an extent where they were intentionally not focusing on citizens. Indeed, activities focussed on citizens primarily related to the SHAPE ENERGY debates, which were hosted by the Debating Europe platform⁷. In addition, we note that all participants (especially in the workshops) had dual roles: they are citizens, who belonged to specific professional groups, and thus wore two 'hats' so to speak.

2.7. Question 7: The SHAPE ENERGY Platform's work covers four, broad, energy topics. Please indicate which, if any, your work aligns to (you can select more than one):

300 of all 320 survey participants answered the 7th question that asks which SHAPE ENERGY Platform's topic(s) were aligned with their work. The participants were allowed to choose more than one alternative. In total, 554 alternatives were chosen and Figure 5 shows that 34.8% of them were *Energy Efficiency and using less*, 22.4% of them were *Energy system optimization and smart technologies*, 17.7% of them were *Competitive, secure, low-carbon energy supply*, and 13.2% of them were *Transport sector decarbonisation*. 8.3% respondents claimed their works were related to *other* topics.

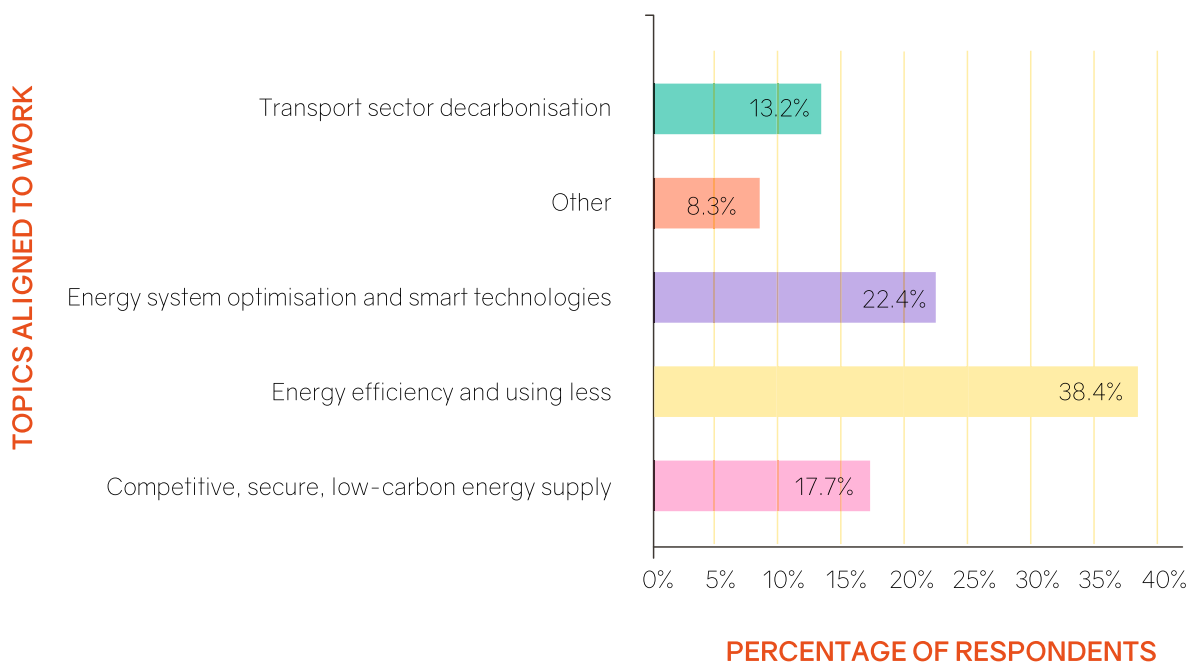


Figure 5. Percentages of SHAPE ENERGY topics aligned to the sampled participants' work.

7 More details are available at: <https://shapeenergy.eu/index.php/activities/debates/> [Accessed on 23 November 2018].



2.8. Question 8: Which SHAPE ENERGY activity are you evaluating?

We received a total of 320 evaluation questionnaires from our: Academic Workshop, Stakeholder Interviews, PhD Summer School, 16 of 17 multi-stakeholder city workshops, Call for Evidence, and Horizon 2020 sandpit; have also been submitted, of which 271 of them were from multi-stakeholder city workshops.

As of 14 September 2018, the total number of participants in all multi-stakeholder city workshops equaled 403 (Table 4). Survey participants could evaluate more than one activity and thus survey completions were also sourced from the: Horizon 2020 Sandpits (40); Stakeholder Interviews (8); Academic Workshop (5); Call for Evidence (2); and PhD Summer School (1).

Table 4: Headline overview of multi-stakeholder city workshops: date, number of workshop participants, and survey complete rates.

CITIES (COUNTRY)	DATE OF WORKSHOP	NUMBER OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF COMPLETED FORMS	SURVEY COMPLETION RATES
ANKARA (TURKEY)	15 March 2018	31	23	74%
BELGRADE (SERBIA)	27 February 2018	26	21	81%
BRASOV (ROMANIA)	2 March 2018	22	11	50%
BRUSSELS CAPITAL (BELGIUM)	30 January 2018	18	11	61%
CAMBRIDGE (U.K.)	14 November 2017	29	26	90%
Chisinau (Moldova)	20 March 2018	23	23	100%
GRANADA (SPAIN)	5 March 2018	24	15	63%
GRAND LYON (FRANCE)	20 March 2018	13	0	0%
HEIDELBERG (GERMAN)	20 February 2018	23	18	78%
LISBON (PORTUGAL)	22 February 2018	32	22	69%
RIGA (LATVIA)	10 November 2017	17	9	53%
SKOPJE (MACEDONIA)	1 March 2018	19	13	68%
SOFIA (BULGARIA)	1 March 2018	20	14	70%
TRONDHEIM (NORWAY)	15 February 2018	28	12	43%
TURIN (ITALY)	1 December 2017	25	16	64%
UTRECHT (NETHERLANDS)	24 April 2018	30	16	53%
ZLIN (CZECH REPUBLIC)	23 May 2018	26	21	81%
TOTAL		406	271	67%

In general, the survey participants in each city ranged between 20 and 32 in number. Excluding for the Trondheim workshop (where survey completion was at 43%) and Lyon, more than half of the survey participants in each city completed the survey. Overall, the response rate of 67% is high by field study standards.

Overall, the sandpits attracted 75 participants, and thus the completion rate of the surveys was 53% for those events. This leads to a completion rate across the workshops and sandpits of 65%.



2.9. Question 9: The activity was well organised.

Figure 6 shows that almost 99% of participants strongly agreed that the activity was well organised. Less than 1% (specifically 0.6%) thought that activity organisation was not good enough.

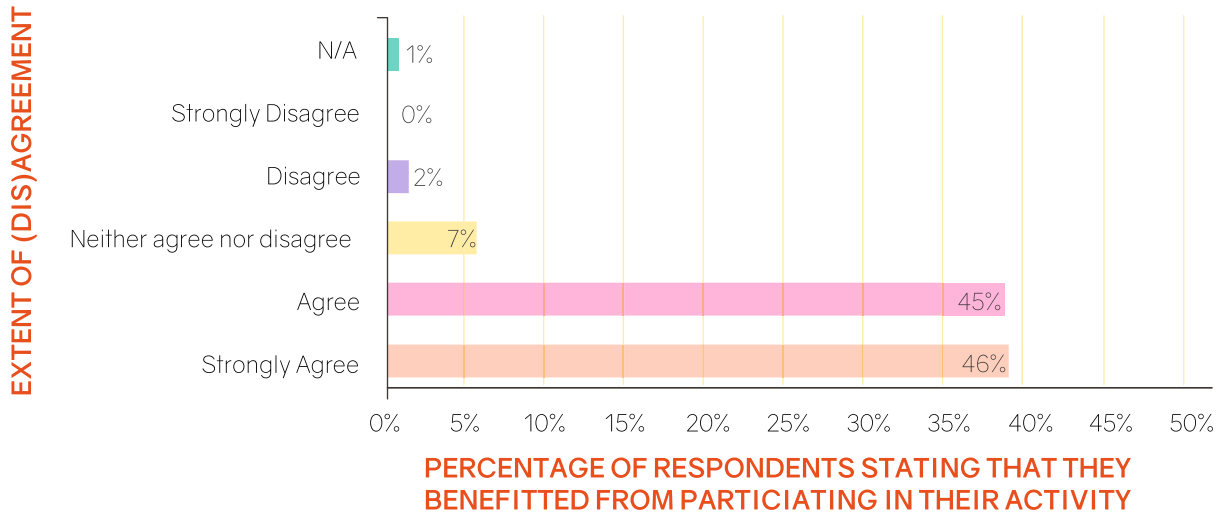


Figure 6. Participants' evaluations regarding the quality of organisation.

2.10. Question 10: I benefitted from participating in the activity.

92% of survey participants stated that the activity was well organised and beneficial. Only 2% found the activity non-beneficial (Figure 7). The participants generally felt that they personally benefited from the activities.

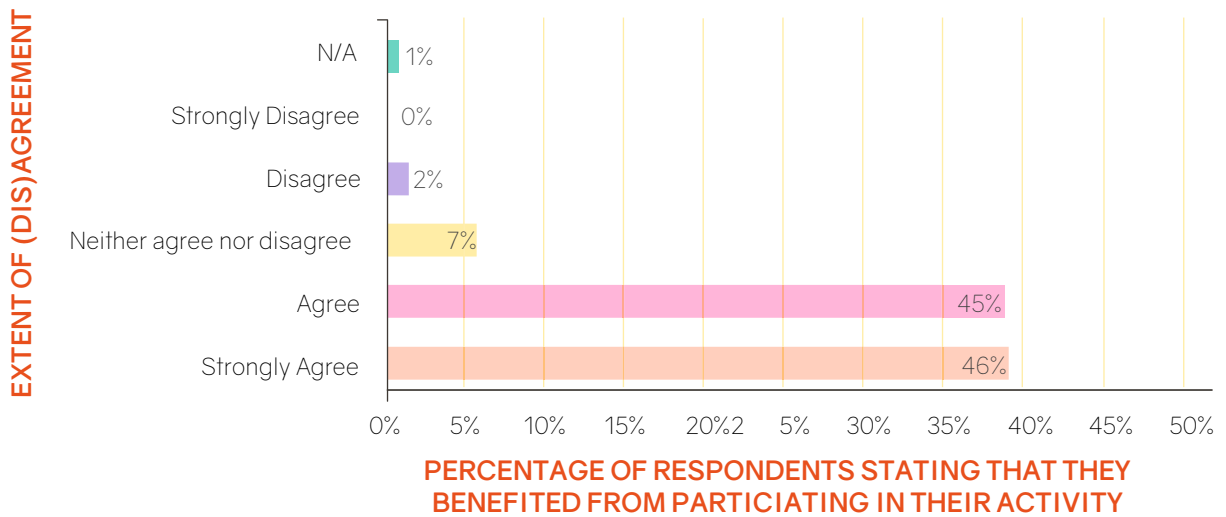


Figure 7. Participants' evaluations regarding the benefit of organisation.



2.11. Question 11: ...demonstrated or helped develop innovative approaches to encourage interdisciplinary working across sectors.

85% of survey participants stated that the activity demonstrated or helped develop innovative approaches to encourage interdisciplinary working across sectors (Figure 8). This high percentage is encouraging, given that 'innovative approaches to encouraging interdisciplinary working across sectors' is one of the main targets of the Platform.

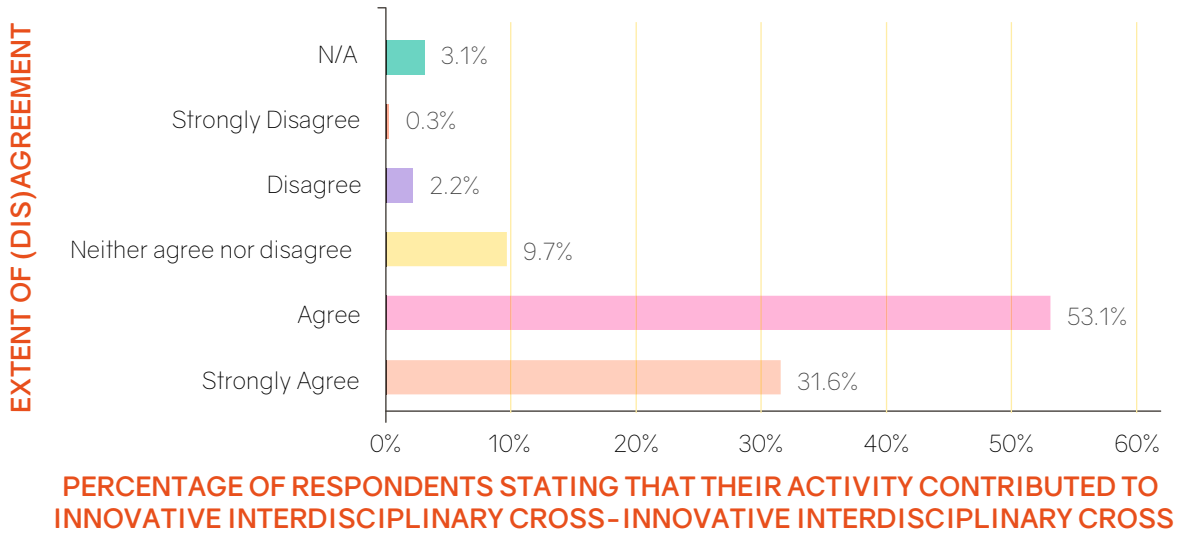


Figure 8. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity demonstrated or helped develop innovative approaches to encourage interdisciplinary working across sectors.

2.12. Question 12: ...involved a range of stakeholders in framing the priorities of the SHAPE ENERGY Platform.

84% of survey participants stated that the activity involved a range of stakeholders in framing the priorities of the SHAPE ENERGY Platform (Figure 9). This high percentage suggests that the participant selection and enrolment was both appropriate and fair. We note that some of the activities surveyed (e.g. the call for evidence, or stakeholder interviews) did not bring different groups together directly, hence the 'N/A' (not applicable) responses.

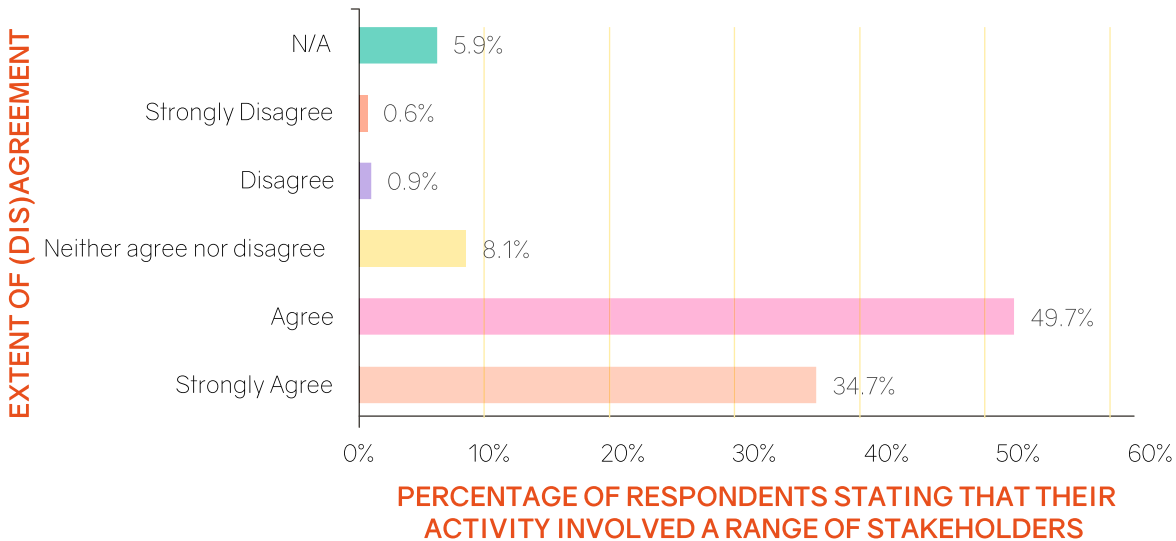


Figure 9. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity involved a range of stakeholders in framing the priorities of the SHAPE ENERGY Platform.



2.13. Question 13: ...supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-related Social Science and Humanities experts.

67% of the survey participants stated that the activity supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-SSH experts, whereas 21% neither agreed nor disagreed (Figure 10). This high agreement rate again suggests that the participants think that the Platform did run these events well, ultimately contributing to a legacy that was beyond good discussion on the day itself although perhaps suggests even more can be done in this sphere.

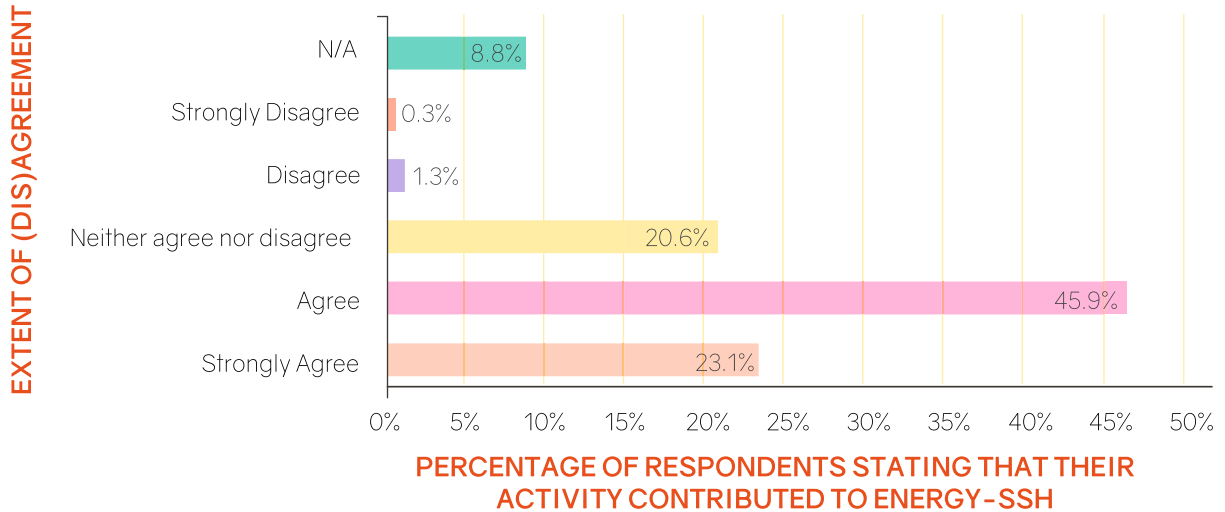


Figure 10. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-related Social Science and Humanities experts.

2.14. Question 14: ...actively involved and built on current relevant networks and initiatives (e.g. through who was invited/involved).

85% of the survey respondents stated that their activity actively involved and built on current relevant networks and initiatives (e.g. through who was invited/involved). This suggests that the participants perceived the Platform activities to be relevant (Figure 11).

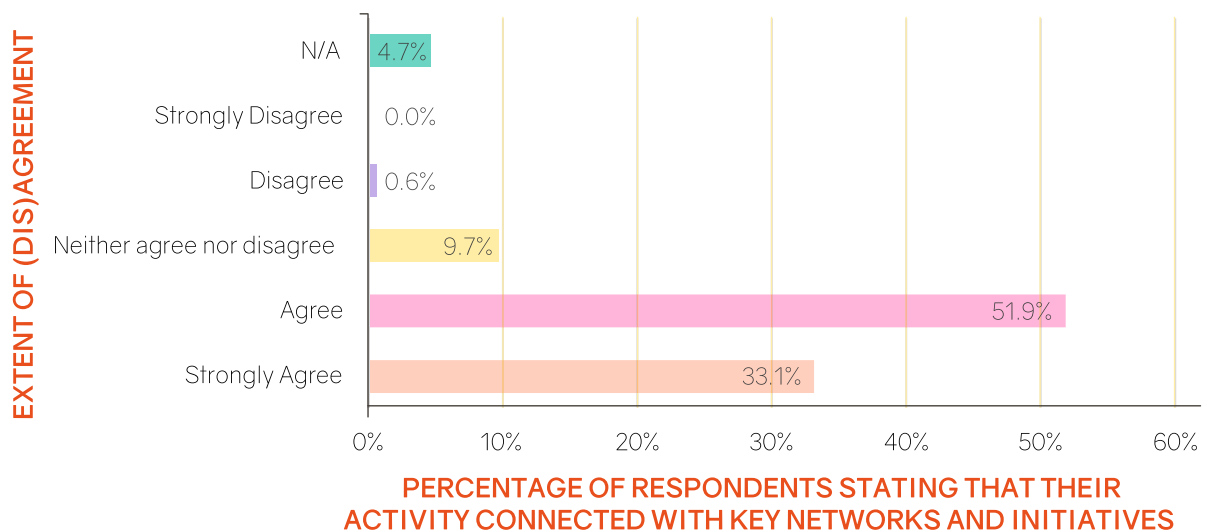


Figure 11. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity actively involved and built on current relevant networks and initiatives (e.g. through who was invited/involved).



2.15. Question 15: ...will be useful in informing and supporting European level energy policy, such as the Horizon 2020 vision, Energy Union strategy and The European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan).

71% of the survey participants stated that their activity will be useful in informing and supporting European level energy policy, such as the Horizon 2020 vision, Energy Union strategy and the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan). This high percentage also emphasises that the survey participants perceived SSH activities as relevant and important for European energy policy (Figure 12). We note that this type of inquiry could be undertaken in a more detailed fashion to understand, for example, in what aspects the activity could be useful and for which European strategies too.

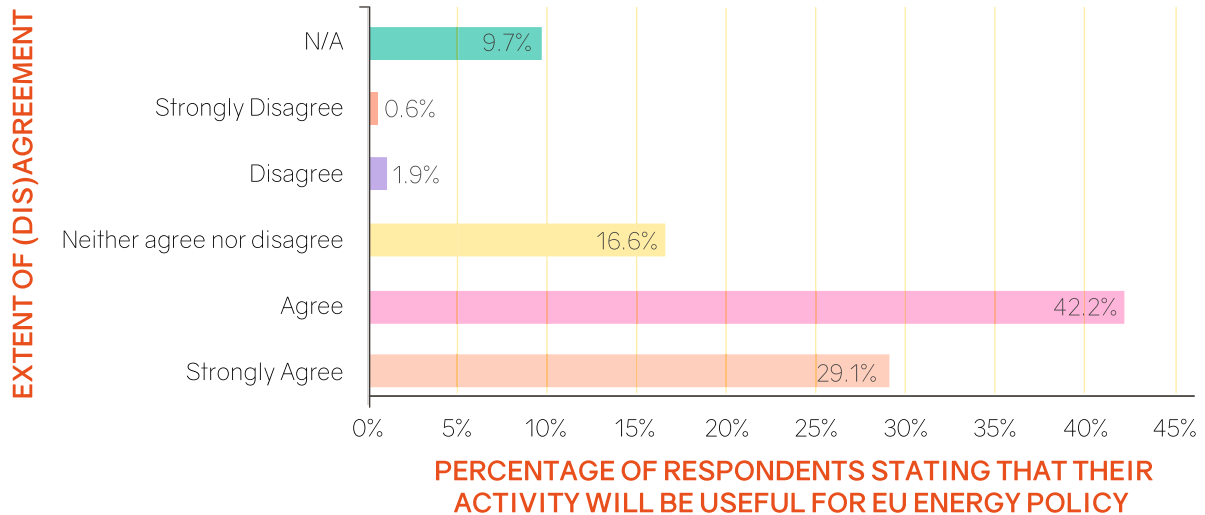


Figure 12. Participants' evaluations on the usefulness of activity in informing and supporting European level energy policy.

2.16. Question 16: ...included space for discussion of novel questions that challenge the status quo.

87% of the survey participants stated that their activity included space for discussion of novel questions that challenge the status quo (Figure 13). This only adds to our argument, and indeed the growing body of evidence, that the SHAPE ENERGY activities were of an innovative nature.

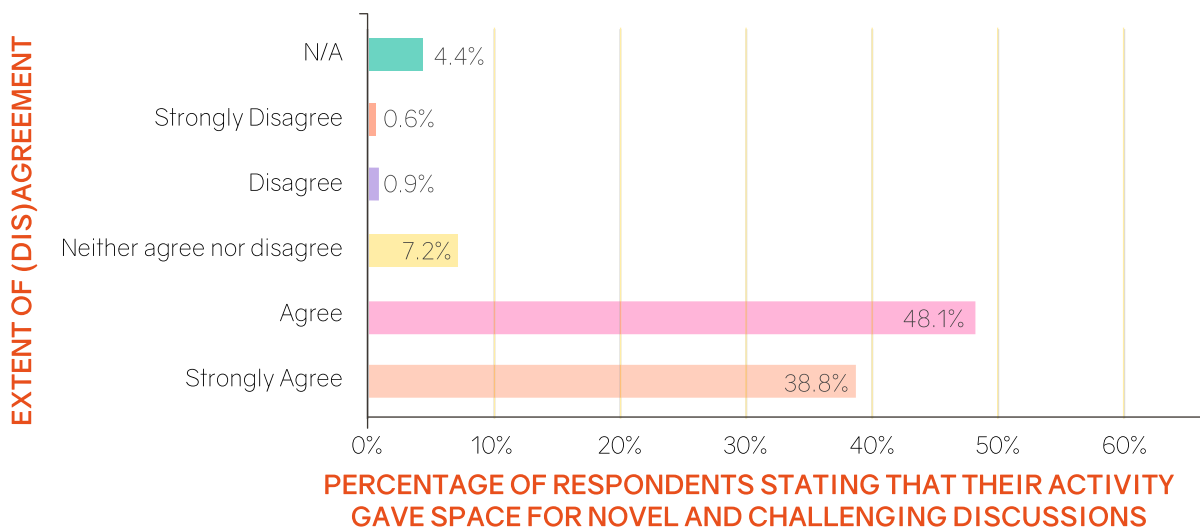


Figure 13. Participants' evaluations on whether the activity included space for discussion of novel questions that challenge the status quo.



2.17. Suggestions for other Horizon 2020 platforms

Building on these quantitative evaluation findings (sub-sections 2.1-2.16), we can suggest the following for other Horizon 2020 platforms to reflect on:

- Gender balance is an important issue for SHAPE ENERGY project and was actively considered at all stages, however, the overall gender distribution indicates that significant effort is required for similar activities to maintain gender balance in future European level project activities particularly perhaps in some regions or fields of work.
- In future evaluation processes, a more detailed breakdown of occupations may provide more insight.
- For future activities, further open-ended questions could be added to collect ideas on how to improve activity organisation.
- If the information on how the participants benefited from the activity is important, an inquiry into that dimension should be made in future evaluations. This could be used as a cross-check on whether the goals of the activity are reached regarding the takeaway messages for the participants.
- The perception related inquiry (questions 11 to 16 in our survey) could be constructed to understand in what aspects the activity is useful and specifically for which European strategies.
- Longitudinal methods (e.g. another survey one year on, post-participation) could help to provide further evidence on the impact of participation. Within such a situation, we would encourage the use of questions that focus on tangible examples of impact, which would then be distinct from the sort of survey involved in this report (which was focused more on thought, than on actual action).
- Piloting the survey is a vital component of one's methodological approach, which was proven here as per the detailed changes that we made to our survey post-pilot.



3. Conclusions

The aim of this report is to provide the findings of the quantitative evaluations of project activities as explained in Sari et al. (2018). This report is thus intended to be an assessment of project progress against the pre-assigned targets relating to, for example, who is participating and what exactly their experience of participation entails. The structured questionnaires provided an external assessment opportunity whereby survey participants could share their perceptions on the activity they attended, as well as provide us with some details of them as individuals.

It is fair to say that SHAPE ENERGY's activities reached their objectives, as over 80% of all participants agreed or strongly agreed that the outcomes and all listed objectives matched. On average, only 2% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the activity did not reach its objectives and on average 6% of participants thought that the activity did not have those objectives.

Moreover, over 84% of all participants agreed or strongly agreed that the activity demonstrated or helped develop innovative approaches to encourage interdisciplinary working across sectors, involved a range of stakeholders in framing the priorities of the SHAPE ENERGY Platform, actively involved and built on current relevant networks and initiatives (e.g. through who was invited/involved) and included space for discussion of novel questions that challenge the status quo.

The objectives where participants felt slightly less strongly about whether targetted outcomes were met related to whether the activity supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-related Social Sciences and Humanities experts and that, the activity would be useful in informing and supporting European level energy policy. Some survey participants were hesitant, constituting 21% of all participants, about whether the activity supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-related Social Science and Humanities experts. Further, 17% of all participants were not certain whether the activity will be useful in informing and supporting European level energy policy, such as the Horizon 2020 vision, Energy Union strategy and The European Strategic Energy. There may be several reasons for this, such as, for instance: survey participants not believing the activity as being directly relevant; participants believing that, even if relevant, the outputs from these activities would be ignored by authorities; participants may lack a sufficient understanding of EU energy policies; and/or quite simply it could be linked to the fact that the workshop participants (who dominated the sample) were involved in discussions around intentionally local city-based (rather than EU-level) problems. In addition, the workshops targetted non-researchers who may have felt less confident in knowing how outputs may feed into academic Social Sciences and Humanities communities.

To conclude, we wish to reiterate a few headline points regarding the make-up of our survey respondent sample, as this is obviously a useful indication for the sorts of stakeholders that have been engaging with SHAPE ENERGY face-to-face activities to date:

- More males than females.
- Most were above 30 years old (30-50 years, in particular).
- Range of nationalities and range of country working locations.
- Highest representation attributed to 'Energy efficiency and using less', compared to other SHAPE ENERGY topics.
- Fairly even spread across business, academic, NGO and policy participants, with citizens being much less represented in the particular activities sampled.

Over 90% of all survey participants thought they benefited from the activity and that the activity was well organised. It is fair to say that overall the activities were successfully handled and met targeted goals.

In terms of wider implications – for instance, for other large-scale (e.g. Horizon 2020) projects wishing to run similar (e.g. interdisciplinary, problem-focused, stakeholder-inclusive) activities to SHAPE ENERGY – we also note that using open-ended questions to collect opinions from participants on how to incorporate specific SSH practices in European energy strategy could provide important insights. Furthermore, it would have been better if the evaluation process started at the very beginning of the project, since only limited data (and with lag) could be collected from the participants of activities at earlier stages of the project.



4. Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Rosie Robison who reviewed this report. The SHAPE ENERGY project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731264.



5. References

- Arrobbio, O., Sonetti, G. and Foulds, C., 2018. *The SHAPE ENERGY Horizon 2020 Sandpits: key findings*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Foulds, C. and Robison, R., eds. 2018. *Advancing Energy Policy: lessons on the integration of social sciences and humanities*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Galas, A., Pilat, A., Leonardi, M. and Tobiasz-Adamczyk, B., 2018. Research Project Evaluation – Learnings from the PATHWAYS Project Experience. *International Journal of Environmental research and Public Health*, 15, pp.1071.
- Ortar, N., Burguet, D., Claudot, P. and Foulds, C., 2017. *The SHAPE ENERGY Summer School – interdisciplinary debates with PhD researchers*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Ortar, N., Burguet, D., and Robison, R., 2018. *Bringing Social Sciences & Humanities into H2020 energy projects: Early-Stage Researcher internship diaries*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Pálka, P., Blahová, M., Hrušecká, D., Juříčková, E., Pilík, M., Pechancová, V., Sumpf, P., Sari, R. and Foulds, C., 2018. *Long-term stability beyond core funding – exploring options through a business plan and cost benefit matrix*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Robison, R., Dupas, S., Mourik, R., Torres, M., and Milroy, E., 2018. *Europe's local energy challenges: stories and research priorities from 17 multi-stakeholder city workshops*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Sari, R., Ortar, N., Soytaş, U., Burguet, D., and Foulds C., 2018. *Evaluation methods pack and ethics guidance*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Sumpf, P. and Büscher, C., eds. 2018. *SHAPE ENERGY Research Design Challenge: Control, change and capacity-building in energy systems*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Sumpf, P., Büscher, C., Jeuken, Y., Mnich, C., Mourik, R.M. and Ortar, N., 2018. *SHAPE ENERGY reflexive review of interdisciplinary working*. Cambridge: SHAPE ENERGY.
- Samset, K., 2003. *Project Evaluation. Making investments succeed*. Trondheim: Tapir Academic Press.



6. Appendices

6.1. Appendix 1: World Population Median Age

The data from the World Population Review shows that the median age levels of all countries involved in the workshops are in the 'between and equal to 30 and 50' band with an average of 41.24. Turkey has the lowest median age (30.9) whereas Germany has the highest (47.1), but the rest of the medians are clustered around the centre of the band.

<i>PLACE</i>	<i>MEDIAN AGE (YEARS)</i>
TURKEY	30.9
MOLDOVA	36.7
MACEDONIA	37.9
NORWAY	39.2
UNITED KINGDOM	40.5
ROMANIA	41.1
BELGIUM	41.4
CZECH REPUBLIC	42.1
PORTUGAL	42.2
PORTUGAL	42.2
NETHERLANDS	42.6
SERBIA	42.6
BULGARIA	42.7
SPAIN	42.7
LATVIA	43.6
ITALY	45.5
GERMANY	47.1

Source: Adapted from (<http://worldpopulationreview.com/>)



6.2. Appendix 2: SHAPE ENERGY Activity Evaluation Questionnaire



SHAPE ENERGY

SHAPE ENERGY – *Social sciences and Humanities for Advancing Policy in European Energy* – represents a new €2m European platform for energy-related social sciences and humanities (energy-SSH) research. Energy-SSH has played less of a role to date in shaping European energy policy than Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines and, as such, the SHAPE ENERGY platform aims to develop Europe's expertise in using and applying energy-SSH.

The two-year SHAPE ENERGY project began in February 2017 and is coordinated by Anglia Ruskin University (UK). As part of its initial scoping work, this Call for Evidence aims to identify current understandings and future priorities for energy research from a wide range of research, policy and practitioner communities across Europe. As such, this call is not solely intended for energy-SSH researchers; we are keen to engage with energy-STEM and non-energy-SSH researchers – as well as those from policy, industry, NGOs and beyond – who may want to utilise energy-SSH research in the future.

This questionnaire is primarily intended for those participating in SHAPE ENERGY activities. It is intentionally designed to be easy to do and take only 5-10mins. Responses will be anonymised, and the summary evaluation report will be submitted to the European Commission and published on www.shapeenergy.eu.

Should you have any queries about this questionnaire, please contact Ramazan Sari (rsari@metu.edu.tr) and Ugur Soytaş (soytas@metu.edu.tr) at Middle East Technical University (METU). You are free to withdraw within two weeks of completion by emailing these addresses.

- Please confirm you understand information submitted to this call will be anonymised and made publicly available online.
- Please confirm that you are at least 18 years old.
- Data Protection: Please tick to confirm you understand that data may be shared with SHAPE ENERGY partners, some of whom are based outside the EU, but all of whom are contractually bound to abide by EU data protection law. Personal data will be held for a maximum of 2 years after the end of the project (i.e. up to 31 January 2021), after which time it will be destroyed.

1) Have you completed this form before in another SHAPE ENERGY activity?

- YES
- NO



DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- 2) Gender:
- Male
- Female
- Others
- 3) Age:
- 4) Nationality:
- 5) What country do you currently work in?
- 6) Please select the option that best describes your employment status and answer the relevant questions accordingly:
- Academic
- Business / for-profit organisations
- Policy (including local, regional, national, international)
- NGOs / charities / not-for-profit organisations
- Citizens
- Others
- 7) The SHAPE ENERGY Platform's work covers four, broad, energy topics. Please indicate which, if any, your work aligns to (you can select more than one):
- Energy efficiency and using less
- Competitive, secure, low-carbon energy supply
- Energy system optimisation and smart technologies
- Transport sector decarbonisation
- Others:

ACTIVITY INFORMATION

- 8) Which SHAPE ENERGY activity are you evaluating?
- Academic workshop (Cambridge, Feb 2017)
- Call for evidence (Apr – Jul 2017)
- Stakeholder interviews (Apr – Jun 2017)
- Online citizen debates (hosted by 'Debating Europe', Feb – Jul 2017)
- PhD summer school (Lyon, Jun 2017)
- PhD internships (Aug – Dec 2017)
- Multi-stakeholder city workshops (Oct 2017 - 2018)
- [please note the specific city location:.....]
- Horizon 2020 sandpit (Turin, Feb 2018)
- [please select the date attended: 8-9 Feb or 22-23 Feb]
- Think piece collection (Sep 2017 – Jun 2018)
- Research design challenge collection (Sep 2017 – Mar 2018)
- Pan-European conference (Brussels, late 2018 / early 2019)
- Other.....



ACTIVITY ORGANISATION

Referring to the activity you are evaluating, please tick the most appropriate option.

9) The activity was well organised.

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

10) I benefitted from participating in the activity.

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Considering the activity I am evaluating, this activity...:

11) ...demonstrated or helped develop innovative approaches to encourage interdisciplinary working across sectors

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree N/A

12) ...involved a range of stakeholders in framing the priorities of the SHAPE ENERGY Platform

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree N/A

13) ...supported, involved and/or strengthened the community of European energy-related Social Science and Humanities experts

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree N/A

14) ...actively involved and built on current relevant networks and initiatives (e.g. through who was invited/involved)

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree N/A

15) ...will be useful in informing and supporting European level energy policy, such as the Horizon 2020 vision, Energy Union strategy and the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan)

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree N/A

16) ...included space for discussion of novel questions that challenge the status quo

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree N/A

FINAL COMMENTS

17) Please use this space to provide any additional comments to either the specific activity organisers or the SHAPE ENERGY partners more widely.

18) Please tick this box to be added to the SHAPE ENERGY mailing list

(emails every 1-2 months), if I am not already on it.

E-mail:.....



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731264.



SHAPEENERGY



Global Sustainability Institute

