



**Project acronym:** EnergyPROSPECTS

**Title:** PROactive Strategies and Policies for Energy Citizenship Transformation

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## SIET Conference on Social Innovation in the Energy Transition

### Session: Perspectives on ENCI session

Organised by Prof Frances Fahy (EnergyPROSPECTS) and Chaired by Prof BinBin Pearce

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Conference location: Online

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## Background

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021, during the SIET Conference on Social Innovation in the Energy Transition, the **Perspectives on Energy Citizenship** session organised by the EnergyPROSPECTS EU H2020 project took place from 14.10pm – 15.40pm. This session aimed to bring together social science energy researchers interested in gaining an understanding of the various ways in which energy citizenship (ENCI) affects the clean-energy transition process across Europe. The online format provided a unique opportunity to draw on the perspectives and experiences of the global community. Both practitioners and academics were invited to attend this panel session and discuss developments in the field of ENCI.

This panel session opened with a short five minute introduction to five of the social science and humanities (SSH) large scale European projects that commenced in 2021 in the field of ENCI (**ENCLUDE, DIALOGUES, EC2, GRETS and EnergyPROSPECTS**). These introductions were followed by two paper presentations to open a wider discussion around defining ENCI and developing an ENCI typology.

After presentations about the projects, participants had a discussion on differences in definitions and approaches and plans for collaborations. Approx. 40 attendees participated in the 90 minute workshop which adopted a Q&A style format after the presentations.

## Definitions of ENCI in the different projects

- In **DIALOGUES**, ENCI is *the degree to which, and the ways in which, the goals of a sustainable energy transition enter into the everyday practices of an individual*. ENCI can be shown through individual and collective actions, or felt internally through reflection and concern (to be refined in 2 upcoming reports).
- In **EC<sup>2</sup>**, ENCI is *people's rights to and responsibilities for a just and sustainable energy transition*.
- **ENCLUDE** wants to develop a definition from the ground up through the Delphi approach. It has no working definition yet.
- ENCI is defined in **EnergyPROSPECTS** in the following way: 'ENCI refers to forms of civic involvement that pertain to the development of a more sustainable and democratic energy system.

Beyond its manifest forms, ENCI also comprises various latent forms: it is an ideal that can be lived up to and realised to varying degrees, according to different framework conditions and states of empowerment.'

- According to **GRETA**, ENCI means that citizens actively participate in taking action towards climate neutrality. This can take many forms, from homeowners opting for renewable energy solutions or electric vehicles, to participation in energy communities or advocating for change on a global scale. For GRETA ENCI is individual and social. Its emergence rest on interdependences of collective and individual behaviours.

## Aligning conceptualisations and understandings of ENCI between H2020 sister projects

- **Energy Citizenship for a sustainable future DIALOGUES** (specific focus on gender and vulnerable groups, action labs, geopolitical scope, international partner, exploring resistance to the energy transition).
- **Energy Citizenship and energy communities for a clean energy transition EC2** (legal, economic, psychological aspects of ENCI, municipalities, research & academia, energy communities, networks)
- **Energy Citizens for Inclusive Decarbonisation ENCLUDE** (transdisciplinarity, typology on different scales, decarbonisation potential, guidelines for local and regional policymakers, network of decarbonisation ambassadors, online training modules)
- **Green energy transitions actions GRETA** (energy poverty, role of digital technologies to support ENCI actions, what enables ENCI actions and what turns them into behavioral patterns)

## Synergies & separations identified between the five projects:

- The project objectives are similar but approaches are very different. Will this lead to different recommendations? Interesting to see.
- Hoping for cross fertilization of results, since they will be drawn from different contexts all over Europe.
- ENCI is not inclusive by definition, it is important that different projects look at this from different angles and in different contexts.
- Due to diverse fields, types of actors involved, and diverging sets of nationalities of the consortiums, the projects results should compliment each other.

## EnergyPROSPECTS Presentations

Title: EnergyPROSPECTS: Conceptualizing 'ENCI',  
Presenter: Dr Bonno Pel, ULB

Due to technical difficulties Dr Bonno Pel was restricted in his presentation and was unable to present his slides as planned. His presentation set out to look at how the ongoing energy transition calls not only for technological innovations, as often discussed in accounts of sustainable energy pathways, but also for various social-institutional transformations. The development of ENCI is an important part of the latter. It is widely believed to hold potential for transforming towards more sustainable and just societies. The EnergyPROSPECTS project therefore aims to disclose the societal conditions conducive to the thriving of engaged, sustainability-oriented, democratic or otherwise *desirable* forms of ENCI.

This paper contributes to this mission by clarifying the different forms of ENCI that can be distinguished, the contextual factors that shape them and the tensions underlying the concept. Unpacking ENCI critically, this paper provides a first overview of different 'ENCI' constructions as they have emerged across the European Union. Identifying the main analytical distinctions and the main tensions that characterize it, our analysis provides a provisional definition of ENCI.

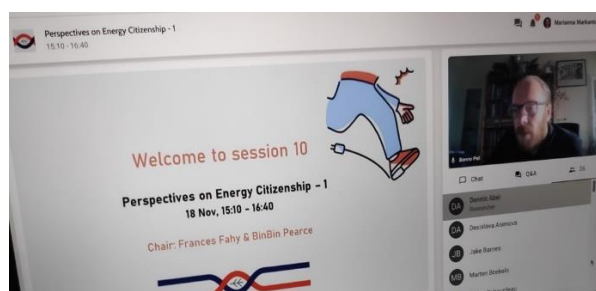


Image: Bonno Pel (ULB – EnergyPROSPECTS)

Title: EnergyPROSPECTS: Towards an ENCI typology,  
Presenters: Martina Schäfer and Ariane Debourdeau,  
TUB, Germany

Building on the EnergyPROSPECTS working definition of ENCI, this paper explores the operationalisation of the project's conceptual framework into a coherent set of ideal-types of ENCI.

Following a brief overview of the conceptual typology building process, the presentation focused on two main dimensions of ENCI. The first dimension considered was the "agency" of ENCI (this incorporates the private/public, individual/ collective, state/hybrid, active/passive and frontrunners/late adopters distinctions), while the second dimension examined is the "outcome-orientation" of ENCI, which accounts for the pragmatic/revolutionary, environmental shallow/deep distinctions and also passive/active and frontrunners/late adopters. From the conceptual framework ten provisional types of ENCI have been discerned with the help of a preliminary empirical testing. The typology will allow for well-tailored and empowered policy recommendations by the end of the project.



Image: Ariane Debourdeau (TUB – EnergyPROSPECTS)

## Q&A Panel Session

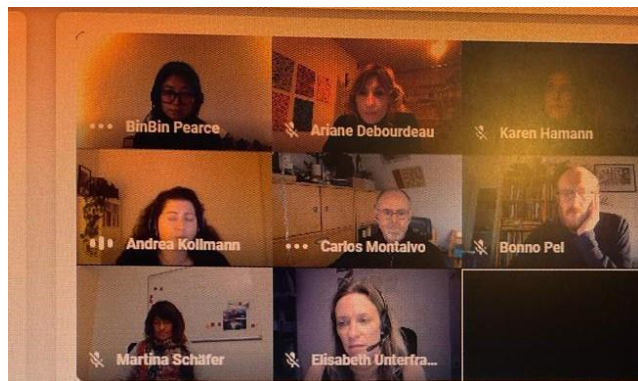


Image: Panel members – L – R: BinBin Pearce, Ariane Debourdeau, Karen Hamann, Andrea Kollmann, Carlos Montalvo, Bonno Pel, Martina Schäfer, Elisabeth Unterfrauner.

## Questions arising from the Q&A

### **How to take into account legal aspects in different countries?**

EC2: Case studies in six countries of consumer and energy law. The legal analysis will remain on a country level.

### **How do we compare individual and collective cases of ENCI?**

EnergyPROSPECTS: We do not compare, we take them both into account, as different shades of ENCI. Both are a part of the phenomenon and important to study.

### **ENCLUDE definition of ENCI?**

ENCLUDE will create a definition of ENCI “bottom up”, by including citizens and other stakeholders in the definition-making.

### **How will you use agent based modelling?**

ENCLUDE: Will use agent based modelling to try to build a model that reflects how people think, act and behave, as opposed to rational economic assumptions. E.g. taking into account individual and collective identities that are important when it comes to ENCI-behaviours. .

### **How will you be able to produce empowerment kits across different national contexts that often are very diverse?**

- Individuals and NGOs (that have a broader view of ENCI and energy poverty) will be able to give their insights.
- The toolkits will be tailored to different countries, in their respective languages, and target the right audience.

## Collaboration and future plans

### **What do we do next not to reinvent the wheel and build on each other's work?**

- Create an alliance of sister projects.
- Regular meetings to discuss what we are up to and what we can do forward. Invite each other to project meetings and events.

## Acknowledgements

All the projects featured at this event are funded under the EU H2020 programme. We would also like to acknowledge the SIET conference organisers, the ENCLUDE, DIALOGUES, GRETA and EC<sup>2</sup> projects for their great contribution to our session, and to all the presenters, chairpersons and session attendees for their participation.

## About the projects

### **DIALOGUES**

DIALOGUES investigates how the adoption of different energy-related actions and perspectives are related to each other and the possible influence of (external) trends. Project website: <https://www.dialoguesproject.eu/>

### **EC<sup>2</sup>**

Gathering insights from the fields of law, economics and psychology, EC<sup>2</sup> will provide answers on how to facilitate and strengthen ENCI. Knowledge co-creation with municipalities, energy communities and citizens will enhance the research to deliver recommendations that support the EU's energy and decarbonisation goals. Project website: <https://ec2project.eu/>

### **ENCLUDE**

The overall vision of the Horizon 2020 project **Energy Citizens for Inclusive Decarbonization (ENCLUDE)** is to

help the EU to fulfill its promise of a just and inclusive decarbonization pathway through sharing and co-creating new knowledge and practices that maximize the number and diversity of citizens who are willing and able to contribute to the energy transition. Project website: <https://encludeproject.eu/>

### **EnergyPROSPECTS**

EnergyPROSPECTS aims to develop a broad understanding of ENCI as a policy concept, a sociotechnical imaginary, a knowing-of-governance, i.e. a social construction of desirable/normal civic agency in future energy systems. Project website: <https://www.EnergyPROSPECTS.eu/>

### **GRETA**

GRETA studies the social side of the energy transition. It seeks to understand how ENCI works in different contexts and geographical levels. What kind of knowledge, social structures, technology or financial resources are needed to make an active energy citizen? Project website: <https://projectgreta.eu/>

