PROSEU

Mainstreaming active participation of citizens in the Energy Transition

Results from the Survey: "New Energy for Europe: Renewable Energy self-consumption initiatives"

PROSEU survey objectives

Broadly characterise collective RES prosumers in the EU by looking at 9 Member States across 6 groups of variables.

PROSEU survey objectives

A **collective RES prosumer** or **RES prosumer initiative** in the PROSEU study is a collective energy actor that produces energy from renewable sources with the primary objective of providing in its own energy needs and/or those of its members, and in some cases selling excess energy to clients, thereby actively participating in the energy markets.

PROSEU survey objectives

- Basic demographics

- Use of RES technologies

- Financing strategies

- Governance modes

- Primary motivations

- Perception of facilitating and hindering factors

Survey methodology

- Multiple case-study using a self-administered online questionnaire in 8 languages

- Personalised approach
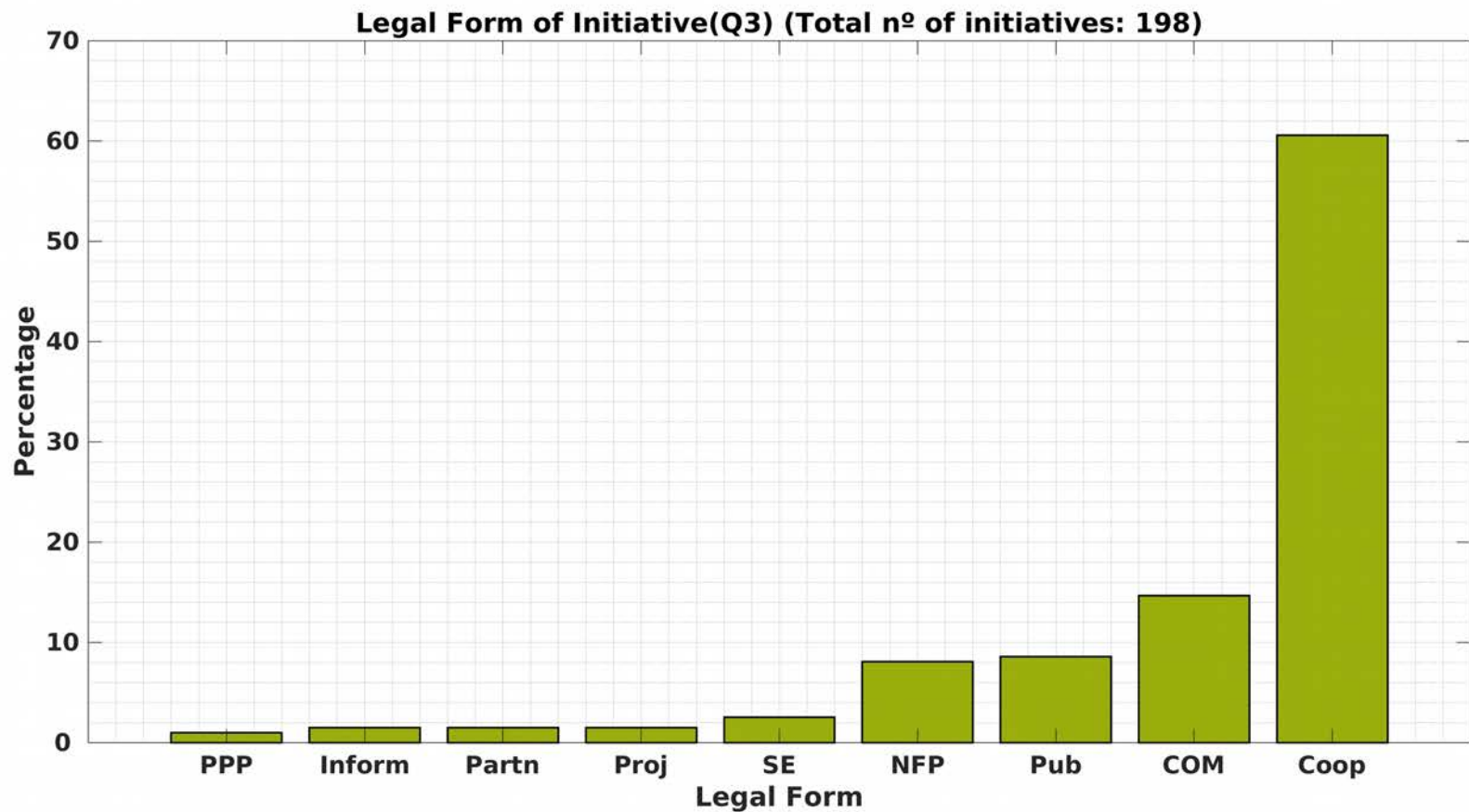
- 32 questions ~30 minutes duration

Survey methodology

- Contacted a stratified sample of 1,000 different collective RES prosumers

- 198 responses = 21.8% response rate

- Data analysed quantitatively and qualitatively, identifying broad comparative trends
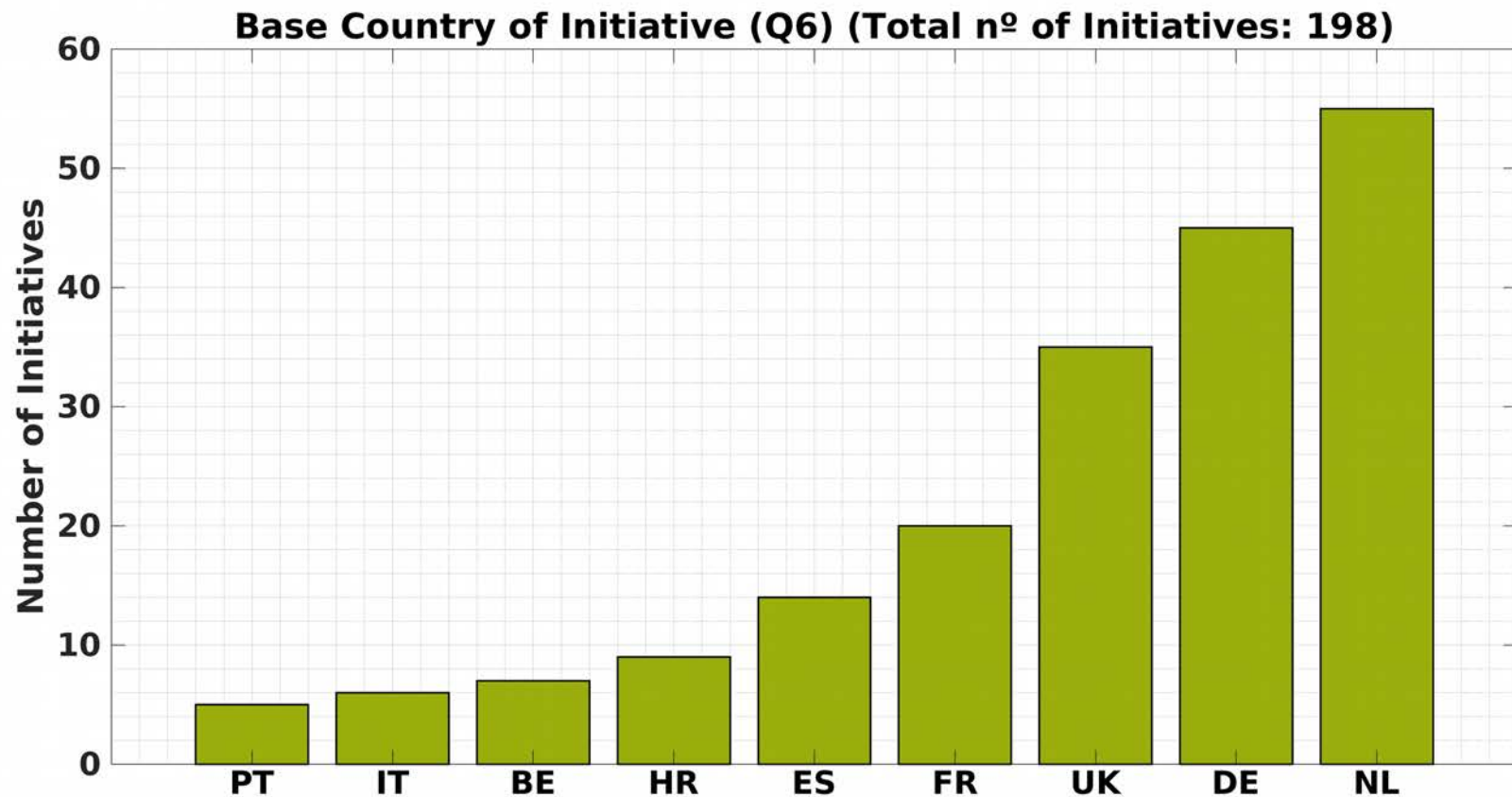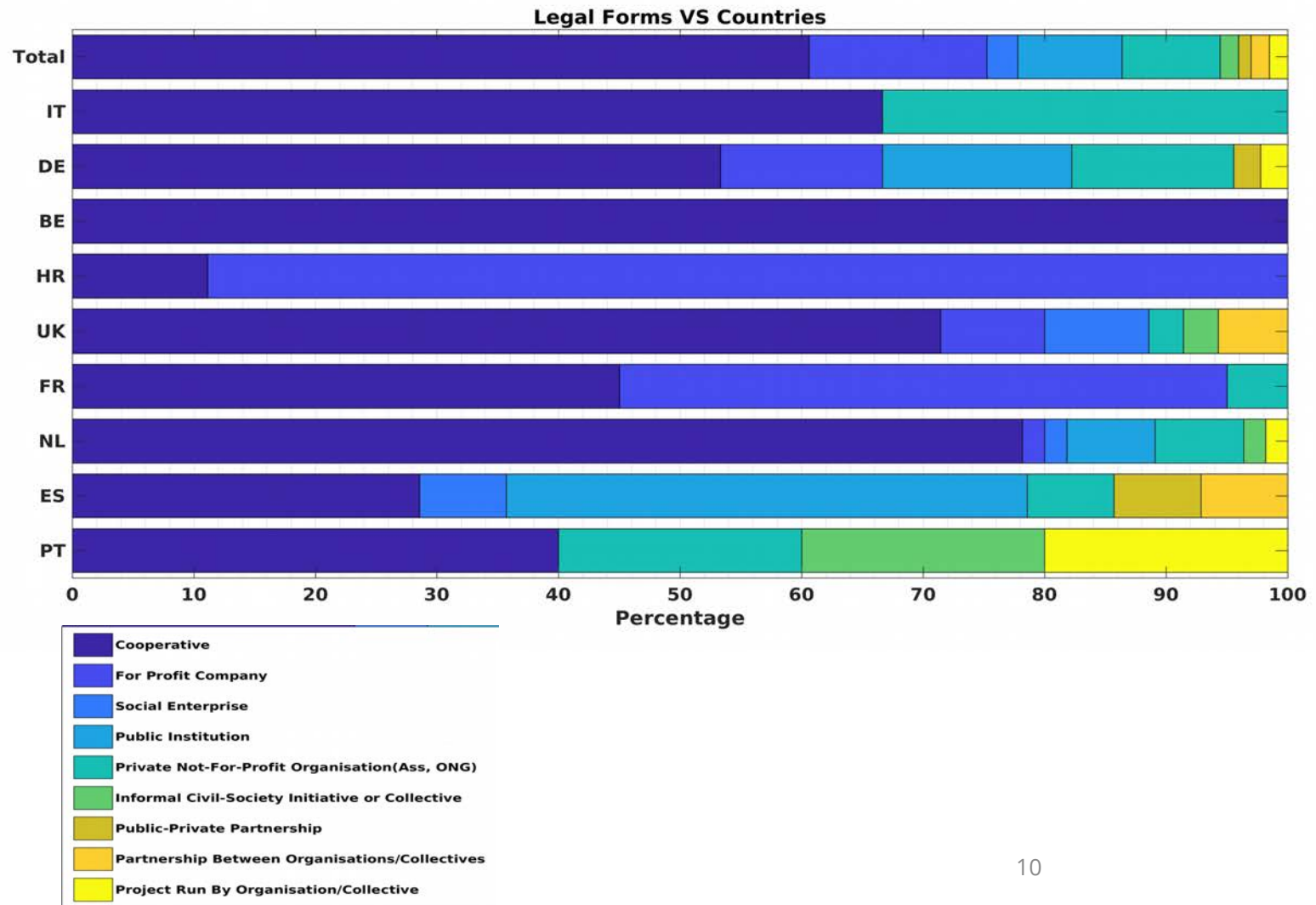
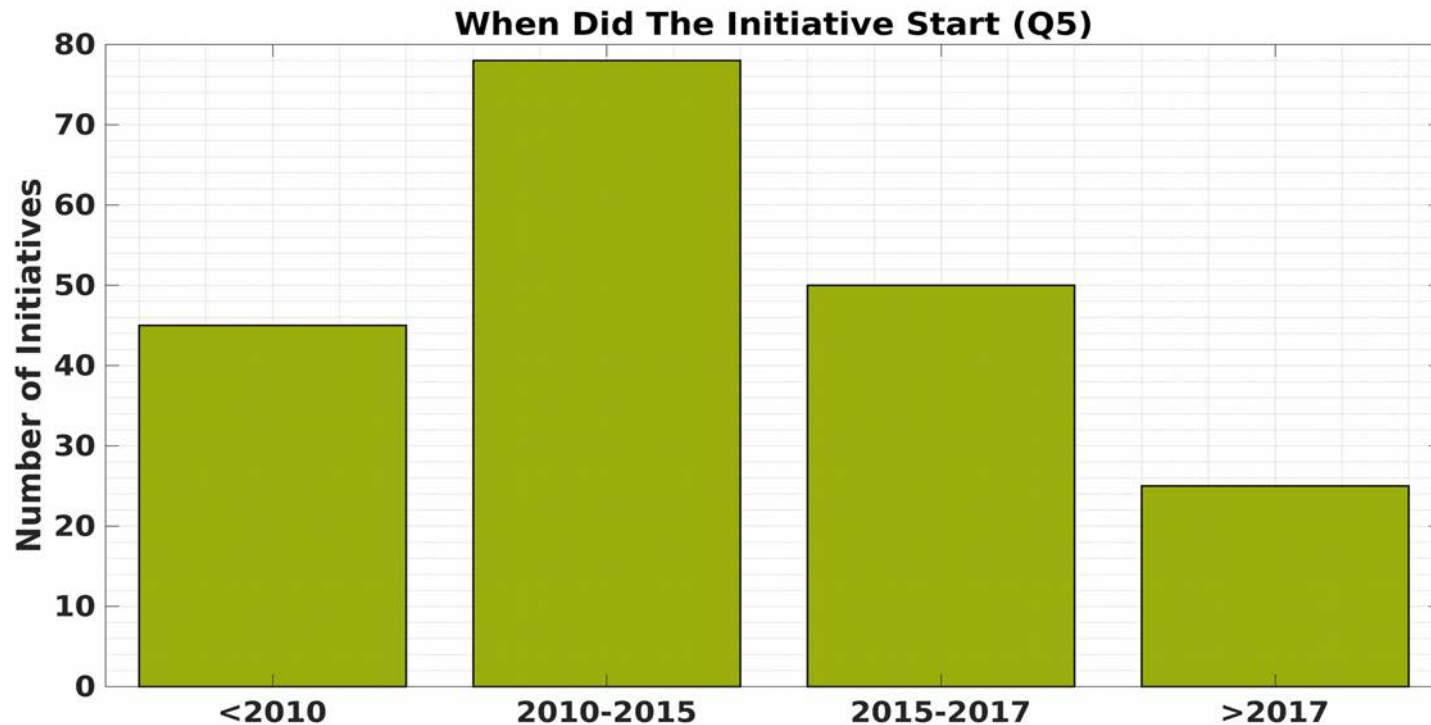# SURVEY RESULTS

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Legal forms distribution

Legal Form of Initiative(Q3) (Total nº of initiatives: 198)

Country distribution

Base Country of Initiative (Q6) (Total nº of Initiatives: 198)

Country vs legal forms

Legal Forms VS Countries

Starting date

When Did The Initiative Start (Q5)
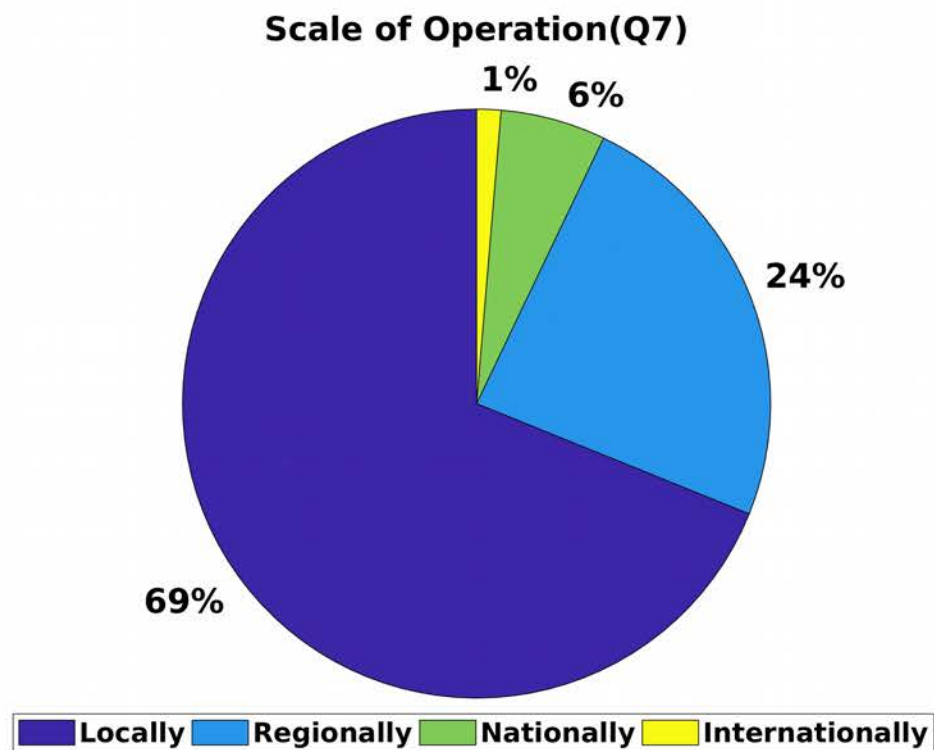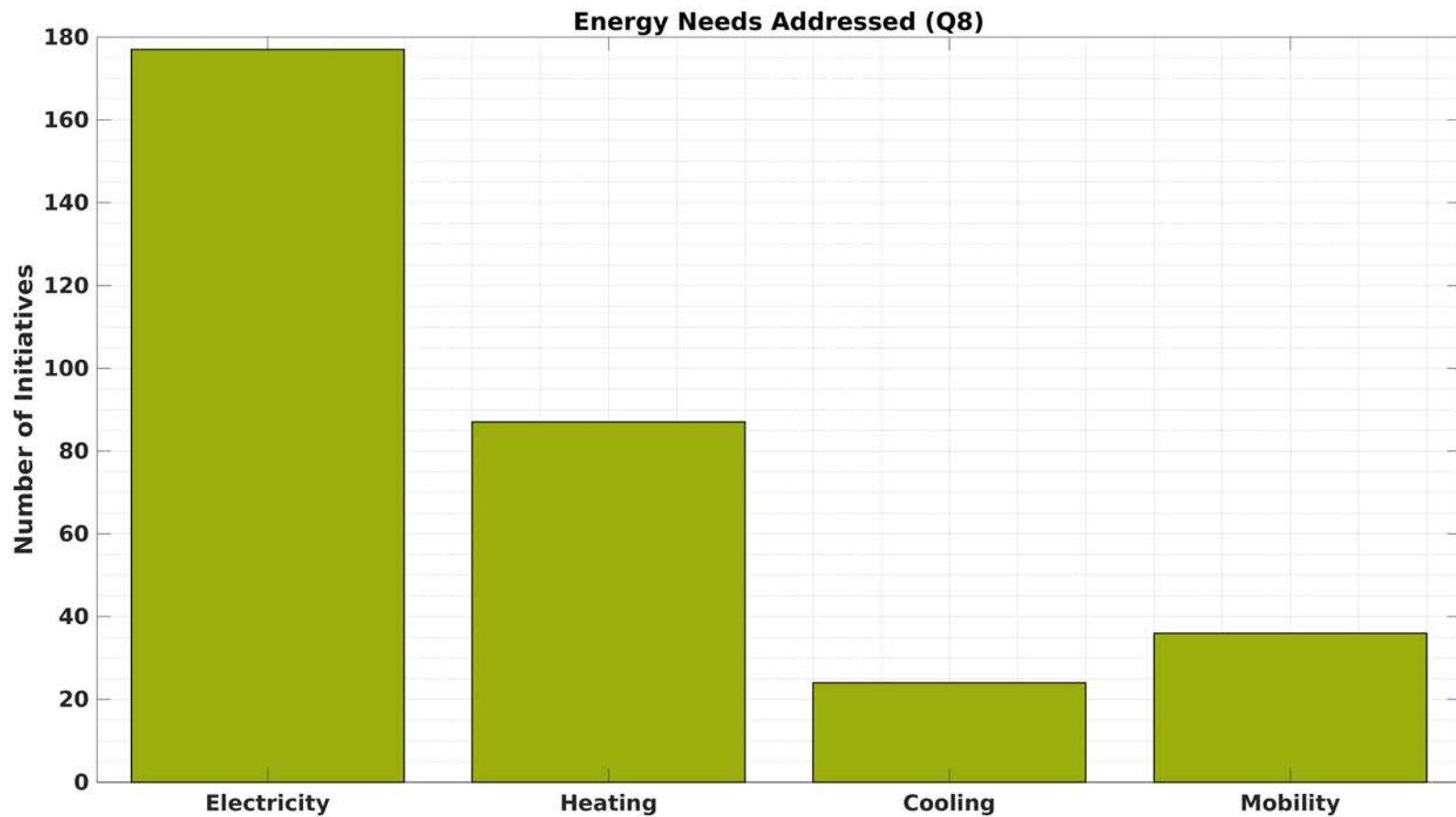

>> 78% of initiatives started after 2010.

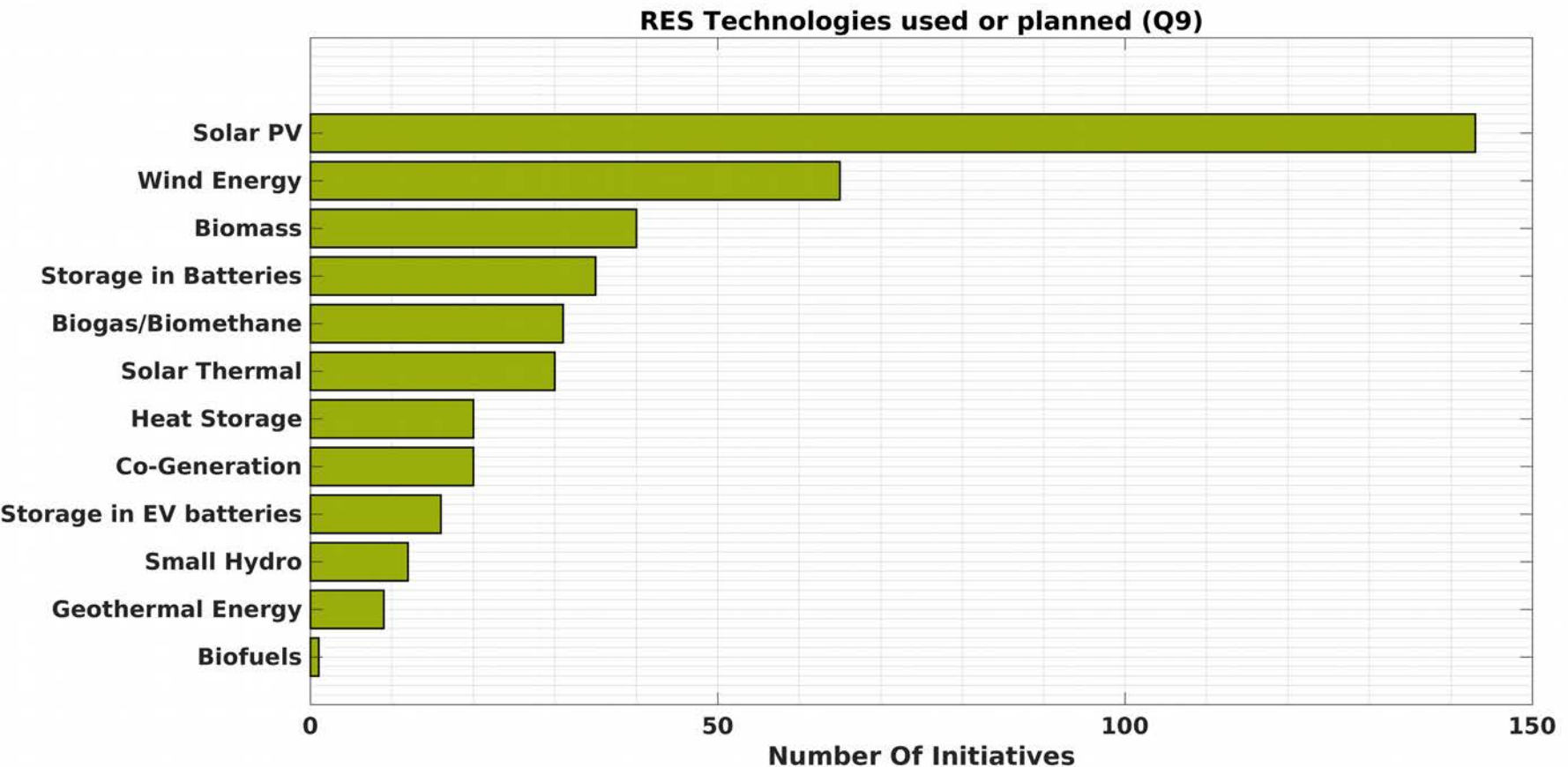>> The year they start production is mostly the same year or one year after.
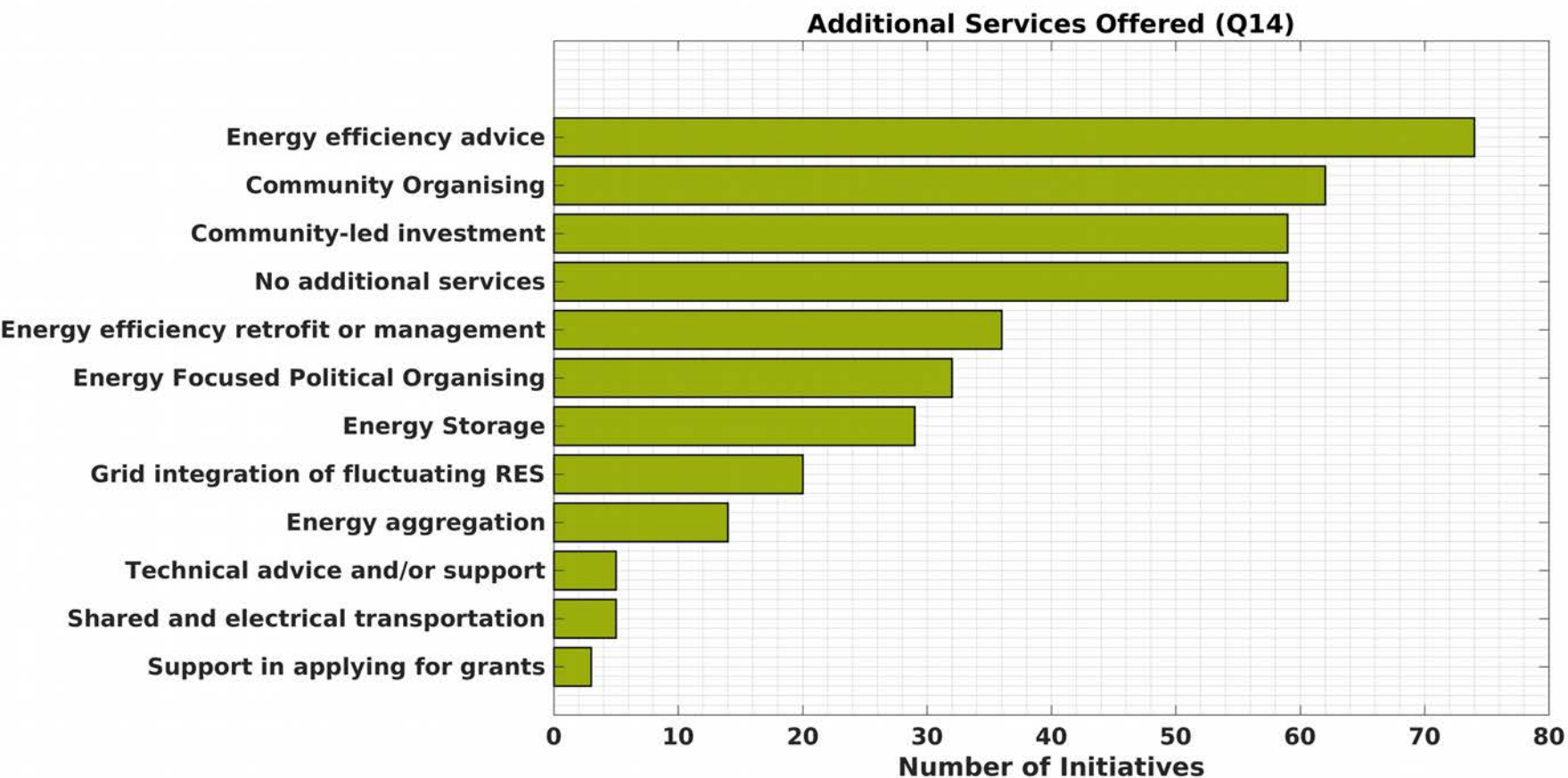
Scale of operation

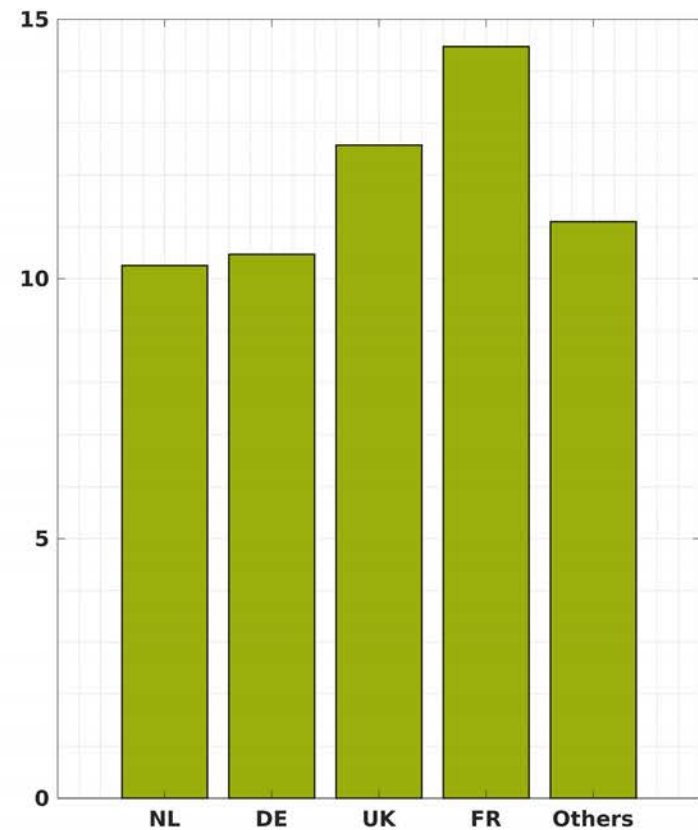# Energy needs addressed

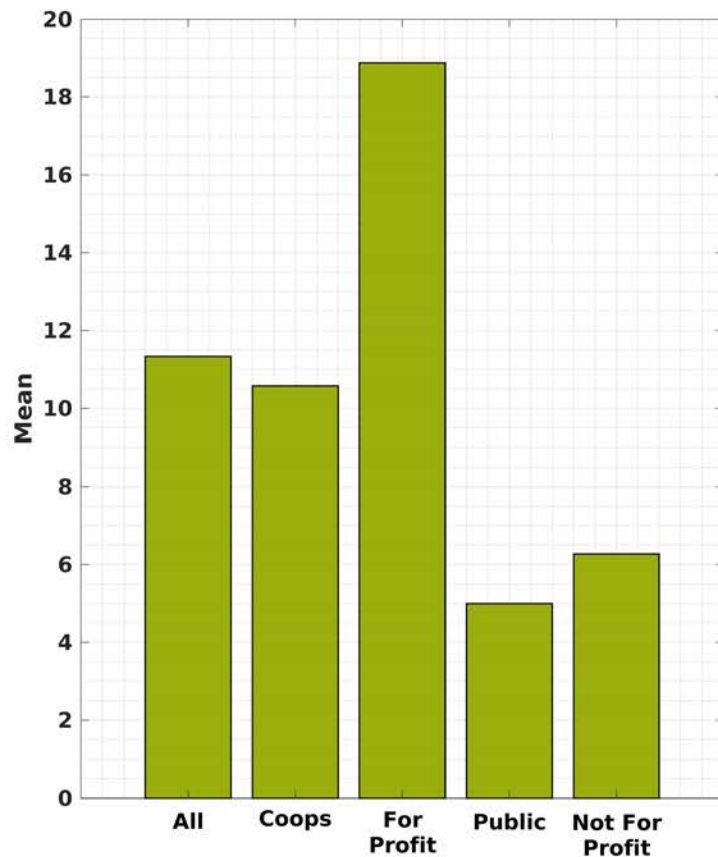# Choice of technology

RES Technologies used or planned (Q9)

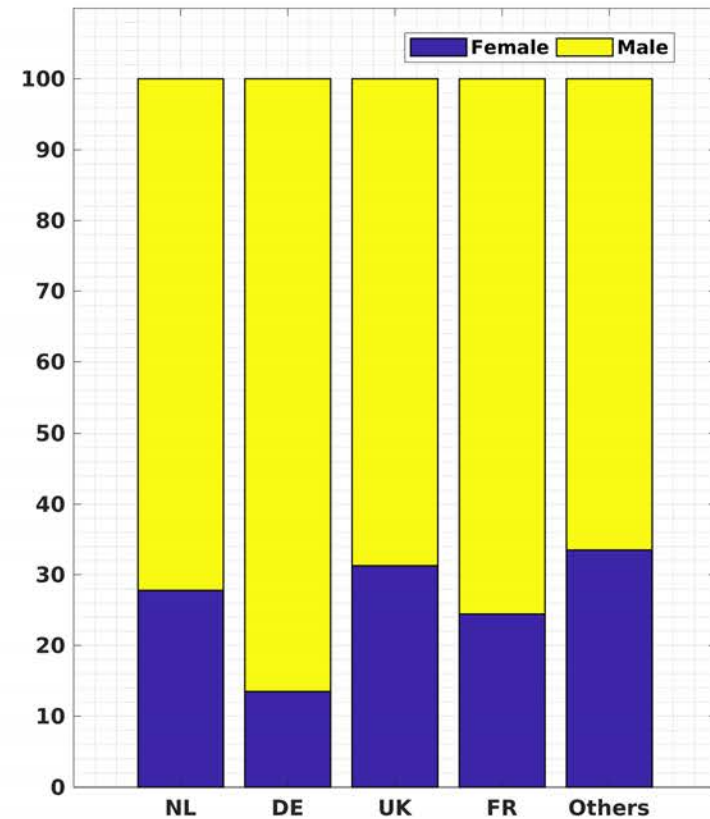# Additional services offered

Additional Services Offered (Q14)

Staff demographics

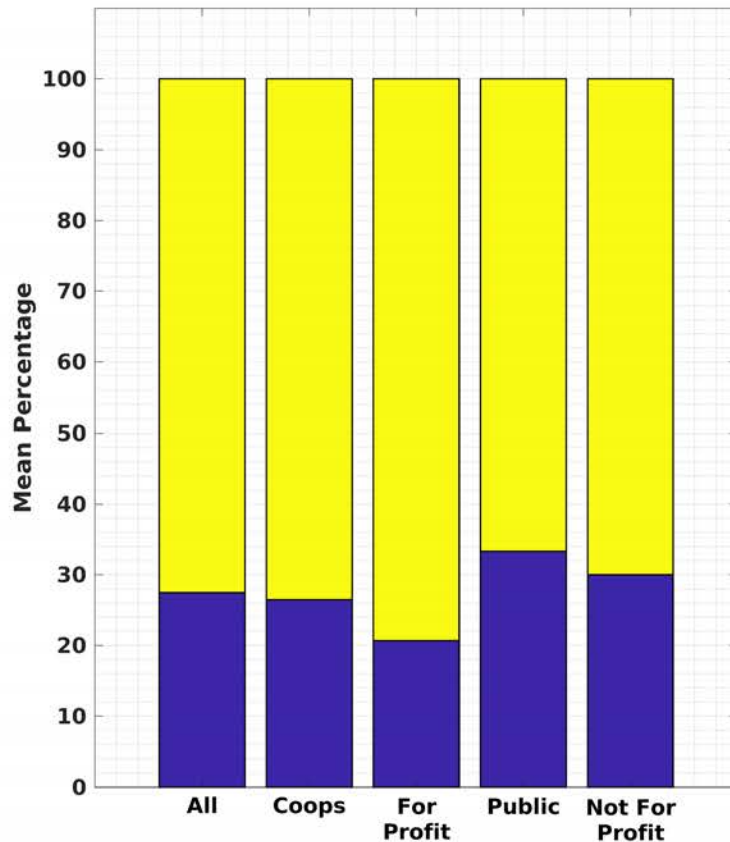Total number of staff (Q15) (Legal Forms + Countries)

Staff demographics

Women vs Men in Management Positions (Q16) (Legal Forms + Countries)
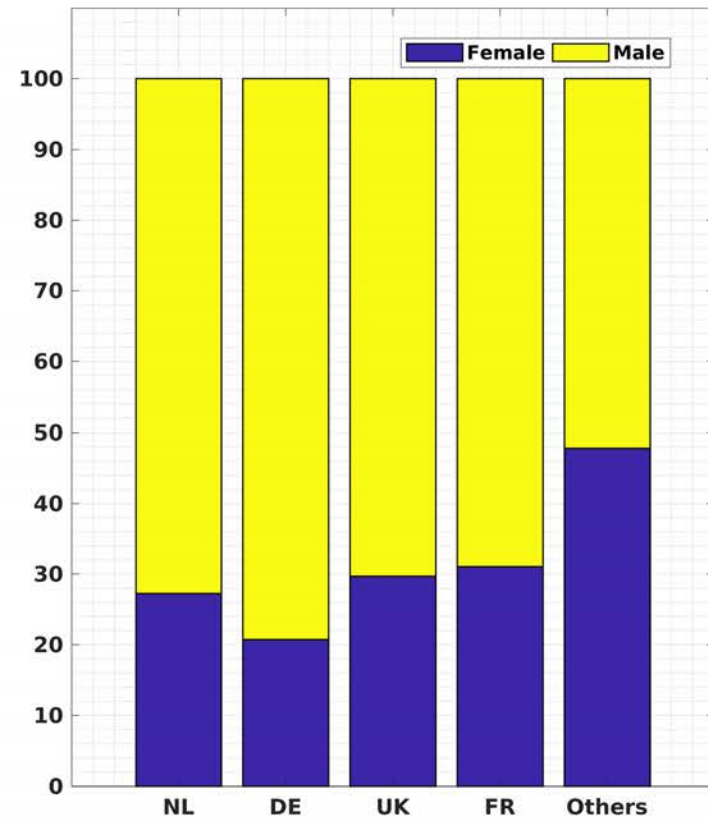
Staff demographics

Women vs Men in Non-Management Positions (Q17) (Legal Forms + Countries)
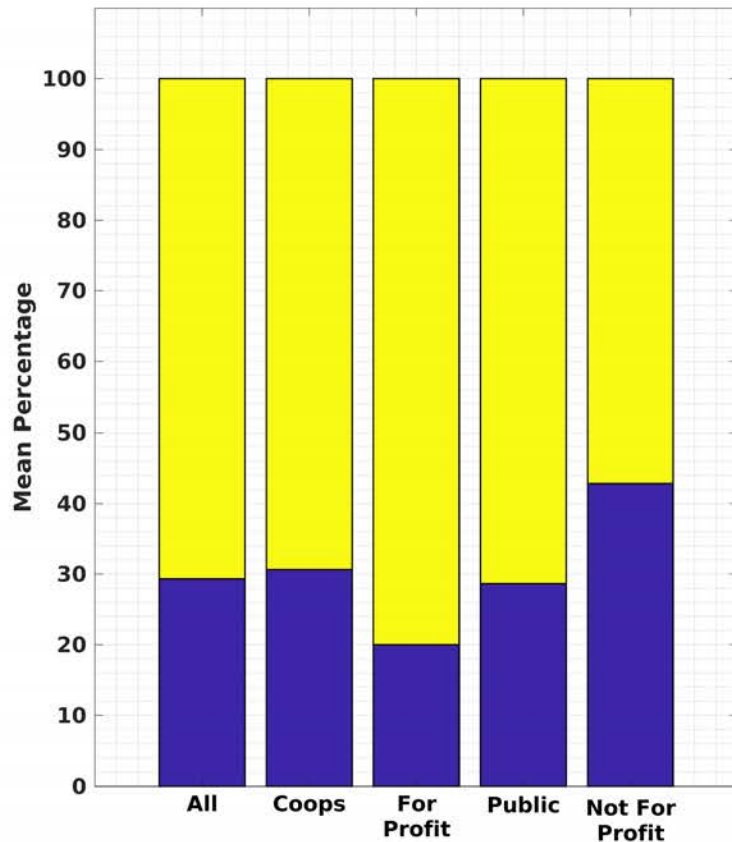
Staff demographics

Paid Staff Vs Volunteers (Q18 + 19) (Legal Forms + Countries)

How are major decisions taken
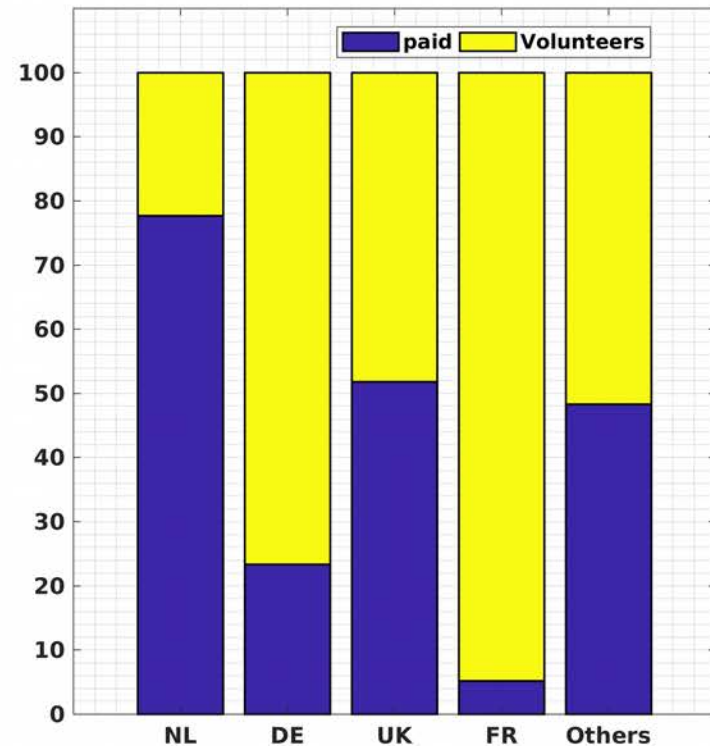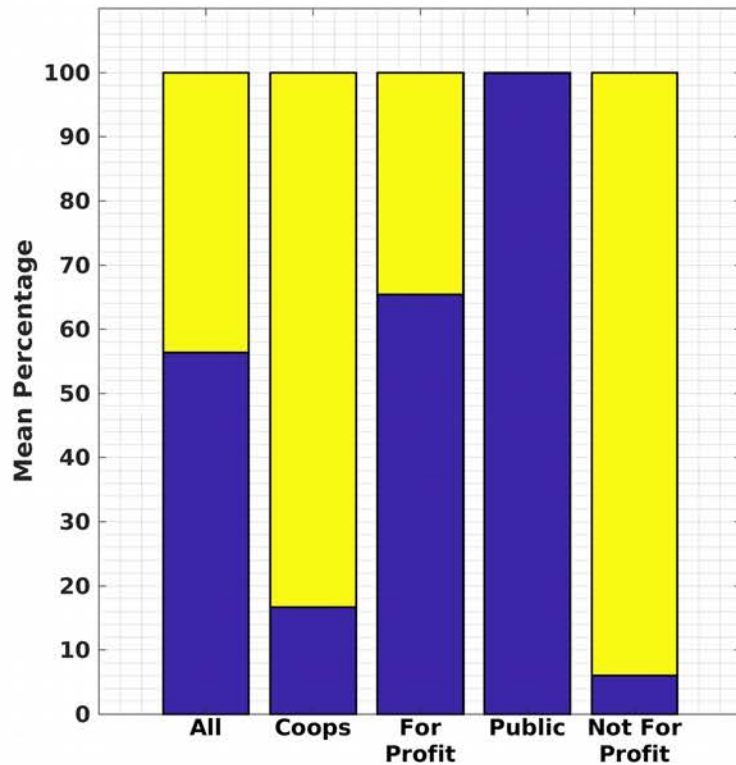
How are major decisions taken (Q26)
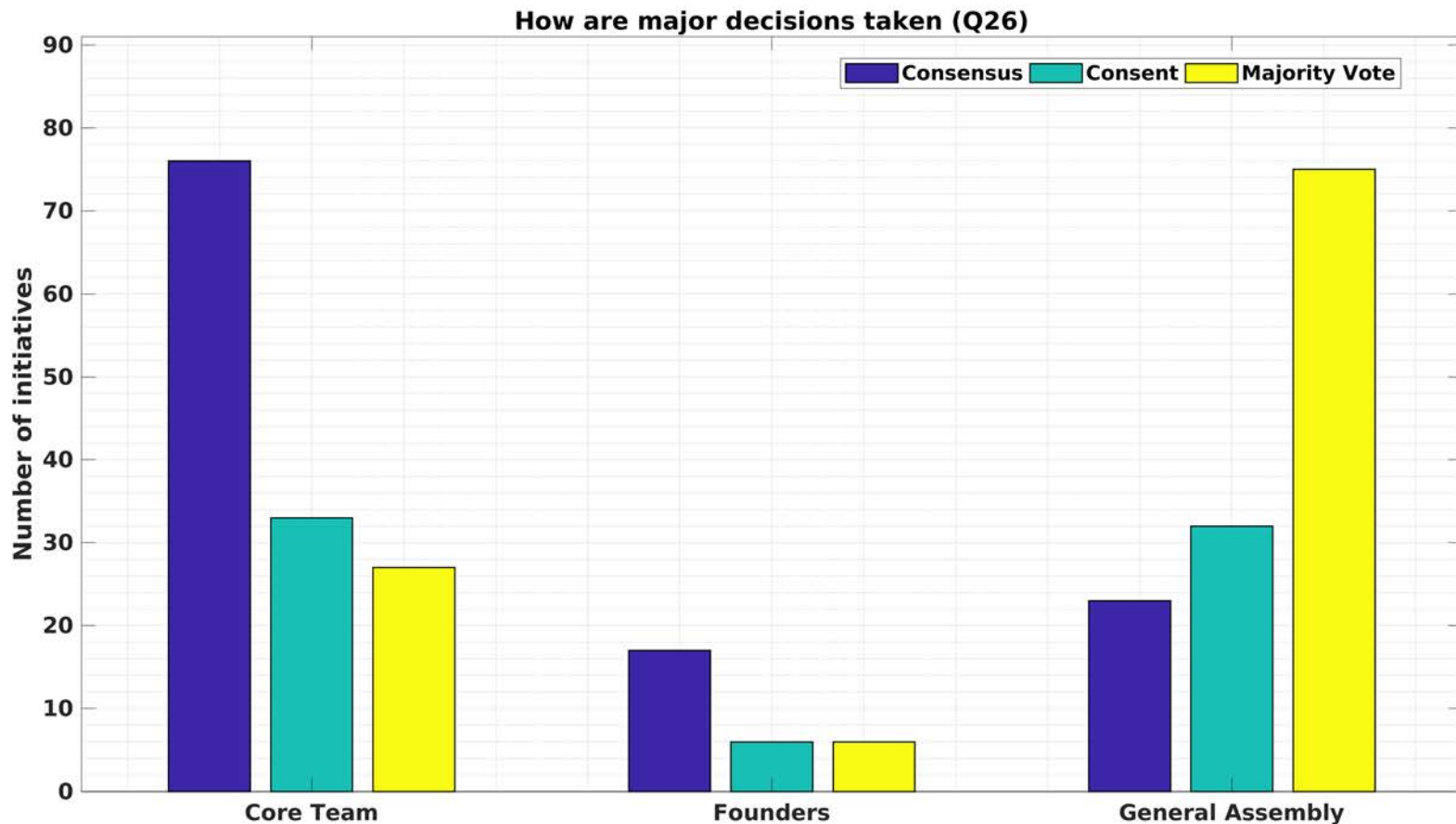
Level of staff involvement

Level Of Involvement Of Non-Management Staff In Strategic Decision-Making (Q27)

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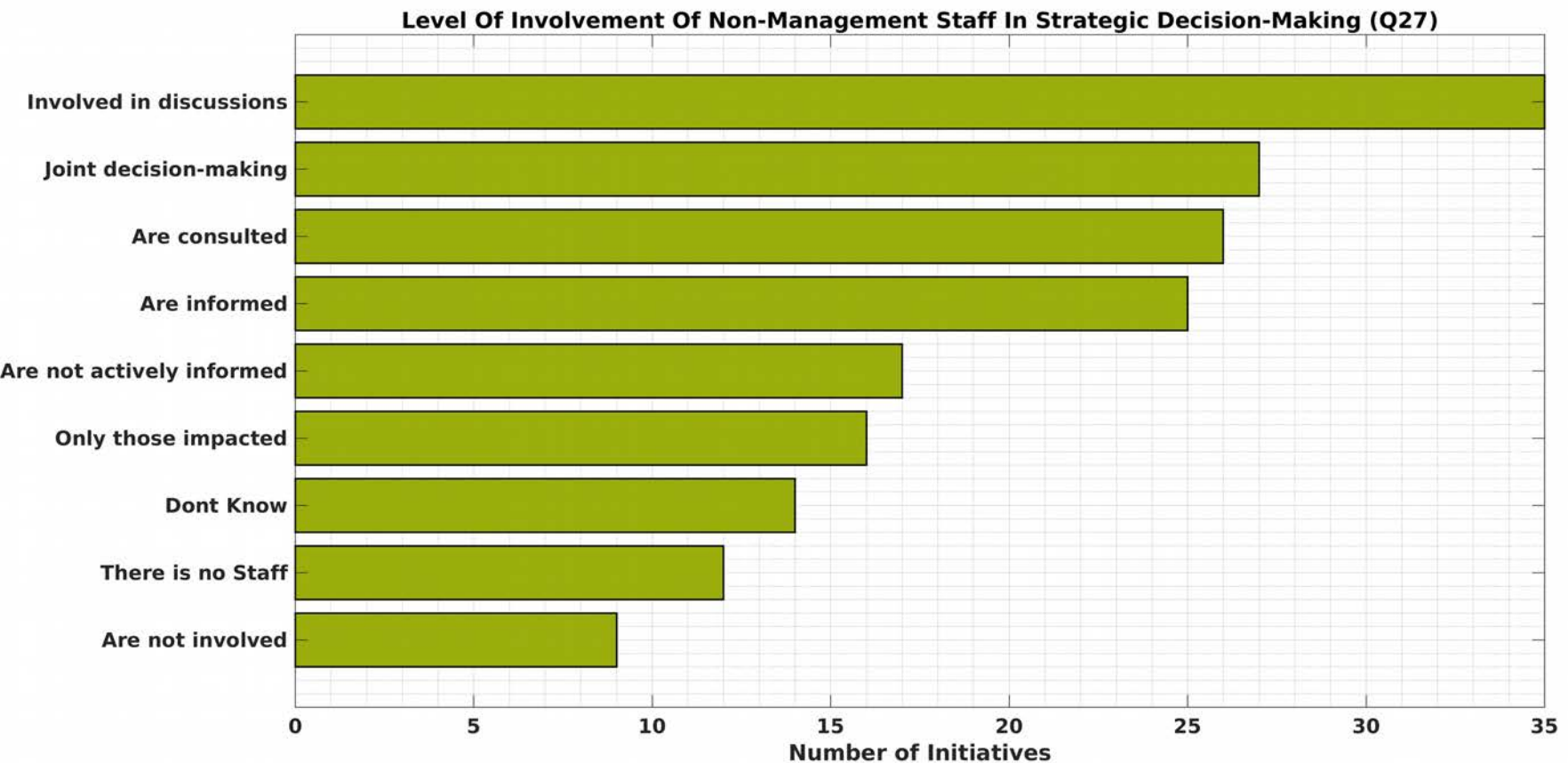
Number of members / clients

- 22% of initiatives have no members.

- 55% of the initiatives that do have members have < 100 members

- 33% of cooperatives answered that they have no clients (beyond members)

- 65% of those that have clients have < 100 clients

Inclusiveness of the initiative

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Networking characteristics

Networking with other stakeholders (Q28)[HeatMap]

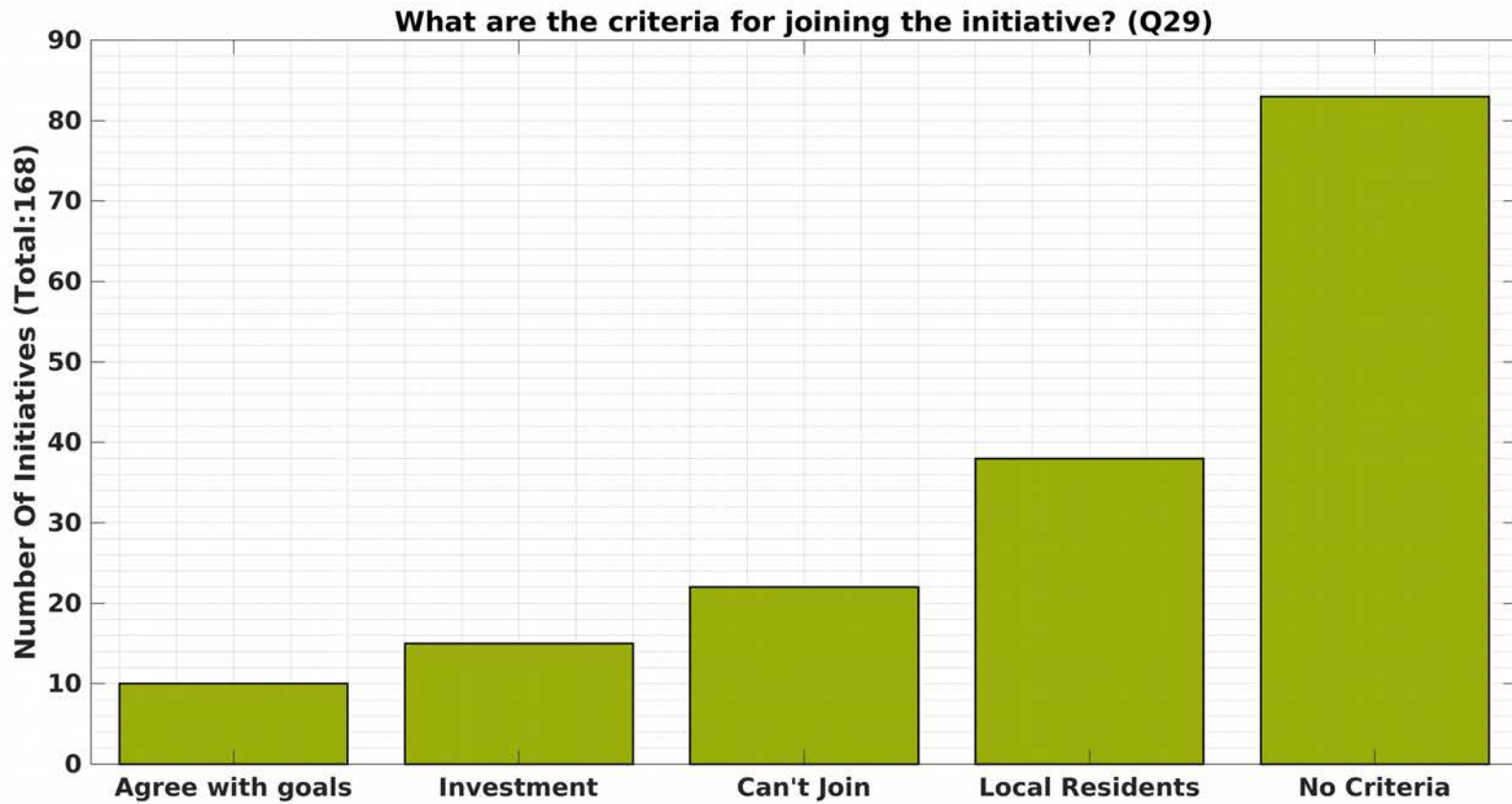|	Knowledge	Self-Promotion	Funding	Human Resources	Material Resources
Citizens/Households	97	105	47	26	21
Civil Society/NG0s	102	84	26	15	13
Communities/Collectives/cooperatives	118	78	32	22	26
Other Prosumers	100	47	14	7	13
Local Government	81	84	54	17	33
Regional Government	61	60	49	8	17
National Government	28	30	28	5	6
Business/companies	61	69	25	9	29
External Advisers	71	30	16	21	19
Local utility Companies	46	29	9	6	17
Regional Utility Companies	40	25	8	5	22
National Utility Companies	26	13	3	2	11
EU institutions	26	19	19	3	6
National Networks or Social Mov	89	50	11	8	12
Transnational Networks or Social Mov	38	23	4	1	6

Financing: sources

How is the Initiative financed? (Q23)

Financing: capital borrowed

How much capital was borrowed? (Q24)

| 1k-10k | 10k-50k | 50k-150k | >150k | No capital was borrowed |
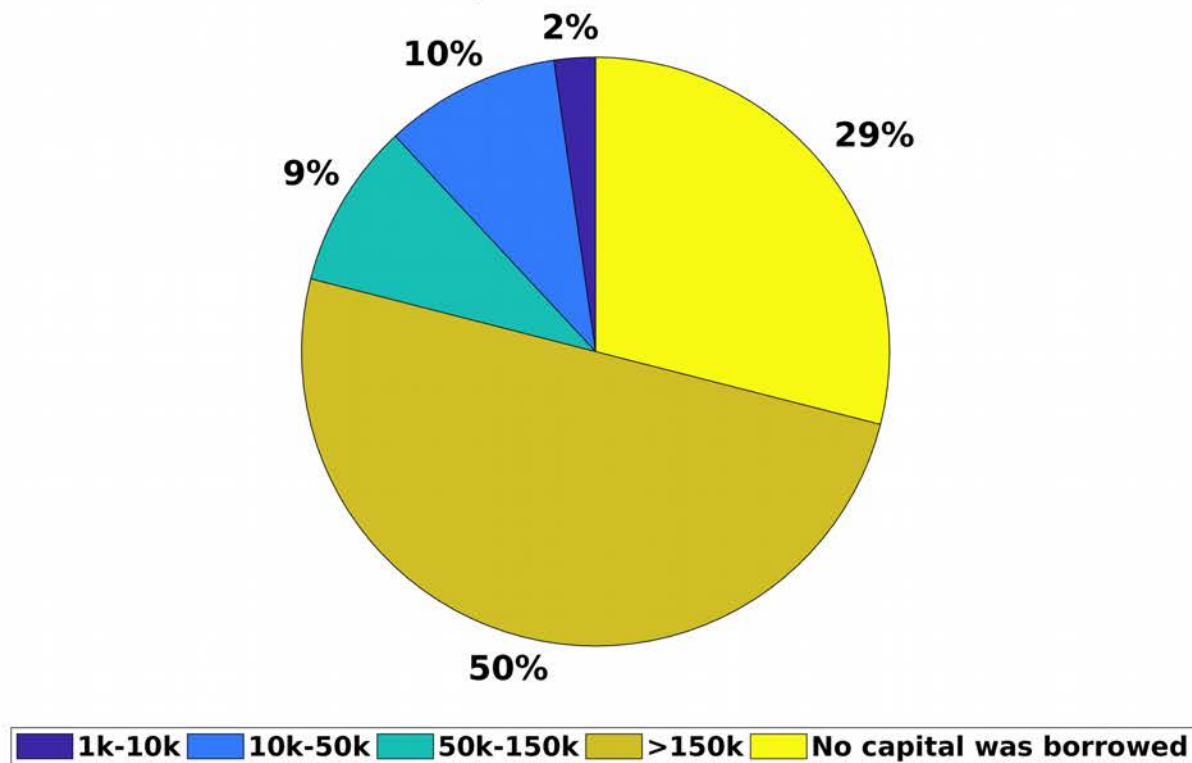
Note: Two-thirds of initiatives own their RES equipment

Main reasons for starting the initiative

- Tackling the climate change problem.
- Be part of the clean and low carbon transition.
- Decentralise energy production.
- Create a sense of community.
- Take advantage of new RES technologies.
- Reduce energy costs.

Main facilitating factors

- Knowledge of renewable energy technologies.
- Access to finance, subsidies or grants.
- Collaborating and networking with others.
- Renewable energy technology options available.

Main hindering factors

- Public policies and legislation for renewable energy initiatives.
- Energy infrastructures (e.g. grid, meter,).
- Access to finance, subsidies or grants.
- Knowledge of policies and legislation in RES production.

Main threats

- The current, uncertain legislative setting.
- The risk of working as/with volunteers and the urgent need to professionalise operations.
- The two faces of EU states: on paper promoting prosumerism, but in practice failing to facilitate its implementation.
- The continuing lack of awareness of citizens about the dangers of climate change and the need for an energy transition.

Main threats

- The fair distribution of costs and benefits (in particular when exploiting common goods—wind, water, sun, land).
- The slow progress in terms of the energy IT infrastructure.
- A persisting strong lobby by the conventional energy sector (e.g. in France this lobby is strangling wind energy projects).

Some opportunities

- Creating synergies between RES prosumerism and other climate/zero carbon friendly activities (e.g. complementing prosumerism with energy efficiency measures or awareness raising).
- Utilising the roofs of buildings in the public sector for solar PV production.
- The ability for RES prosumers to also become energy suppliers.

Some conclusions

- Most collective initiatives have a strong community inspiration and profit-making is not on the agenda.
- Development of prosumerism is currently hindered by the laws and policies in place: source of uncertainty.
- Many struggle with the bureaucracies, lack of (qualified) staff, legal, and other restrictions (access to finance and land).
- But they also show how creative they can get to survive!
- Most offer or wish to offer additional services, in particular energy efficiency advice, but also awareness raising. Storage is on the rise, as is EV sharing.

Thanks for your attention!
Any questions?

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