



# The COMETS survey

## *Exploring determinants of CAIs development in the energy sector*



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# Contents

1. **The COMETS project**
2. **Survey design and submission**
3. **Results**

# The COMETS project (1)

## Objectives

1. A new and robust knowledge on social innovative processes in the energy transition as implemented by **Collective Action Initiatives – CAI** (e.g. energy coop, purchasing groups, association, ecovillages....)
2. Tools for the assessment of CAIs performance and aggregate estimates of their current and potential contribution to the energy transition.
3. Tools and recommendations for improving the start-up, steering, and up-scaling of CAI activities.

## The consortium

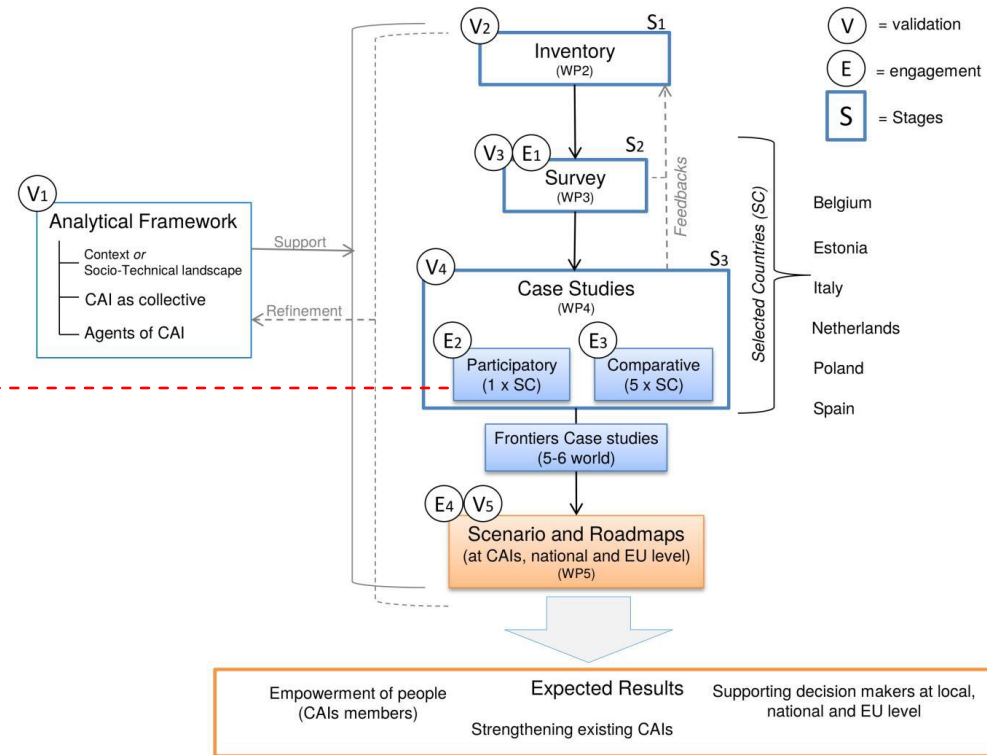
12 partners from 8 EU countries  
(BE, DK, EE, ES, IT, NL, PL + NO)

- 6 Academic bodies
- 3 EU level organizations
- 1 Energy agency
- 2 Research center



# The COMETS project (2)

## The work plan



Where we are  
(april 2021)

Working with CAIs as organizations

Working with people

## The main products (so far)

A working definition of CAIs

Inventory of CAIs

Survey of CAIs

National workshops

Context Analysis

Training days


Online presence (website and Supporting Platform)

Publications and Conferences (5 pubs, over 50 conf and wshop)

# Survey design and submission

The structure follows a logic of the temporality of the CAI:

*first steps, current situation and future needs, challenges and opportunities*

- 
1. Privacy and key data (name of organization)
  2. How it all started
  3. Impact of the initiative (focus on the energy transition)
  4. Governance and Citizen participation
  5. The environment of the initiative (e.g. geographical, social innovation, partnerships)
  6. Challenges, opportunities, needs and how can COMETS support you (e.g. through the platform)

Dissemination strategy:

- ▶ A. **National Workshops**
- ▶ B. **Mailing/Invitation campaign plan**
- ▶ C. Follow up in person
- ▶ D. Representative sample test

Country	Number of CAIs contacted by the National Lead Partners <sup>1</sup>	Total responses reported at the closure of the collector on Survey Monkey	Survey responses after filtering
Belgium	108	52	44
Estonia	98	35	27
Italy	230	59	39
The Netherlands	101	55	47
Poland	57	32	24
Spain	70	34	25
Total	664	267	206

*Table – Distribution of the survey responses across the partner countries*

# Survey results and analysis

## Five dimensions



Dynamics of creation



Organizational structure



Financing



CAIs' activities in the energy transition



Social Impact

► The role of citizens, banks, and municipalities

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Citizen	37	7	18	36	2	16	116
Municipality	5	3	4	5	12	4	33
Local Development Agency	1	2	1	3	0	0	7
University	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
Research Centre	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Private Energy Utility	2	0	6	0	3	2	13
Energy Cooperative	3	0	7	3	0	7	20
NGO-energy related	3	2	3	1	4	1	14
other	13	16	9	13	10	6	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>278</b>
<b>Total CAIs</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>205</b>

The origin of the idea.

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Citizen	34	14	24	26	2	14	114
Crowdfunding	4	3	2	6	0	1	16
Donations	0	0	4	3	1	3	11
Public Grant	13	9	3	29	10	5	69
Public Admin.	2	1	1	4	5	5	18
Public Bank	1	7	2	1	3	0	14
Private Sector	3	0	4	2	3	2	14
Private Bank	7	9	7	3	3	3	32
Cooperative Bank	2	0	9	4	2	2	19
other	9	10	11	11	13	7	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>368</b>
<b>Total CAIs</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>203</b>

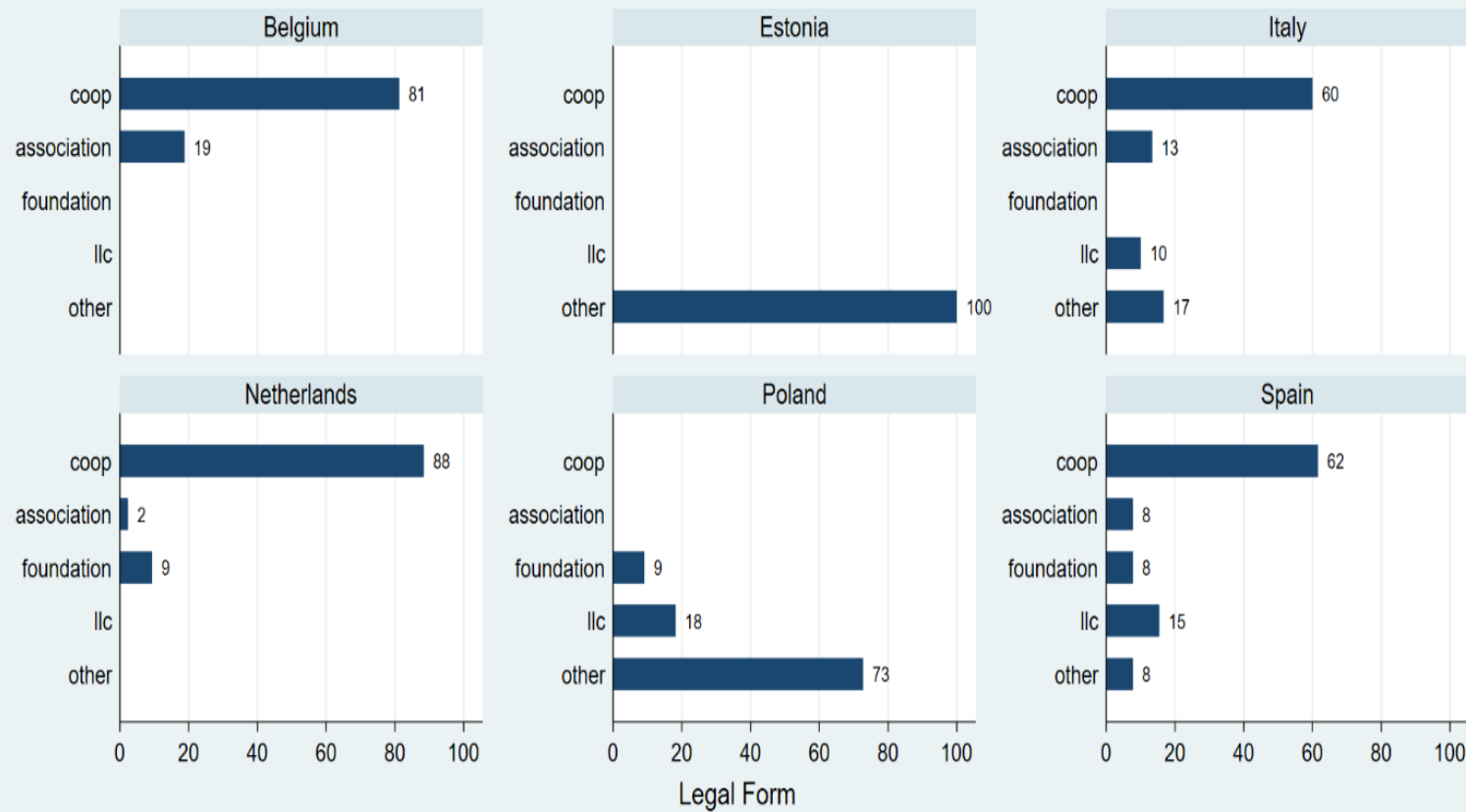
The initial investors.

## Key result #1

### Dynamics of creation

1. the origin of the initiative and beneficiaries
2. initial investors

- ▶ 73% of the CAIs surveyd have a legal form
- ▶ 63% of the CAIs surveyed are cooperatives

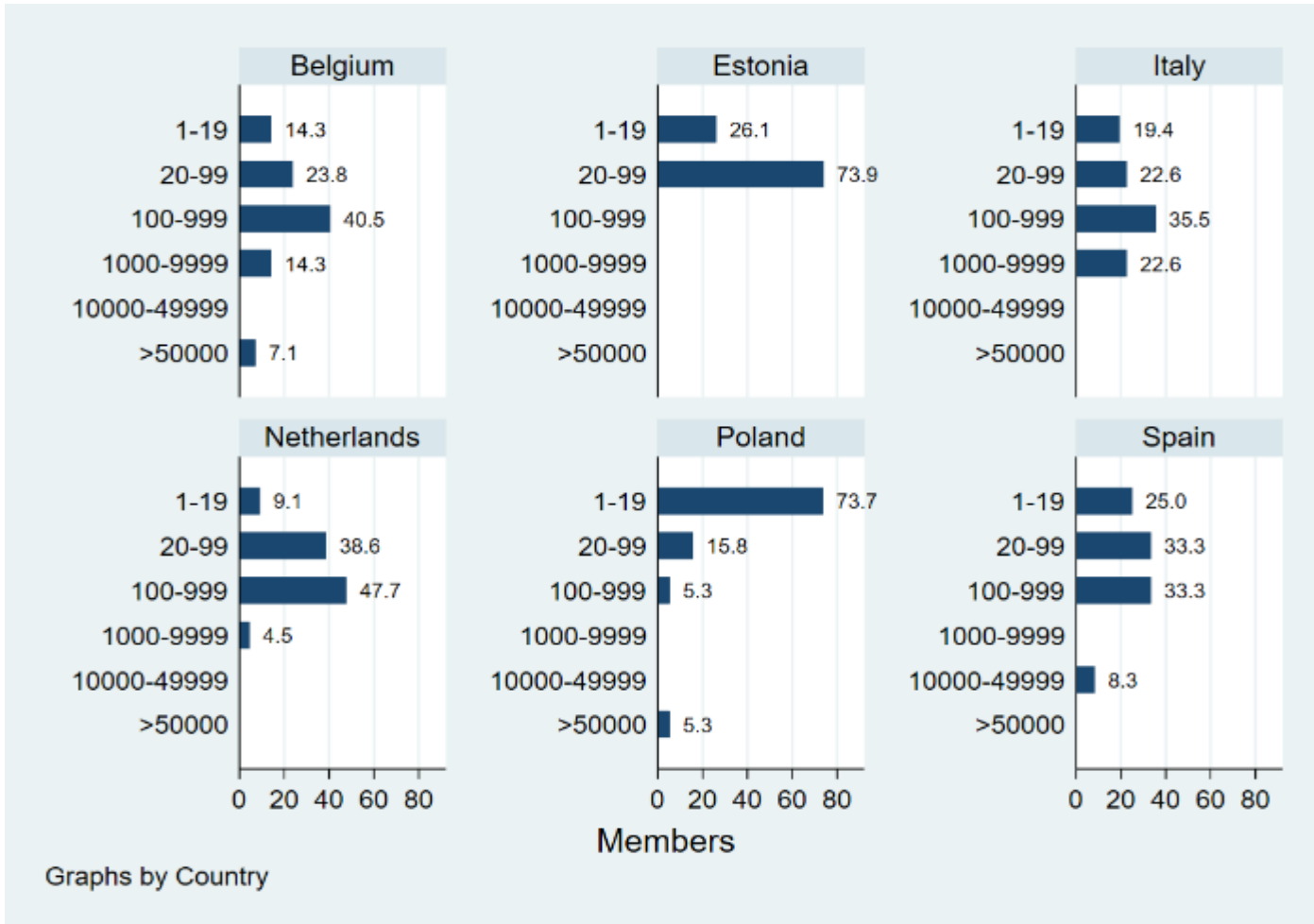


Graphs by Country

Key result #2  
**Organizational Structure (I)**  
 1. legal form  
 2. cooperatives  
 3. dimension



► The small medium size CAIs prevail



Key result #2  
**Organizational Structure (II)**  
1. legal form  
2. cooperatives  
3. dimension

- Citizens (members), municipalities (through public grants) and banks are the main initial providers of funding.

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Private Banks	1	13	2	3	0	1	20
Cooperative Banks	1	0	2	4	0	1	8
Members	34	20	23	33	0	11	121
Non-member citizens	2	1	0	1	2	3	9
Public authorities	3	3	4	5	10	1	26
Incumbents	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Non-incumbents	0	1	3	0	1	1	6
Private Corporations	1	0	7	1	0	1	10
other	5	7	4	8	5	4	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Total CAIs</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>158</b>

Today investors

## Key result #3

### Financing

1. the initial investors
2. today investors

- Prevalence of local initiatives (both at municipality and regional level)

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Rural area	3	4	8	18	5	9	47
Urban area	10	18	3	9	8	1	49
Local	27	7	11	26	7	9	70
Regional	22	0	11	7	8	5	53
National	16	0	8	8	2	4	38
International	1	2	1	2	1	1	8
other	4	0	1	6	3	4	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>Total CAIs</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>187</b>

## Key result #4

### CAIs' activities

1. Geographical scope  
(urban-rural, local-national, regional)

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Generation of RE	32	20	24	36	10	10	132
Sell RE to Consumers	11	2	13	13	5	5	49
Operate and energy Grid	4	0	8	2	1	2	17
Self-consumption/Energy Sharing	11	3	6	7	2	12	41
Other	42	19	24	29	7	14	135
NoActivity	5	3	7	7	9	3	34
<b>Total</b>	105	47	82	94	34	46	408
<b>Total CAIs</b>	44	25	36	47	22	24	198

### Energy Supply Chain

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Wind-OnShore	24	0	3	22	3	3	55
PV-Rooftop	30	25	21	41	9	13	139
PV-Other	5	2	8	18	6	3	42
Biomass/Biofuels/Biogas	8	0	5	2	5	3	23
Cogeneration	8	1	4	0	7	0	20
other	15	2	14	4	7	5	47
No Activity	3	0	4	2	3	7	19
<b>Total</b>	93	30	59	89	40	34	345
<b>Total CAIs</b>	43	26	36	47	22	23	197

### Renewable Energy Generation

## Key result #5

### CAIs' activities (I)

1. Energy Supply Chain (ESC)
2. Renewable Energy Generation (REG)
3. Energy Efficiency Services (EES)
4. E-Mobility (EM)

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
E-mobility	10	0	12	8	0	9	68
other	7	0	3	2	3	5	20
NoActivity	33	25	26	36	18	14	152
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Total CAIs</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>189</b>

### E-mobility

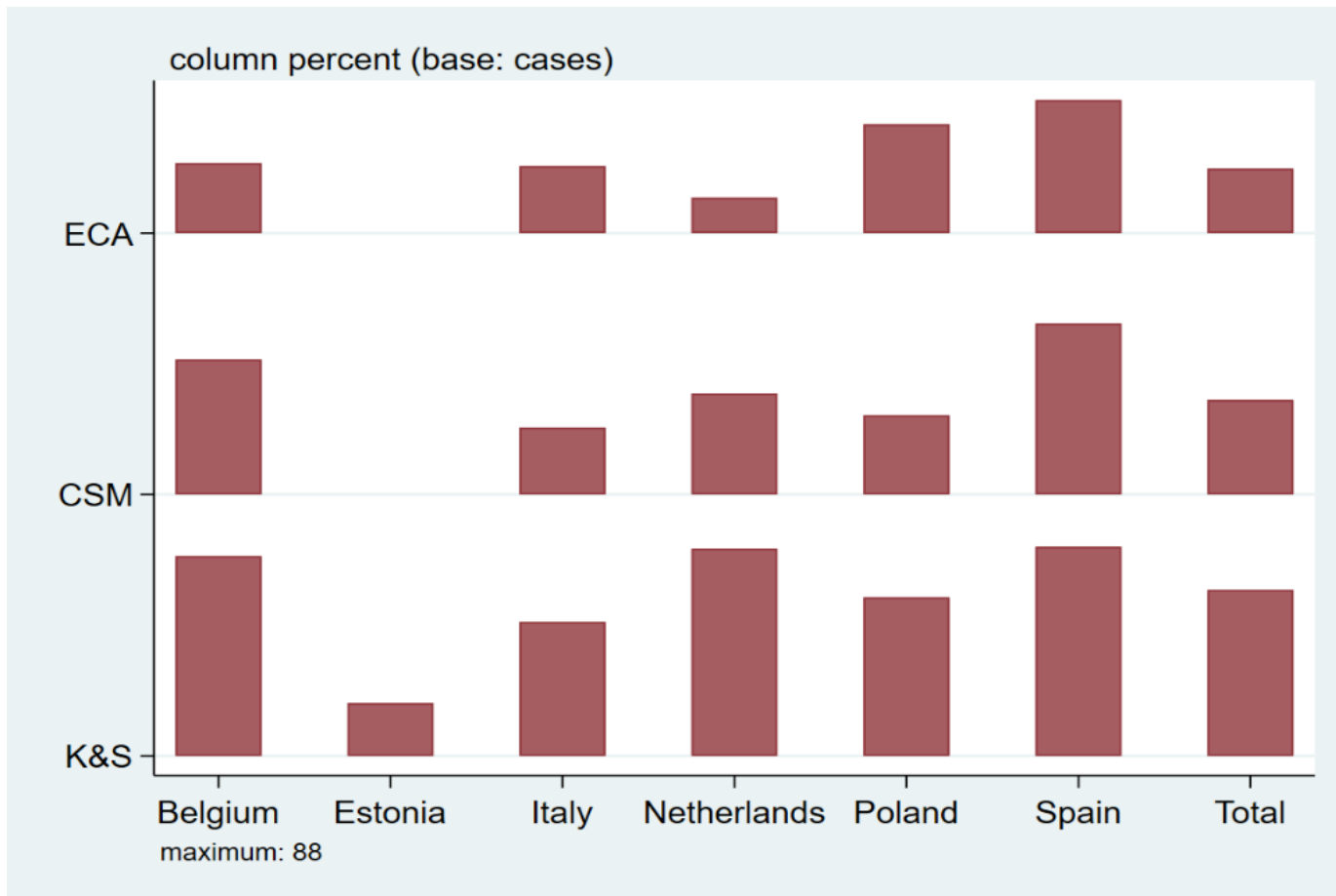
	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Energy Efficiency building	6	5	7	6	4	4	32
Energy Efficiency Audits	6	0	4	10	4	5	29
Advice on energy consumption	17	0	13	25	6	11	72
Collective purchase of energy products	8	0	4	9	1	7	29
Financing Energy Efficiency products	4	0	2	1	1	0	8
other	8	1	5	6	2	1	23
No Activity	21	20	15	17	14	5	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>285</b>
<b>Total CAIs</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>194</b>

### Energy Efficiency Services

## Key result #6

### CAIs' activities (II)

1. Energy Supply Chain (ESC)
2. Renewable Energy Generation (REG)
3. E-Mobility (EM)
4. Energy Efficiency Services (EES)



→ Except for Estonia, CAIs perform at least one of these energy-related activities at large in all countries.

## Key result #7

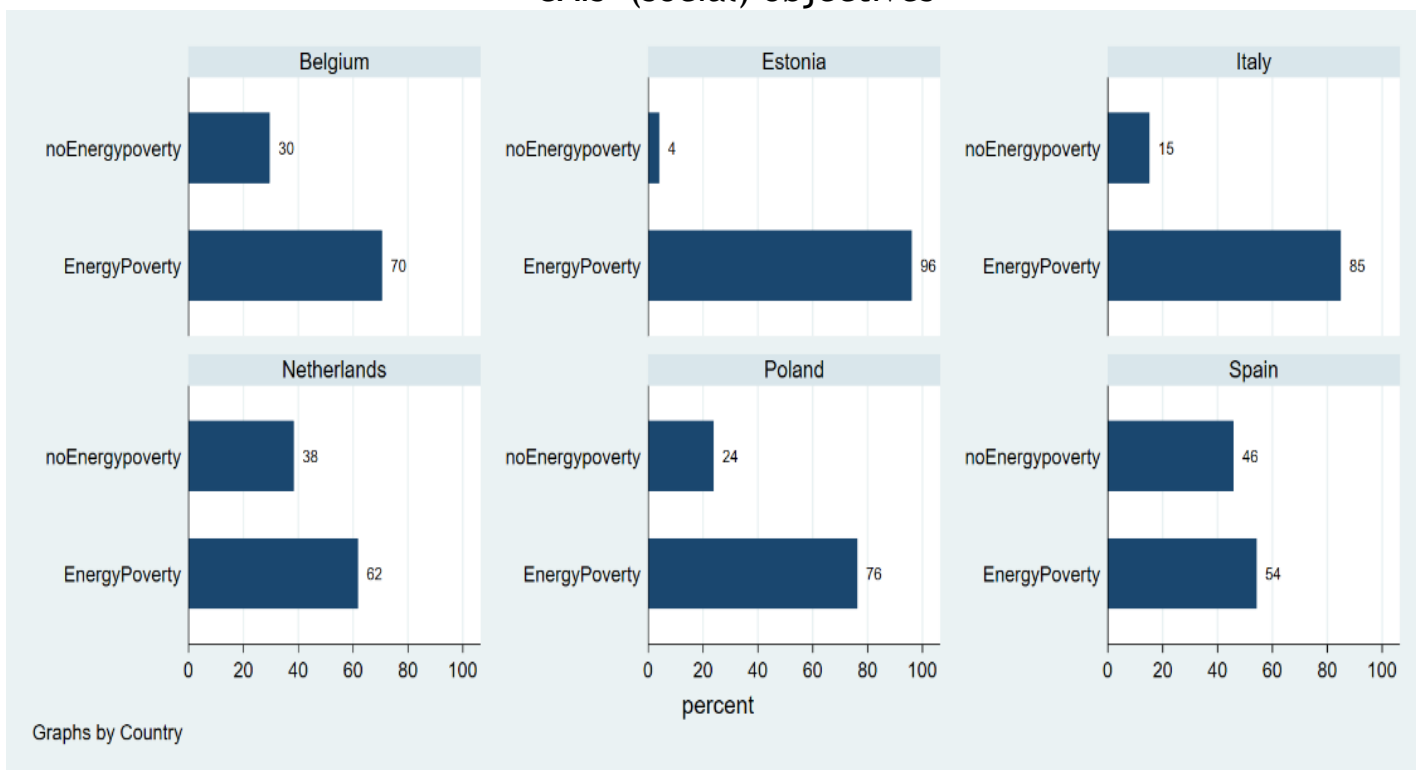
### CAIs' wider activities

(III)

1. Environmental Care Activities (ECA)
2. Civil Society Mobilization (CSM)
3. Knowledge and Skill creation (K&S)

	Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Total
Reduce Unemployment	1	0	1	2	1	2	7
Empower women	0	0	3	1	0	11	15
Social inclusion genders	8	0	4	2	1	10	25
Social inclusion elderly	4	0	2	2	1	5	14
Empower youth	4	0	7	4	3	7	25
Multiculturalism	3	0	2	1	2	5	13
Local projects	23	5	17	30	7	14	96
Support individuals-groups	6	0	3	4	2	2	17
NoActivity	16	15	9	18	12	1	71
other	4	5	3	2	2	1	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total CAIs</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>189</b>

CAIs' (social) objectives



Energy Poverty concerns

Key Result #8  
Social impact

# THANK YOU!

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