



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH INTO
ENERGY DEMAND SOLUTIONS

The role of energy demand policymaking for a just transition to net zero: a comparative survey in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands



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POLICY & GOVERNANCE



UK Research
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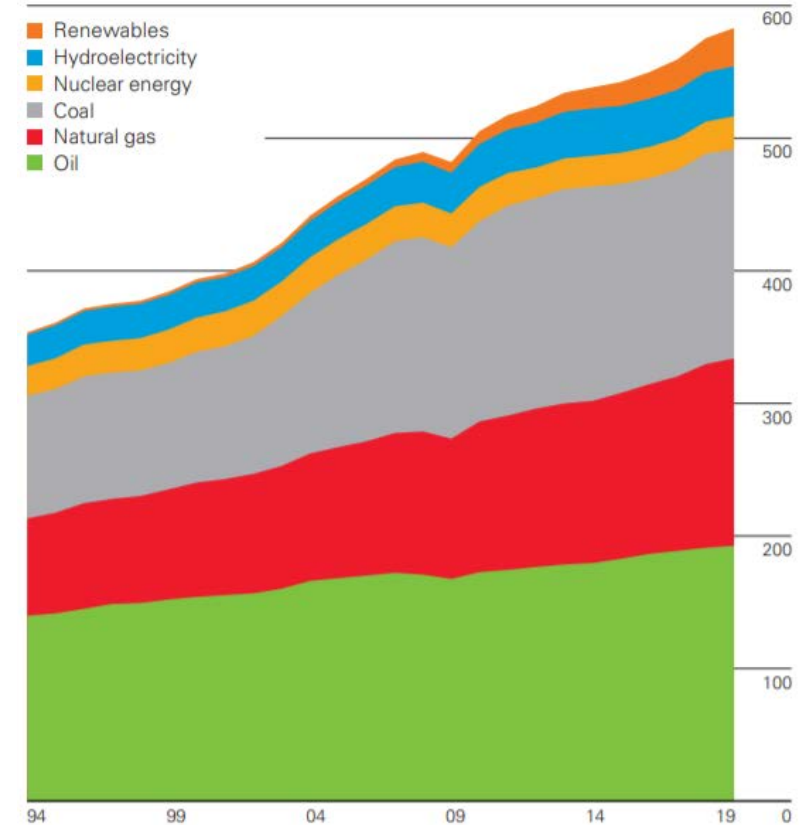
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Background

The partial decoupling of the growth in energy demand from economic growth, from measures to improve energy efficiency and changes in the underlying demand for services, has contributed more to carbon emissions reduction than the combined effects of deploying low-carbon generation technology. Yet energy demand appears to receive less policymaking attention than energy supply, even where demand side change could secure similar policy objectives more cost effectively.

World consumption
Exajoules





Length shows strength of connection



The overall size of the coloured bars depict the relative potential for synergies and trade-offs between the sectoral mitigation options and the SDGs.

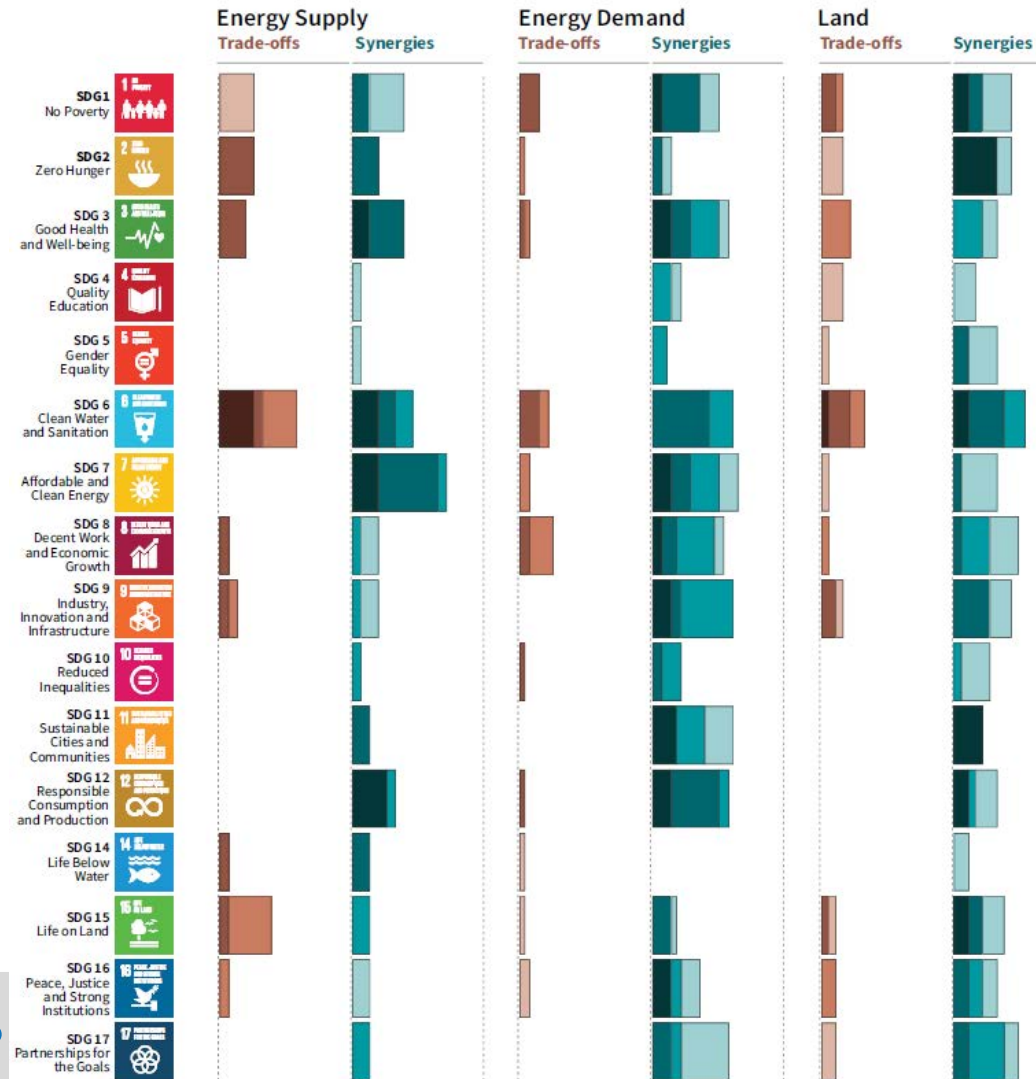
Shades show level of confidence



Very High

Low

The shades depict the level of confidence of the assessed potential for Trade-offs/Synergies.



C R E D S



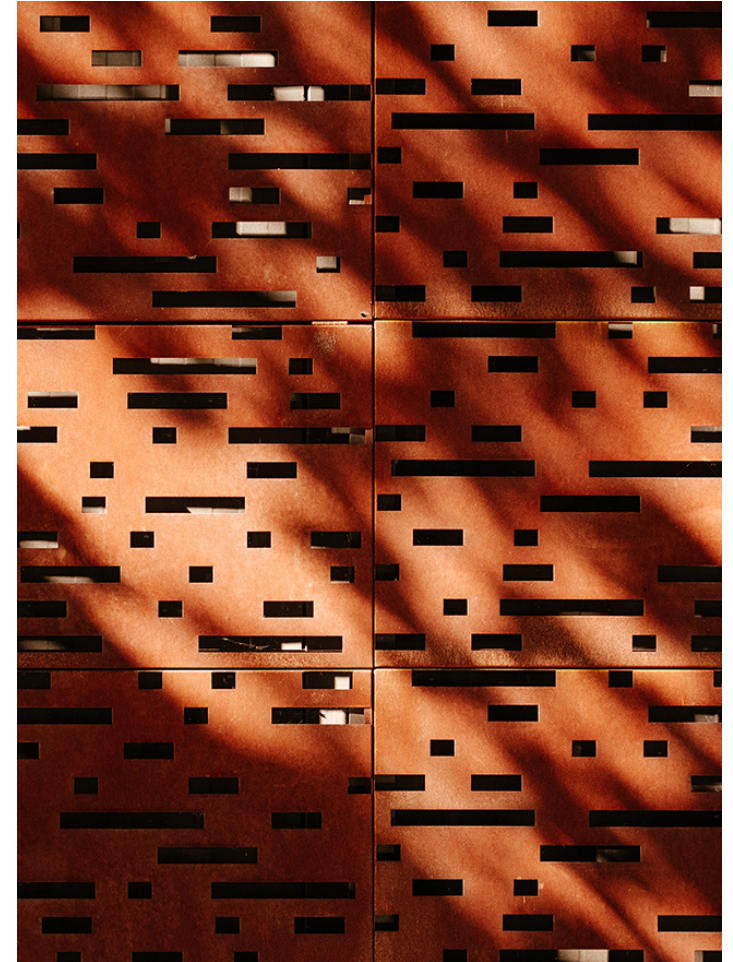
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Hypothesis

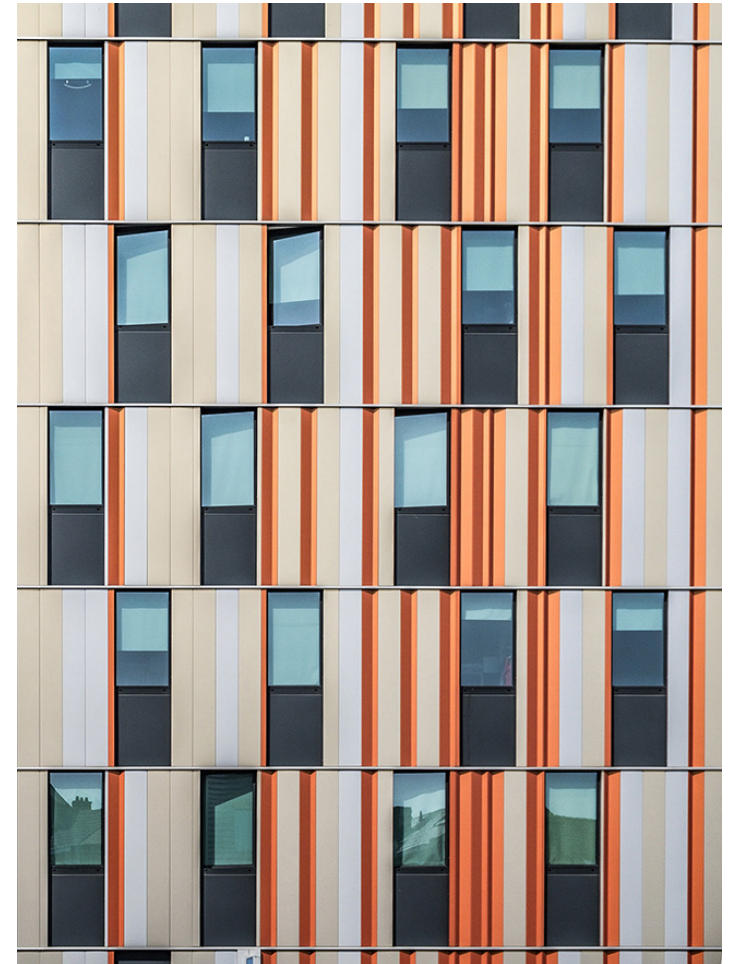
1. Energy demand receives less policymaking attention than energy supply, even where demand side change can secure similar policy objectives cost effectively
2. Energy demand solutions play a more significant role in achieving a just transition to net zero than energy supply solutions
3. Policy to deliver decarbonisation of supply will not be sufficient for a just transition to net zero





Questions

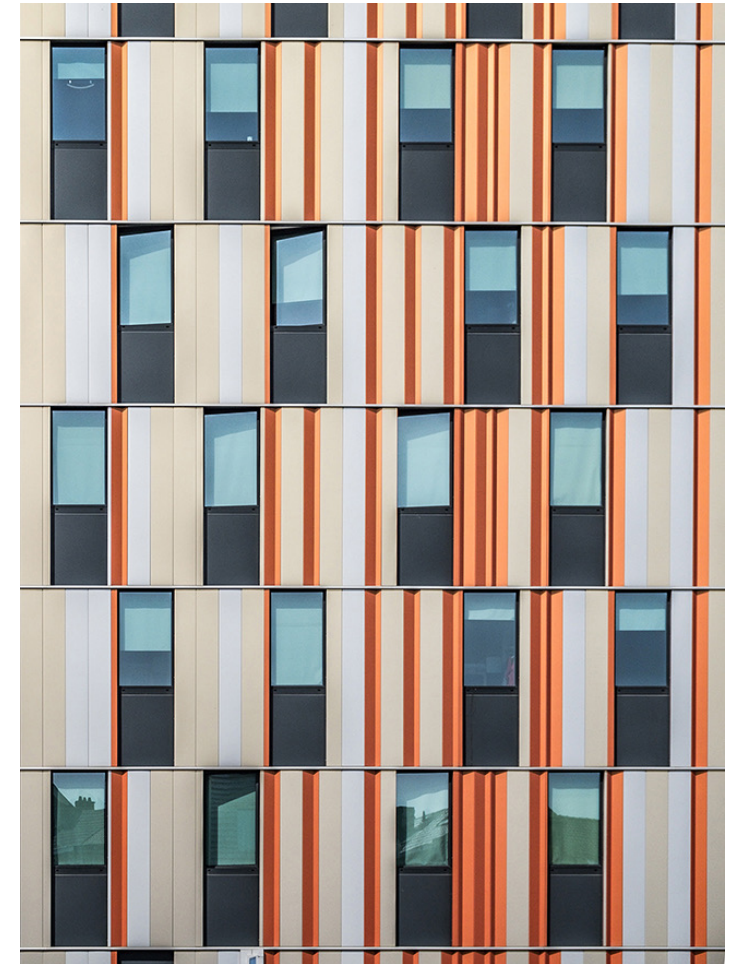
- Current (existing) scenarios – The question *what is?*
- Predictive (probably) scenarios – The question *what will happen?*
- Normative (preferable) scenarios – The question *what should happen?*
- Causal (determinative) scenarios – The question *what will make it happen?*





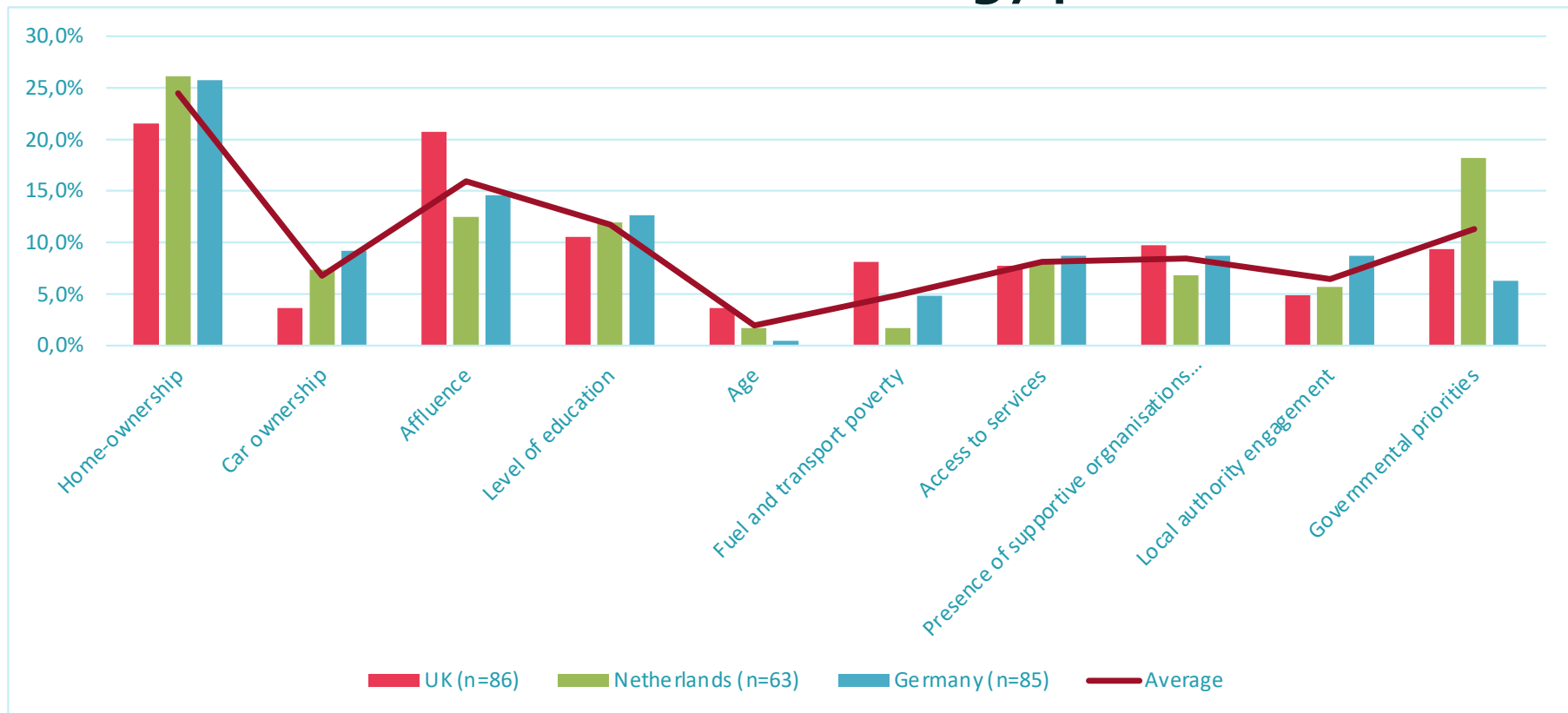
Data collection

- UK data collection among academics (~65%), practitioners/industry (~20%), public sector/policymakers (~15%) (June – November 2020 n=71-86)
- Netherlands data collection among academics (~70%), practitioners/industry (~15%), public sector/policymakers (~15%) (February – June 2021 n=54-63)
- Germany data collection among academics (~5%), practitioners/industry (~90%), public sector/policymakers (~5%) (April – July 2021 n=80-85)



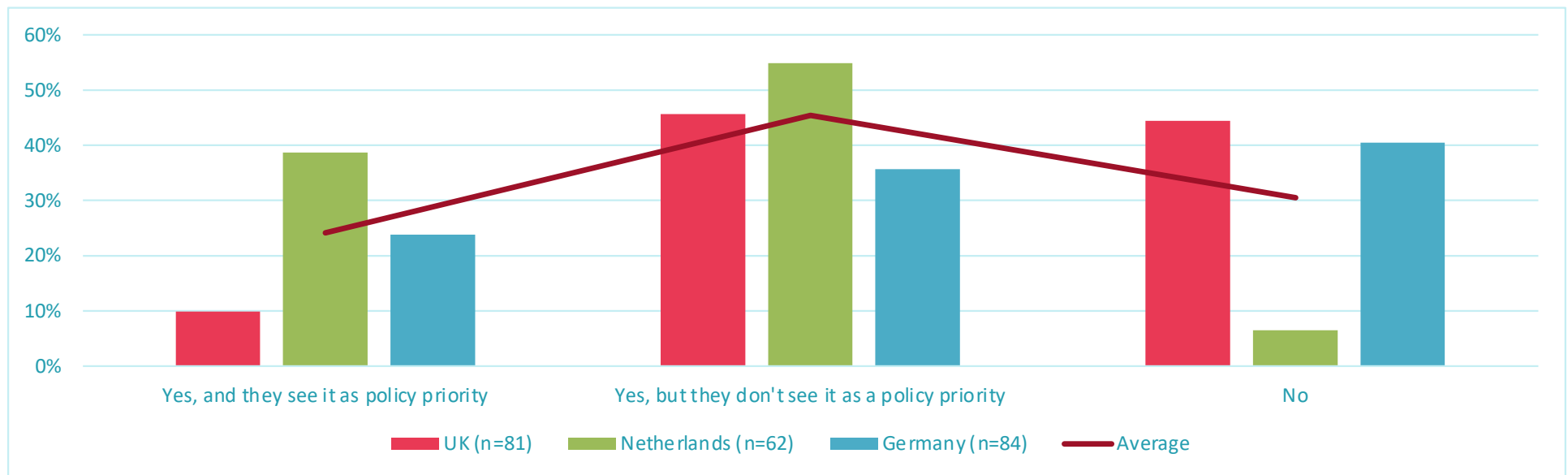


What are the key determinants for an individual to benefit from current national energy policies?



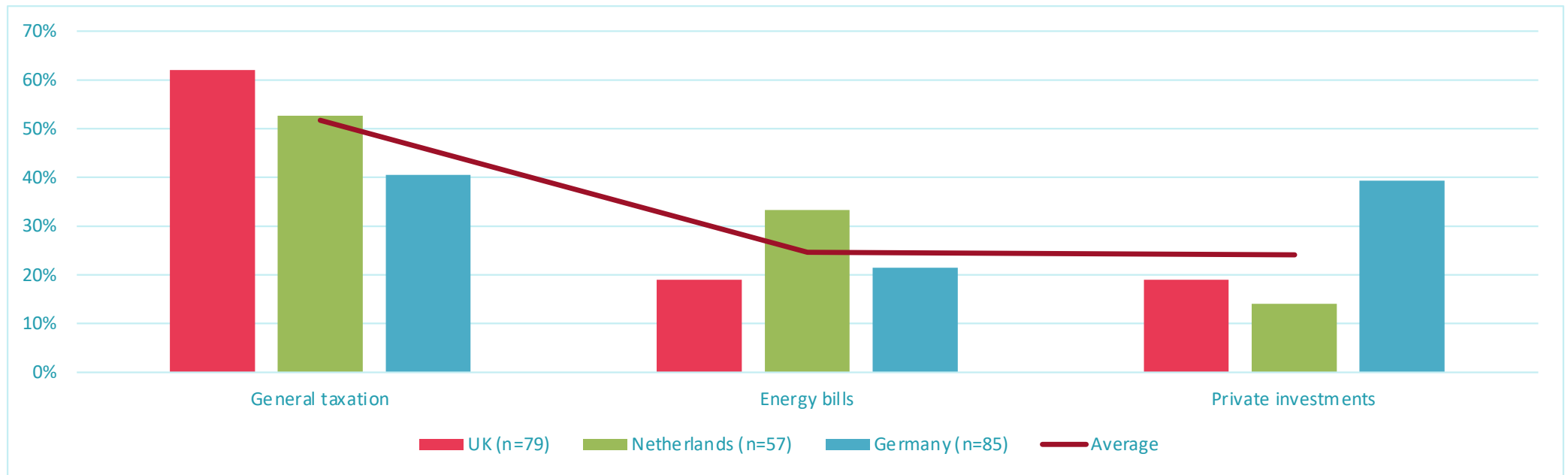


Do policymakers understand the contribution of energy demand solutions to a zero carbon future?



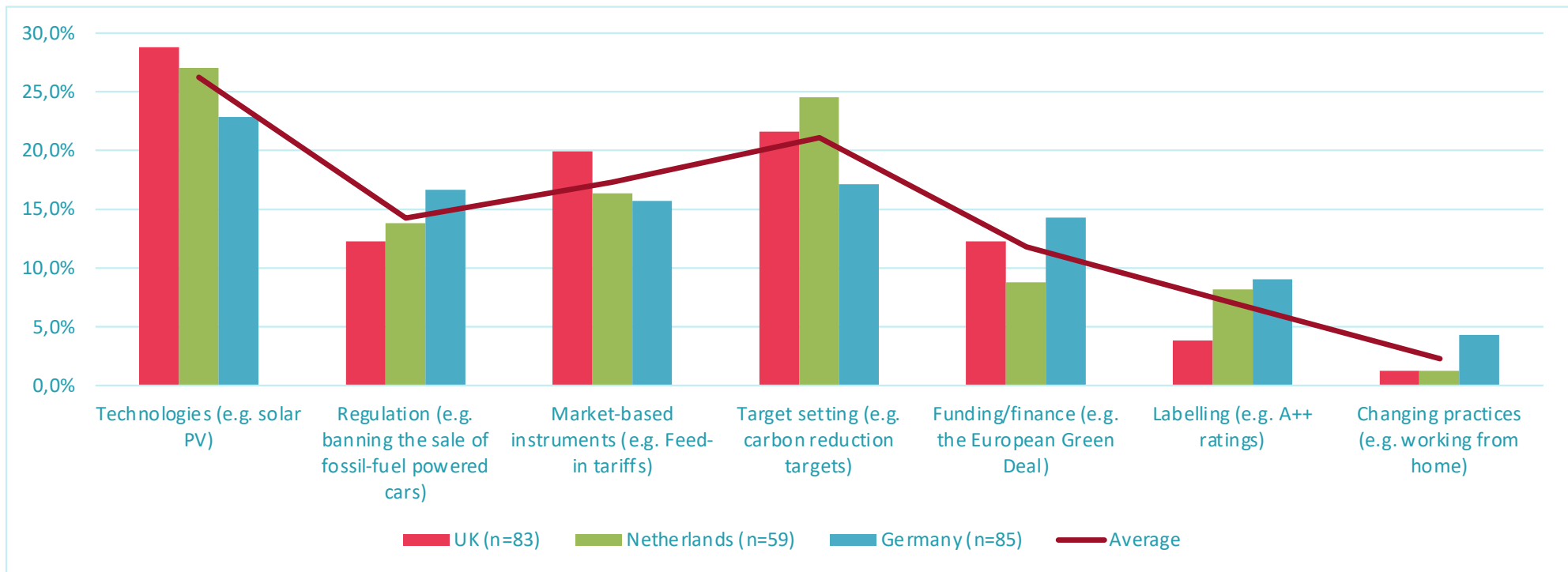


How should energy demand solutions be mainly financed?



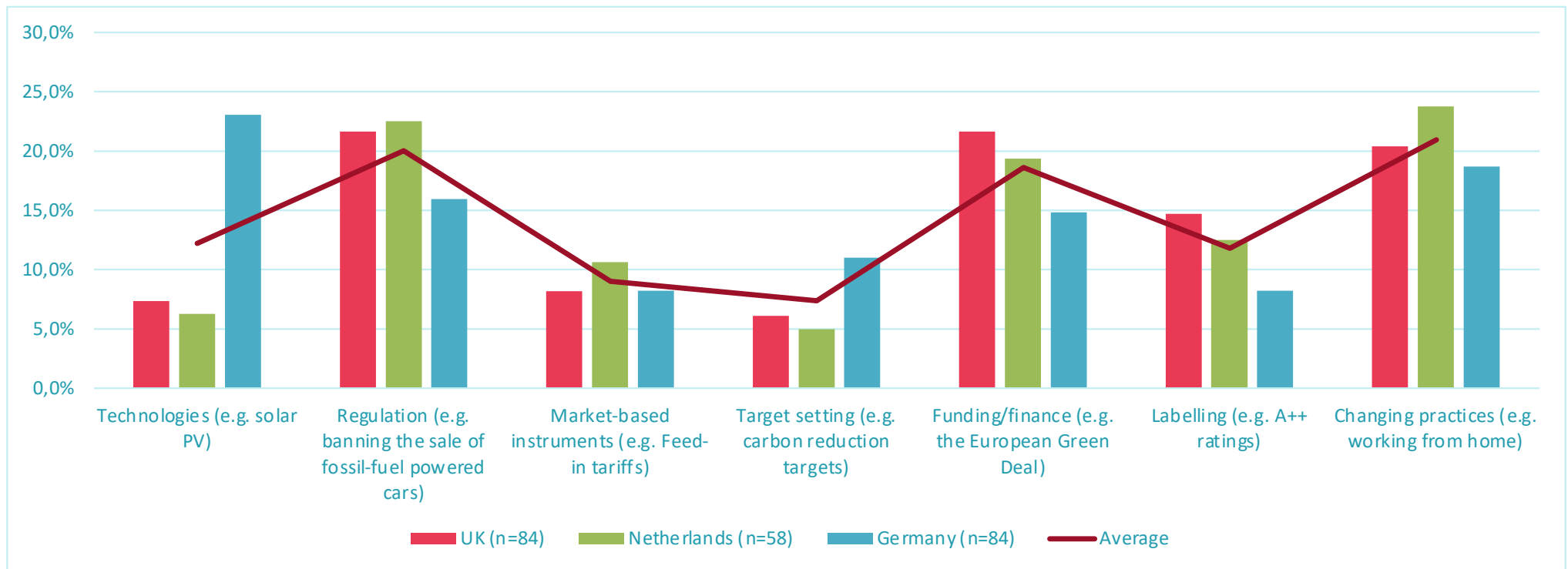


Which approaches to sustainable energy receive the most policymaking attention?



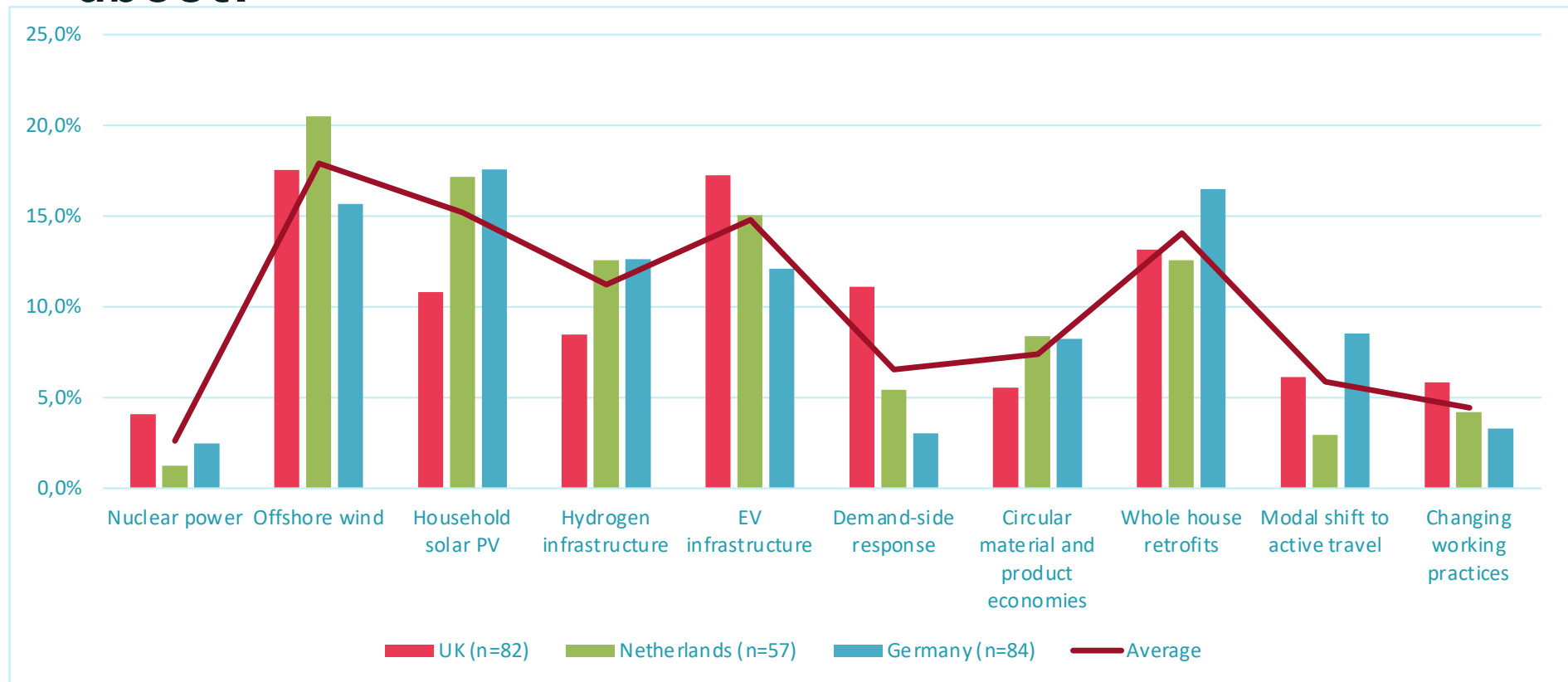


Which approaches to sustainable energy require more policymaking attention for a just transition to net zero?



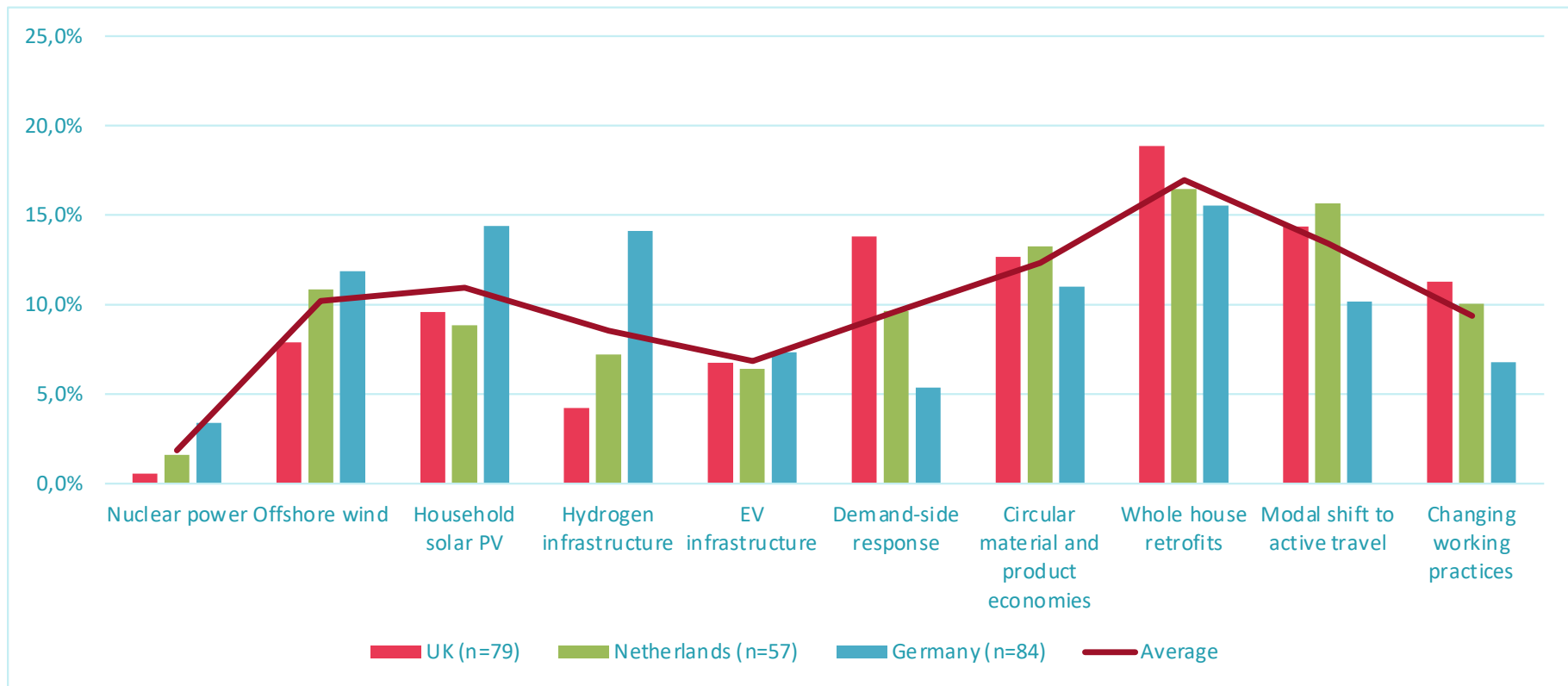


What changes will decarbonisation policies bring about?



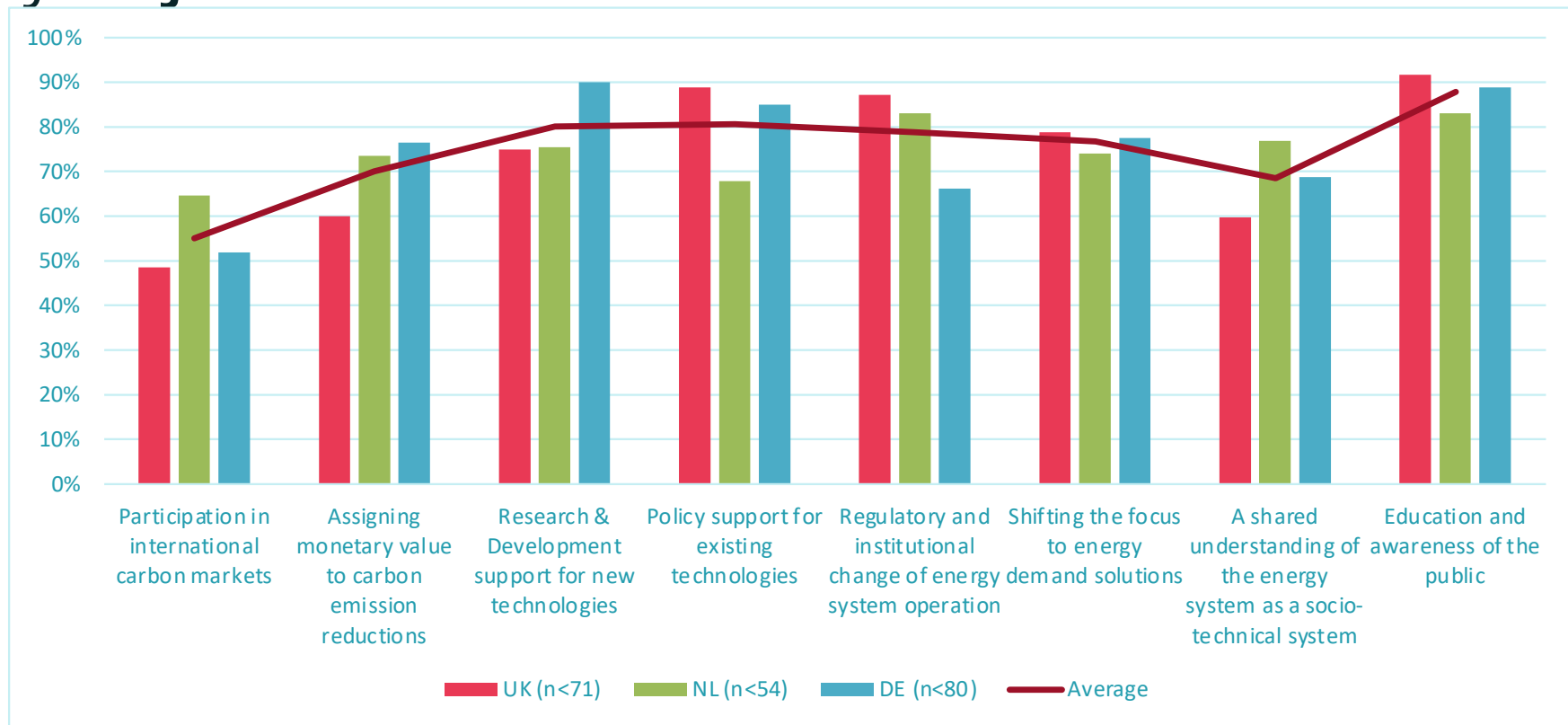


What changes should be prioritised for a just transition to net zero?



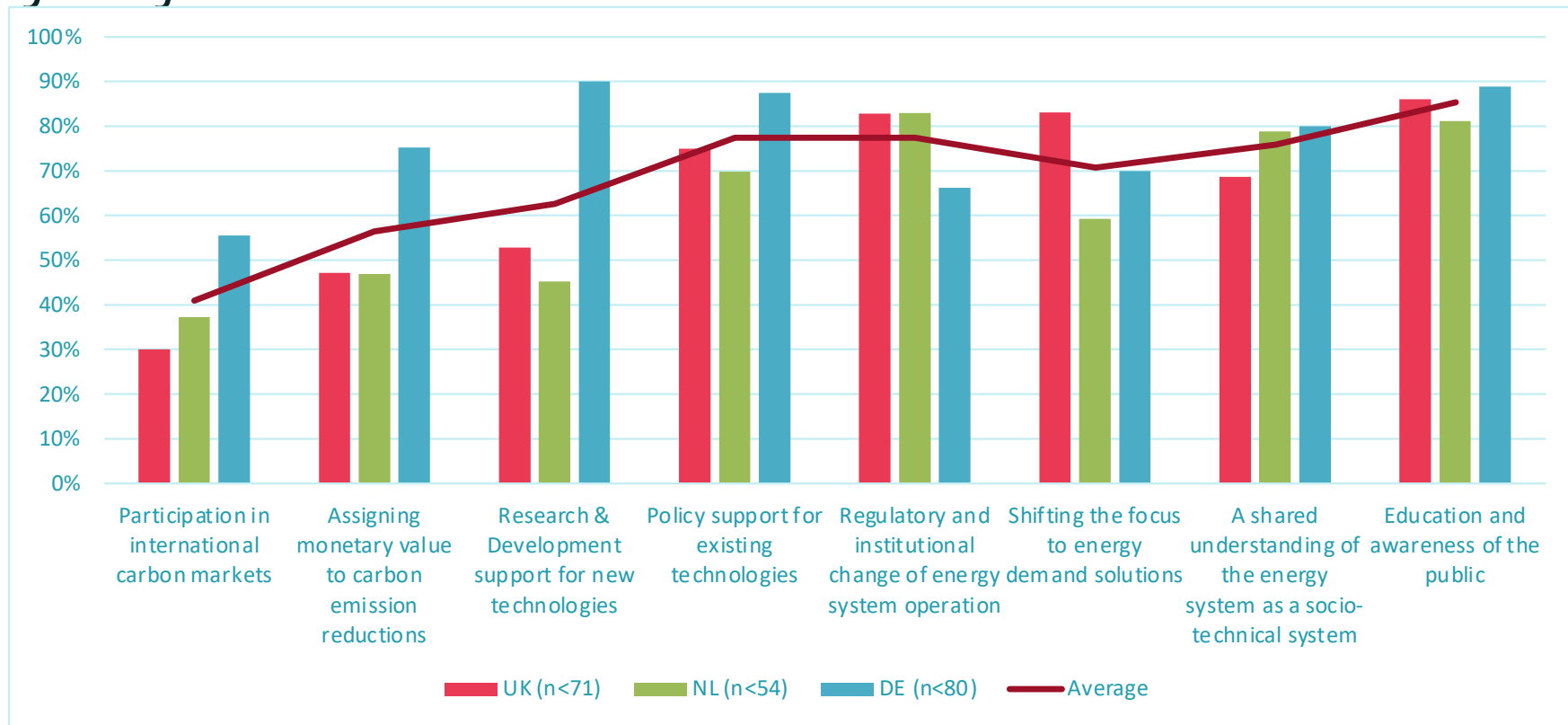


To what extent do you think the following are *important* for a just transition to *net zero*?





To what extent do you think the following are *important* for a just transition to net zero?





Conclusion

- Hypothesis 1 has been broadly confirmed: energy demand receives less policymaking attention than energy supply
- Hypothesis 2 has also been broadly confirmed: : energy demand solutions play a more significant role in achieving a just transition not net zero than energy supply solutions
- Hypothesis 3 has also been broadly confirmed: policy to deliver decarbonisation of energy supply will not be sufficient for a just transition
- Justice and equity need to be more holistically embedded in climate policy as well as other policy areas to support and legitimise transformative decarbonisation processes





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Thank you very much for your attention !

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