
METHODOLOGY

The national energy and climate plans (NECPs) are graded according to seven criteria that have been divided into two categories regarding public participation and the level of ambition towards the EU's 2030 targets.

The grading criteria are as follows:

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Early publication and transparency

The transparency of the process, with the draft plan and all supporting analyses publicly available in due time is crucial to meaningful public participation. This criterion assesses how early a draft was disclosed and what if any document was lacking at its publication.

- A** - Draft published on time before consultation, with all analyses or studies used to make the draft
- B** - Draft published before being sent to the Commission, without all analyses or studies that was used to make the draft
- C** - Draft published very shortly before sending to the Commission
- D** - Draft published after being sent to the Commission on a part of the web site that is not visible.

b. Independent review

One crucial factor to determine the seriousness and ambition of a plan is the drafting process: was the plan subjected to a thorough review or an assessment by an independent expert group? Was there at least an intergovernmental consultation or an exchange of views to consolidate the government's position? Is there any hint of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) conducted or planned in the near future? In cases of intergovernmental consultations, more points are awarded - not because this is considered independent but at least an exchange of views was permitted.

- A** - Commitment to a full SEA in parallel with the drafting of the NECP
- B** - Public impact assessment or late SEA
- C** - Assessment is not independent and public
- D** - Nothing

c. Public consultations

This grading assesses whether the draft was open for public comment, and whether a timeframe and purpose was outlined. This includes four sub-criteria: (1) inclusion of all different stakeholders (2) taking place when the plan was still open for changes (3) inputs were published together with a response from the Government (4) one or more public meetings held.

- A** - If all 4 elements are completed
- B** - If only 3 elements
- C** - If 2 elements
- D** - If 1 element or less

2. AMBITION

For the level of ambition, the grading methodology is the following:

- A** - the level of ambition is high enough to enable the EU to achieve its overall targets and supported by realistic policy measures that can help reach the stated objective.
- B** - the target is ambitious but not accompanied by concrete policy measures.
- C** - the target is not ambitious enough
- D** - No progress further from 2020 targets

A binding EU target on energy efficiency for 2030 has been set at 32.5 per cent. While individual member States do not have a binding target for 2030, it is possible to assess the level of ambition compared to targets set for 2020. In the case of energy efficiency, as with the renewable energy target, many Member States chose to commit to as little as possible in the upcoming decade.

a. Energy efficiency targets: comparing the 2030 target to the EU's

The ambition on energy efficiency will be scored

according to the following criteria:

- A** - ambition is high enough to reach the EU target, and considers includes measures to reduce energy poverty
- B** - target is ambitious enough but not supported by concrete measures
- C** - target is not ambitious enough, no measures
- D** - no efforts on energy efficiency and no recognition of energy poverty

b. Renewable energy sources targets: gross final energy consumption

- A** - Good target with sustainability criteria for sources
- B** - Good target but absence of supporting measures and/or sustainability criteria
- C** - Target is not ambitious enough (business as usual scenario)
- D** - No increase of overall renewable energy share

c. Criteria for a fossil fuels phase-out:

Grades attributed here depend on the existence of a scenario to phase out the use of fossil fuels,

whether any commitments regarding phase-outs are made and what supporting measures are added to implement such a policy.

- A** - Phasing out coal and gas in all sectors
- B** - Plans for phase-out that are not supported by concrete measures
- C** - No goals, just a reduction of consumption
- D** - No plans for phasing out any fossil fuel

d. Investment needs

The Governance Regulation asks Member States to assess their investment needs to reach the objectives in their plans. The score depends on the level of detail of an assessment, and whether or not such concrete figures and sectors are given.

- A** - full-fledged investment planning and needs for 2030
- B** - an assessment of needs without any concrete figures
- C** - business as usual scenarios
- D** - absence of a plan, or plans that support problematic infrastructure (like gas, nuclear or waste incineration projects)

| | Public participation | | | Level of ambition | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | Early publication | Independent review | Public consultation | Energy efficiency | Renewable energy sources | Fossil fuels phase-out | Investment needs |
| Latvia | A | B | B | B- | B- | C+ | C+ |
| Romania | C | C | C | B | C | C- | B- |
| Estonia | A | C | C | C | B | D | D |
| Czech Republic | C | C+ | C | B | C | D | B |
| Slovakia | D | B | C | B | C | D | D |
| Hungary | D | B | C | C | C | C | D |
| Bulgaria | C | B | C | C | C | D | D |
| Poland | C | C- | C- | C | C | D | C |