The Green-Economic European Energy Index (GEEEI)

Laying the foundations for future research on energy policies in Europe

The master thesis' purpose is to offer a new and more adequate foundation for the ever more important quest for best practices in the context of domestic energy policymaking in Europe.

Academic & Policy Relevance

The main argument set forth in the master thesis is that the above presented search for best practices is misguided and therefore inefficient. This is due to a lack of adequate indicator-based evaluation frameworks and indices. Particular attention is given to six formal ecologic indices, as well as the informal green leader-laggard dichotomy.

Methodologic Framework

The GEEEI aims to address the methodological fallacies that are inherent to the existing indices, while incorporating the green economy and energy security thinking of the European Union.

It consists of two dimensions: the $GEEEI_{Eco}$ encompasses eight (and potentially ten) indicators that evaluate ecologic energy policy performance, whereas the $GEEEI_{Soc}$ consists of ten indicators that evaluate socioeconomic energy policy performance. All twenty-eight European member states are evaluated according to these sub-indices, and scoreboards are set-up for each of the indicators. For each dimension or sub-index, a composite indicator or overall score is constructed, and the two sub-index composite scores are aggregated into a GEEEI overall score.

	Member State	GEEEI	$GEEEI_{Eco}$	$GEEEI_{Soc}$
	EU-28 Average	49,4	54,7	44,1
	EU-28 median	48,0	52,4	44,2
1	Denmark	67,8	76,8	58,8
2	Latvia	64,1	61,6	66,7
3	Finland	59,7	68,6	50,8
4	Sweden	58,3	70,8	45,8
5	Austria	58,0	71,2	44,8
6	Italy	57,1	72,3	41,9
7	Slovenia	54,0	64,2	43,8
8	Estonia	53,2	48,0	58,4
9	Poland	50,7	56,6	44,7
10	UK	50,6	57,4	43,8
11	Luxembourg	50,0	51,5	48,4
12	Romania	49,4	53,0	45,8
13	Germany	48,7	51,2	46,2
14	Hungary	48,2	50,8	45,7
15	Spain	47,8	56,1	39,4
16	Croatia	47,5	55,9	39,1
17	Netherlands	46,9	51,8	42,0
18	France	46,6	50,3	43,0
19	Czech Republic	46,6	47,4	45,9
20	Portugal	45,5	55,9	35,1
21	Belgium	45,5	46,3	44,7
22	Lithuania	45,0	41,5	48,6
23	Greece	44,3	55,5	33,2
24	Ireland	43,8	49,5	38,0
25	Slovakia	42,5	44,5	40,4
26	Malta	38,6	43,6	33,7
27	Cyprus	37,0	48,0	25,9
28	Bulgaria	36,0	31,3	40,8

Research Findings

While several observations can be made in relation to the GEEEI, the master thesis confines itself to presenting three examples. They are the following:

1) Leadership is contested

Firstly, the GEEEI points out that, regarding energy policy, the existing image that a select group of member states unambiguously takes the lead, doesn't correspond with reality. On the one hand, the UK, the Netherlands and Germany are not in a position to claim the leadership title, despite their reputation. On the other hand, less reputed states Latvia, Italy and Slovenia perform much better than anticipated.

2) Leadership is relative

Secondly, the GEEEI also proves that scores not only vary between countries, but also between dimensions and indicators. The given that three member states from the bottom half of the GEEEI, top a particular indicator scoreboard, demonstrates this perfectly.

3) Best practices are all around

Finally, the master thesis presents and discusses three methods of identifying best practice potential by using the GEEEI. They vary according to their accessibility and rigorousness.

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