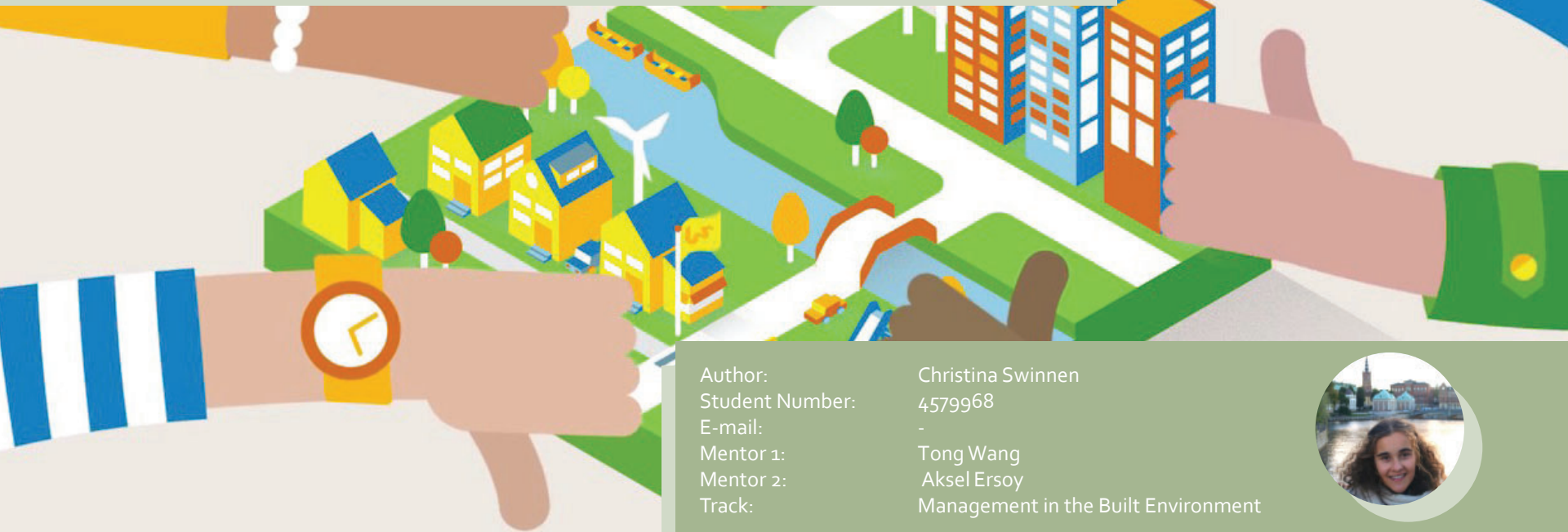


CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY TRANSITION PROJECTS

A DEEPER LOOK INTO THE OCCURRENCE OF PARTICIPATION FATIGUE IN PARTICIPATION PROCESSES DEALING WITH ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE NETHERLANDS



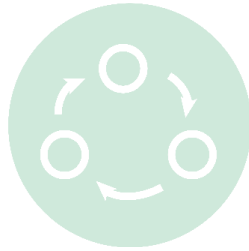
Author:	Christina Swinnen
Student Number:	4579968
E-mail:	-
Mentor 1:	Tong Wang
Mentor 2:	Aksel Ersoy
Track:	Management in the Built Environment



STRUCTURE



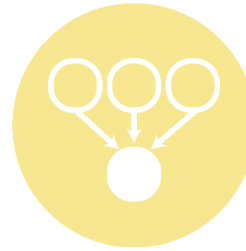
1. Introduction &
Context



2. Research
Design



3. Empirical
Research



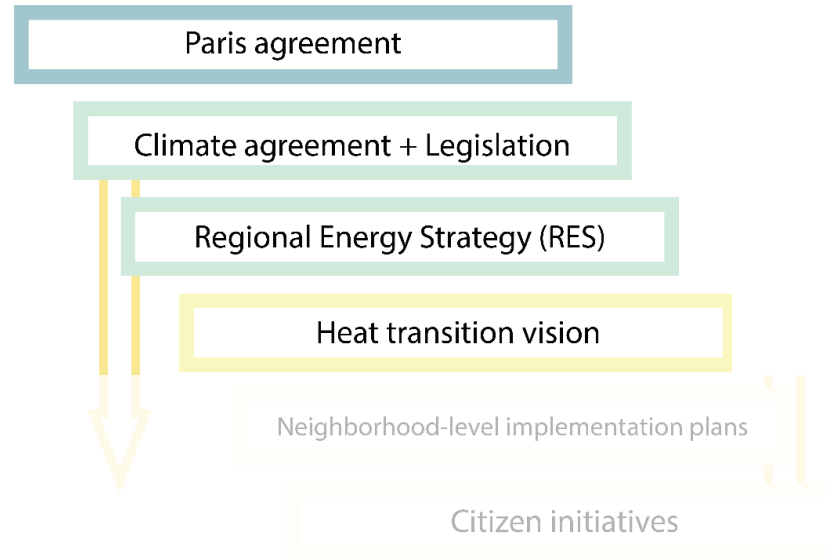
4. Discussion



5. Conclusions
and Implications

1. INTRODUCTION & RESEARCH CONTEXT

CONTEXT - ENERGY TRANSITION



Average energy transition strategy development process of Dutch municipalities. Source: adapted from Nieuwkoop(2021)



CONTEXT - CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

BURGERPARTICIPATIE

Burgerparticipatie en duurzaamheid: Steeds belangrijker, steeds ingewikkelder

POSTED ON 1 AUGUSTUS 2019 BY THIJS VAN HALL

16 september 2019

Van ouderenzorg tot duurzame energie: er ontstaan steeds meer burgerinitiatieven in Nederland

Voorschoten krijgt een taskforce Burgerparticipatie

Rob van Engelenburg heeft namens de Alliantie Burgers Voorschoten (ABV) het jaarrapport van de ABV aangeboden aan waarnemend burgemeester Aptroot. De Alliantie is begin 2019 opgericht door een aantal maatschappelijk betrokken Voorschotenaren, met de intentie om de belangen van burgers en burgerparticipatie te bevorderen.

Leefomgeving

Gevraagd:
landelijke regels
voor participatie



Meer lokale inspraak is mooi. Maar hoe moet je dat vormgeven? Landelijke regie is nodig om lagere overheden hiermee te helpen, stellen **Menno Loos** en **Ruben van Twillert**.

A1 jaren wordt gesproken over de Omgevingswet. Na een aantal keren uitstel zou de Omgevingswet in januari 2022 in werking treden, maar het lijkt erop dat januari ook te vroeg komt. Het doel van de wet is om het bestaande woud aan wetgeving en regels te verkleinen en te vereenvoudigen. Zo moet de ontwikkeling en het beheer van de leefomgeving door zowel overheden als bureaus makkelijker

‘Nood aan meer participatie en minder participatie’

‘Inwoner bepaalt agenda van raad’

door Tessa Heerschop

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION... WHAT'S THAT?



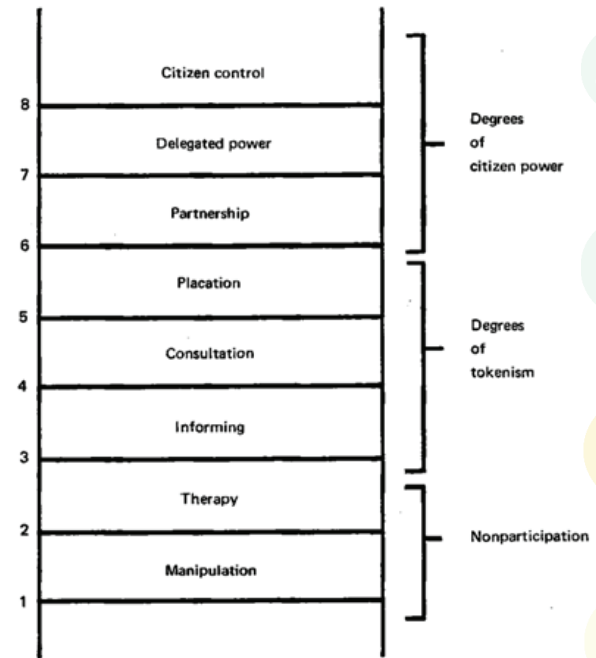
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION... WHAT'S THAT?

- Citizen participation → broad topic covered in many different fields (healthcare, software design, policy making, etc.)



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION... WHAT'S THAT?

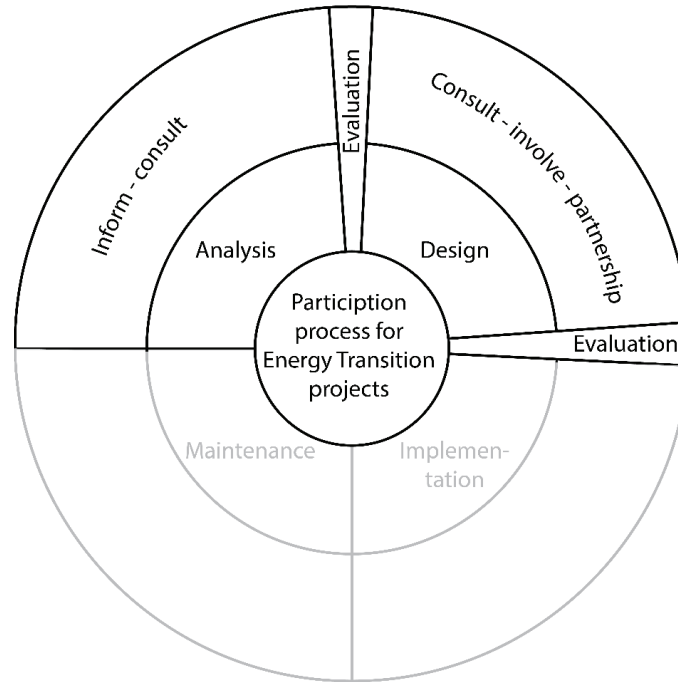
- Citizen participation → broad topic covered in many different fields (healthcare, software design, policy making, etc.)
- Different levels of participation: participation ladder



Participation ladder. (source: Arnstein, 1969)



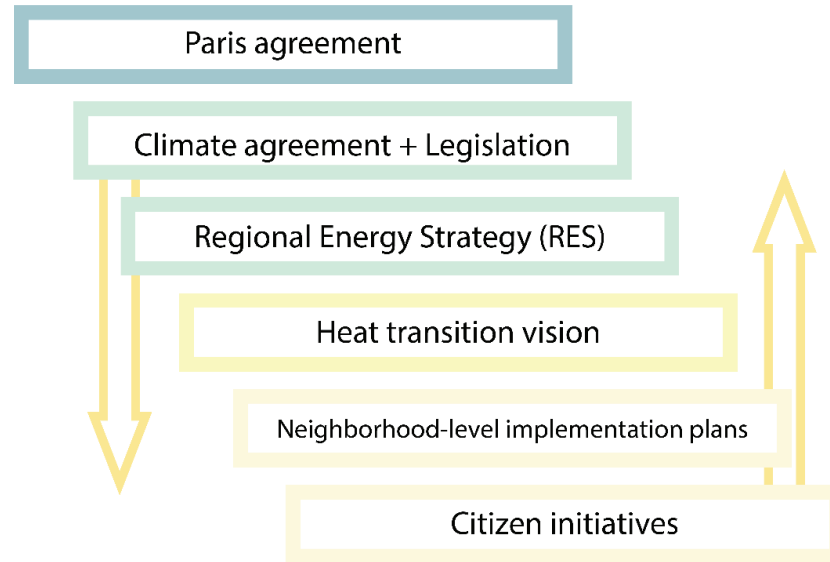
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION... WHAT'S THAT?



Simple representation of citizen participation in the average Dutch energy transition project. (own image)



ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE NETHERLANDS



Average energy transition strategy development process of Dutch municipalities. Source: adapted from Nieuwkoop (2021)



PARTICIPATION FATIGUE

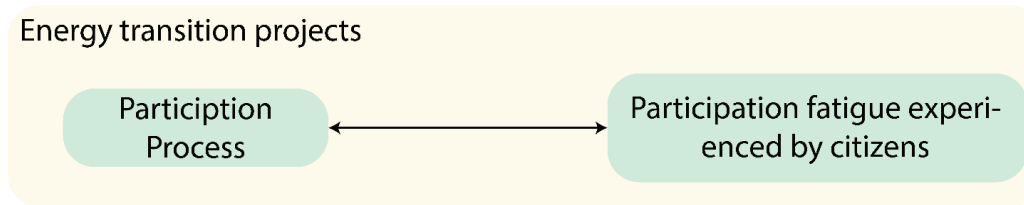
- **Participation fatigue** is a phenomenon in which participants of a participation processes, become tired of contributing to this process. This can lead to them becoming less active, or even leaving the process.

→ In this research: PF experienced specifically by citizens



RESEARCH QUESTION

“What are the main characteristics and lessons learned from participation fatigue experienced by citizens in participation processes for public energy transition projects?”.



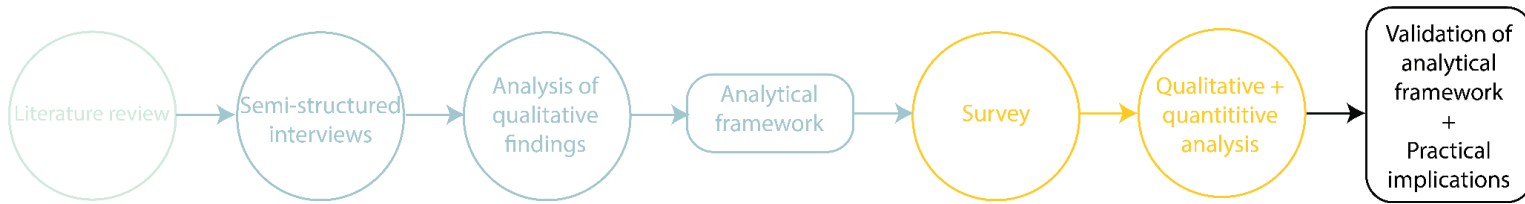
Conceptual model. (own image)



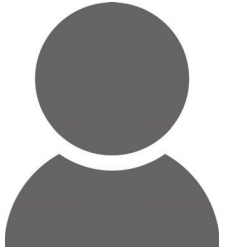
RESEARCH DESIGN

“What are the main characteristics and lessons learned from participation fatigue experienced by citizens in participation processes for public energy transition projects?”.

- Explorative study
- Mixed data - mostly qualitative

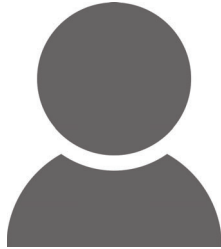


INTERVIEWS



Interviewee A

- Municipality A
- Process manager energy transition



Interviewee B

- Municipality B
- Policy advisor sustainability



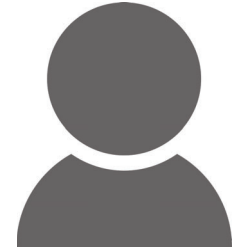
Interviewee C

- Municipality C
- Everything "sustainability"



Interviewee D

- Municipality D
- Heat director

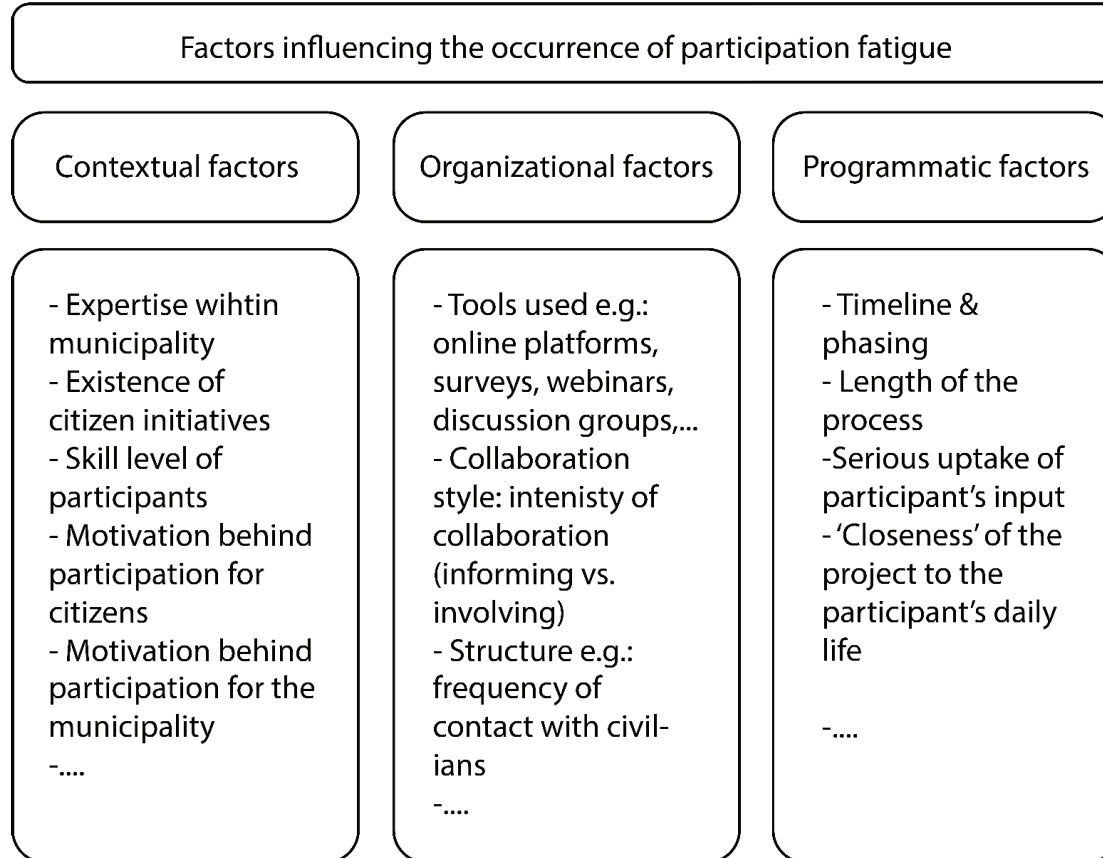


Interviewee E

- Citizen participant
- Citizen initiative A
- Board member



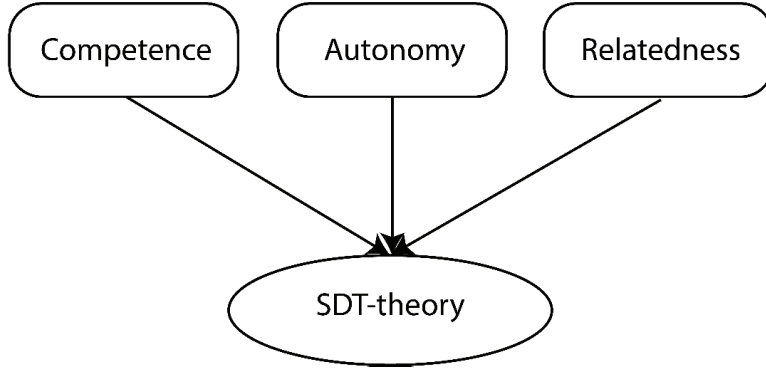
ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK



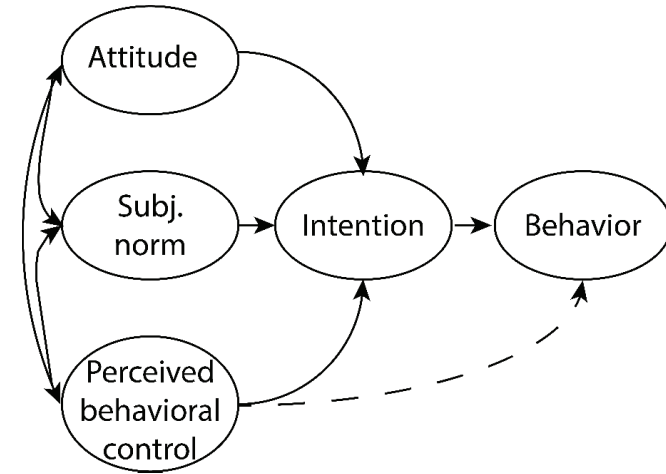
Analytical framework Pt. I: influencing factors. Own image.



SUPPORTING THEORIES

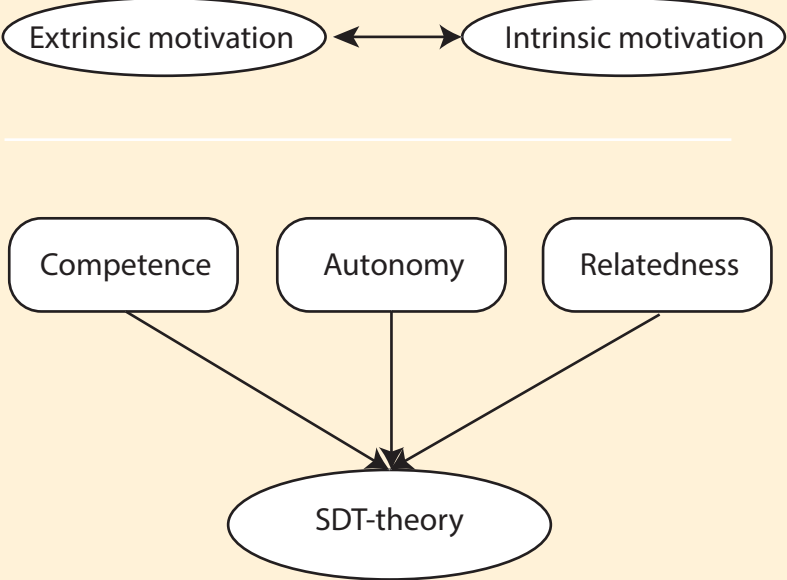
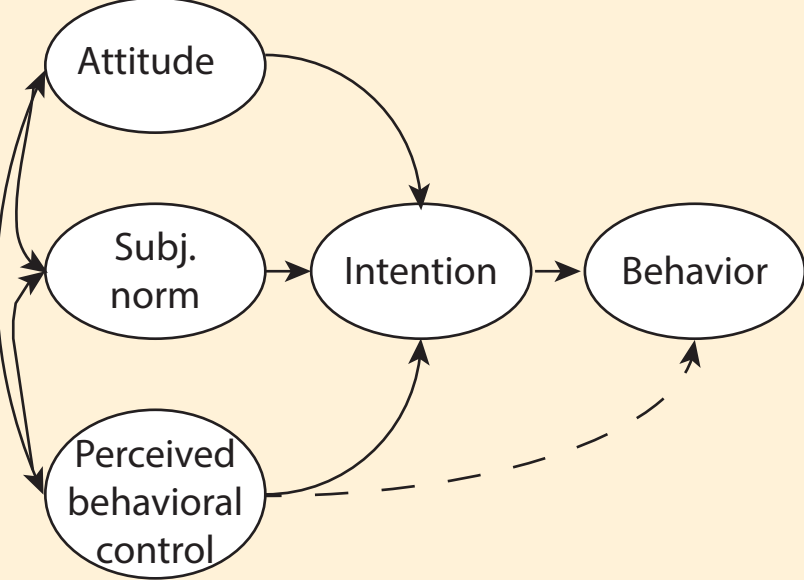


Self-Determination Theory. Source: adapted from CSDT (n.d.)



Theory of Planned Behavior. Source: adapted from Ajzen (1985)



GUIDING THEORIES + BASIC WORKINGS	INFLUENCING FACTORS OF PARTICIPATION FATIGUE	RELATION TO SUPPORTING THEORIES
<p>Self-determination theory</p>  <pre> graph TD EM([Extrinsic motivation]) <--> IM([Intrinsic motivation]) C([Competence]) --> SDT([SDT-theory]) A([Autonomy]) --> SDT R([Relatedness]) --> SDT </pre>	<p>Motivation behind participation for citizens</p> <p>'Closeness' of the project to the participant's daily life</p> <p>Clear communication of goals and advantages for the participation</p> <p>Skill level of participants</p> <p>Collaboration style: intensity of collaboration (informing vs. involving)</p> <p>Existence of citizen initiatives</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Intrinsic or extrinsic motivation?</p> <p>Intrinsic or extrinsic motivation + Relatedness</p> <p>Turning extrinsic motivation into intrinsic motivation</p> <p>Competence</p> <p>Autonomy</p> <p>Relatedness</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Theory of planned behaviour</p>  <pre> graph TD A([Attitude]) --> I([Intention]) SN([Subj. norm]) --> I PBC([Perceived behavioral control]) --> I I --> B([Behavior]) PBC -.-> B </pre>	<p>Existence of citizen initiatives</p> <p>Motivation behind participation for the municipality</p> <p>Demographic information of the participant: gender, occupation, age, place of residence,....</p> <p>Skill level of participants</p> <p>Motivation behind participation for citizens</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Energy transition as a positive subjective norm</p> <p>Energy transition as a positive subjective norm</p> <p>These factors shape a person's attitude and thus, behaviour</p> <p>Perceived behavioral control</p> <p>Perceived behavioral control</p> <p>.....</p>

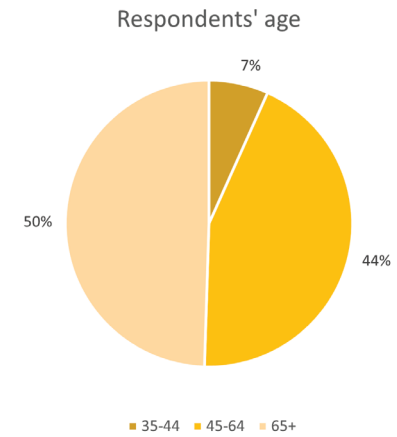
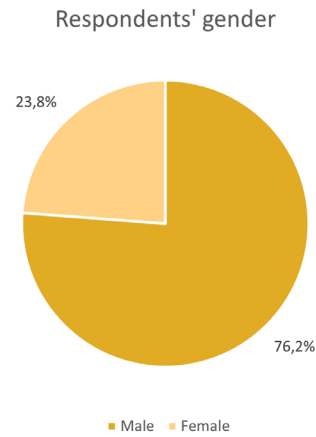
SURVEY

- Confirming + elaborating on findings from analytical framework
- Target group: —————> citizens who are currently participating in energy transition projects organized by municipalities or citizen organizations -or- have done so in the past
- Purposive snowball sample: uses the existing networks that organizations such as energy coöpera-tions and municipalities have built over the years



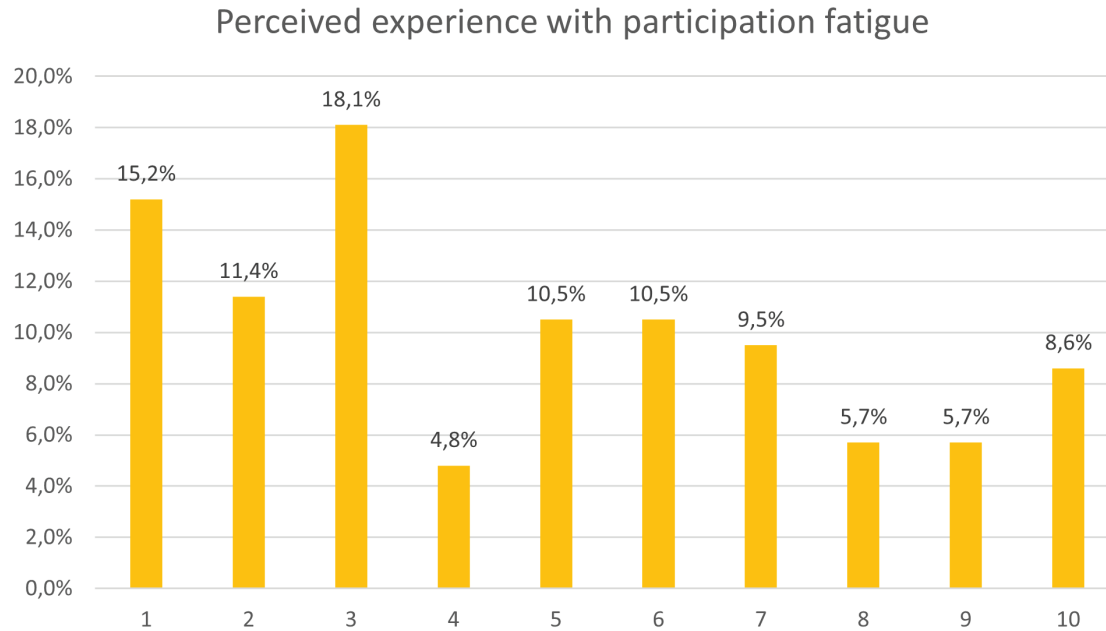
DEMOGRAPHICS

- 105 respondents
- Mostly men
- Mostly 65+
- Mostly highly educated



EXPERIENCES WITH PARTICIPATION FATIGUE

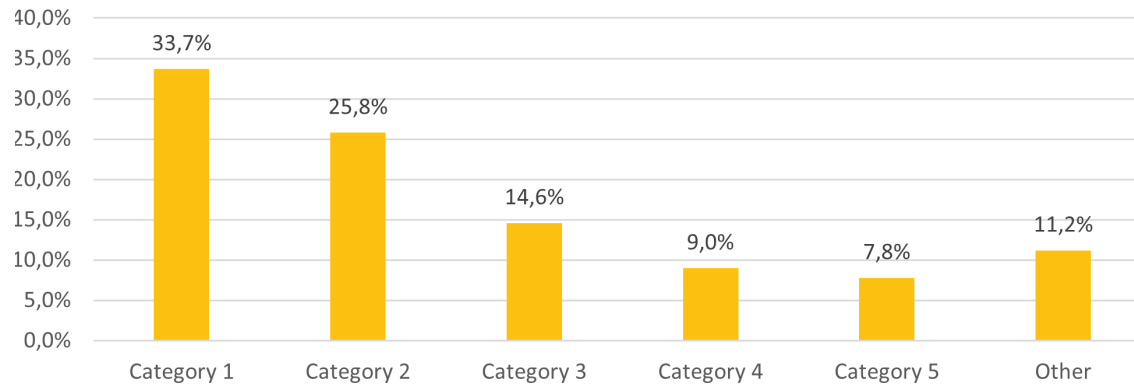
- Average: 4.46
- Lighter form of PF: 44.8% [2-5]
- Severe PF: 40% [6-10]



PARTICIPATION FATIGUE - CAUSES

1. Participation fatigue due to actions of and interactions with local governments and instances
2. Participation fatigue due to lack of results or slow progress in the process
3. Participation fatigue due to the intensity of the participation
4. Participation fatigue due to lack of enthusiasm of fellow citizens or organizations/businesses
5. Participation fatigue due to lack of serious uptake of participants' input

Categorization of causes behind participation fatigue



PARTICIPATION FATIGUE - CAUSES

1. Participation fatigue due to actions of and interactions with local governments and instances **33.7%**

"[The reason for my participation fatigue was because of] the feeling of constantly running into a political wall with the municipality. The argument "no money" is used continuously." – Anonymous, 2022

"It's hard to get a conversation with the municipality about developments and when you do, it often turns out that the municipality and citizens speak different languages." – Anonymous, 2022

"[The reason for my participation fatigue was because of the] attitude of the municipality: they set up a broad participation process in all the villages and then decided to organize it differently without any consultation" - Anonymous, 2022



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2. Participation fatigue due to lack of results or slow progress in the process **25.8%**

"realization [of a project] takes a lot of time. The Government, Notary, Stedin [grid operator] and Certiq [organization that certifies electricity and heat generated from sustainable sources], are difficult to work with to get something really working, especially these last two. Working with the new regulation of the government will also be very difficult in the coming years." – Anonymous, 2022

"I still find it interesting and relevant, but I always have trouble doing the same thing for very long. As soon as routine creeps in somewhere I want to do something different." – Anonymous, 2022



PARTICIPATION FATIGUE - CAUSES

3. Participation fatigue due to the intensity of the participation **14.6%**

"By having been intensively active in our neighborhood initiative for a few years now (and by also taking on more work than I first intended), I sometimes find that I am quite busy participating. It is now almost as important as my real job." –

Anonymous, 2022

"Our "work" takes a lot of time and energy, pioneering. We are not received enthusiastically by everyone. Always having to apply for subsidies etc." – Anonymous, 2022



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4. Participation fatigue due to lack of enthusiasm of fellow citizens or organizations/businesses **9.0%**

"There is a huge lack of knowledge and the right attitude among the public, we are not going to fix that. [...] People are busy with their mortgages and hobbies, travelling, etc. The fact that people in India live at 10 degrees C or less in houses without central heating, does not occur to them. Seriously sacrificing luxury to save the earth is not something we are taught in school or work." – Anonymous, 2022



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5. Participation fatigue due to lack of serious uptake of participants' input **7.8%**

"Real participation did not exist; decisions had already been made. The project was started just to be able to paint a nice picture for press releases. A real political game." – Anonymous, 2022

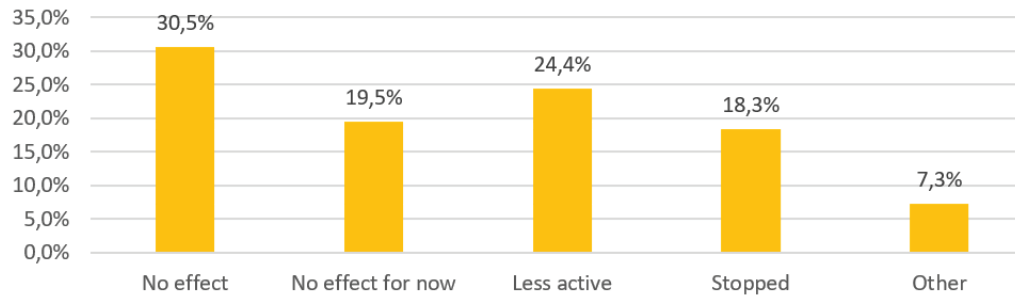
"This concerned the RES. The municipality keeps talking about the importance of citizen participation and was proud to involve citizens. I didn't think involvement in step 5 (out of 7) was a good example and felt like an "excuus-Truus" [basically a female token in Dutch], something to tick off a box with." – Anonymous, 2022



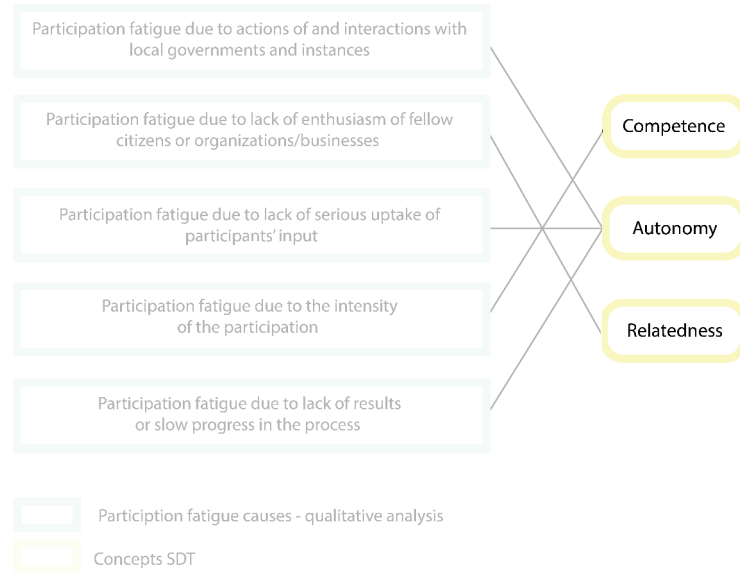
PARTICIPATION FATIGUE - EFFECTS

1. There was no effect on the participation
2. There was no effect on the participation yet, but there might be in the future
3. The respondent became less active in the participation process
4. The respondent stopped participating
5. Other

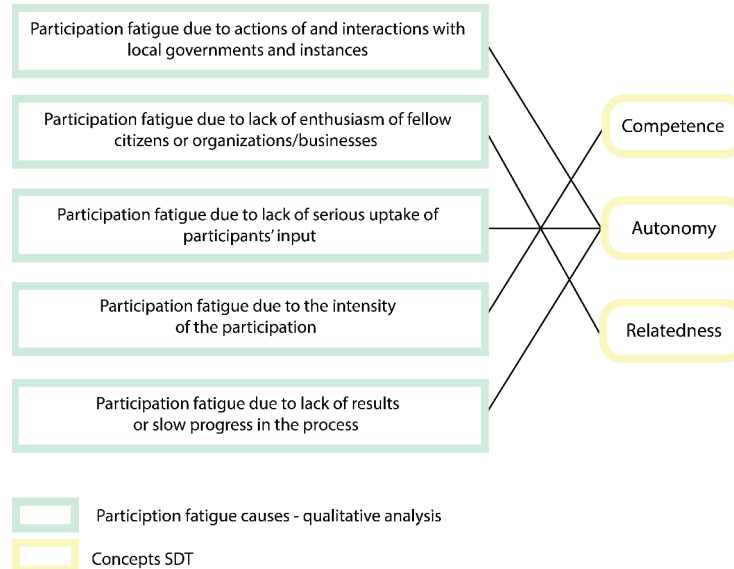
Categorization of the effects of participation fatigue (All cases)



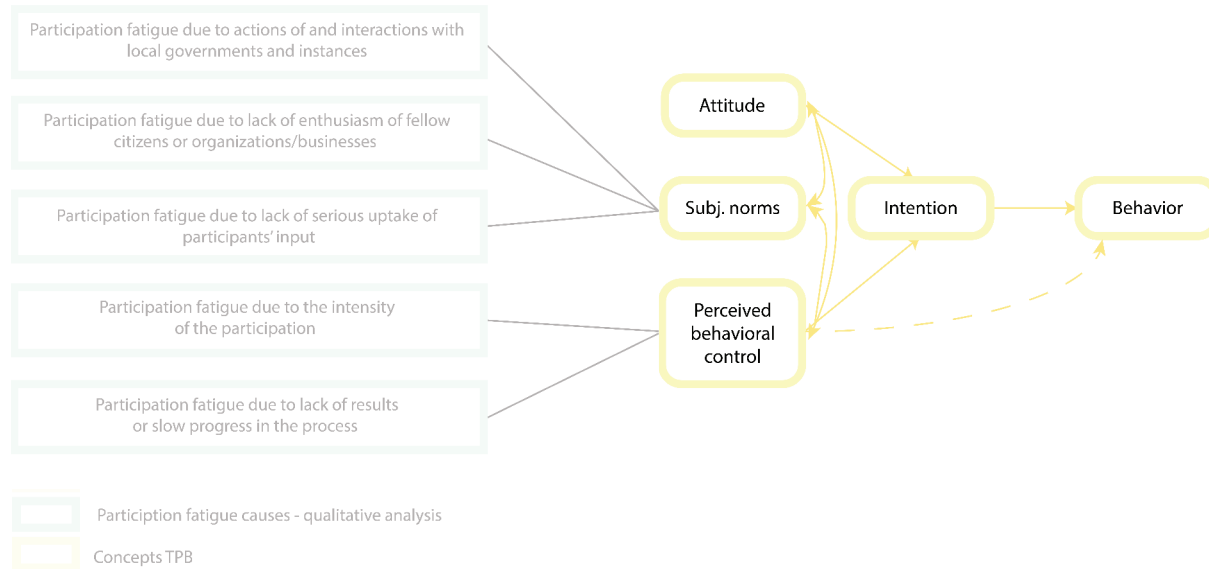
FRAMEWORK ASSESSEMENT



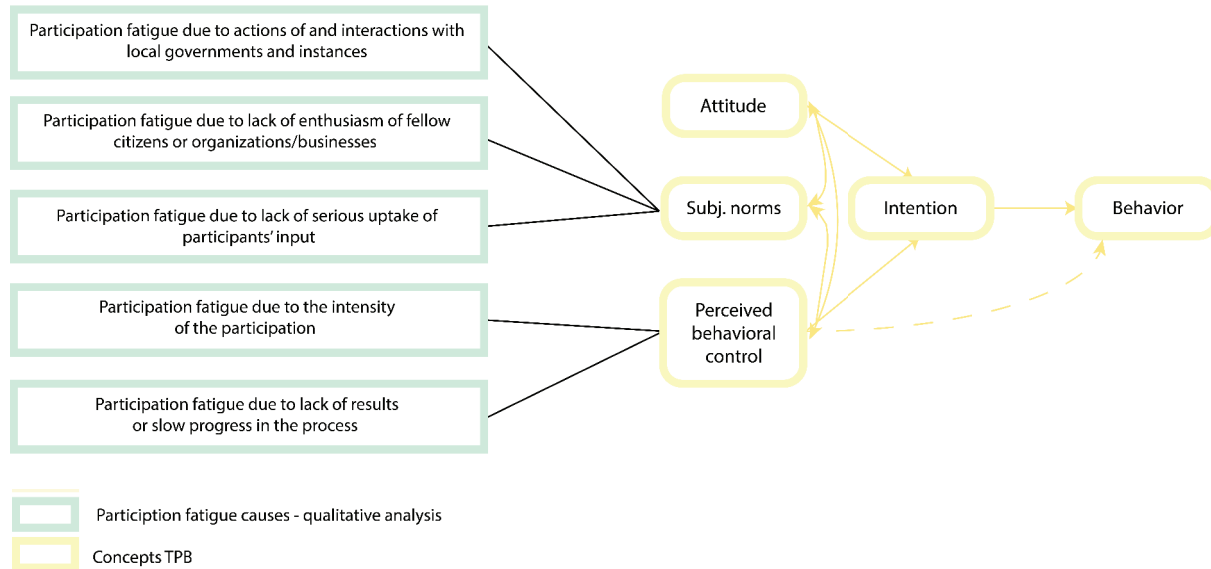
FRAMEWORK ASSESSEMENT



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FRAMEWORK ASSESSEMENT



FRAMEWORK ASSESSEMENT

- Framework reflects reality
 - SDT: concepts of SDT – competence, autonomy and relatedness – should be strengthened and supported during the participation process (for example: providing the participants with enough independence and power in order to strengthen their sense of autonomy)



FRAMEWORK ASSESSEMENT

- Framework reflects reality
 - SDT: concepts of SDT – competence, autonomy and relatedness – should be strengthened and supported during the participation process (for example: providing the participants with enough independence and power in order to strengthen their sense of autonomy)
 - TPB: indicator of possible preventative measures that are needed in order to evade the occurrence of participation fatigue (for example: sending out a survey in which residents can indicate how they would like to participate in the energy transition project, the process can then be designed according to these answers and this will increase the perceived behavioral control of future participants)



MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

“What are the main characteristics and lessons learned from participation fatigue experienced by citizens in participation processes for public energy transition projects?”.

CONCLUSIONS

SQ1 - What does participation fatigue mean in the context of participation processes?

Participation fatigue is a phenomenon in which participants of a participation processes, become tired of contributing to this process. This can lead to them becoming less active, or even leaving the process.



CONCLUSIONS

SQ1 - What does participation fatigue mean in the context of participation processes?

Participation fatigue is a phenomenon in which participants of a participation processes, become tired of contributing to this process. This can lead to them becoming less active, or even leaving the process.

SQ2 - Why is participation fatigue an important issue to solve in participation processes dealing with energy transition?

Negates positive impact of citizen participation: better handling of socio-ecological challenges of sustainability and development (Sanya, 2016)



CONCLUSIONS

SQ₃ - In case of the occurrence of participation fatigue in participation processes, can the citizens link this to a specific problem during the process?

1. Participation fatigue due to actions of and interactions with local governments and instances
2. Participation fatigue due to lack of results or slow progress in the process
3. Participation fatigue due to the intensity of the participation
4. Participation fatigue due to lack of enthusiasm of fellow citizens or organizations/businesses
5. Participation fatigue due to lack of serious uptake of participants' input



SQ4 - PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

1

Regarding the municipality

- Participation for the sake of participation should absolutely be avoided
municipalities should only enter the participation process with a clear goal and process in mind
- Municipality should be willing to enter an open dialogue with citizens and citizen initiatives
sends a message that citizen initiatives are an added value to the municipality, increasing morale and a sense of autonomy
- Appointing a fixed point of contact within the municipality, for citizens and citizen initiatives
- More clarity on rules and regulations
- Professional guidance (if possible)



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2

Adapting the process

- Create clarity and purpose in the participation process (long-term AND short term)
- Celebration of achievements and milestones
- More fun, less formality



SQ4 - PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

3

Reaching the public, lessening the burden

- Raising awareness
 - municipalities and citizen groups should work together in order to raise awareness about energy transition and increase the visibility of existing initiatives/projects.
- Promoting participation: make it personal, make it fun
- Reaching underrepresented groups (women, younger people, etc)



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!



Author:
Student Number:
Track:
Mentor 1:
Mentor 2:
Delegate of the board of examiners:

Christina Swinnen
4579968
Management in the Built Environment
Tong Wang
Aksel Ersoy
Leeke Reinders



PARTICIPATION FATIGUE

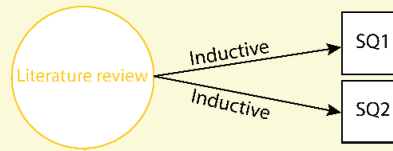
Not elaborated upon in academic research

Causes mentioned:

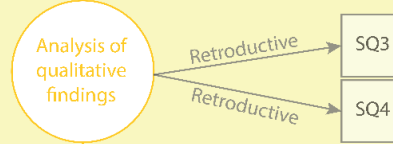
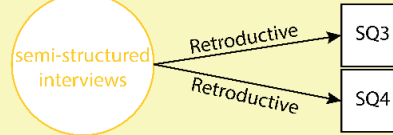
- Length of process (Combrinck and Porter, 2021)
- Needed knowledge in order to participate (Combrinck and Porter, 2021)
- Lack of management of citizens' expectations regarding the participation (Cho & Ho, 2020)
- Lack of legitimate and serious uptake of the outcomes and decisions taken from participatory processes (Robert Bosh Stiftung, 2019)
- Participation for the sake of participation (Milkman, 2021)



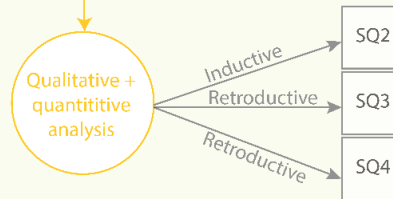
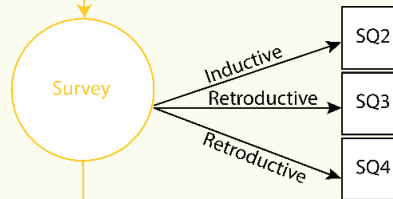
Literature Review



Qualitative Research

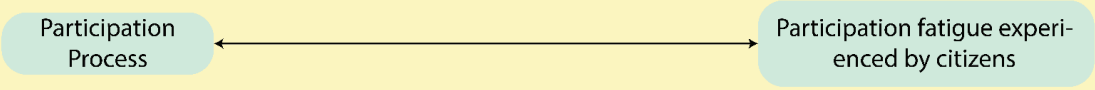


Mixed methods

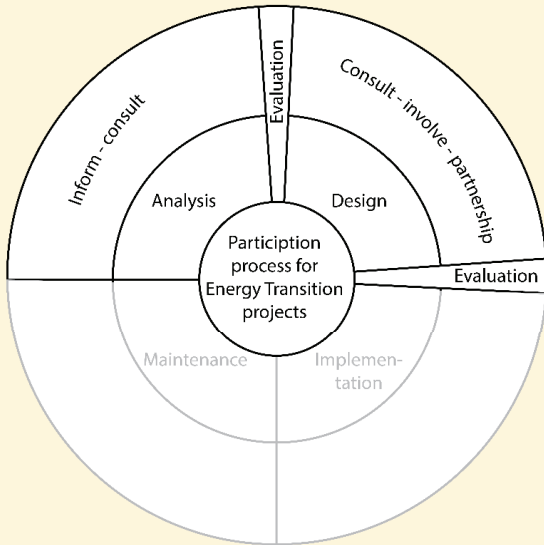


Conceptual Model

Energy transition projects

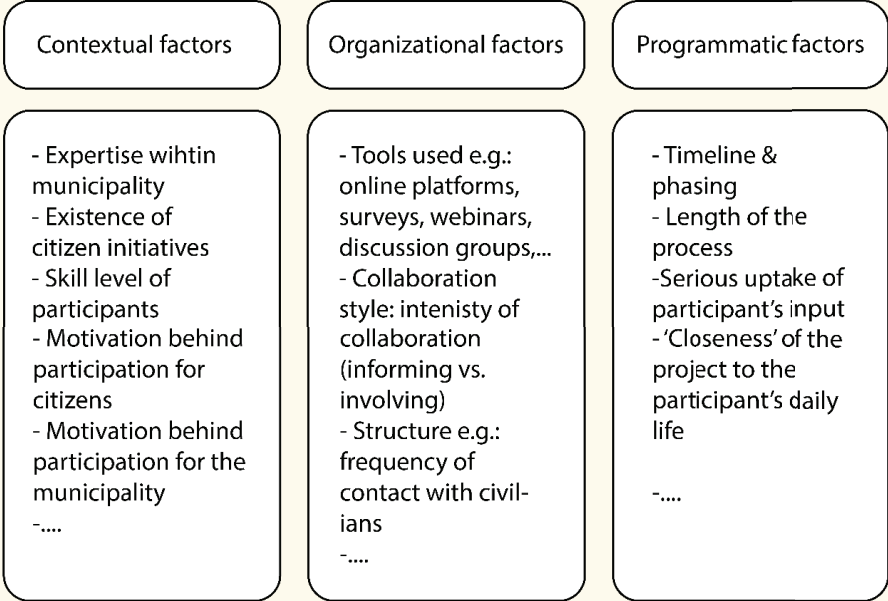


Cyclic process model for citizen participation in energy transition projects



Based on: Fors, Hagemann, Sang & Randrup (2021); Citizenlab (n.d.)

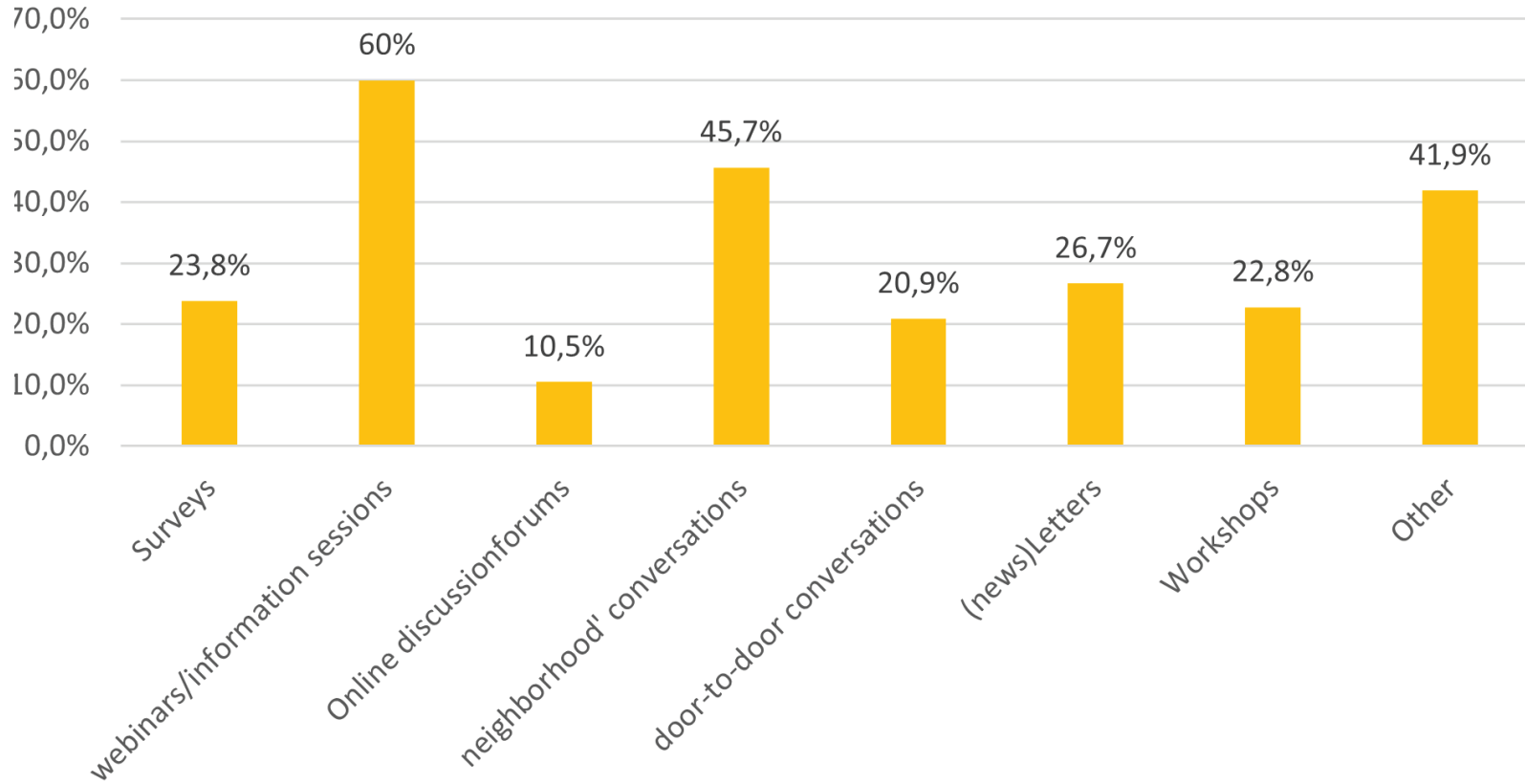
Factors influencing the occurrence of participation fatigue



Based on: Combrinck and Porter (2021); Cho & Ho (2020); Robert Bosh Stiftung (2019); Milkman (2021); Interviewee A-B-C-D-E (2022)

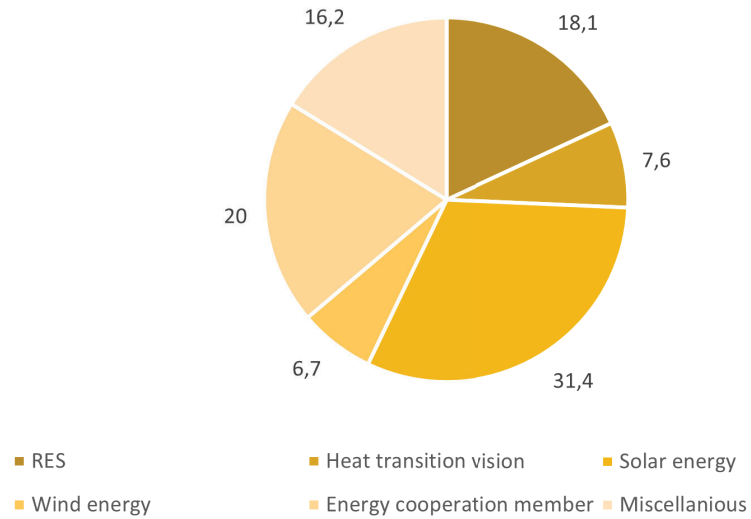
Analytical Framework

Tools used during the participation



CONTEXT

Types of projects/organizations



CONTEXT

Pre-existing knowledge:

"Prior to my participation, I already knew a lot about energy transition and I am interested in topics such as sustainability, green energy,...."	41%
"Prior to my participation, I already knew some things about energy transition but I am interested in topics such as sustainability, green energy,...."	43.8%
"Prior to my participation, I did not know that much about energy transition and I am interested in topics such as sustainability, green energy,...."	14.3%
"Prior to my participation, I did not know that much about energy transition and I am not really interested in topics such as sustainability, green energy,...."	0.95%

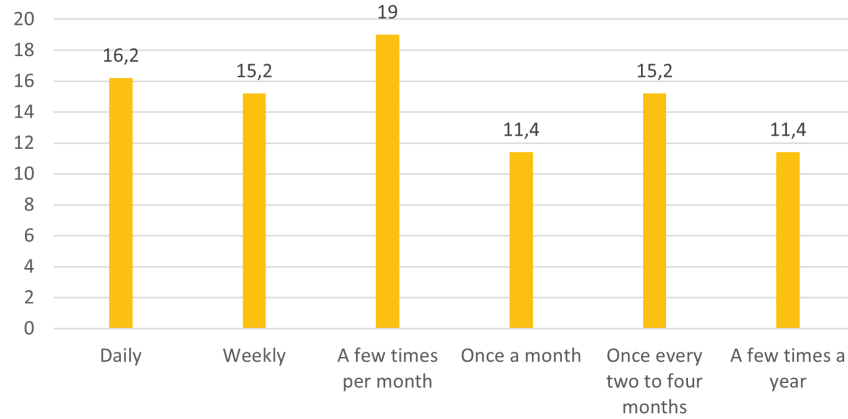
Motivation:

"Moving away from fossil fuels is an important issue for me. So I'd like to contribute to this."	68.6%
"I like to brainstorm and help decide what happens in my community and neighborhood"	32.3%
"If I do not participate, I am afraid that my opinion and that of others will not be taken into consideration. I therefore feel compelled to participate."	5.7%
Other reasons	19%

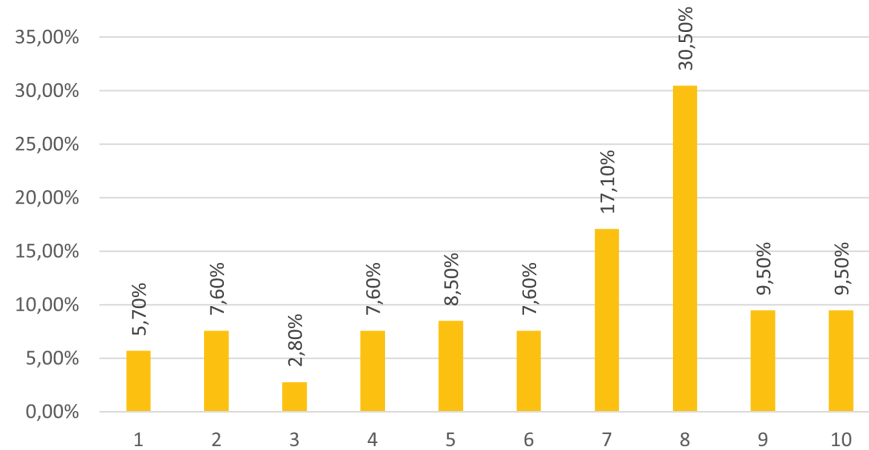


ORGANIZATION

Frequency of the participation



perceived influence on energy transition projects

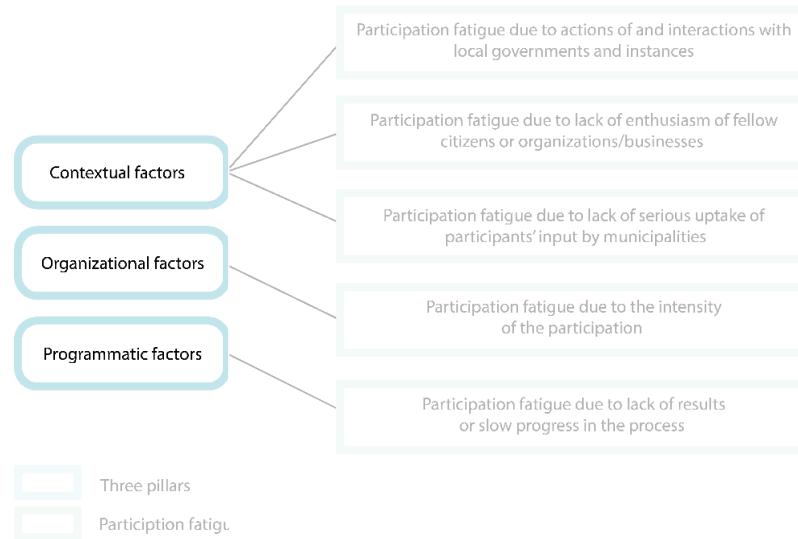


PARTICIPATION FATIGUE - CAUSES

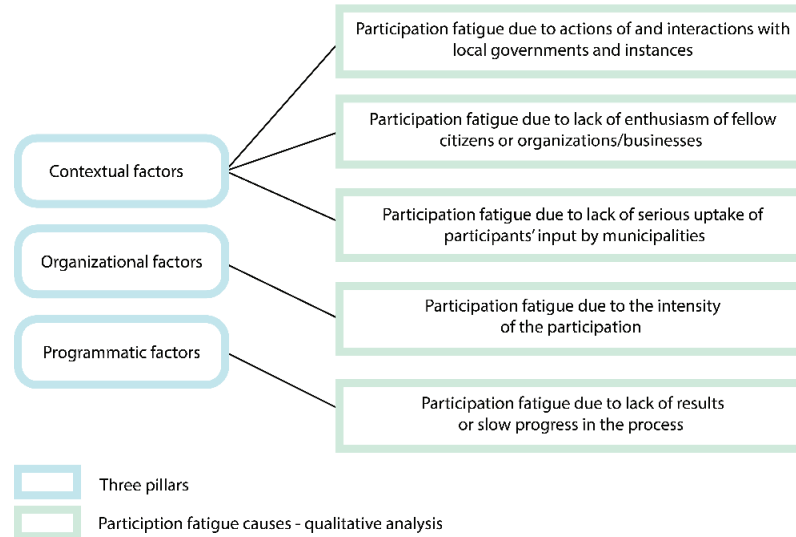
Participation fatigue and the participant's role (relates to intensity)	$r_s = -0.21$	$p=0.03$
Participation fatigue and perceived influence on the project	$r_s = -0.20$	$p=0.04$
Participation fatigue and the serious uptake of participants' input by municipalities	$r_s = 0.40$	$p=0.00$
Participation fatigue and pre-existing knowledge & interests	$r_s = 0.13$	$p=0.19$
Participation fatigue and frequency of the participation	$r_s = 0.13$	$p=0.15$



FRAMEWORK ASSESSEMENT



FRAMEWORK ASSESSEMENT



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Testing the participation toolkit → Longitudinal study in which possible solutions are implemented in the participation process. Solutions could then be assessed on how well they prevent the participation fatigue/ contribute to the participation process
- Future research could shed more light on the difference between participation fatigue experienced by citizens participating through municipal processes, and those participating through citizen initiatives.

