

The JustGreen Project

Just & Green? Citizens of the V4 Speak

Background

The European Green Deal is driving a major economic and social transformation across the EU to accelerate decarbonisation and address climate change, but it also creates significant challenges, particularly in the V4 countries where industrial, energy-intensive economies and lower purchasing power make citizens more vulnerable to the costs of transition in areas such as housing, transport, and employment.

Strengthening citizen participation and understanding public concerns is therefore essential to ensure the transition remains socially just, politically legitimate, and sustainable across the region.

Outputs

- Report of national citizen surveys and a comparative analysis across the V4

- Public consultations and Q&A about decarbonisation policies

- National policy analyses evaluating housing subsidy schemes in the V4

- Citizens' testimonies of participation in decarbonisation policies

- Series of events in the V4 countries consulting citizens and discussing with experts

Key findings

The evidence reveals common barriers: high upfront costs of home renovation or green technology implementation, limited transport alternatives to ICE cars, and gaps in accessible information to participation in decarbonisation. Citizens support climate goals in principle but require practical support structures, transparent information, and fair access to subsidies. Barriers are not purely economic; trust, clarity, and inclusion matter for sustained engagement.

Conclusion

A socially just transition requires embedding citizen experience into policy design. Aligning climate ambition with equity enhances policy legitimacy, citizen sense of ownership, and strengthens long-term uptake of decarbonisation measures.

The JustGreen project demonstrates that meaningful engagement with the public produces actionable evidence for more inclusive climate policies.

The project in numbers

- 4 citizens' consultations
- 16 focus groups
- 11 webinars
- 5 roundtables for journalists
- 9 climate assemblies
- 2 high-level conferences
- 10 workshops with civil society
- 16 monthly insights
- 1 policy analysis
- 8 policy briefings
- 1 media interview on the successful CERV project.

Contact Information

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Objectives

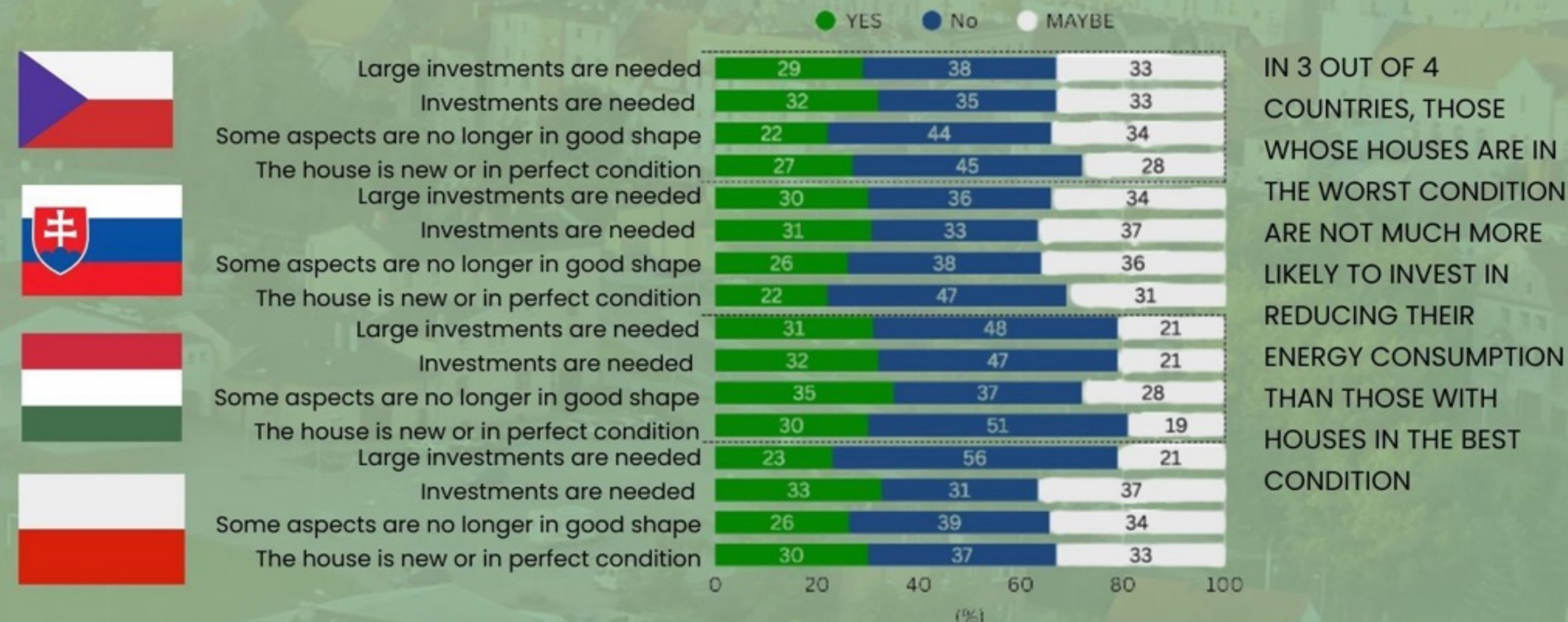


- Capture citizen perceptions and priorities related to decarbonisation in everyday life.
- Identify socio-economic, information, and accessibility barriers to "green" climate-friendly choices and behaviours.
- Compare evidence across the V4 countries to find common and context-specific patterns.
- Translate public feedback into concrete recommendations for policymakers, and enhance the trustworthiness of climate policies.



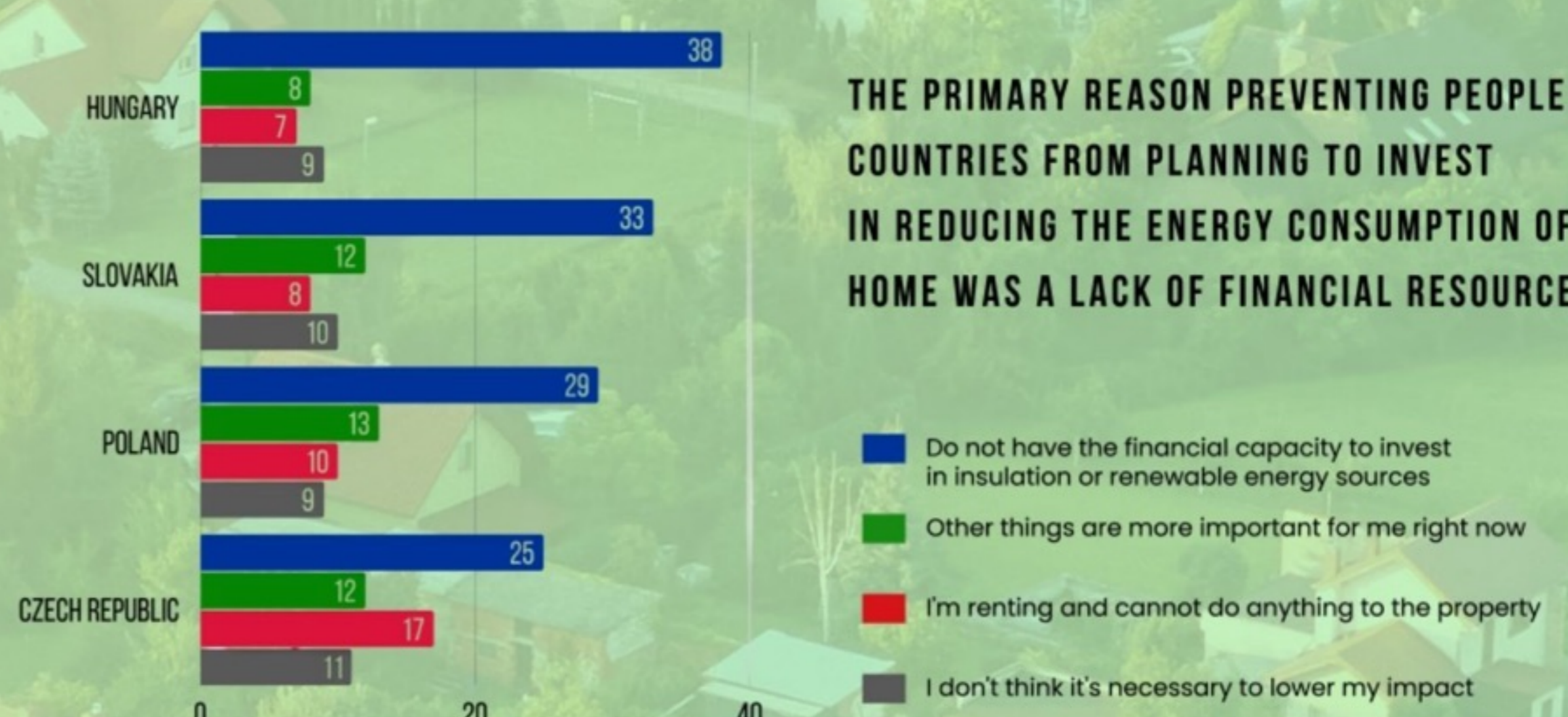
"Survey: Energy efficiency in housing using subsidies"

Question: Are you planning to invest in lowering the energy consumption of your housing in the next five years? (%) N= 4054



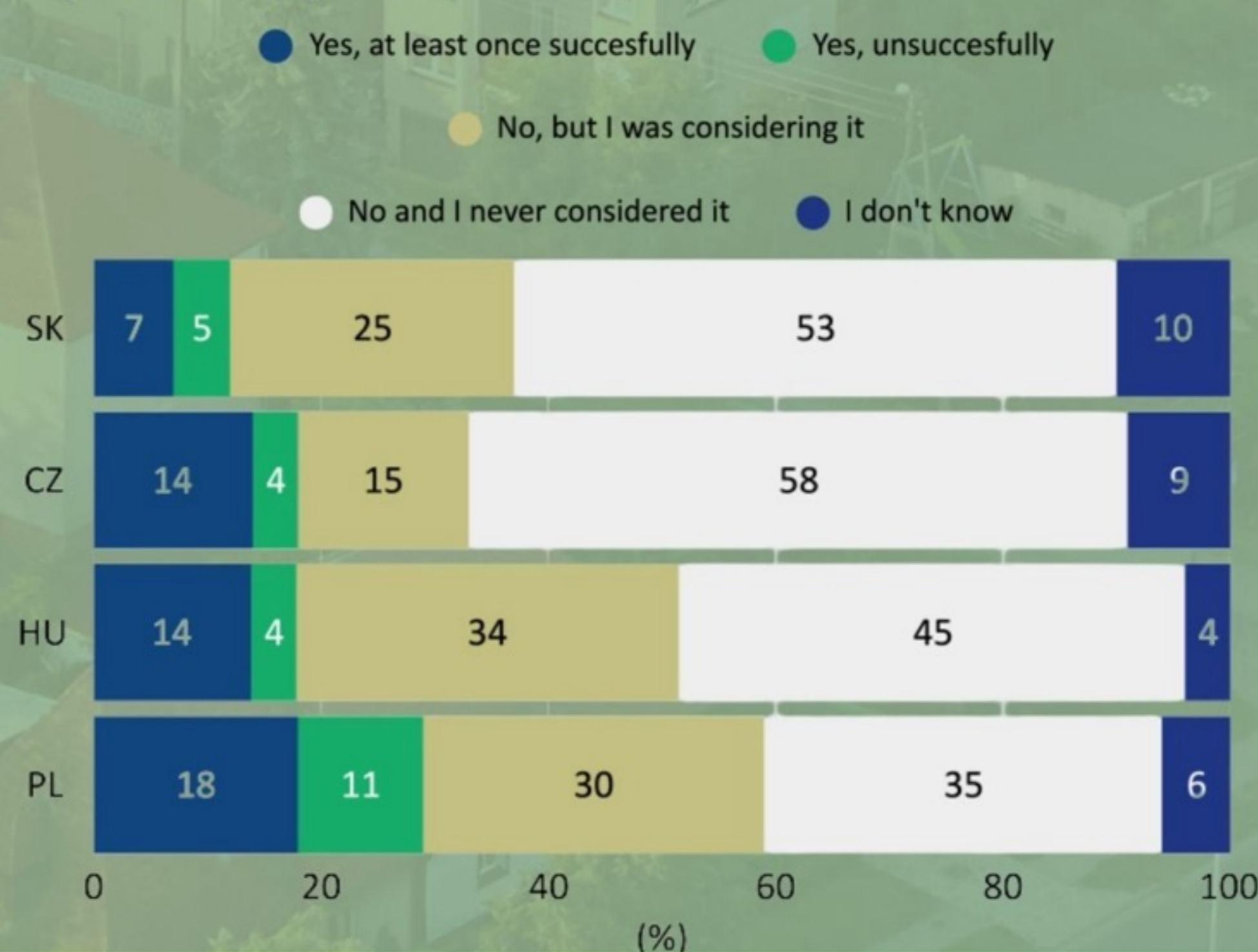
IN 3 OUT OF 4 COUNTRIES, THOSE WHOSE HOUSES ARE IN THE WORST CONDITION ARE NOT MUCH MORE LIKELY TO INVEST IN REDUCING THEIR ENERGY CONSUMPTION THAN THOSE WITH HOUSES IN THE BEST CONDITION

Question: What is the main reason which prevents you from investing in lowering the energy consumption of your housing? - among those who are not or rather not planning to invest in lowering the energy consumption of their housing in the next five years (%) N= 2922



THE PRIMARY REASON PREVENTING PEOPLE IN ALL COUNTRIES FROM PLANNING TO INVEST IN REDUCING THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF THEIR HOME WAS A LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Question: Have you or people from your household ever applied for support from a scheme meant to decrease the energy consumption of your housing? - among house owners (%) N= 3165



Poland has the highest percentage of successful applicants who applied for support from a scheme aimed at reducing the energy consumption of their housing, while the Czech Republic has the highest proportion of people who have never considered applying for such support.

Question: Why are you not planning on applying? - among home owners who are not planning to apply for a subsidy to reduce the energy consumption of their property (%) N= 585

IN ALL THE V4 COUNTRIES, THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WITH THE WORST CONDITIONED PROPERTIES RESPONDED THEY DO NOT PLAN TO APPLY FOR A SUBSIDY TO REDUCE THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF THEIR HOUSING BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS FOR RENOVATION

