ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES
ENERGY, MOBILITY AND OTHER REAL WORLD APPLICATION

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Abstract
Improving energy efficiency in the European Union is a complex task, which requires the commitment of Member States to be accomplished. The existing 20% energy efficiency target for 2020, recently reinforced for 2030 towards a 27% energy consumption reduction goal creates a higher pressure to deliver the potential benefits for the economy, environment and society. This research paper presents a governance analysis, as a proxy on the ability of Member States to contribute to the existing energy efficiency targets. The governance analysis conducted for the EU-28 highlights that more efforts are required to ensure that Member States follow and adopt existing legislation, alongside with developments on the existing financial support mechanisms, human capacities and institutional structures. Furthermore, individual country analysis depicts a misalignment on the governance performance for the EU-28 Member States.

Keywords: Energy Efficiency, European Union, Governance, Energy Policy.
1. Introduction

Creating stimuli towards a more energy efficient European Union (EU) has been a key pillar in the existing policy agendas. Member States have been called to collaborate further on this effort through the latest Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) released in 2012 (European Parliament, 2012b) to ensure the achievement of the proposed energy efficiency (EE) targets by 2020, of 20% reduction of primary energy consumption set on the EU 2020 goals (European Commission, 2011b). Implementing actions that contribute to greater EE in the EU is crucial.

Whilst the EU strives to follow the plan for energy and climate for 2020, the European Commission (EC) has already defined the pipeline beyond 2020 and towards 2030. In this new policy framework the EE ambitions are greater, the EE communication released in 2014 (European Commission, 2014d) proposed a target for increasing EE by 27% in 2030. This evolution is backed by a set of governance guidelines that are designed to ensure the effective implementation of plans and Member States collaboration to achieve this target. It is worth noting that of the proposed energy and climate targets for 2020, only the one related to EE was at risk of not being achieved, the realistic adjusted potential identified by the EC (European Commission, 2014c) stood at 17%, which represented a positive evolution from previous estimations in 2009 that pointed at the possibility of only reaching 9% of energy consumption reduction instead of the 20% goal defined (European Commission, 2011a). These figures present a positive evolution towards the policy targets. However a small gap on EE represents a risk that has to be mitigated.

The aim of this paper is to present an EE governance analysis based on a framework proposed by Jollands & Ellis, (2009a), as well as to provide information on individual Member States EE governance performance. This research is designed to provide insightful indications on current strengths and weaknesses of EE governance in the EU, which are important from a policy makers’ perspective when designing, developing or evaluating policy agendas and possible targets for future implementation. The organisation of the paper is as follows. Section 2, presents and