



## Visions of Ecological Transition in Europe: comparing perceptions, unveiling plurality

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### Abstract

The wide dissemination of the Ecological transition concept, without the integration of different views, understandings and constraints, could undermine the collective efforts to pursue it. Therefore, in the scope of the H2020 European project “PHOENIX”, this work aims to contribute to providing different visions on Ecological Transition across 6 European countries – Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary and Estonia - through the application of 41 interviews with policymakers, scientists, NGO actors, representatives of economics groups and citizens. From the interviews, it was clear that the adoption of pro-ecological behaviors is not only dependent on individual choices – lack of awareness or giving up on personal comfort. The interviewees highlight the financial barriers as the main constraints – both at an individual level and the macro level, i.e. the economic interests of companies -, as well as the lack of support of institutions as role models in this ecological transition. More importantly, a general perception of the ineffectiveness of traditional participation models was visible, limiting the possibility of intervention, especially for vulnerable social groups. People want to make part of this transition, but this can only be achieved through mechanisms of participation grounded in fair, inclusive and plural processes. The transformative policy postulated by the ecological transition must be based on in-depth knowledge of the biophysical and socio-economic-cultural characteristics of territories, which is a prerequisite that requires transformative processes at individual and structural levels.

**Keywords:** ecological transition, perceptions, Europe, plurality