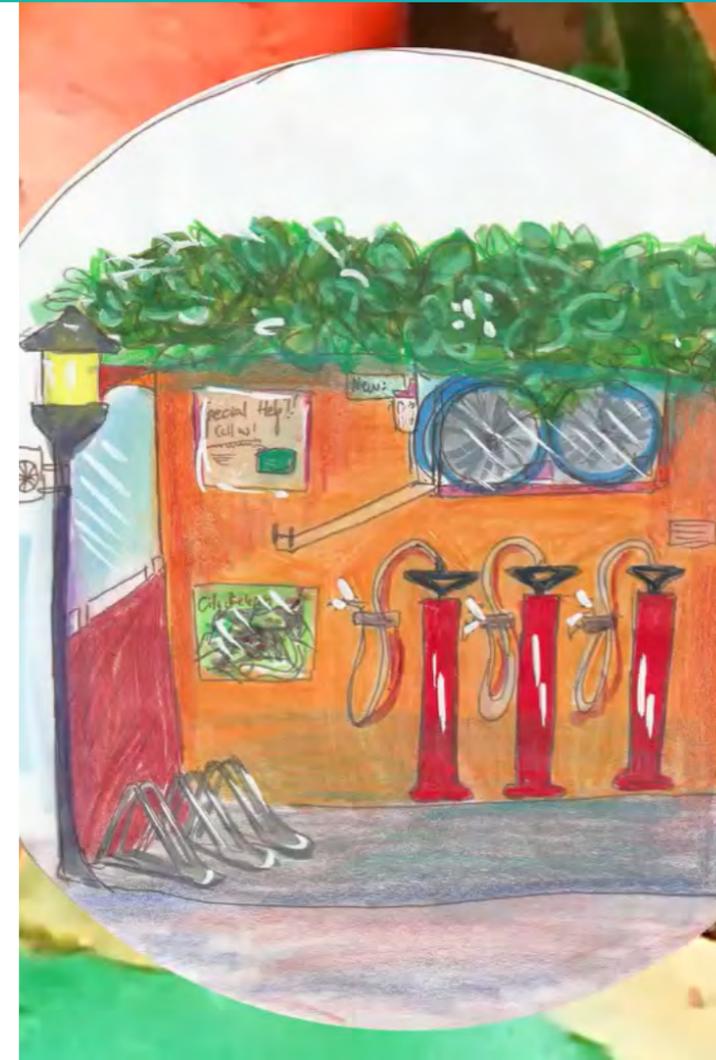


# THREE4CLIMATE SURVEY FOR CITIES AND SCHOOLS



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# Survey

## Introduction

**The Project** – The [Three Presidencies for Climate: Think European – Act Local](#) (Three4Climate) project connects six cities and six schools from Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia to jointly take action towards climate neutrality while the three countries hold the trio presidency of the Council of the EU in 2020 and 2021. The project provides a platform to the participating actors from Bielefeld and Radolfzell (Germany), Braga and Loulé (Portugal), and Maribor and Kranj (Slovenia) to share insights and best practices on local climate action.

**The Three4Climate Survey** – The aim of this survey was to find out what people who live, work, and go to school in the Three4Climate cities think about local climate action and its impacts. The results give an impression of the participants’ wishes for the future and their willingness to contribute to improving their cities’ climate impact. The findings provide local stakeholders the unique opportunity to learn more about their citizens’ views on climate action and to incorporate those into decision-making processes.

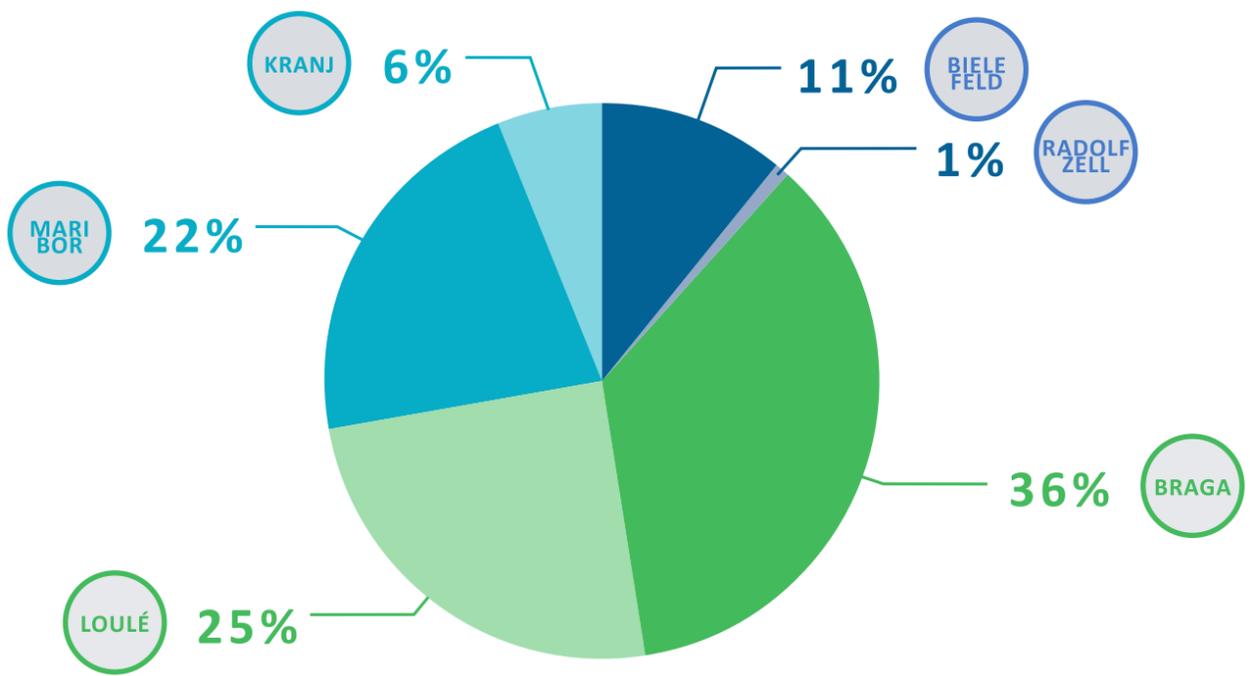
**Method** – The Three4Climate cities and schools distributed the set of questions that was prepared by the Three4Climate project team using an online survey tool. The target groups were diverse: employees of the cities’ administrations, local politicians, and the various actors in the participating schools – pupils, teachers, and parents. Questions ranged from multiple choice to free answer options. Some questions were directed at all participant groups and assessed at the city or country level, while other questions specifically targeted city administrations or schools (see icon legend below). The final outcome of the survey is based on 792 entries. Capacities of most city administrations were scarce due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so more answers were received from actors in participating schools. Results of questions with fewer than four responses are not included in this report.





# Background on survey participants

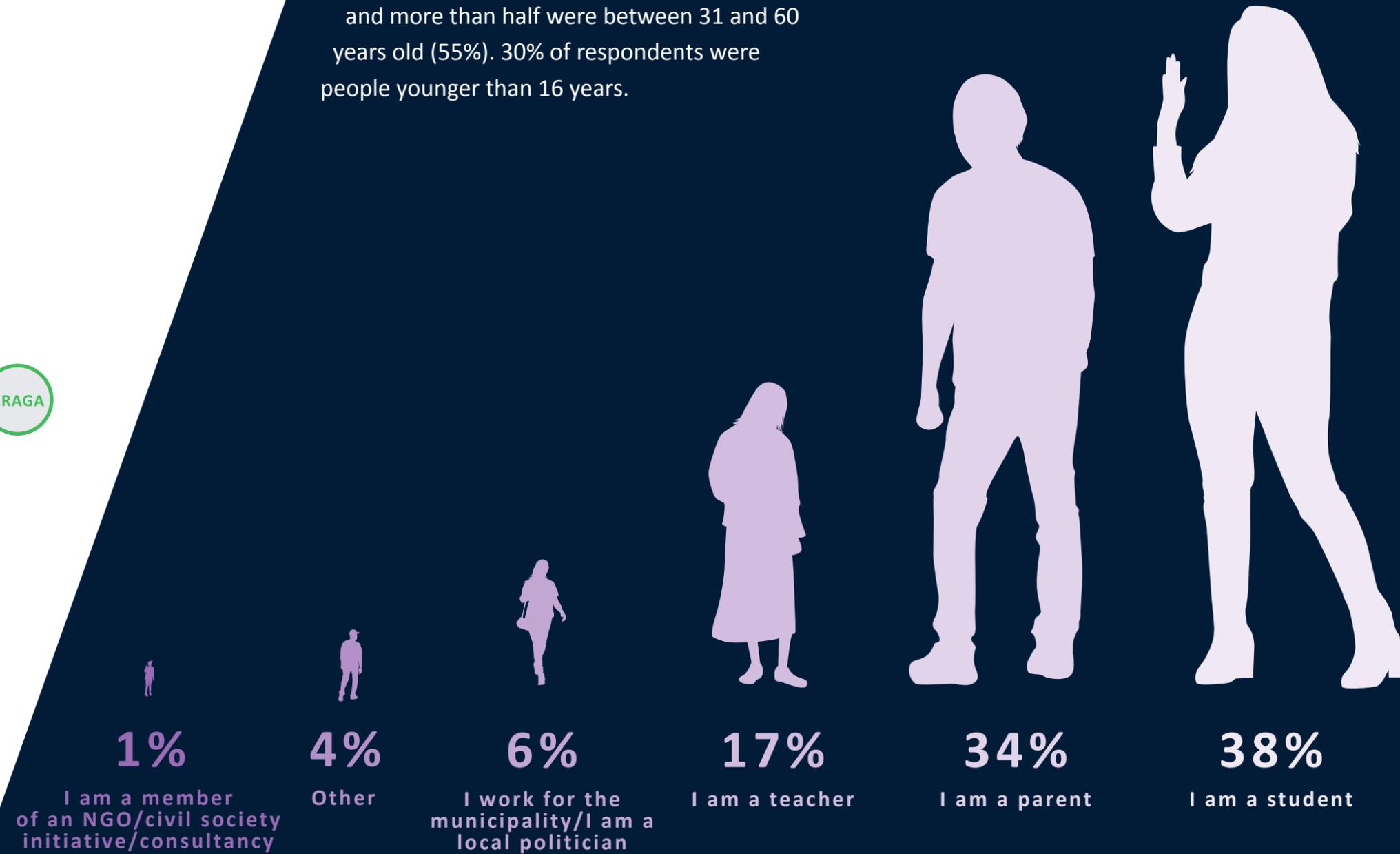
## Which city are you associated to?



A total of 792 people from the trio countries responded to the survey – 487 responses came from Portugal, 216 from Slovenia, and 89 from Germany.

## Which category would you ascribe yourself to?

About 70% of respondents were female, and more than half were between 31 and 60 years old (55%). 30% of respondents were people younger than 16 years.





# Survey

## Personal opinion on climate change and climate action

### Is climate change an important topic to you?

Climate change is an important or very important topic to the majority of respondents. Breaking the result down to the city level shows this holds true across all cities. Slight differences can be found when considering the age groups of the respondents.

- 97% of people over 30 think climate change is very important or important.
- 77% of people aged 16–30 agree to this
- 89% of participants 15 and younger (pupils) think of climate change as very important or important.



Categories with the most answers per city:

MARI BOR

88% important + very important

KRANJ

98% important + very important

LOULÉ

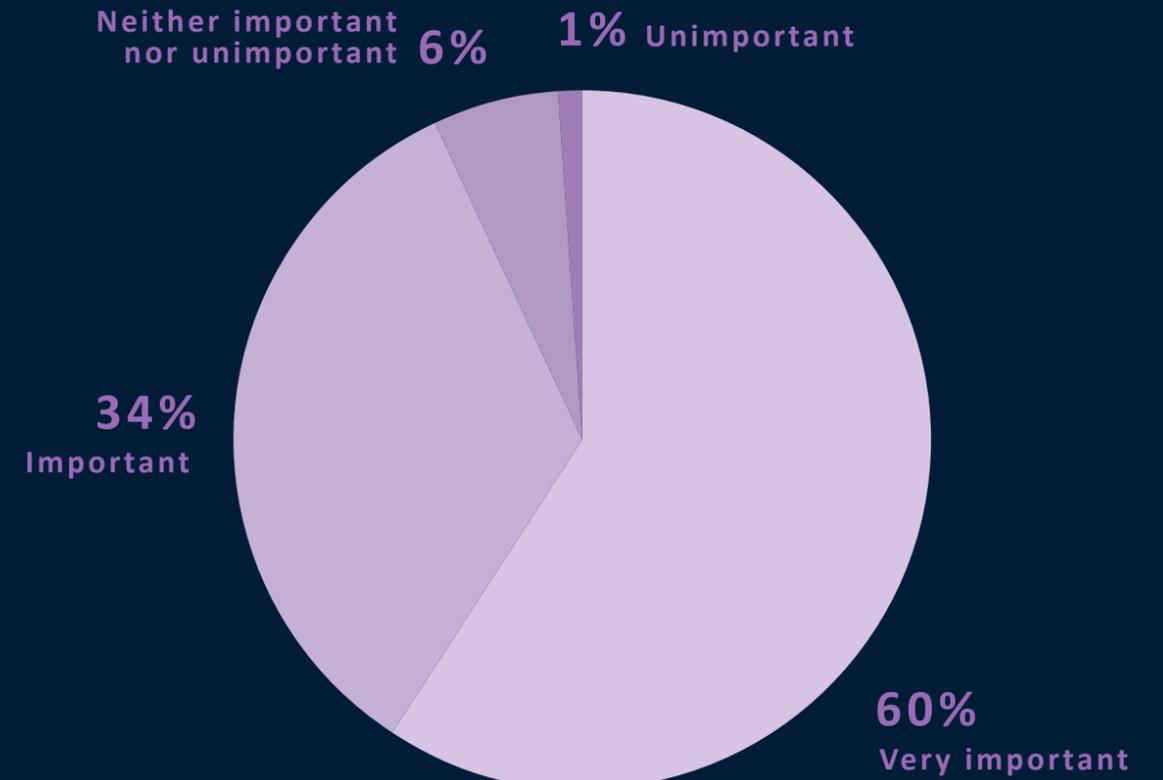
91% important + very important

BRAGA

96% important + very important

BIELE FELD

95% important + very important





# Survey

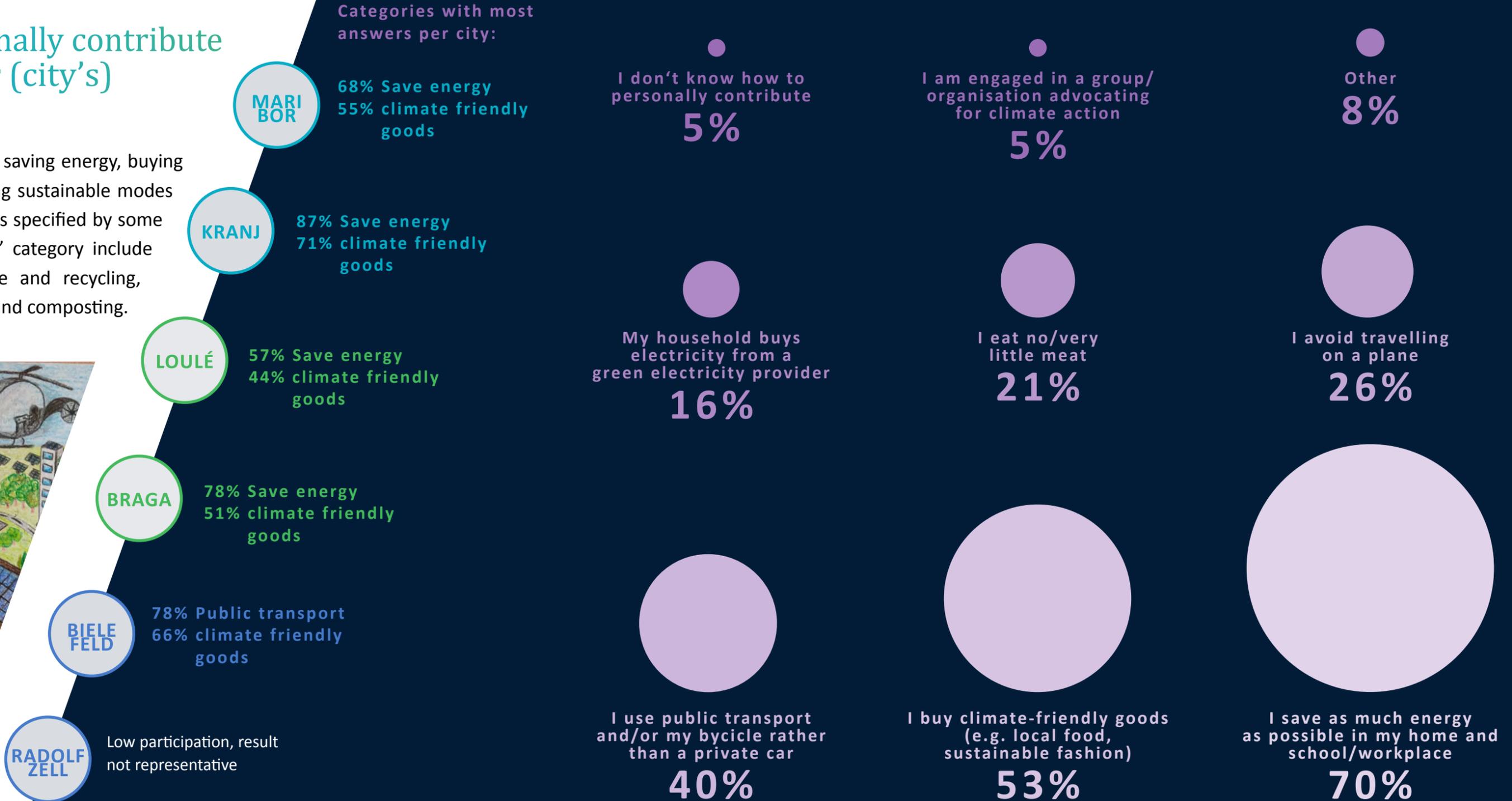
## Personal opinion on climate change and climate action

### How do you personally contribute to improving your (city's) climate impact?

Most participants contribute by saving energy, buying climate-friendly goods, and using sustainable modes of transport. Examples of actions specified by some respondents under the "Other" category include waste reduction through reuse and recycling, avoiding and separating waste, and composting.



Categories with most answers per city:





# Survey

## Views on climate action in cities

### Should reaching climate neutrality be a priority in your city?

Of respondents, 71% agreed that reaching climate neutrality should be a priority in their cities. Looking at respondents from each city individually, at least 61% (Loulé) and up to 89% (Kranj) were of that opinion.

Some respondents stated that changing established habits and behaviours is seen as a long process. Furthermore, climate aspects should not outweigh other important topics like social equality, education, quality of life, and nutrition.

When asked about the expected effects of their local governments initiating more climate action, most respondents picked the options cleaner air (83%), a general improvement for the environment (74%), and an increase in the quality of life (72%). Only 6% of respondents believed that more climate action will lead to higher living costs.



### What should your city do first in order to improve its local impact on the climate?

MARI  
BOR

KRANJ

LOULÉ

BRAGA

BIELE  
FELD

RADOLF  
ZELL

#### SLOVENIA

- Strategies for climate action
- Commitment from leadership
- Free and more frequent public transport
- Encourage citizens to contribute to climate neutrality
- Educational programs for schools
- Climate-friendly heat and electricity production
- Bike lanes, bike rentals

#### PORTUGAL

- Better public transport
- Less traffic in the city
- More solar panels
- Renewable energy community
- More trees, green roofs
- Incentives for recycling
- Support clean production
- Organic farming

#### GERMANY

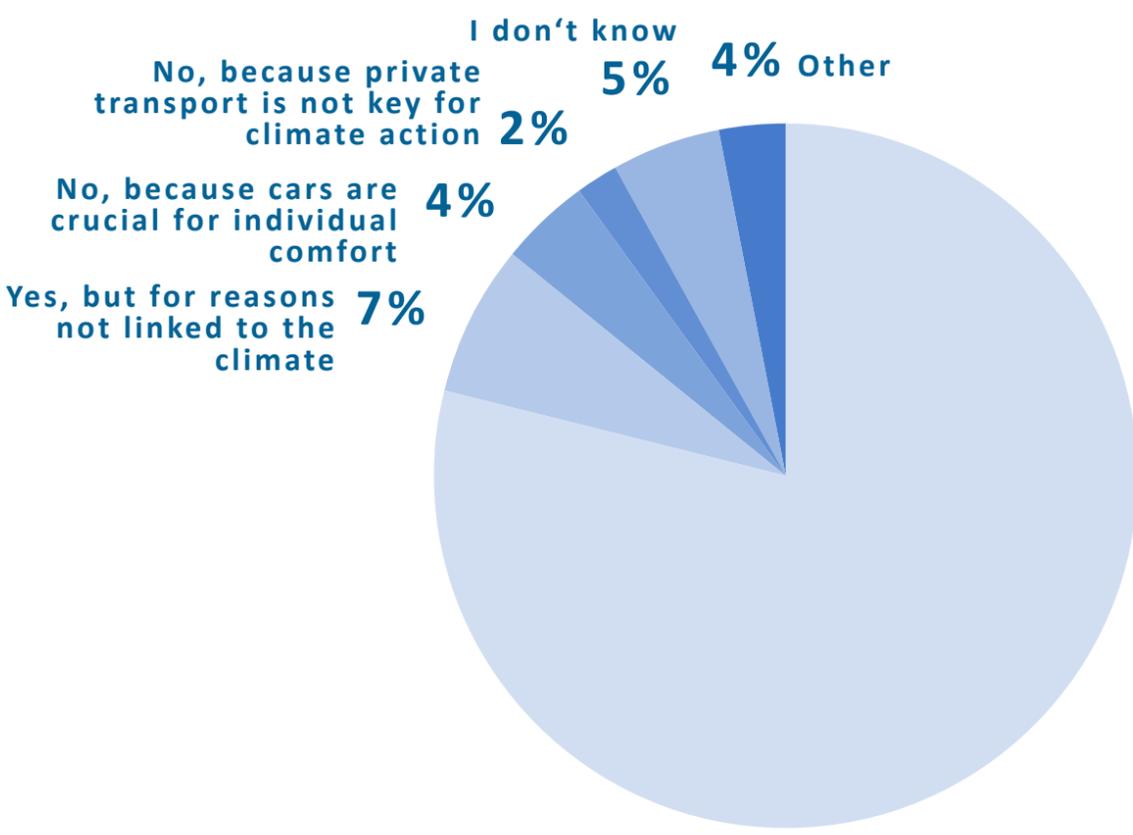
- Free public transport
- Provide support for building retrofit
- Climate-neutral municipal utility
- Stop land consumption
- Ban cars from inner city
- Reduce parking spaces
- New buildings with PV system



# Bielefeld

# Radolfzell

Bielefeld has the ambitious goal to reduce car traffic from 51% to 25% by 2030. One central initiative introduced by the city is developing the Low-Emission City Centre to provide more space for walking, cycling, and cargo bikes, which are planned to be the first choice for delivery vehicles. Participants from Bielefeld were asked whether they are in favor of this approach.



### Electromobility

Radolfzell offers electricity at two charging points, one of which can only be used by carsharing customers. Numerous charging stations for e-bikes and pedelecs have been installed in the urban area.



### City buses

Several bus lines cover the city centre and also connect to the outer districts. The introduction of €1-bus tickets has led to a significant increase of people using the city buses.



### Carsharing

To get around the city without needing to use a private car, four different vehicles are available to users in Radolfzell; one of them is an electric car.

The number of responses to the question posed to participants from Radolfzell was not representative. The original question was: "Have you taken advantage of any of the mobility measures?"

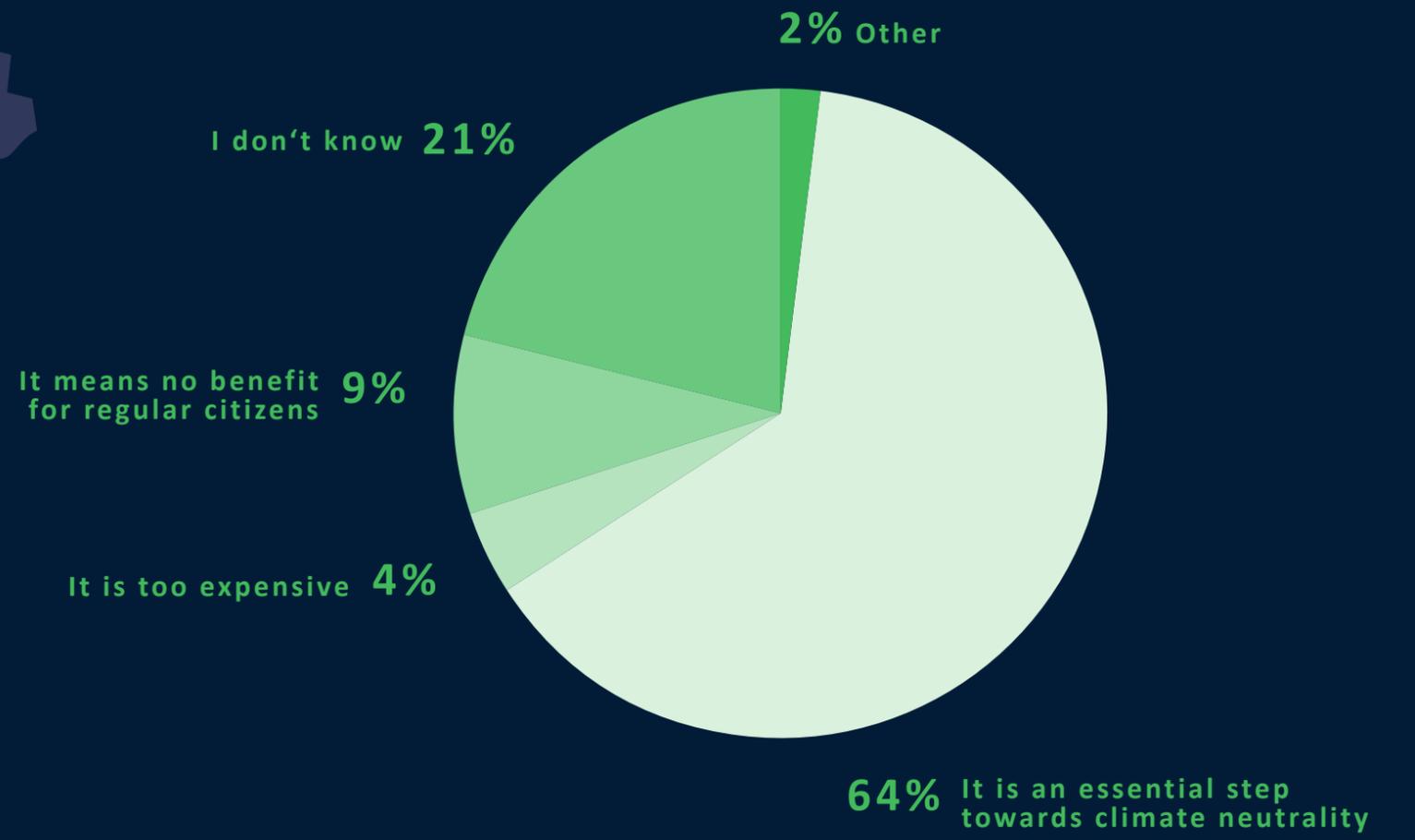
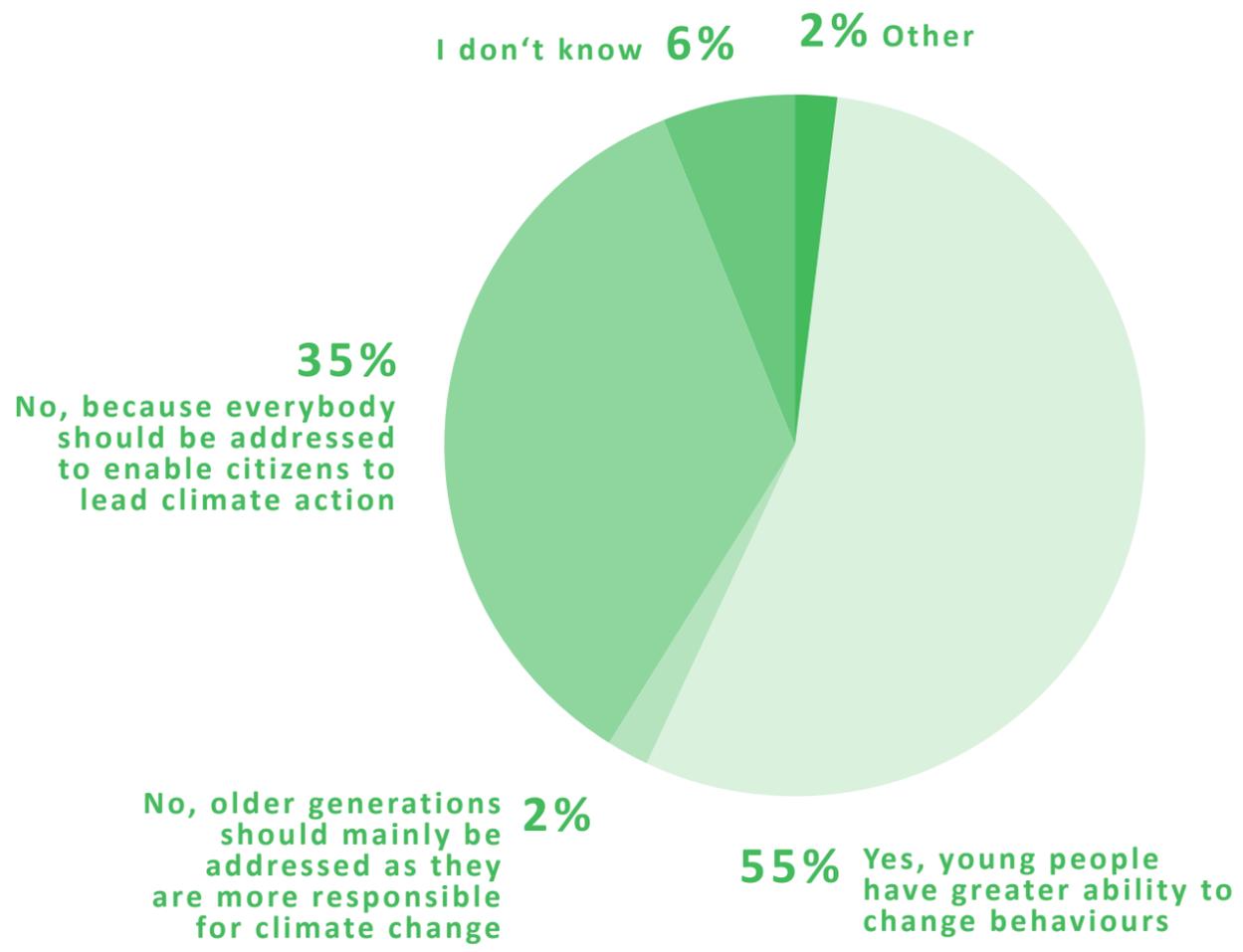


## Braga

## Loulé

Braga focuses on education for sustainable development. Participants from Braga were asked if they agree that efforts to raise climate awareness should be mainly addressing children and young people.

Loulé plans to increase the share of renewable energies on municipal buildings, including schools (2 MW until 2021). Participants from Loulé were asked what they think about the impact of renewable systems on municipal buildings.





# Survey

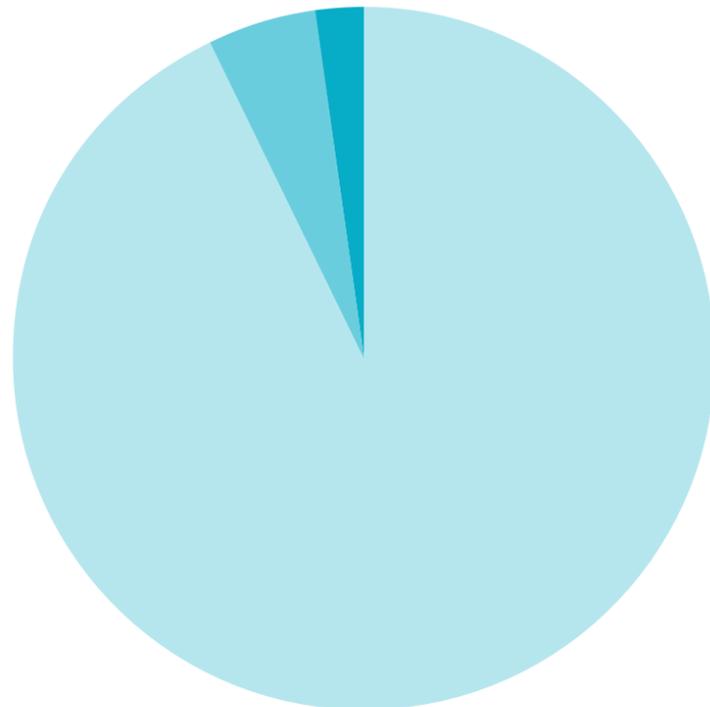
## Kranj

## Maribor

Kranj has started an initiative to refurbish buildings owned by the city. In 2020, the energy refurbishment of 22 public buildings was finished. Participants from Kranj were asked what they think about the impact of such energy refurbishments.

In 2020, a new pedestrian zone was introduced on the main square in Maribor, and the cycling paths network was improved and expanded. Participants from Maribor were asked if they felt encouraged to walk and use the bike more often because of this improvement.

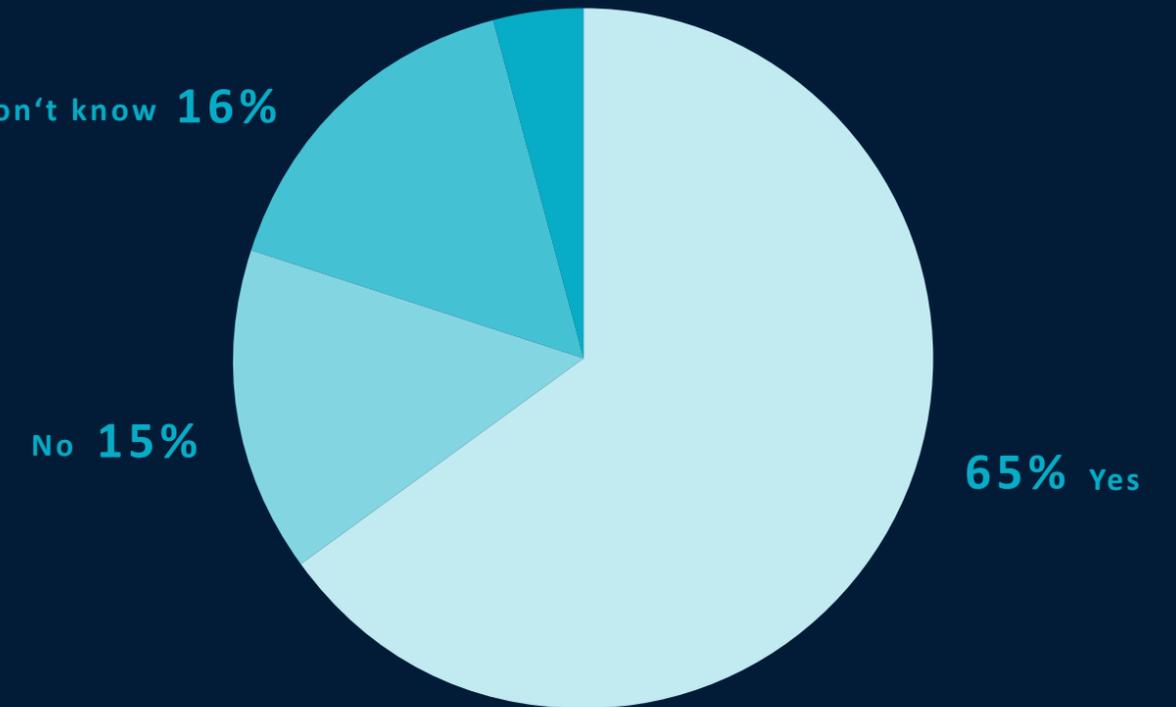
I don't know 5% 2% Other



93% The refurbishment of buildings is an essential step towards climate neutrality



I don't know 16% 4% Other



No 15%

65% Yes

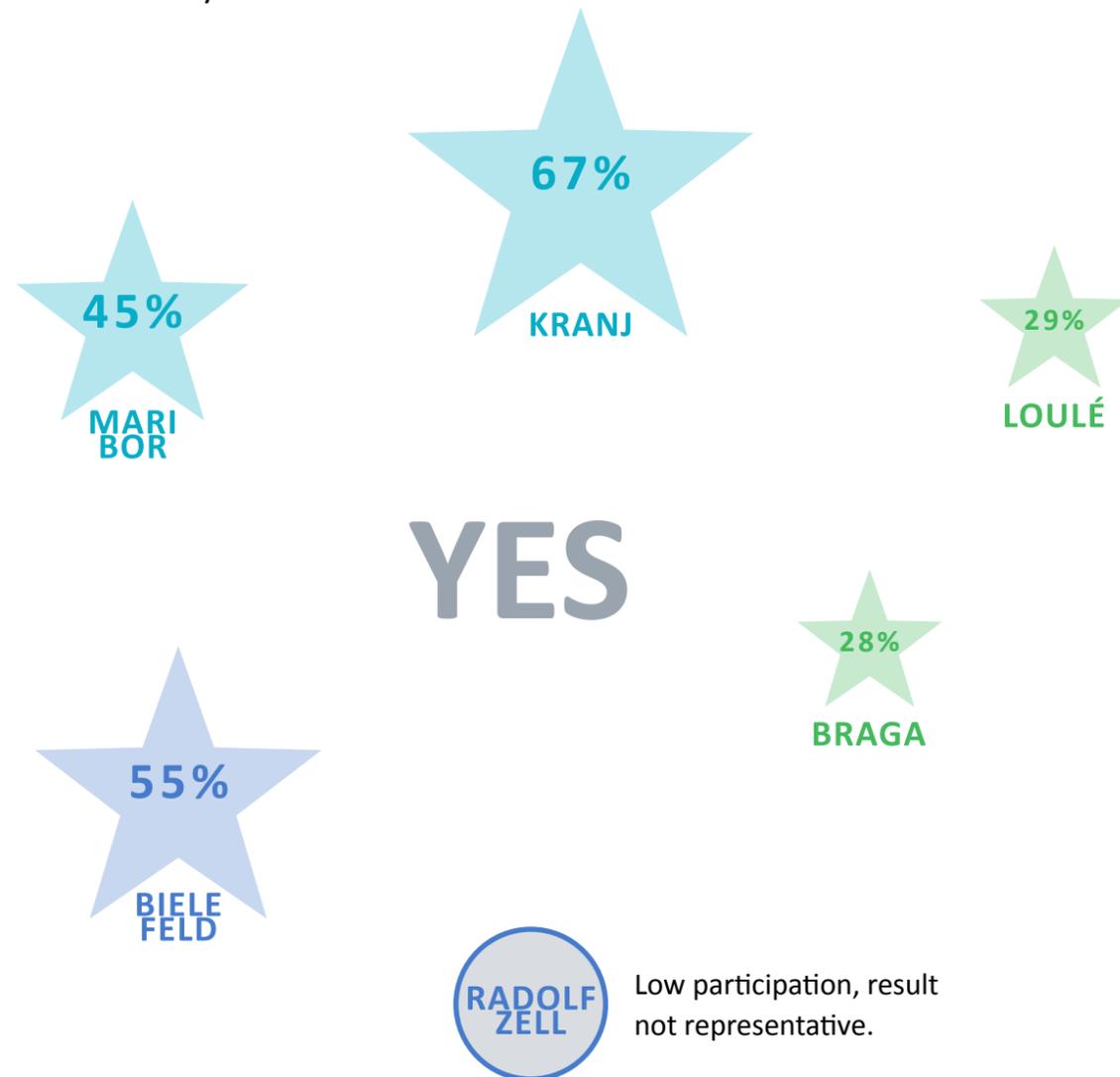


# Survey

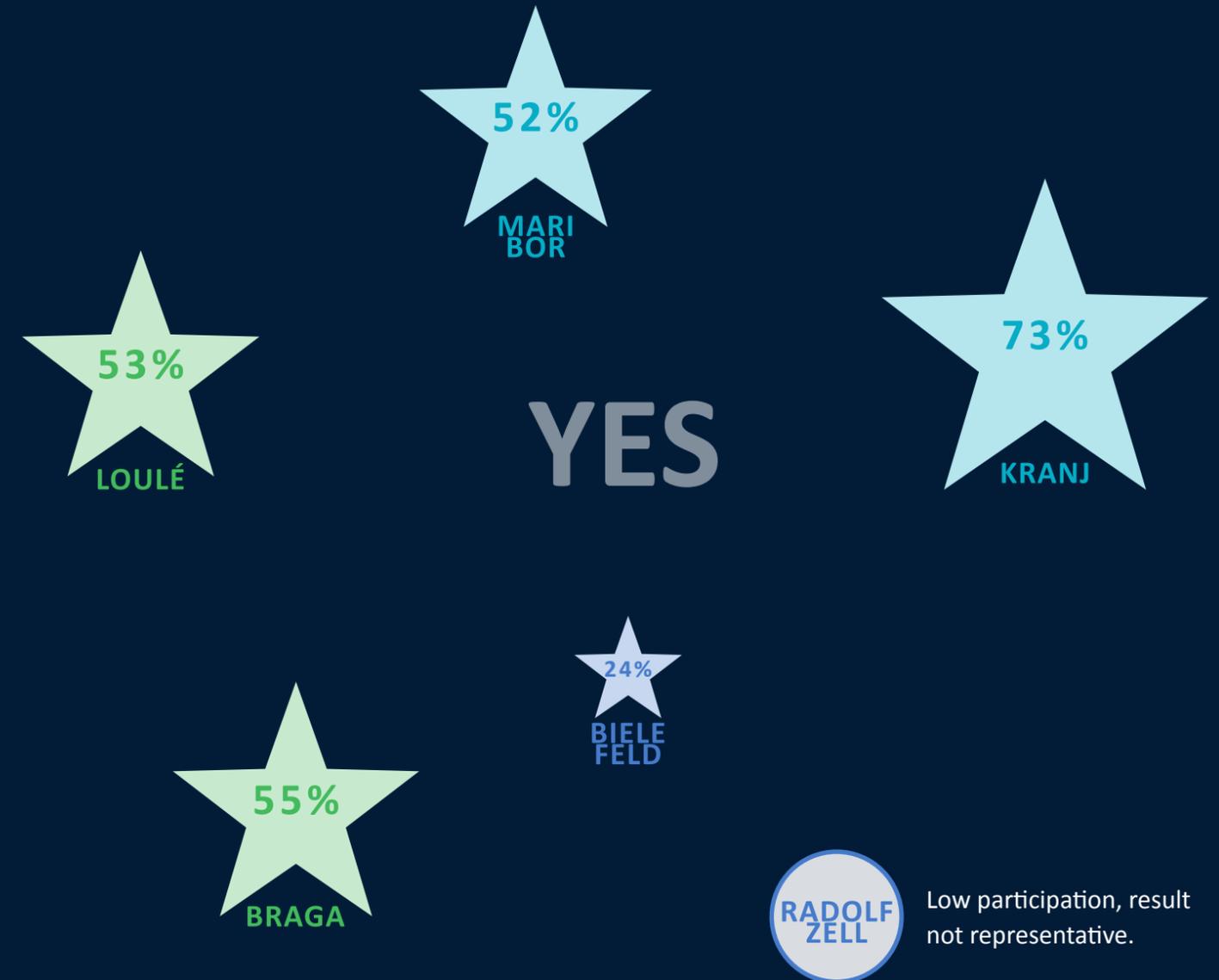
## Link to EU activities

### Have you heard about the European Green Deal before?

Only 37% of all respondents claimed to know about the European Green Deal, whereas 51% of survey participants confirmed the EU's role was visible in their city.



### Do the EU and its institutions play a big role in the context of local climate action in your city?

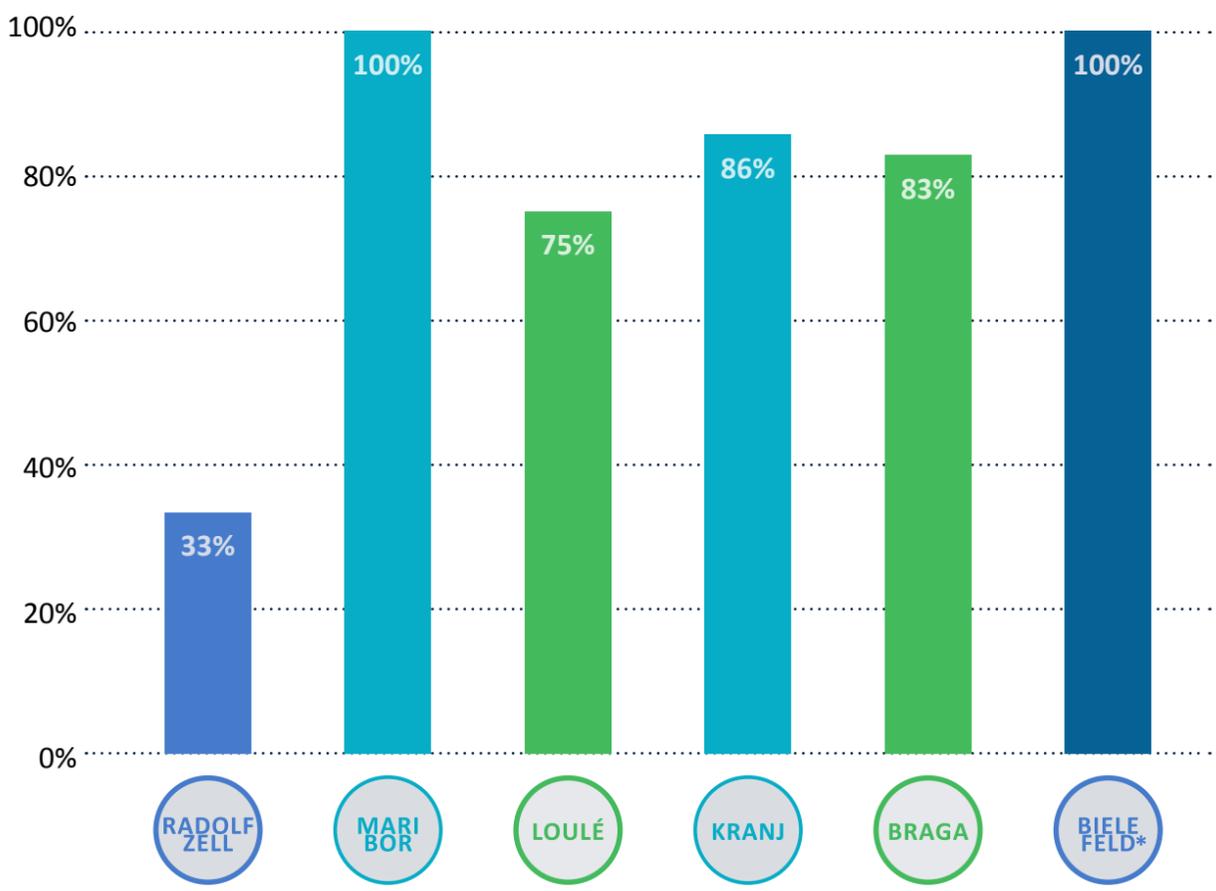




# Municipal perspective

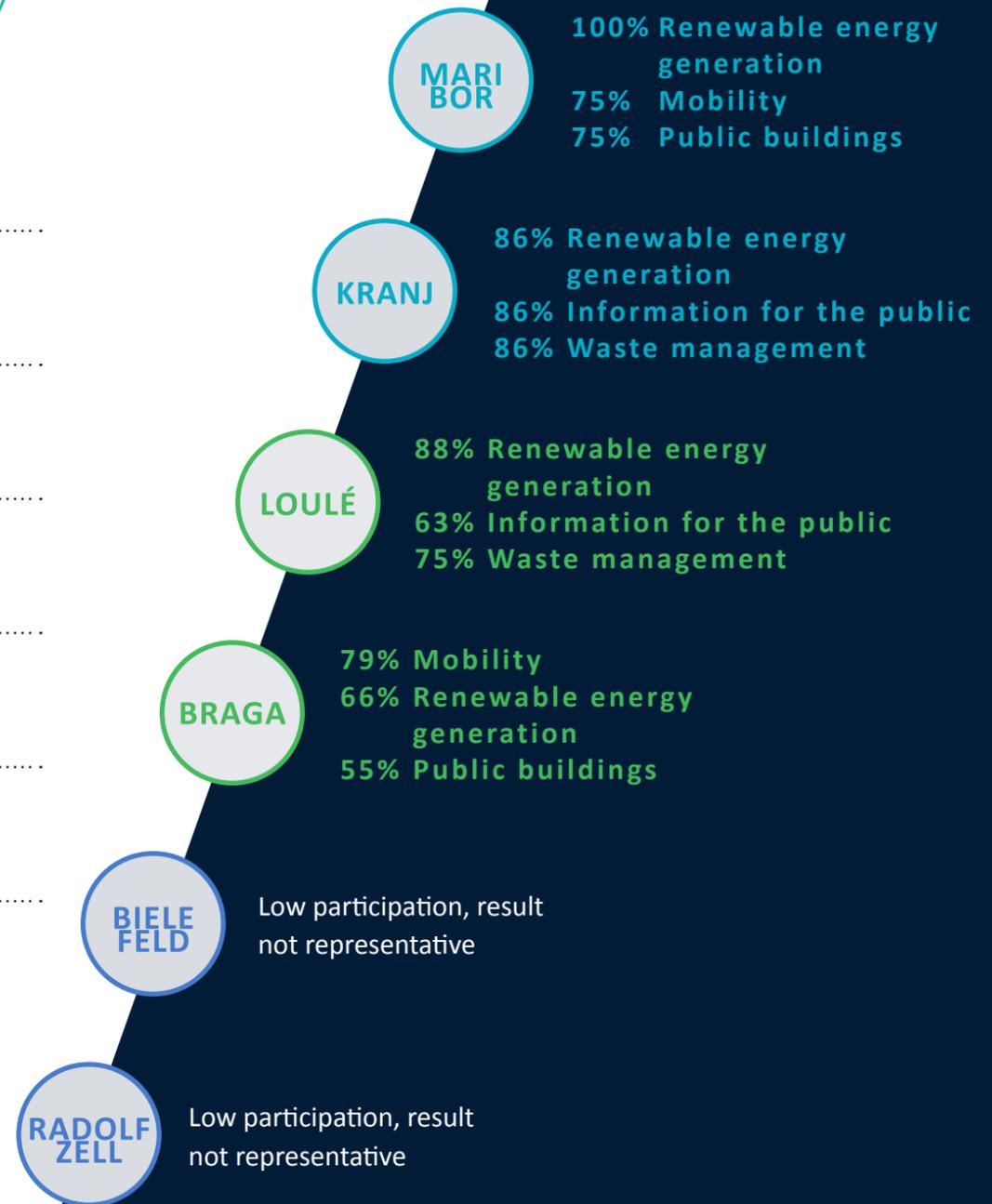
In your opinion, should your city connect more with the EU level to better and jointly work on climate action?

Share of YES answers

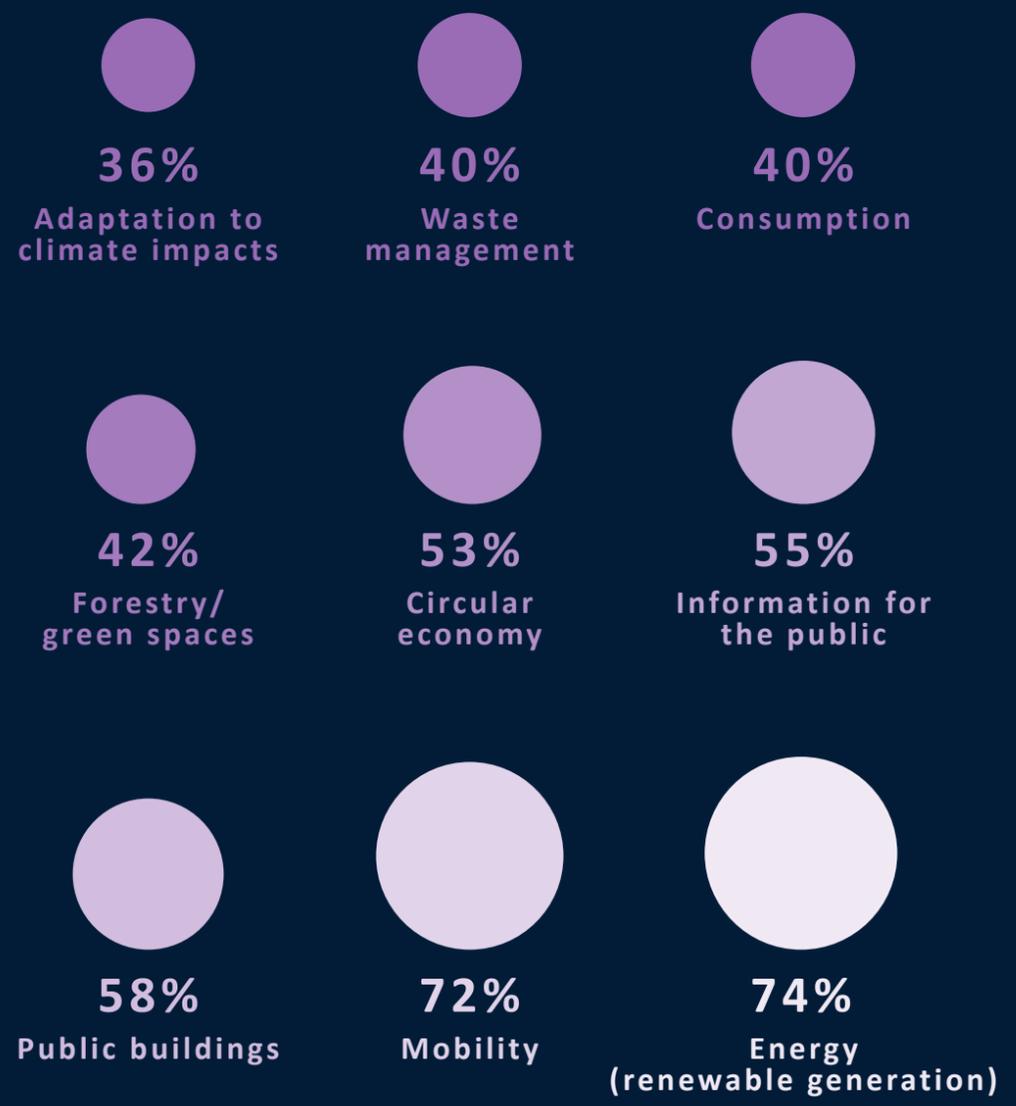


\* Not representativ

Categories with the most answers per city:



In your opinion, what fields should your city work on most to improve its climate impact?

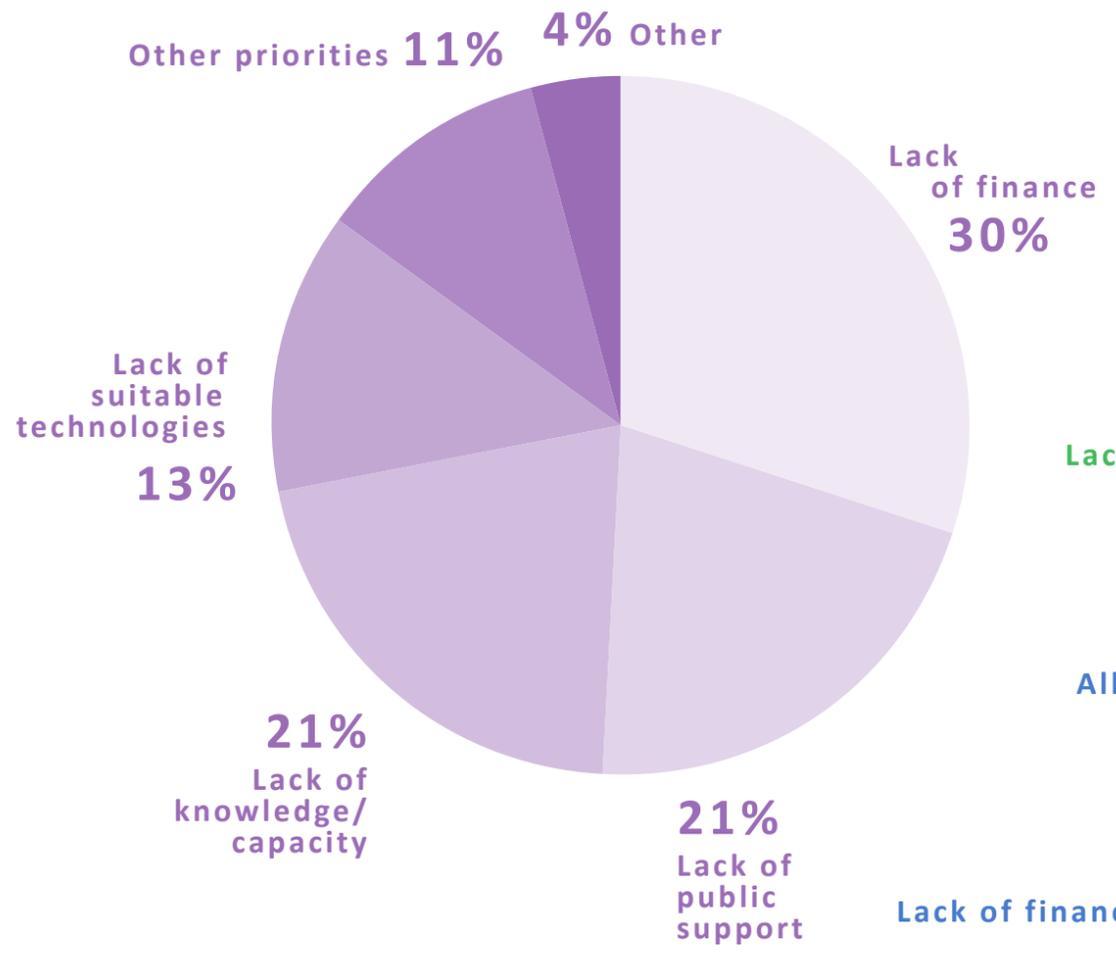




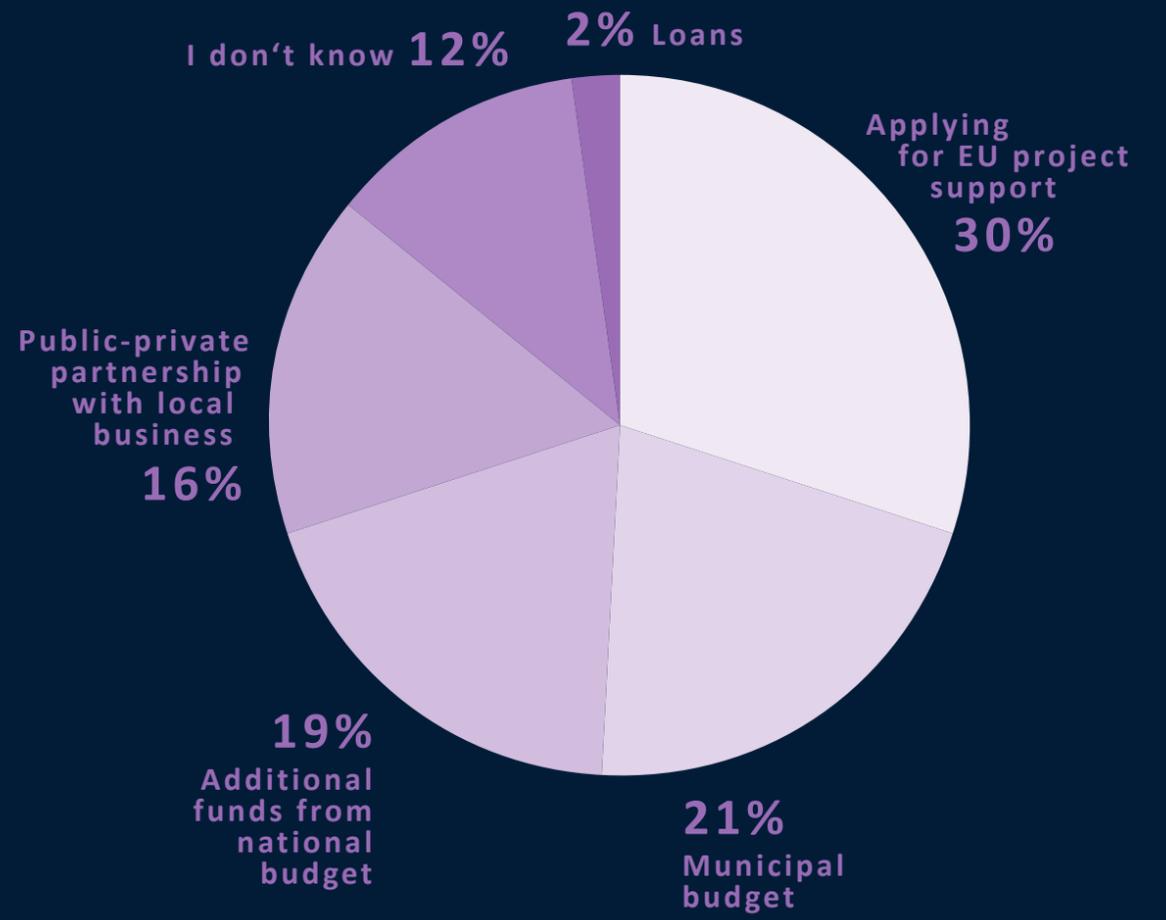
# Challenges and climate financing

## What are the major challenges that your city could be facing in reaching climate neutrality?

Some respondents spotted additional challenges, like little participation from citizens, lack of high level change managers with relevant skills and capacity, and insufficient flexibility in national legislation.



## In which areas would you like more information on financing climate action projects?\*



\* Multiple answers allowed

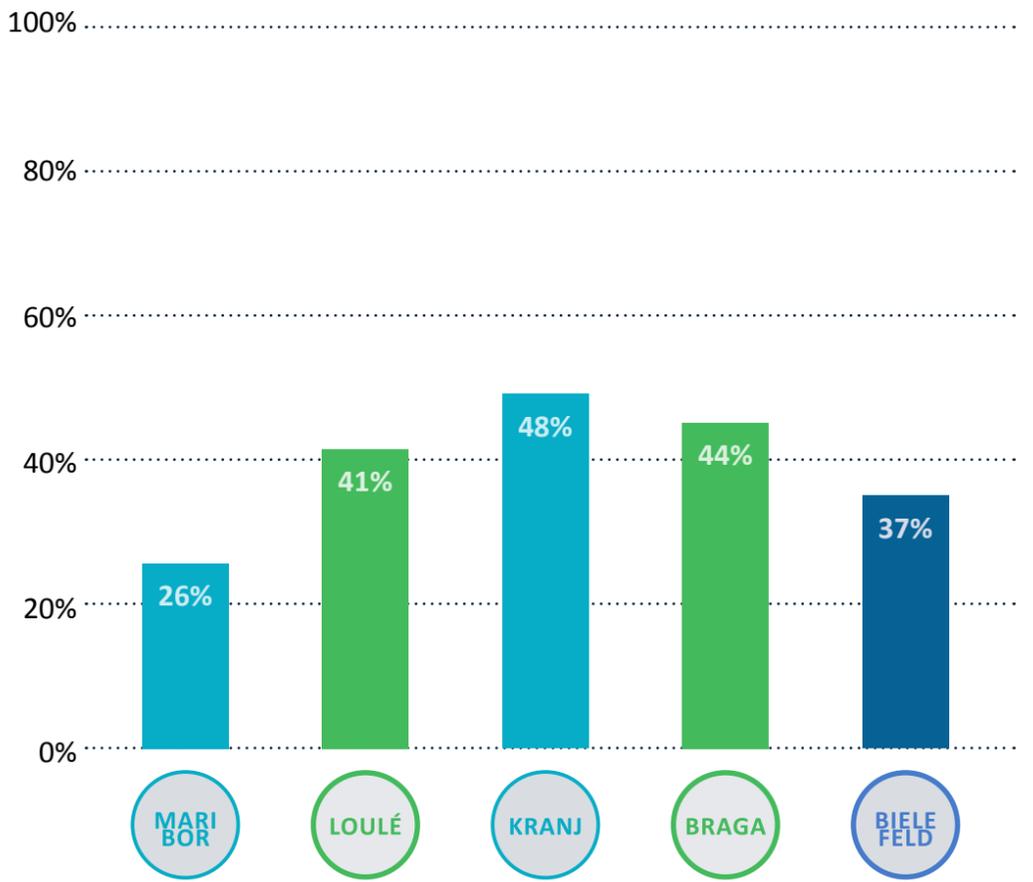


# School perspective

Is the topic of climate neutrality addressed in any of the subjects in your school?

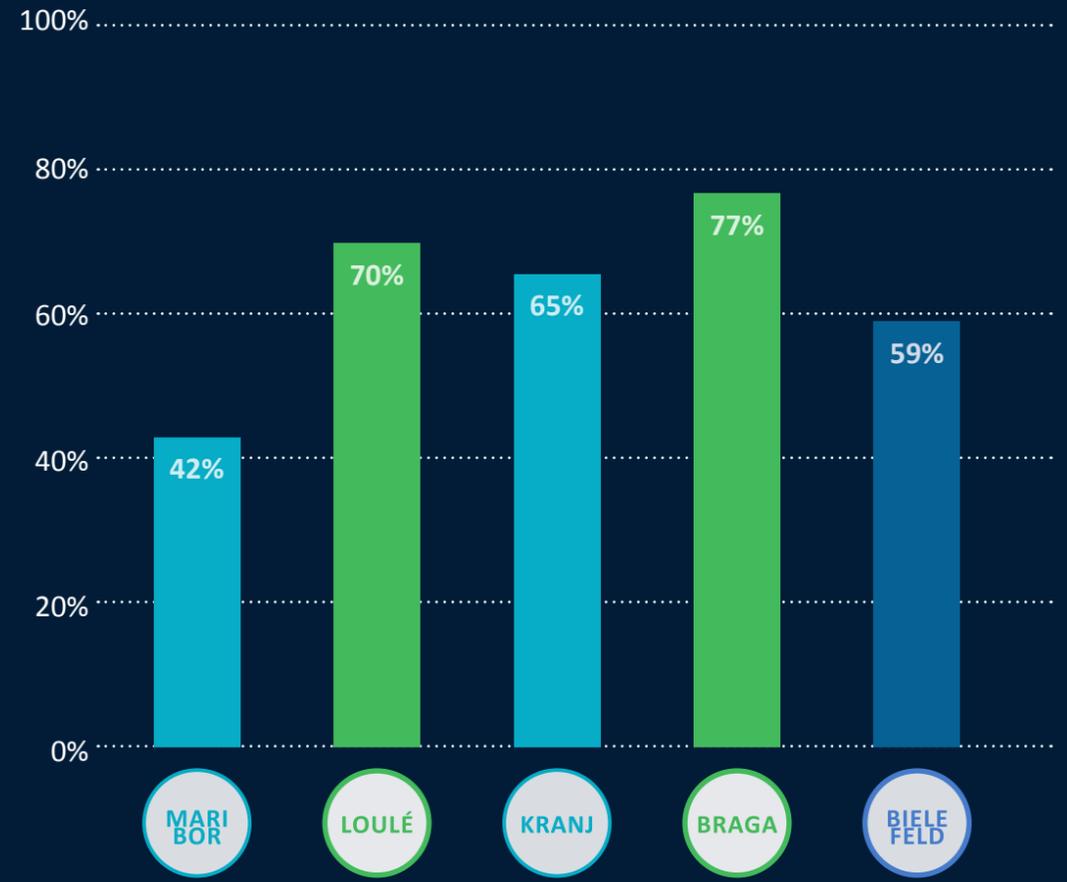
Most respondents referred to politics, biology, geography, physics, philosophy, and history as the subjects in which climate-related topics are addressed.

Share of YES answers



Is your school engaged in activities related to climate action?

Share of YES answers

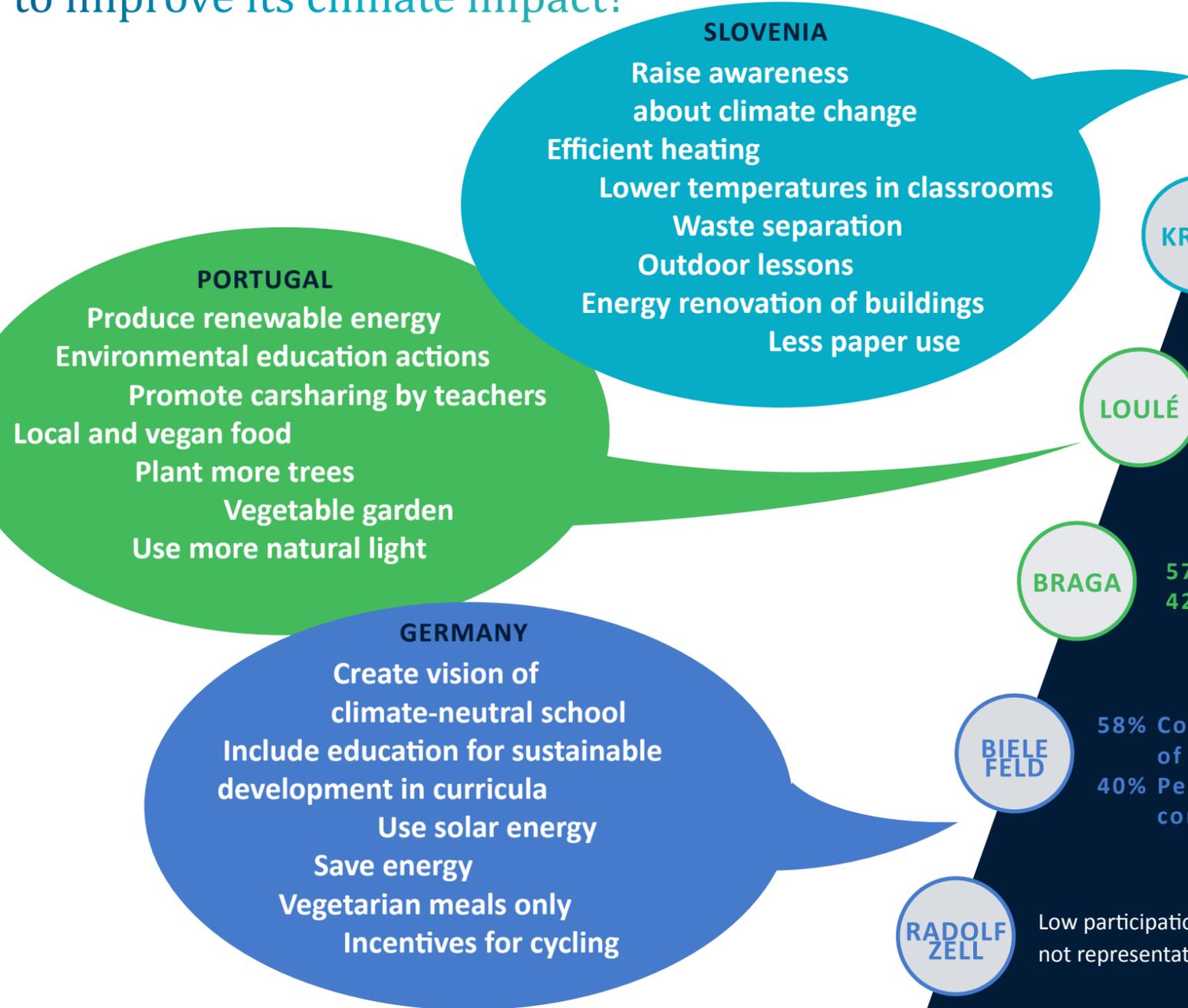




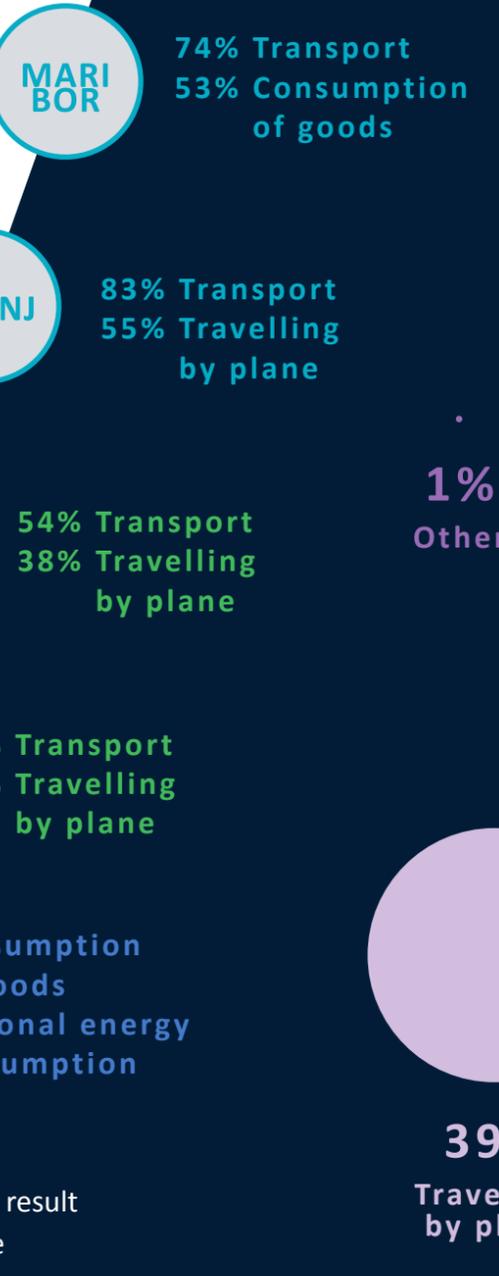
# Survey

## School perspective

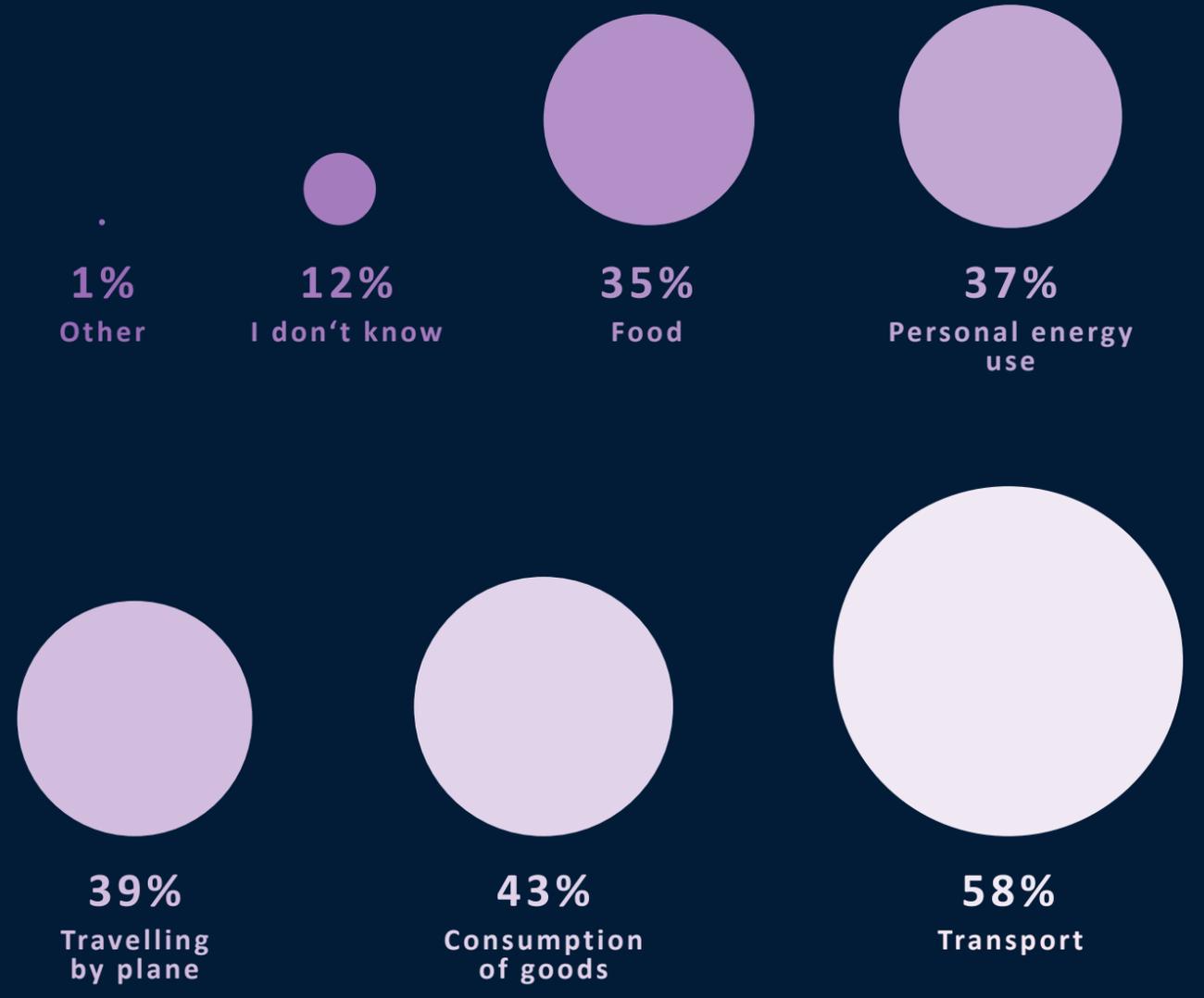
What do you think your school should do to improve its climate impact?



Categories with the most answers per city:



Which emissions will be hardest for you to avoid to truly become climate-neutral?



# Conclusions

The overall results of the survey illustrate that participants from the six Three4Climate cities and schools in the three different countries have an equal view on climate change and the impacts of our current life style. The awareness towards behavioural changes and the request for local action is distinctive for the majority of all respondents. When asked for their personal opinion, almost all participants claimed that climate change is an important topic to them. They all personally contribute by trying to reduce their carbon footprint, mainly by saving energy at home or in the schools, by buying climate-friendly goods, and being aware of their power as a consumer. Other frequently mentioned changes in their personal consumption patterns referred to avoiding waste by reuse and recycling materials and using bikes and public transport instead of cars.

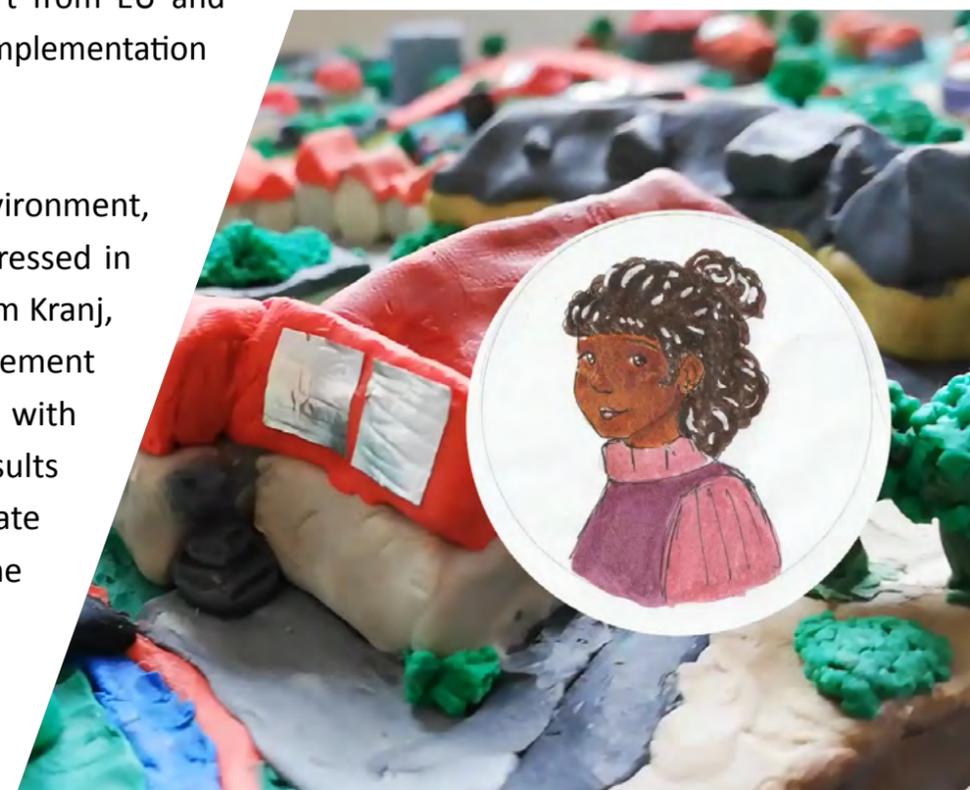
The next part of the survey addressed the views of citizens on their municipality and its options to transform the urban infrastructure and develop corresponding policies. Most respondents agreed that reaching climate neutrality should be a priority in their cities. Regarding the local impacts of municipal-driven climate action, people especially referred to cleaner air, overall improvements for the environment, and an increase in quality of life. They are looking for better and free public transport, ban of cars in the city centre with increased green areas, and more support for renewable energies. Summarising the outcomes so far, it seems the participants from all Three4Climate cities have a concrete vision of their future city and know what is needed to contribute to this target.

When looking to the local connection to the EU people from Kranj highly agree to the EU playing a big role in the context of local climate action, whereas less than half were of that opinion in Bielefeld. Knowledge about the European Green Deal and its mechanisms was not very prevalent with the German and Portuguese participants. Slovenian respondents seem to have more information on this important EU-based instrument. All professional participants wish their city would connect closer with the EU level and jointly work on climate action.

As a consequence, cross-level exchange and vertical cooperation should be increased to encourage local climate action.

Steering towards climate neutrality, municipal staff and other climate-related professionals in the six cities identified the need for instant action, mainly in the fields of local renewable energy generation, sustainable mobility, and energy efficient public buildings. The most relevant challenges in terms of implementing concrete measures were related to project financing (Kranj, Braga, Radolfzell), lack of public support (Loulé), and missing capacity and knowledge of relevant actors (Maribor). When specifically asked about climate financing, participants from Kranj, Maribor and Braga would like to have more information on EU funding programs, whereas Loulé and Bielefeld would rather get more support from national funds. Project financing via public-private partnerships and municipal budgets were mentioned but not as a priority. Hence, more support from EU and national entities to municipalities is needed to navigate the implementation process and reach the target of climate neutrality.

Focusing on the group of participants from the school environment, agreement to the question of climate neutrality being addressed in school subjects is rather low. The best score (48%) came from Kranj, whereas Maribor scored last (26%). But the general engagement of the schools in climate activities ranked much higher, with Braga (77%) and Loulé (70%) as frontrunners. These results show that schools are often highly engaged in climate action, but climate topics are rather sparsely included in the superordinate curricula.



## Credits



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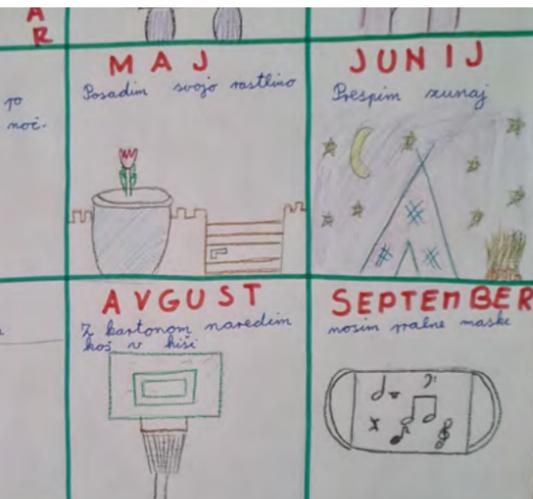
Page 1/15/16: Illustration and picture of city model “our dream future” ©2021 Marieke Kaasch, Smilla Jongmanns, Linn Lorenz; Gymnasium am Waldhof, Bielefeld

Page 4/15/16: Clipping from video “vision of future that it is worth fighting for” ©2021 Marlene Scholz, Greta Lohrenz; Gymnasium am Waldhof; Bielefeld

Page 5: Illustration future city ©2021 Emília Gomes, Escolas de Celeirós, Braga

Page 6/16: Pictures of city model “TAE – The City of Future” ©2021, Teresa Alegria Lopes de Sousa Ferreira, Ângela Sofia Moreira Fernandes Palma, Eliana Isabel Gonçalves Coelho; Escola Sebastiao Teixeira, Loulé

Page 16: Illustration climate calendar ©2021 Žiga Leben, Osnovna šola Stražišče, Kranj



*(All pictures are outcomes of the Three4Climate student competition)*



The information and views set out in this study are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry  
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and Nuclear Safety



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