

Exploring ways towards societal consensus

Original title: Towards societal consensus – Influencing the perception and evaluation of energy policy measures by means of self-reflection and information

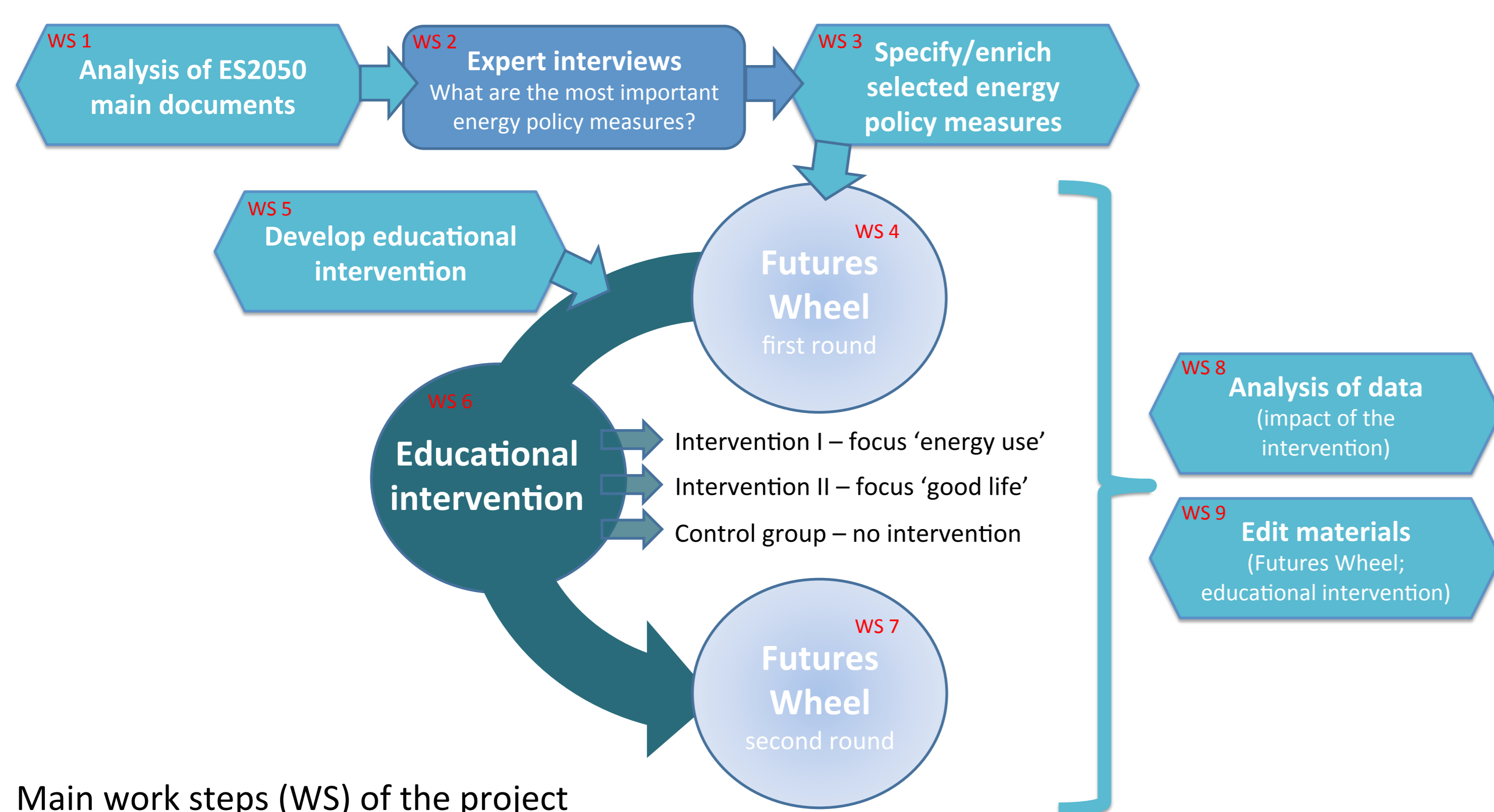
Overview

Aims

The aim of the project is to contribute towards a society-wide consensus on measures aimed at steering energy consumption. The research objectives are:

- Examine direct and indirect impacts individuals imagine to be likely consequences of important measures of energy policy
- Find out whether an educational intervention could change individuals' perception and evaluation of imagined impacts
- Assess whether the method "Futures Wheel" proves to be a suitable methodical approach to explore the effects and evaluation of (envisaged) energy policy options and thus to explore their acceptability in advance

Design

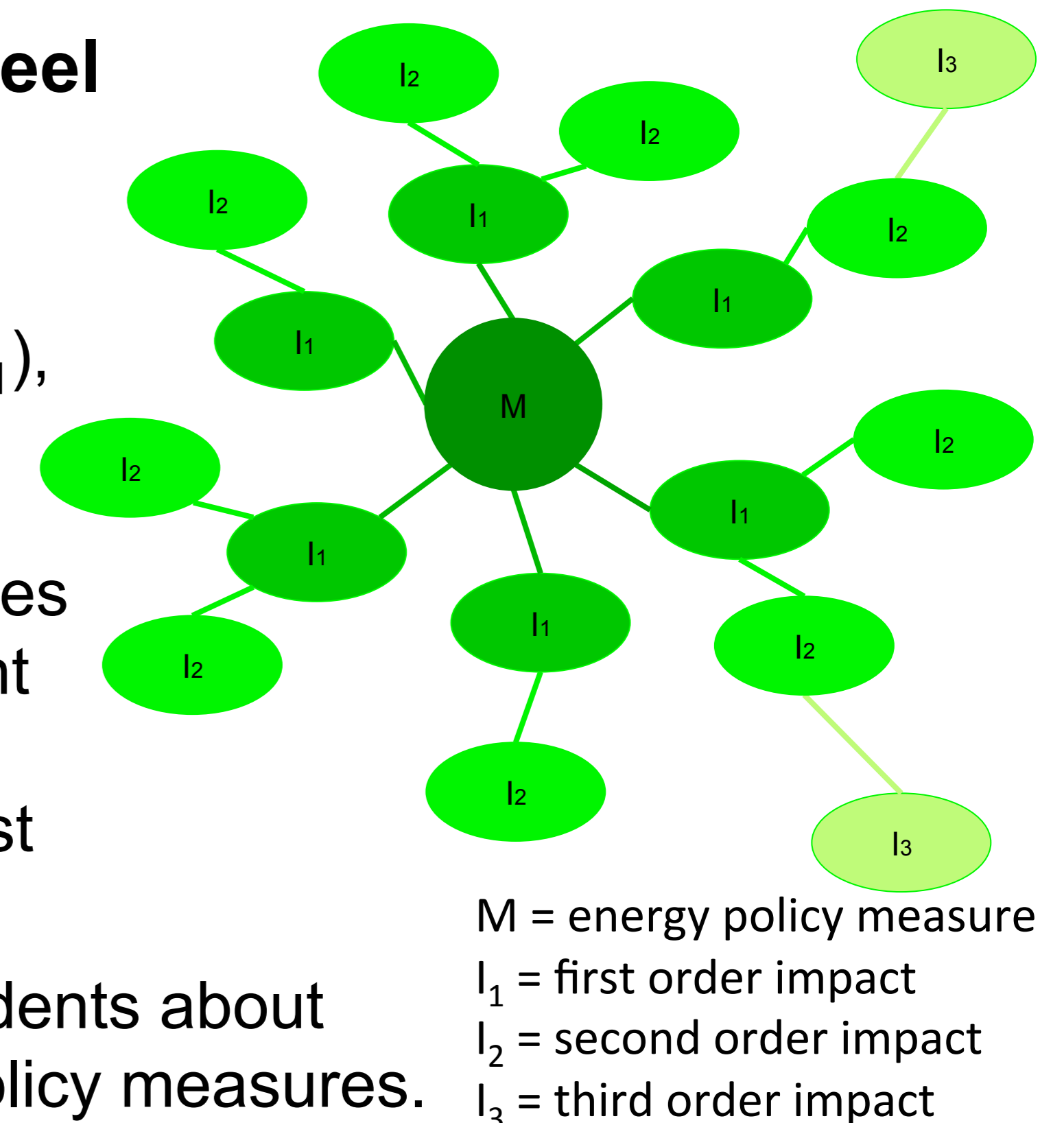


Main work steps (WS) of the project

Central Method – Futures Wheel

How does it work? An example:

Taxes on fossil fuels (M) might impact how someone commutes (I_1), but it might also impact his/her leisure behaviour (I_1) or choice of vacation (I_1) etc. If someone changes his/her way of commuting this might affect his/her daily shopping habits (I_2) and/or his/her families' breakfast organisation (I_2) etc.



We use this method to ask respondents about direct/indirect impacts of energy policy measures.

Research Questions

- Which are the direct and indirect impacts that individuals imagine measures of energy policy may have on their everyday life? To what degree are this evaluation and the acceptance of energy policy measures related?
- What impact do educational interventions have on individual's perception and evaluation of imagined impacts of energy policy measures? What difference does it make whether such interventions focus on issues around a good life or energy use?
- Does the method "Futures Wheel" support individuals in clarifying their assumptions about impacts of energy policy measures on their everyday life and in reflecting the criteria they apply in judging such measures with a view of accepting or rejecting them?

Methods: Group Discussions (experts), Futures Wheel (respondents)

Partners and Collaboration

- **EnergieSchweiz** as implementation partner



- **Experts** participating in transdisciplinary group discussions:
 - Swiss experts from academia: natural sciences, social sciences and technical sciences
 - Swiss experts from public administration: federal, cantonal and municipal level
 - Swiss experts from politics

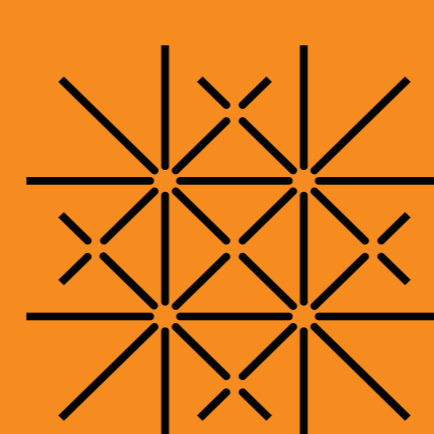
Energy Turnaround

The results of the project will provide a tried and tested basis for a more efficient implementation and further development of the "Energy Strategy 2050" by contributing knowledge and materials which can be used in educational and communicative measures:

- Prioritisation of energy policy measures regarded as particularly important and knowledge of how consumers would accept these measures
- Futures Wheels showing which direct and indirect impacts consumers anticipate to be the likely consequences of selected measures of energy policy on their everyday lives
- Materials on how to apply the method "Futures Wheel" to explore energy policy measures in advance
- Informational and educational material
- Knowledge of the effect of educational interventions

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