



## What statistical skills do citizens in civil societies need? Monitoring the energy transition

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There is broad agreement that citizens need statistical skills in order to participate in socio-political decision-processes. What exactly these statistical skills (should) comprise, however, is still a matter of debate.

In my talk, I will seize upon an actual case of (data-based) political decision-making in Germany: the so called “energy transition” (“Energiewende”), the term designating a shift towards a post carbon energy economy. The German case is of interest for several reasons: Not only is Germany considered to be among the pioneer countries of the energy transition, but also the political process is under close observation by citizens and corporate actors. To fulfil its reporting obligations, the German government decided 2011 to establish a monitoring process, encompassing annual reports and an extended progress report every three years. All reports as well as the underlying data are open to the public. Likewise, the “public at large” was invited to participate over the course of the process.

Using the example of establishing the monitoring process, I will analyse the demands on statistically empowered citizens with a focus on (open) data and data-visualisations. Subsequently, I will discuss possible implications for statistics education and close with some general remarks on the scope of democratic participation.

**Keywords:** statistics education; statistical literacy; statistically informed decision-processes; democratic participation.