



WP5 METHODS: ASSESSING POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LIFESTYLE CHANGES ON ECONOMIC AND WELFARE SYSTEMS

The Policy Delphi methodology employed in this project was designed to assess and elaborate on welfare system policies and business models that align with the 1.5-degree lifestyles. This structured process gathered expert evaluations from various countries, including Latvia, Germany, Hungary, Spain, and Sweden, to explore policy feasibility and desirability.

OVERVIEW OF THE POLICY DELPHI METHODOLOGY

The Delphi methodology is a structured expert consultation process that engages participants in multiple rounds of feedback to refine policy assessments. Unlike traditional Delphi approaches that seek consensus, the Policy Delphi aims to highlight different perspectives, including dissent, on key policy measures. The hybrid approach used in this project combined quantitative expert surveys with qualitative focus group discussions, offering a nuanced understanding of policy enablers and barriers.

Experts were recruited from diverse fields, including policymakers, business representatives, academics, trade unions, and civil society organizations. Two parallel Delphi processes were conducted: one focused on welfare system policies and the other on sustainable business models. Participants engaged in three survey rounds interspersed with in-person (or online) focus group discussions.

The methods are explained in more detail in Mamut et al. (2024) and Laksevics et al. (2025).

DELPHI PROCESS IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Survey Rounds:** Each expert completed three surveys, evaluating policy measures on a Likert scale for desirability (alignment with 1.5-degree targets) and feasibility (implementation timeline: 2030, 2040, 2050, or never). The surveys also included open-ended questions to gather reasoning behind their assessments.
2. **Focus Group Discussions:** Following the first survey, participants took part in structured discussions where they elaborated on their policy preferences, debated feasibility concerns, and reconsidered their initial evaluations. These discussions were guided by facilitators to ensure diverse viewpoints were captured.
3. **Iterative Review & Reassessment:** After the discussions, experts completed a second survey, allowing them to revise their assessments based on new insights. A third and final survey further refined the evaluations, capturing potential shifts in opinion over time.

KEY POLICY AREAS ASSESSED

Based on the literature review we have identified six welfare and six business model policies contributing to 1.5° lifestyles which were assessed during the Delphi process. These are:

ECO-SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES:

1. Reduction of working hours
2. Job guarantee
3. Universal basic services
4. Renovation program for the most energy-inefficient buildings
5. Free public transport
6. Income ceilings



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS POLICY OPTIONS:

7. State-regulated high-emission choice editing
8. Voluntary choice editing of high-emission products
9. Direct or indirect public subsidies for low-carbon choices
10. Overseeing a company culture based on non-financial goals
11. Higher taxes on natural resources and pollution
12. Public procurement only for low-carbon products and services

CITED WORKS:

- Laksevics, Karlis, Janis Brizga, Pia Mamut, Halliki Kreinin, Doris Fuchs, and Inga Belousa. 2025. 'An Eco-Social Policy Mix for 1.5° C Lifestyles: A Multi-Country Policy Delphi Analysis'. *Regulation & Governance*, February, rego.12655. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rego.12655>.
- Mamut, Pia, Doris Fuchs, Lea Becker, Karlis Laksevics, Halliki Kreinin, and Janis Brizga. 2024. 'From Responsibility Ping-Pong to Shared Responsibility for 1.5° Lifestyles? Examining European Stakeholder Perspectives'. *Consumption and Society*, November, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1332/27528499Y2024D000000039>.

