

Is the energy transition in Hungary and Poland reactive or anticipative? The experts' perspective

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Introduction

Energy transition

- ET: structural shift in the composition of primary energy supply from fossil fuels to renewables
- Important (essential) part of climate policy
- Complex task
- Diverse progress

Rank	Country	ETI score	Rank	Country	ETI score
1	Sweden	78.5265	26	Latvia	63.4338
2	Denmark	76.1065	27	Japan	63.3348
3	Norway	73.7170	28	Israel	62.6918
4	Finland	72.7768	29	Slovenia	62.5541
5	Switzerland	72.3824	30	Chile	62.5358
6	Iceland	70.5725	31	Korea, Rep.	62.3257
7	France	70.5615	32	Azerbaijan	62.0039
8	Austria	69.3367	33	Croatia	61.9996
9	Netherlands	68.8012	34	Paraguay	61.8594
10	Estonia	68.2187	35	Malaysia	61.7095
11	Germany	67.5419	36	Lithuania	61.2475
12	United States	66.3187	37	Greece	60.8669
13	United Kingdom	66.2075	38	Italy	60.5761
14	Brazil	65.8588	39	Colombia	60.5227
15	Portugal	65.8451	40	Poland	59.7256
16	Spain	64.9690	41	Ireland	59.3028
17	China	64.8818	42	Belgium	59.1872
18	Hungary	64.2803	43	Vietnam	58.9127
19	Canada	64.1679	44	Slovak Republic	58.8105
20	Luxembourg	64.1664	45	Czech Republic	58.6245
21	Albania	63.7096	46	Kenya	57.8139
22	New Zealand	63.6794	47	El Salvador	57.3306
23	Uruguay	63.5853	48	Bulgaria	57.2309

Energy transition - two clusters

Industrial opportunity

- Western-Northern and Southern Europe

Reliable supplies

- the Baltic States
- Cyprus
- Poland
- the Czech Republic
- Slovakia
- Hungary
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Slovenia
- Croatia
- Greece

General issue

- **What are the reasons for climate skepticism?**
 - Ideology (beliefs, values, worldviews) - populism
 - Structural factors (economic interests, material conditions)

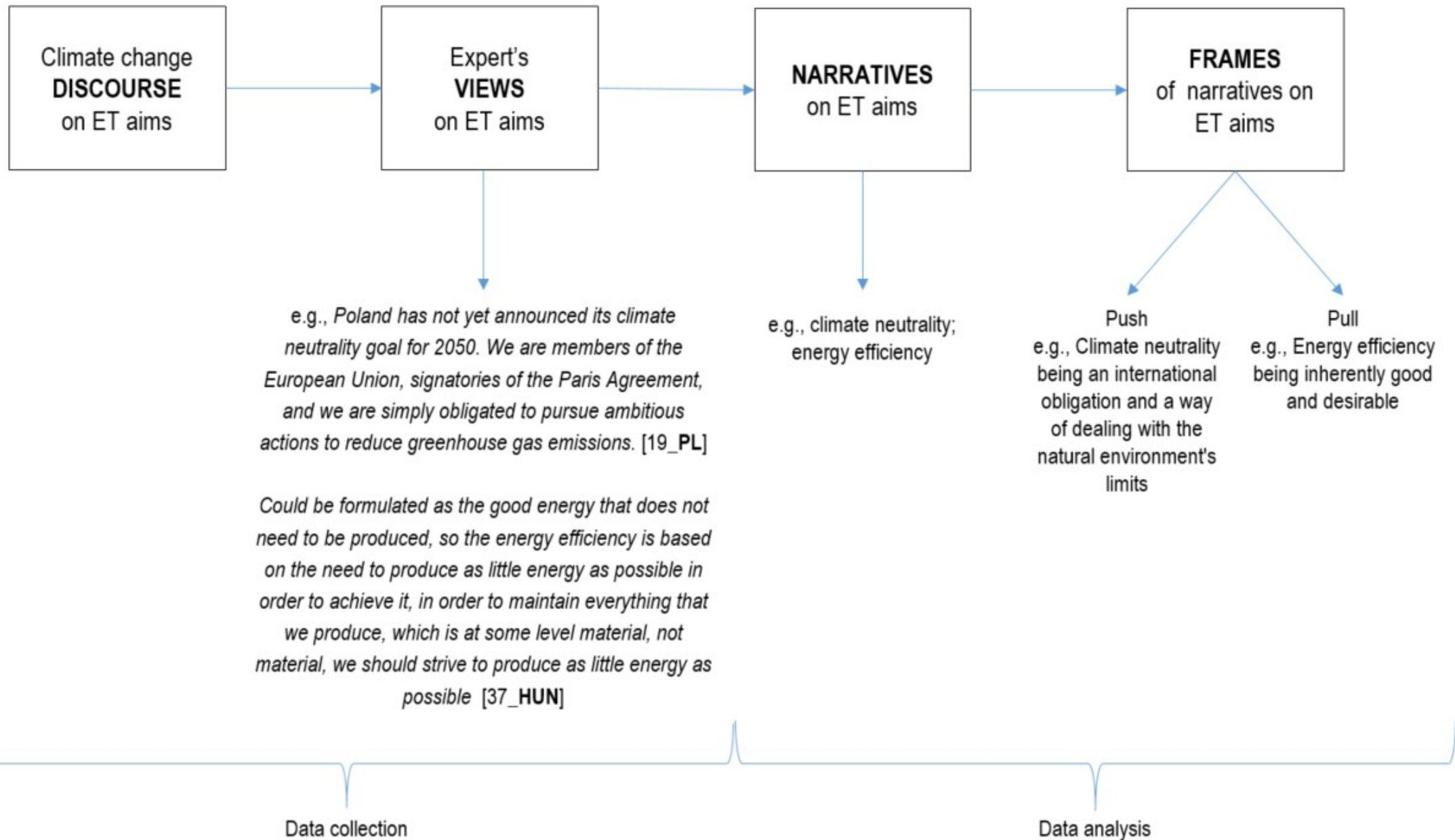
Selection of cases: similarities and differences

- Poland and Hungary are considered laggards - limited ambitions regarding climate policies
- „Populist” cases
- Environmental issues - low priority during their communist past
- Rapid economic and political transitions
- Difference:
 - PL: energy production relies on coal
 - HU: energy production relies on nuclear power plant and gas

The hypothesis

- Both cases (PL and HU) are skeptical („populist”)
- Structural factor differs: PL relies on coal, HU on nuclear power and gaz
- Therefore
- If their views on energy transformation are similar – it supports the ideological background of skepticism
- If the views are different – it supports the structural explanation

Conceptual framework



The push/pull frame

- 1) push factors: unfavorable conditions that press for action
- 2) pull factors: favorable prospects that encourage action
- Applied in migration studies, innovations studies

Methods and data

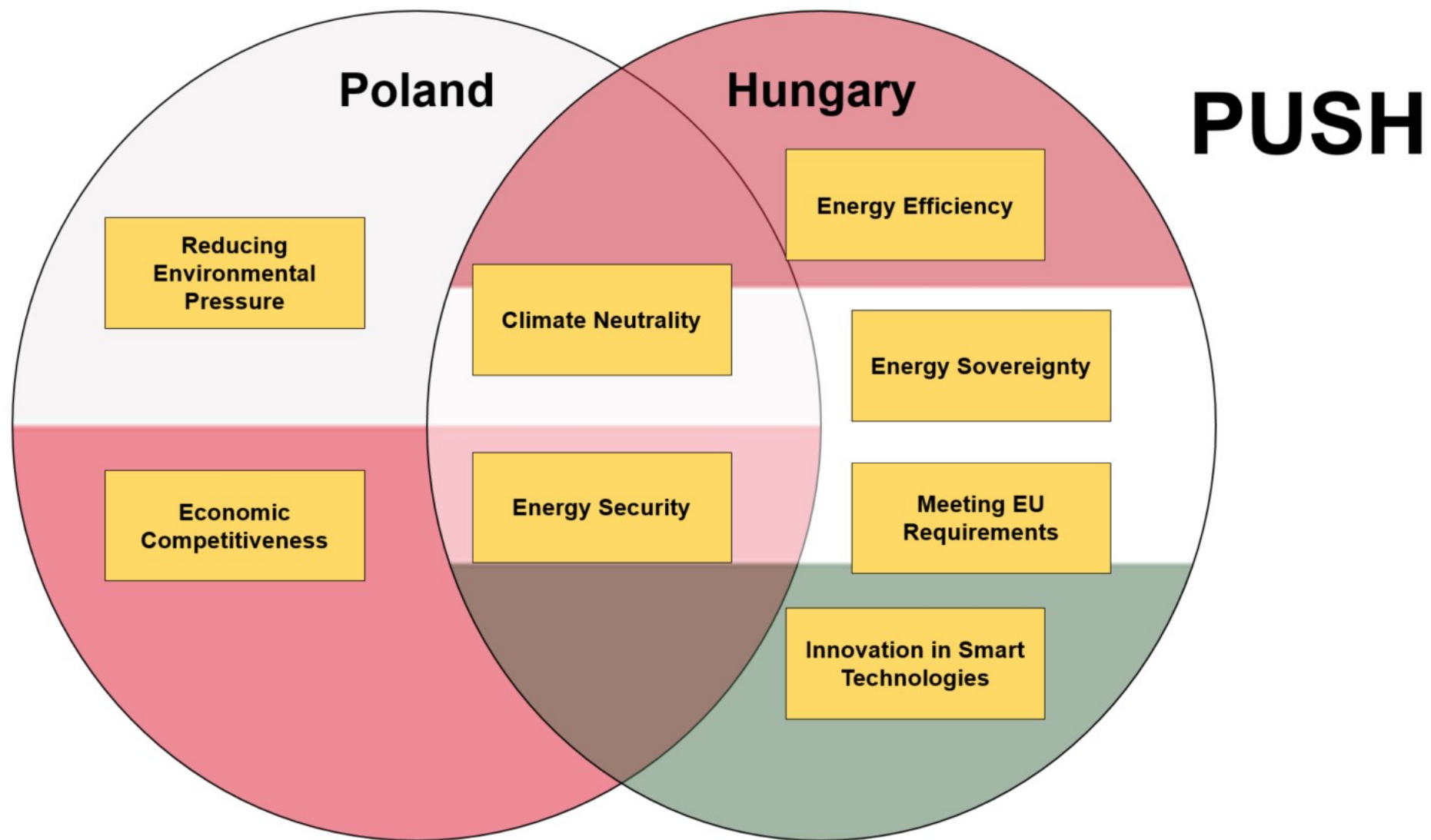
Methods

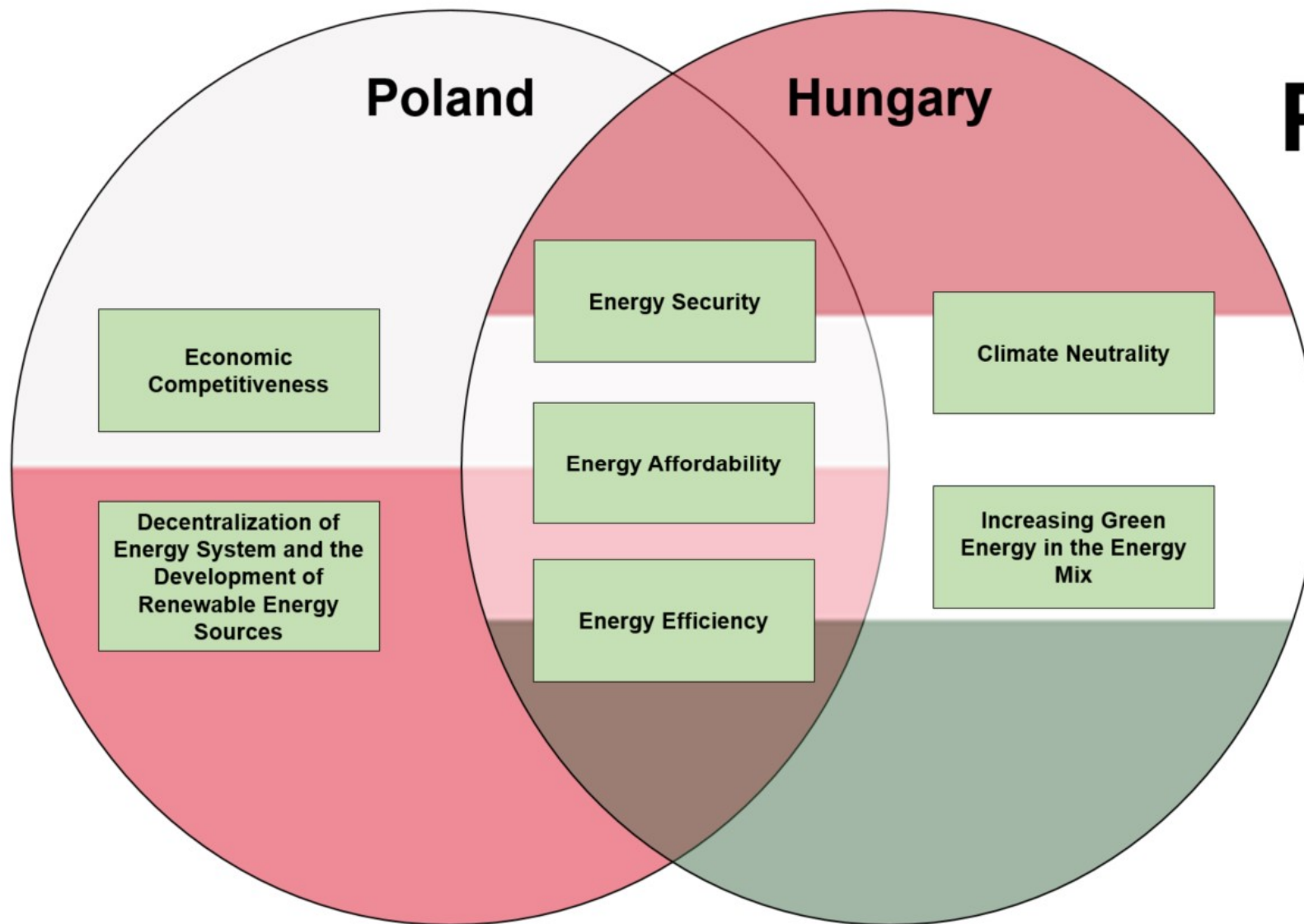
- In-Depth Interviews
- High-profile experts

Category	Hungary	Poland
Public administration and decision-makers	6	5
Researchers and experts	6	5
NGOs	5	6
Businesses	3	4
Total	20	20

Results

Aims of energy transition	PL	HU
Energy Security	+	+
Energy Affordability	+	+
Energy Efficiency	+	+
Climate Neutrality	+	+
Economic Competitiveness	+	
Decentralization of Energy System and the Development of Renewable Energy Sources	+	
Reducing Environmental Pressure	+	
Energy Sovereignty		+
Meeting European Union Requirements		+
Innovation in Smart Technologies		+
Increasing Green Energy in the Energy Mix		+





PULL

Conclusions

- Energy security is the pivotal aim in both countries
 - Push and pull
- Energy affordability and energy efficiency – via pull frame – aspirational aims
- Environmental justice (energy poverty is an issue)
- The EU policy – both stick and carrot
- More similarity than difference – ideological roots of skepticism

Thank you.

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