



PUBLIC OPINION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY: A REVIEW OF TRENDS

Ana Delicado, Susana Fonseca, Ana Horta,
Elisabete Figueiredo, Luís Silva, Mónica
Truninger

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THE PROJECT

Title: Socio-technical consensus and controversies regarding renewable energies

Institutions: ICS-UL, Univ. Aveiro, CRIA

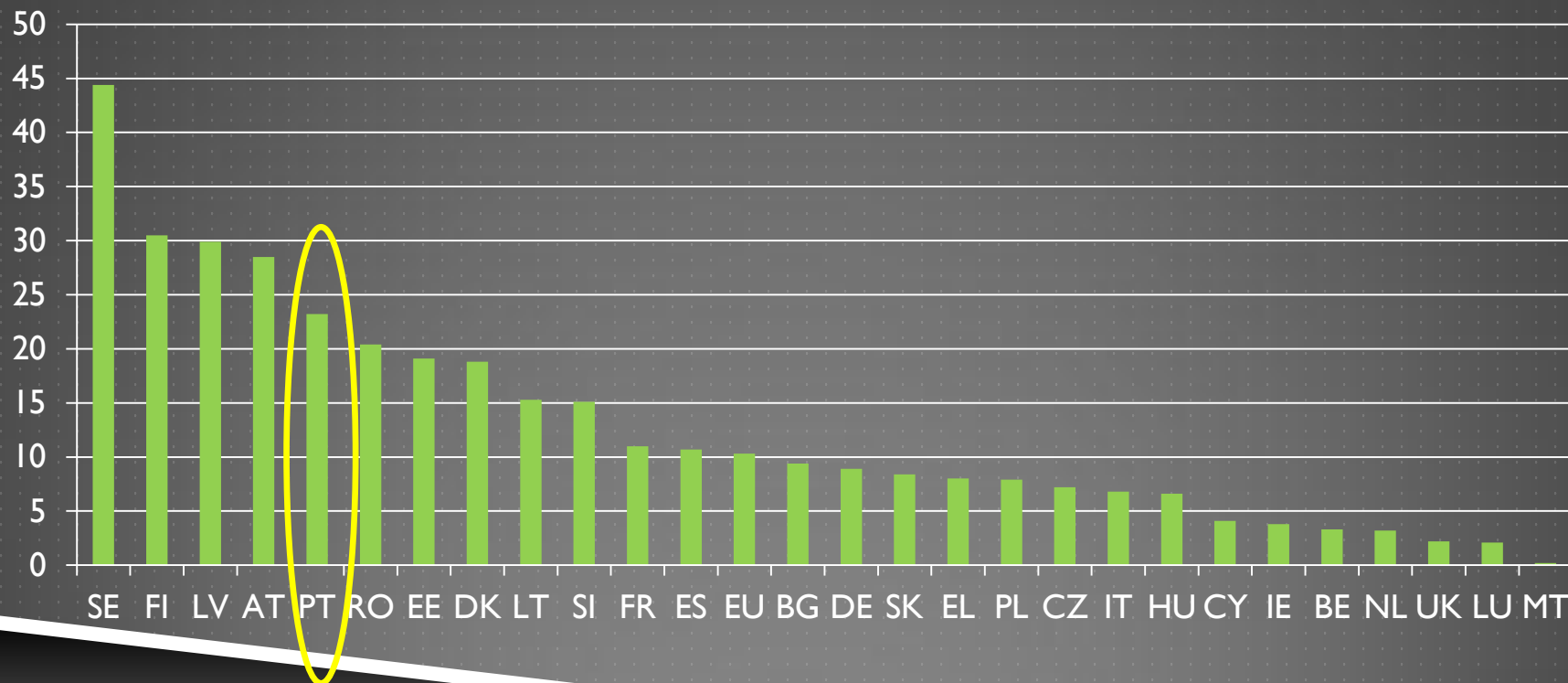
Funding: FCT Foundation for Science and Technology (PTDC/CS-ECS/118877/2010)

Duration: March 2012-August 2014

Main tasks: analysis of the political, social and scientific framework of renewable energy production in Portugal; media and public opinion analysis; case studies of wind farms and solar power plants

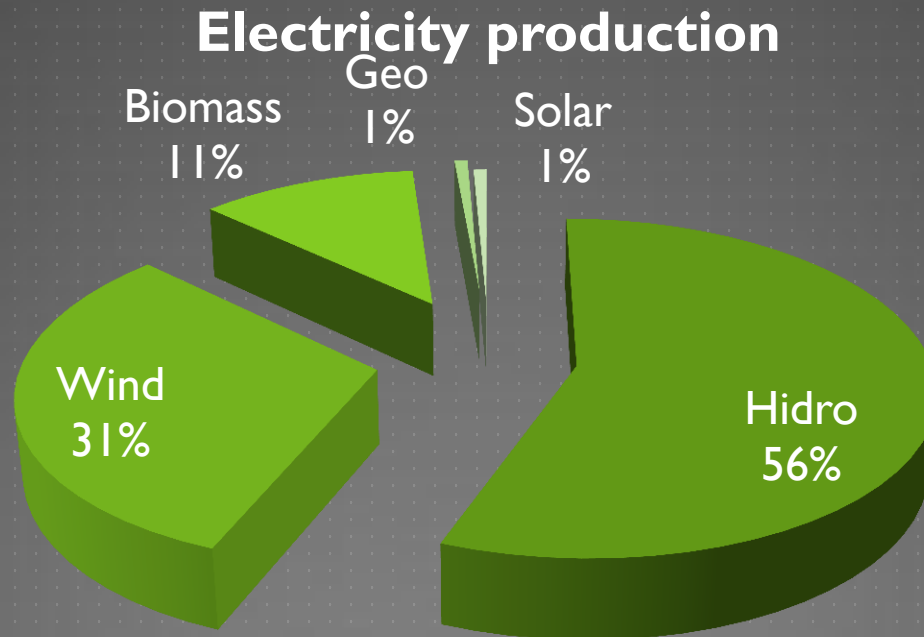
RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PORTUGAL

Share of RE in consumption – primary energy (%)



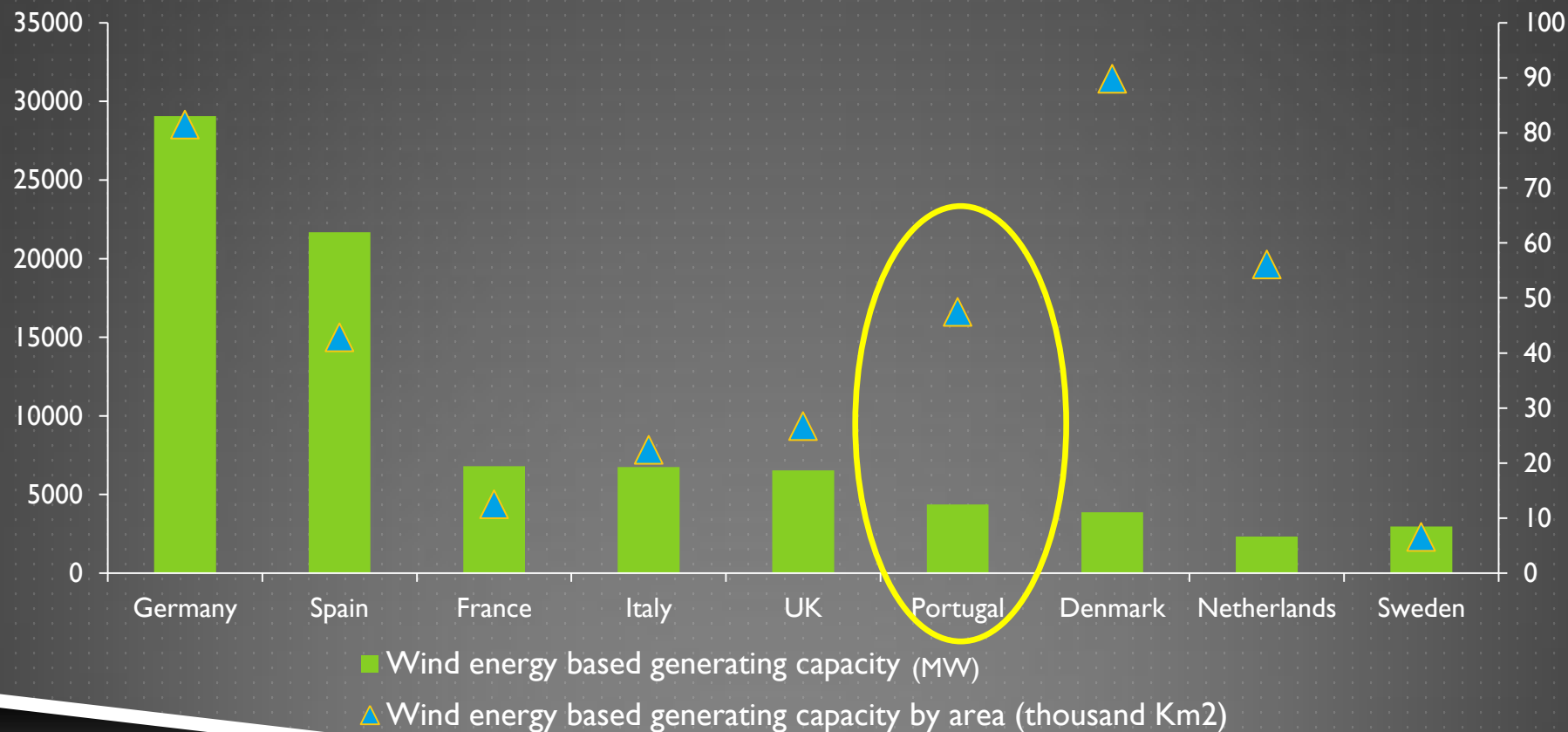
Source: Eurostat 2011

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PORTUGAL



Source: DGEG 2010

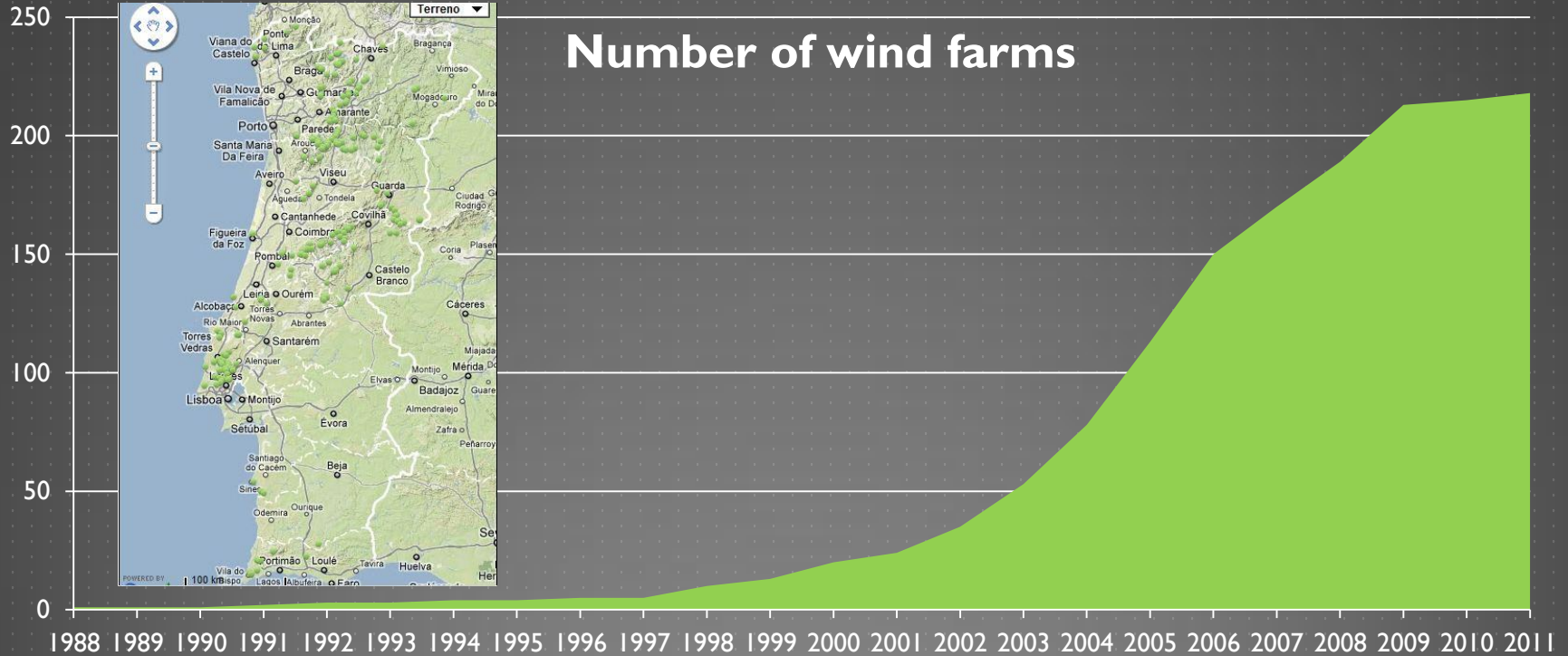
RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PORTUGAL



Source: INEGI 2011

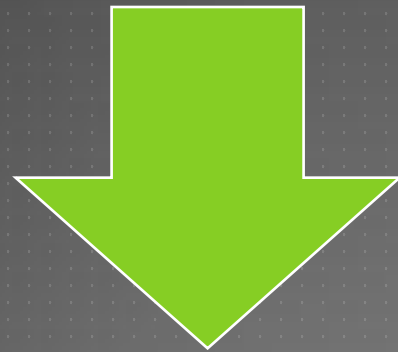
RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PORTUGAL

Number of wind farms



Source: INEGI 2011

SOME FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT PUBLIC OPINION



Changes in landscape;
Negative media coverage-
costs for the consumer;
Wildlife, tourism and
health impacts



Pro-environmental attitudes;
Positive media coverage:
climate change, endogenous
resources; Economic benefits



LANDSCAPE



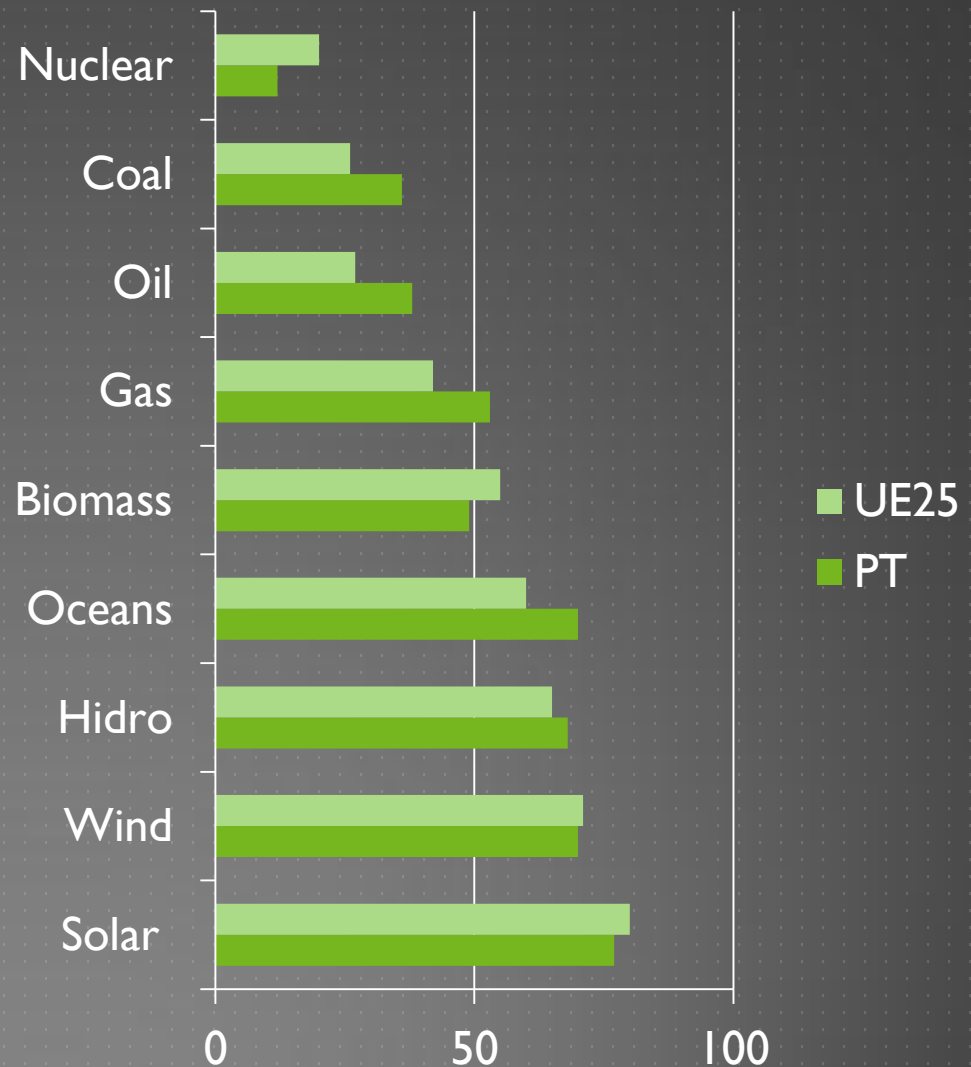
Wind farm, Lousã



Digitally modified image of a future
wind farm in Sortelha

Opinion regarding energy sources – “In favour”

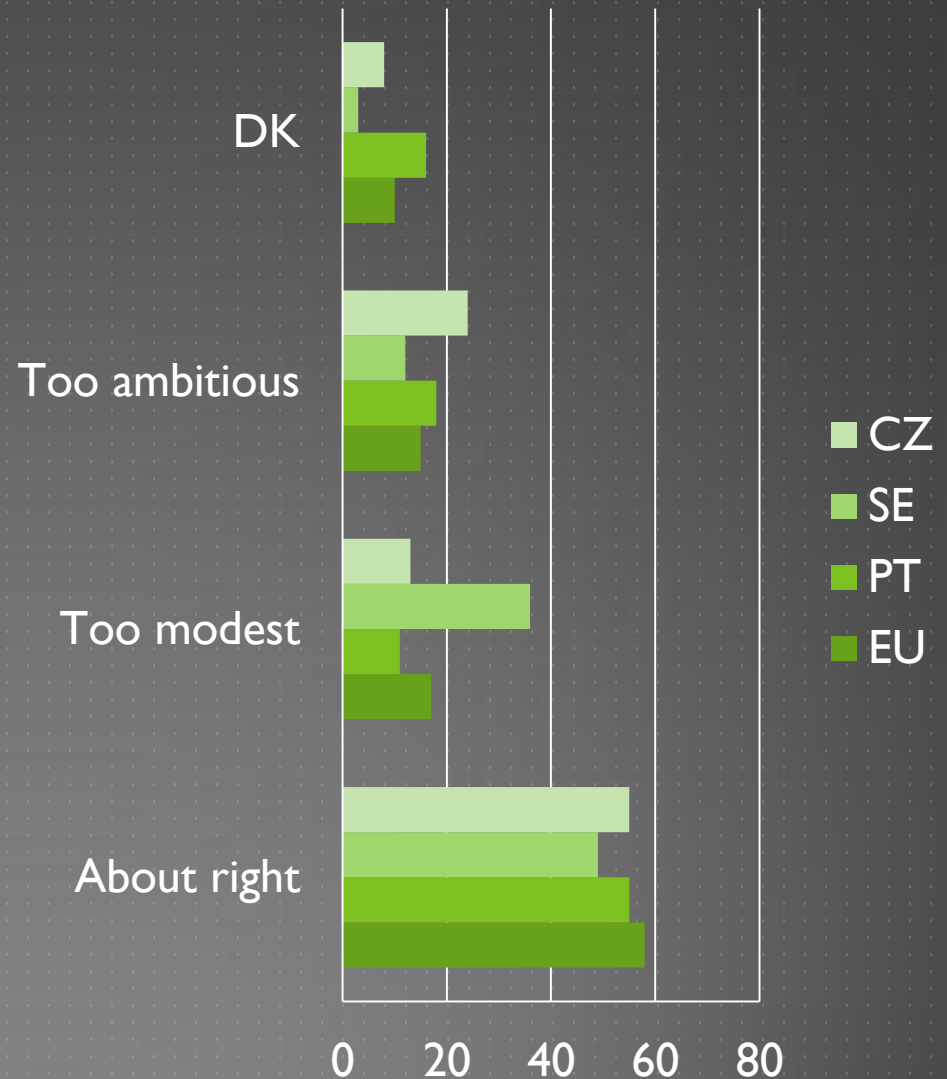
- ❖ Portuguese more favourable to non renewable energies than EU25 (except for nuclear)
- ❖ Slightly less favourable to Wind and Solar than EU25



Source: Eurobarometer 65.3
(2006/2007)

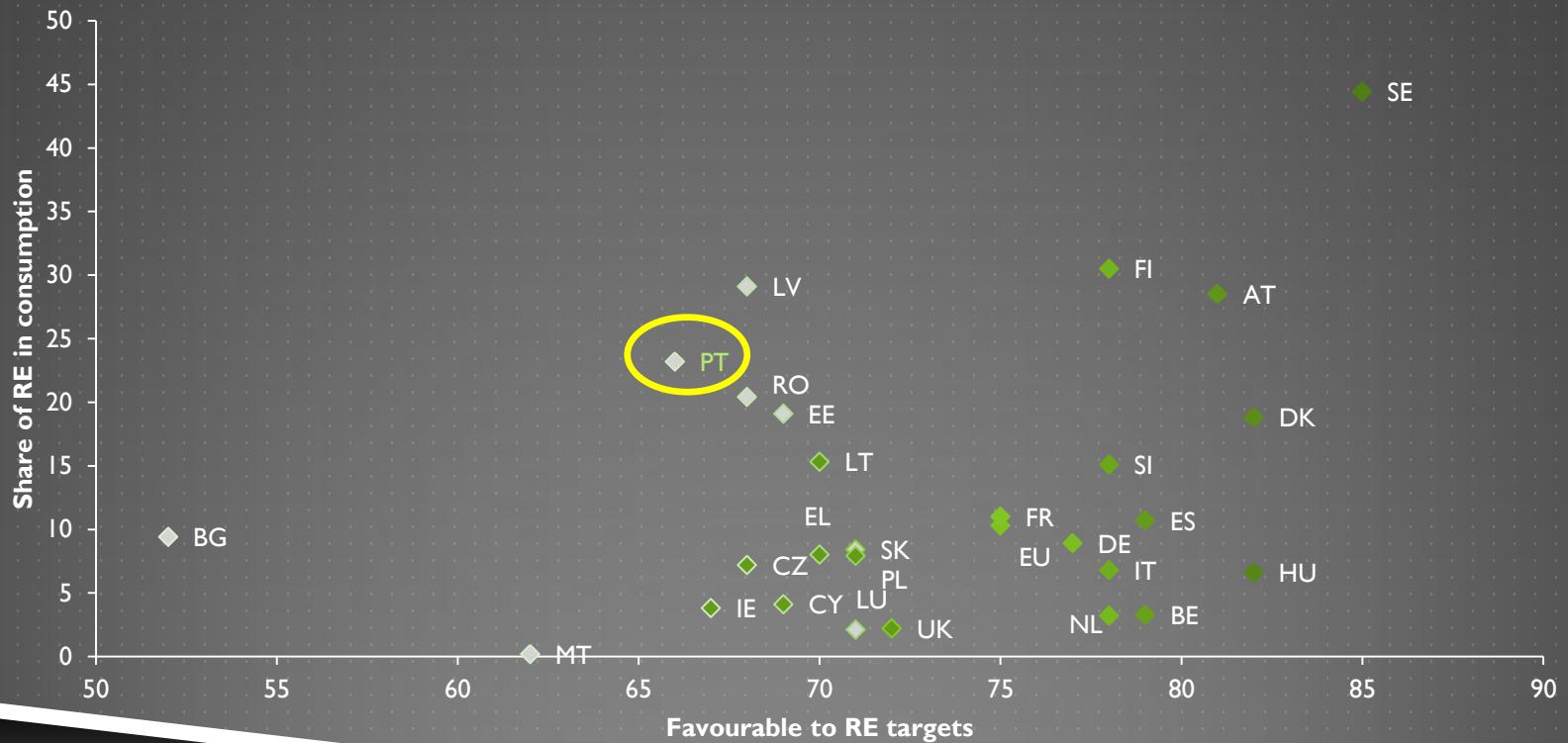
Favourable to RE targets (2020)

- ❖ Portuguese don't know or don't have an opinion more frequently
- ❖ Almost a fifth of Portuguese consider the 2020 targets to be too ambitious



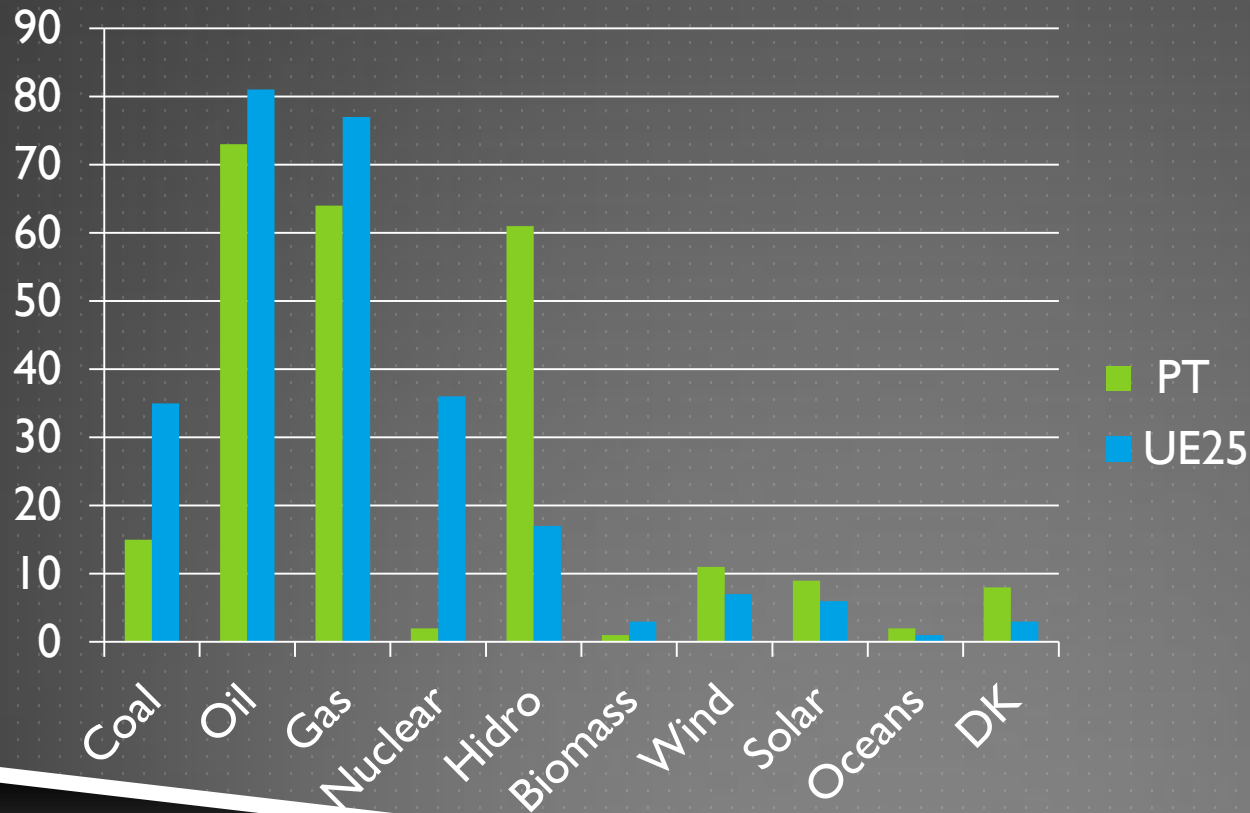
Source: Eurobarometer 69.2
- 2008

SHARE OF RENEWABLES VS FAVOURABLE TO RE TARGETS



Source: Eurobarometer 69.2
– 2008; Eurostat 2011

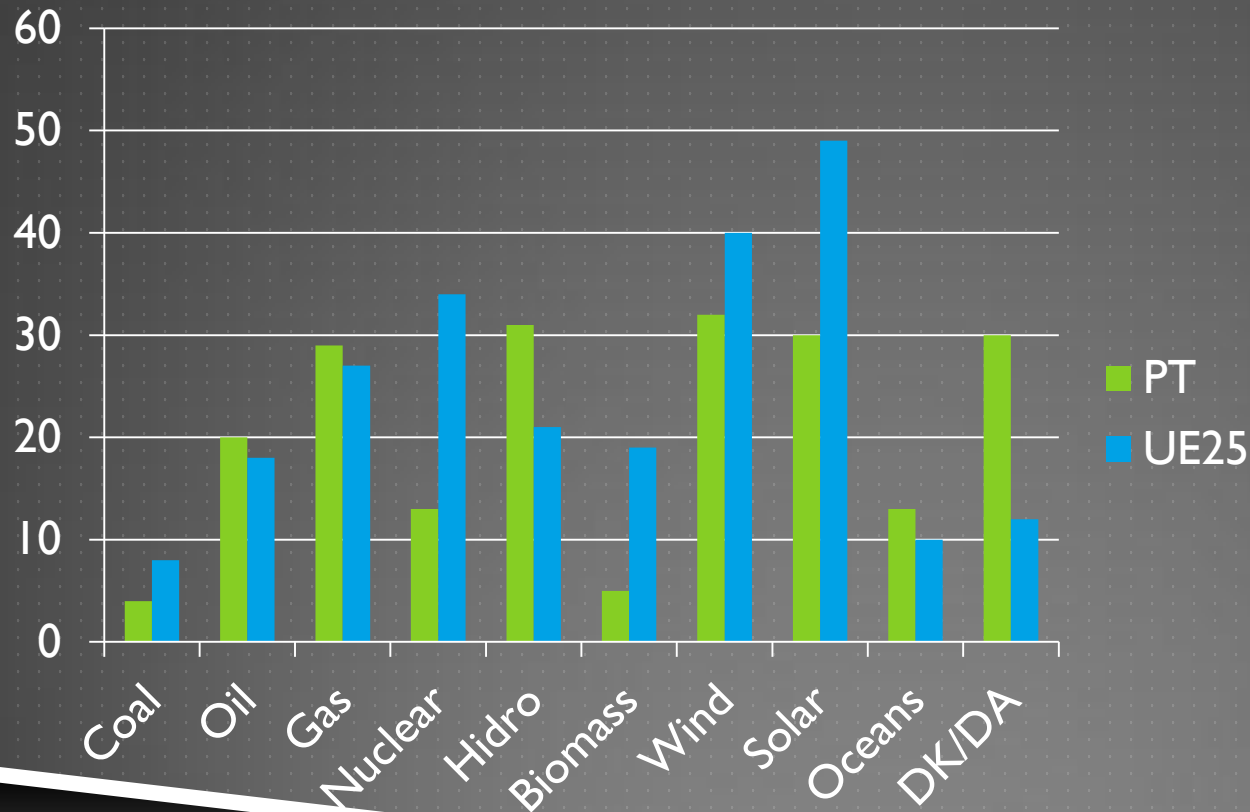
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE MOST USED ENERGY SOURCES (COUNTRY)



- ❖ Portuguese: overestimate the role of hydro and solar
- ❖ Underestimate the role of coal

Source: Eurobarometer 65.3
- 2007

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES – ENERGY SOURCES MORE USED IN 30 YEARS



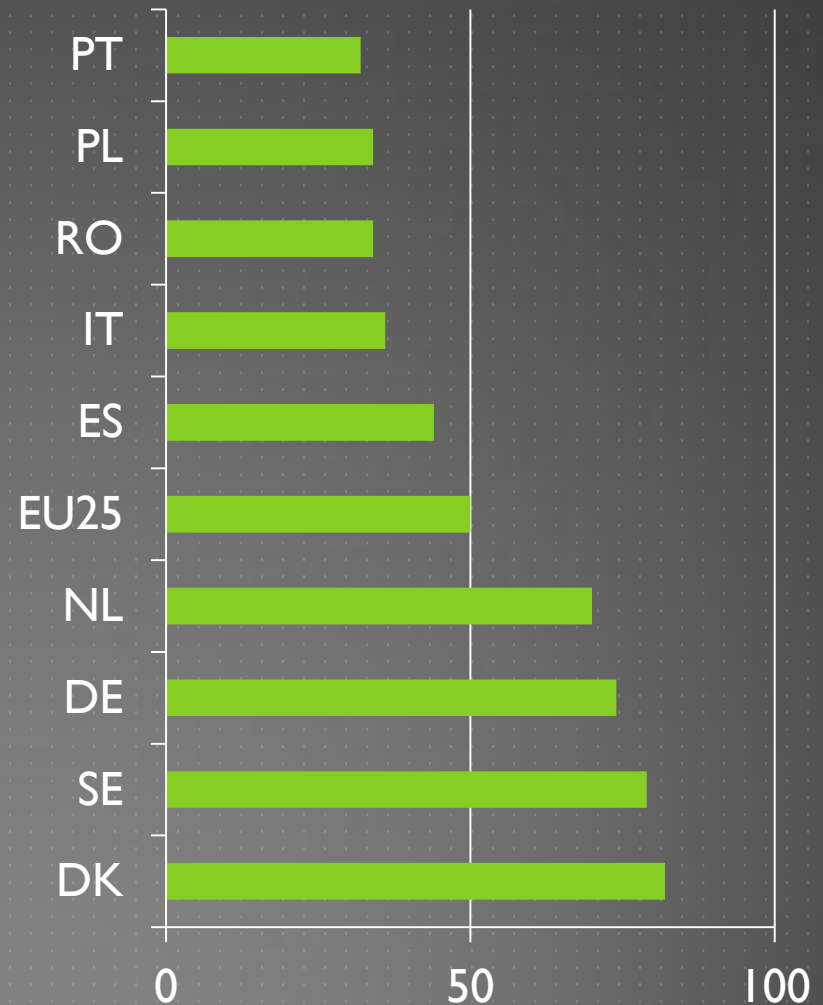
❖ Portuguese select renewables (except hydro and oceans) less often and non-renewables more often than the average European citizen

❖ Almost 30% DK/DA

Source: Eurobarometer 65.3
- 2007

More frequent use of RE in 2050? “Yes, definitely”

❖ Portuguese are the
least likely to consider
RE will play a significant
role in 2050 as a
source of energy



Source: Eurobarometer 75.4
- 2011

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ **Achievement of EU targets will imply more infrastructure:**
 - ❖ Increased price awareness
 - ❖ Increased infrastructure visibility
 - ❖ Increased risk of conflicts
- ❖ **Portugal - Despite large potential on RE production, Portuguese citizens seem to...**
 - ❖ be among the least favourable to RE
 - ❖ less likely to believe in RE's role in the medium/long term