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Public preferences for nuclear versus hydro energy: evidence from Slovenia

Nives Dolsak[1], Nevenka Hrovatin[2], Jelena Zoric[2]

[1]School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States. [2]University of Ljubljana, School of Economics and Business, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Extended Abstract

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Abstract Summary

The transition to a low-carbon society, rising energy costs, and the pursuit of energy security following the Ukraine war have renewed the debate about the future energy mix of EU member states. While energy and climate goals have been set and several policy measures proposed, public energy preferences remain less explored. While public opinion surveys report preferences for specific types of clean energy, less is known about choices among different types. We examine whether support for nuclear over hydro energy in Slovenia depends on how people assess the impact of these energy sources on health, local jobs, landscape disruption, and the security of electricity supply. Importantly, we investigate how place of residence influences energy policy preferences and seek evidence of the NIMBY effect. We estimate multiple regression models using a sample of 1,000 respondents from Slovenia. We expect to find that physical proximity to existing energy facilities negatively influences support for nuclear over hydro energy. Support is further shaped by the importance respondents attach to health, jobs, landscape, and supply security dimensions of energy sources.

Presenting Author Biography

Jelena Zorić is a full professor of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, School of Economics and Business, Slovenia. Her main research interests are in efficiency and productivity analysis, energy efficiency, and the regulation and liberalisation of markets. She has published numerous papers and has participated in several research and applied projects in these areas. Her teaching includes courses in Microeconomics, Industrial Organisation, Economics of Regulation, and Energy Economics. She is a member of the IAEE, Slovenian Association for Energy Economics (SAEE), and a member of editorial board of Energy Efficiency.