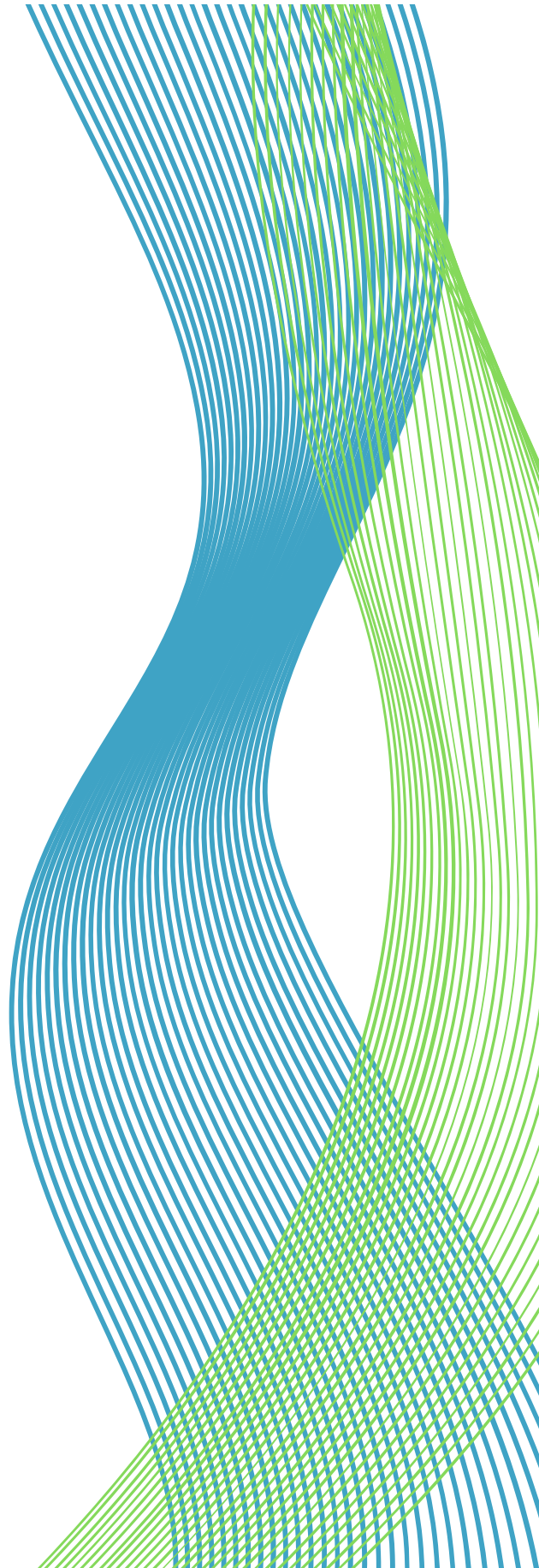




RESEARCH REPORT
**ANALYSIS
AND
RESULTS**

**GREEN EU - BUILDING EUROPEAN
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE
IMPACTS**





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GREEN EU - Building European Resilience to Climate Change Impacts

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GREEN EU - Building European Resilience to Climate Change Impacts

1. Introduction “Green EU” Project

In the European Union, addressing climate change and promoting civic participation are key priorities that go hand in hand. The EU recognises that effectively tackling climate change requires the active engagement of citizens, local communities, civil society and various stakeholders. The EU has established a comprehensive climate policy framework aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency and moving towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

1.1 Research Objectives

The GREEN EU - Building European Resilience to Climate Change Impacts project is an initiative aimed at addressing climate change challenges by promoting the resilience of European communities. The project focuses on several key objectives, one of its priorities is adaptation to climate change, developing strategies and tools to help communities and economic sectors prepare for and respond to impacts like heat waves, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events. Another important focus is mitigation of environmental impacts, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency while promoting a shift to renewable energy sources and sustainable use of natural resources.

The project emphasizes cooperation and the sharing of good practices by fostering a collaborative network among countries, regions, local communities, and European institutions. Transnational events bring together participants, experts and stakeholders from various countries and regions, offering a diverse and complementary perspective on the issues. This is crucial to address complex and interconnected challenges such as climate change and to facilitate knowledge exchange and enable participants to learn from different experiences and adapt successful approaches in their own contexts. National events are designed to directly engage local communities and stakeholders, allowing citizens to actively participate in shaping the future of their country. Through this network, knowledge, tools, and strategies are shared to create more effective responses to climate challenges. Additionally, it prioritizes education and awareness-raising, encouraging collective climate action by educating citizens, businesses, and governments on the urgency of building climate resilience. Finally, the project works to ensure policy integration, embedding climate change considerations across all European policies, including agriculture, energy, transport, and urban development, to guarantee a comprehensive and systematic approach.

The project's activities cover a wide range of initiatives aimed at building climate resilience. It includes conducting scientific studies and analyses to point areas vulnerable to climate impacts. Local resilience plans are developed to address the specific needs of communities and regions. The project focuses on green finance and investment, providing support for local initiatives that facilitate the transition to a more sustainable future. Additionally, it ensures continuous monitoring and evaluation of climate impacts, allowing strategies to be adapted and refined over time.

Key components include the European Green Deal, the Fitfor55 package and the EU Climate Act, which set ambitious targets to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Civic participation is encouraged through public consultations and engagement with civil society organisations to shape and implement these policies. This is the background to the GREEN EU - Building European Resilience to Climate Change Impacts project, funded by the EU's CERV programme.

The project aims to inspire and empower participants to actively contribute to sustainable urban development, emphasizing EcoCities, social equity, and environmental management. Additionally, it delves into climate resilience and permaculture practices by bringing together participants, experts, and stakeholders to address climate challenges and develop sustainable adaptation strategies.

Another important goal is to host an engaging and interactive event for local communities, highlighting the importance of renewable energy and encouraging active participation in renewable energy initiatives. Finally, the project seeks to educate and inspire participants to take meaningful action in biodiversity conservation, equipping them with the tools to develop actionable plans and make a lasting commitment to protecting ecosystems.

By the end of the initiative, the project aims to deliver several impactful outcomes. These include raising awareness about the connections between climate change, democracy, and civic participation, fostering a deeper understanding of how these elements interact.

The project will also focus on the exchange of knowledge and solutions, enabling experts, activists, citizens, and policymakers to share good practices and innovative ideas. Furthermore, it seeks to enhance direct engagement of key stakeholders, such as local community representatives, NGOs, and businesses, in shaping policies and implementing concrete actions to build a resilient and sustainable European society. Another anticipated result is greater community and organizational involvement, which could spark local initiatives to address climate change, promote sustainability, and strengthen civic participation. Lastly, the project aims to improve the understanding of European society's perspectives, attitudes, and behaviours on climate change, democracy, and civic participation across different EU Member States, helping to inform future strategies and actions.

1.2 Stakeholders

The GREEN EU - Building European Resilience to Climate Change Impacts project involved a wide range of stakeholders at the European level, emphasising the importance of a collaborative and inclusive approach to addressing climate change challenges. Key stakeholders who contributed to the project's implementation include:

- **Europe Direct centres:** Europe Direct centres, present in all EU countries, played a crucial role in disseminating the survey to the general public. These centres acted as intermediaries between citizens and the European institutions, ensuring effective communication and encouraging the active participation of local communities
- **CERV Centres (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values):** CERV Centre Points, funded under the European Rights and Values Programme, provided operational and logistical support for the implementation of project activities. These centres facilitated contact with civil society organisations and community groups, promoting inclusive and diverse participation.
- **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):** Several NGOs actively contributed to the project, providing specialised expertise and resources to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change. Their experience on the ground was crucial in ensuring that the project messages were culturally relevant and locally relevant.
- **Local Communities and Regional Authorities:** Regional and local authorities facilitated the organisation of awareness-raising events and activities in their respective territories, increasing the reach and impact of the project. Collaboration with local authorities ensured that actions were aligned with the specific needs of the different communities.
- **Citizens and Individual Participants:** European citizens, the true protagonists of the project, actively participated in the survey by providing valuable answers and contributions. Their participation made it possible to collect significant data on perceptions, knowledge and opinions regarding climate change.

The stakeholders involved worked synergistically to achieve the objectives of the GREEN EU project. Through effective and multidimensional collaboration, it was possible to involve a wide range of citizens across Europe with inclusive representation, ensure the relevance of the recommendations developed, based on data collected at local and regional level, and build a solid basis for future climate policies by promoting dialogue between European institutions and civil society.

Thanks to the active support of stakeholders, the GREEN EU project has achieved significant results, helping to build awareness and resilience to the impacts of climate change in Europe.

2. Research and Analysis Methodology

The methodology employed for this survey and analysis is designed to ensure comprehensive and reliable results that reflect the views and understanding of European citizens on a range of sustainability-related topics, including climate change, the circular economy, sustainable urban development, renewable energy, and biodiversity. Components of the methodology include:

- **Survey Design:**

The survey was designed to reach a broad audience across various European countries, with the aim of including diverse demographic and socio-economic groups. A structured questionnaire was developed to explore people's awareness, understanding, and opinions on a wide range of topics. The questionnaire considers a mix of closed and open-ended questions to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. The survey was translated into multiple languages (English, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Greek).

- **Data Collection:**

The data collection process was designed to ensure broad and inclusive participation. A stratified sampling strategy was employed to guarantee representation across different countries, age groups, and gender identities. To reach a diverse audience, the survey was distributed through multiple channels, including online platforms, social media, community organizations, and collaborations with local stakeholders. Data collection took place over a predefined period, allowing sufficient time (4 Months - from August 2024 to November 2024) to achieve an adequate and reliable sample size.

- **Data Analysis:**

The analysis of the collected data combined both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the findings. Data collected through the survey and organised in an Excel database (7. Appendix). For the quantitative data, statistical tools and multiple-choice techniques were applied to analyze the closed-ended responses, uncovering trends, correlations, and key insights into public awareness and understanding of sustainability topics. On the other hand, the open-ended responses were examined thematically to capture more nuanced perspectives and ideas shared by the participants. A comparative analysis was also conducted, allowing for the identification of regional and cultural differences in awareness, opinions, and priorities related to sustainability by comparing results across countries and demographic groups. To enhance the clarity of the findings, the survey responses—measured on a Likert scale (ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree) were represented graphically. These visualizations included both aggregate graphs to illustrate overall trends and country-specific graphs to highlight the responses from our Portuguese, Spanish, Greek, and Italian Partners.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:**

The involvement of stakeholders was a key component in ensuring the credibility and relevance of the survey. Sustainability and policy experts were engaged to review both the survey design and the preliminary findings, providing valuable insights to enhance validity and alignment with current issues. Additionally, feedback mechanisms were established to involve key stakeholders in the process. Initial findings were shared with civil society organizations and local communities, allowing for the validation of interpretations and the collection of additional context to enrich the analysis.

- **Ethical Considerations:**

Ethical principles were carefully followed throughout the survey process to protect participants' rights and ensure compliance with regulations. Participant data was fully anonymized to safeguard privacy and uphold the standards set by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Before taking part in the survey, all participants were provided with clear information about the purpose of the study, their rights, and how their data would be used. Informed consent was obtained to ensure that participation was voluntary and based on a full understanding of the survey's objectives and procedures.

- **Reporting and Dissemination:**

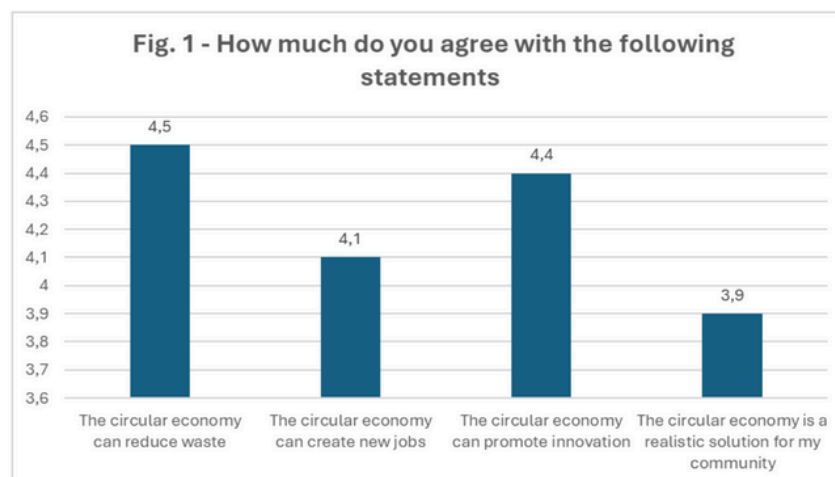
The reporting and dissemination of findings were designed to ensure clarity and accessibility for diverse audiences. Results are communicated in a transparent and straightforward manner, making them easily understandable to both policymakers and the general public. Based on the survey outcomes, a set of evidence-based and actionable recommendations was developed. These recommendations are grounded in public opinion and aim to support bottom-up approaches in policy decision-making, fostering the development of sustainability initiatives that reflect the needs and priorities of communities. This comprehensive methodology ensures that the survey captures a diverse range of opinions and provides actionable insights across multiple domains of sustainability.

3. General Analysis (by Group of Questions)

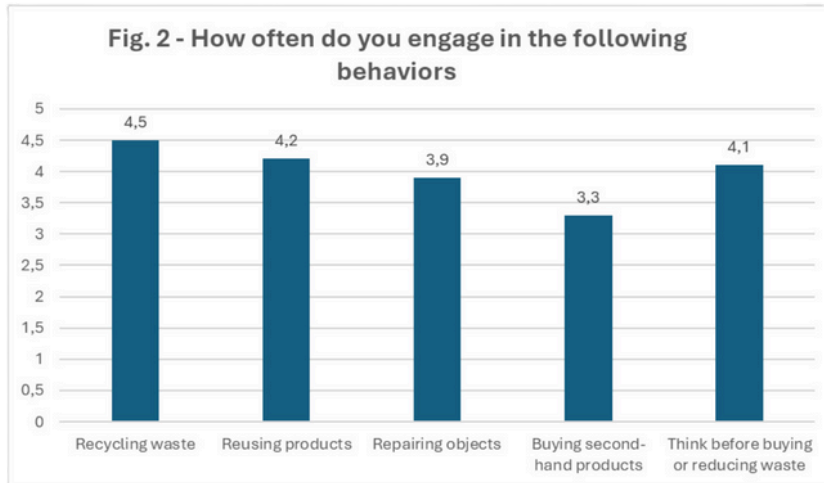
The overall results of the questions show a high level of awareness and agreement on the importance of tackling climate change. Participants expressed a strong recognition of the urgency of climate action, with scores generally ranging between 4 and 5 on a Likert scale.

3.1. Circular Economy

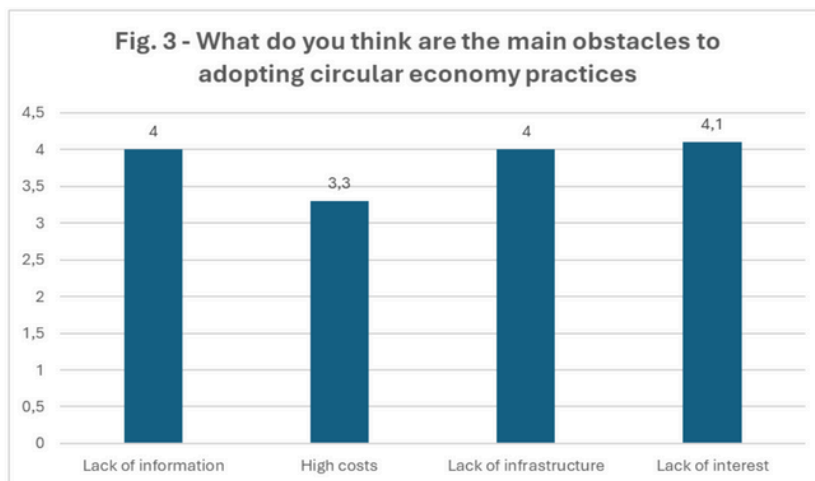
The survey revealed a strong awareness of the importance of the circular economy and sustainable practices, with particular emphasis on environmental and social benefits. **Figure 1** shows that the majority of participants (4.5) recognise the circular economy as an effective tool to reduce waste. However, the lower score for the item ‘Circular economy is a realistic solution for my community’ (3.9) still indicates doubts about local feasibility. This suggests the promotion of specific awareness-raising programmes for local communities that can translate this awareness into concrete actions.



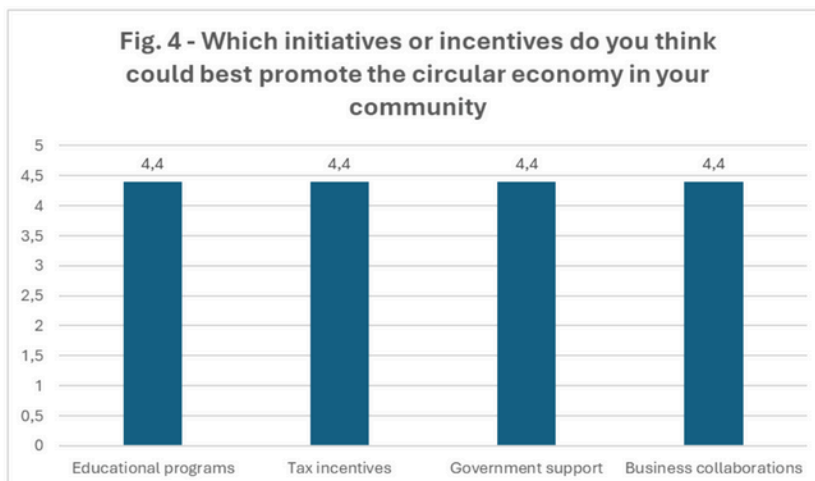
Circular economy-related behaviours are also widely adopted, as evidenced by **Figure 2**, where recycling of waste is the most common activity (4.5) followed by reuse of products (4.2) as common practices. However, repairing items (3.9) and buying second-hand products (3.3) are less frequent, revealing room for improvement. The habit of ‘thinking before you buy’ gets an average score of 4.1, underlining an increasing focus on conscious consumption. Economic incentives and awareness-raising campaigns could further encourage this behaviour.



Despite awareness, significant obstacles persist, as shown in **Figure 3**, where lack of information, infrastructure (4.0) and interest (4.1) are the main barriers. Although high costs (3.3) are a less significant factor, it remains crucial to develop information networks and infrastructure that can support the adoption of circular practices.

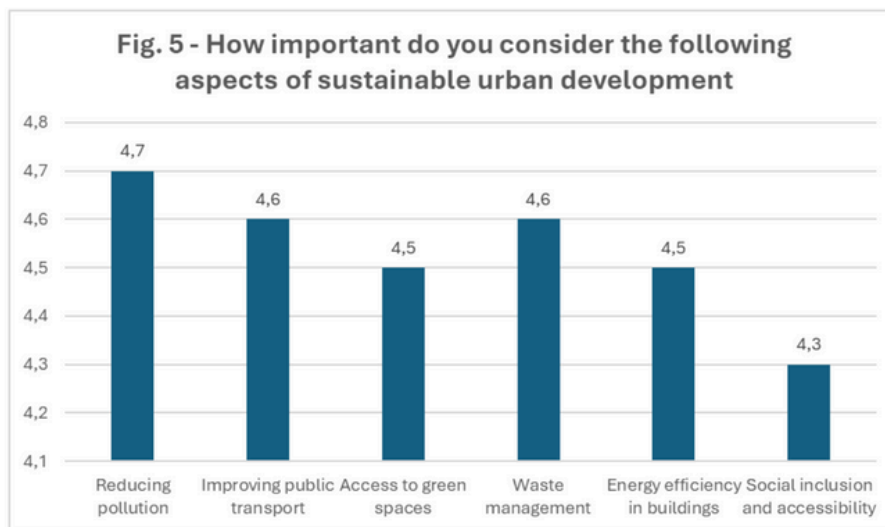


To overcome these barriers, participants suggest initiatives such as educational programmes, tax incentives, government support and corporate partnerships, all of which are rated positively with a score of 4.4 in **Figure 4**.

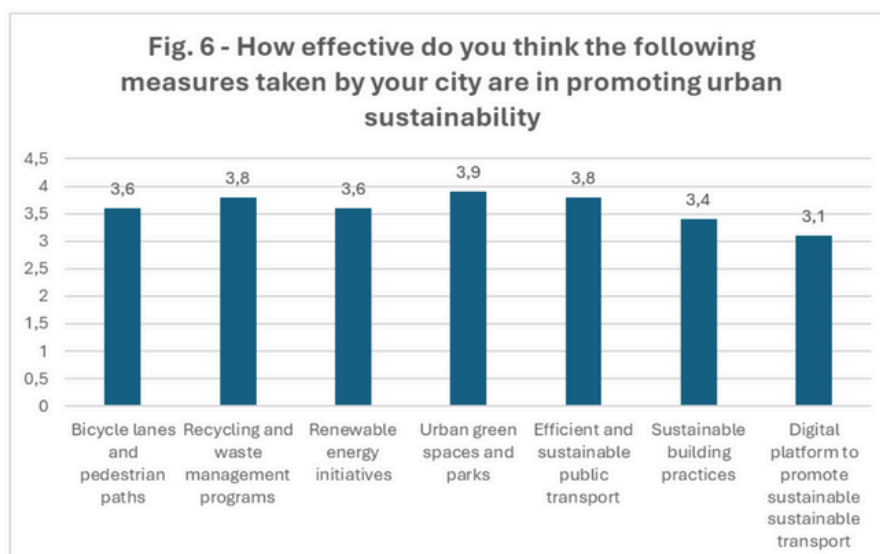


3.2. Sustainable Urban Development

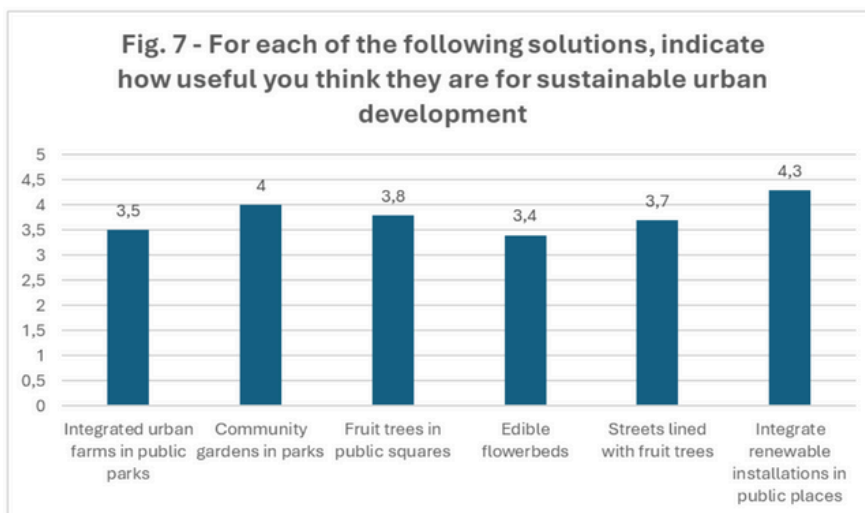
Regarding sustainable urban development, pollution reduction emerges as the top priority (4.7), as shown in **Figure 5**, followed by energy efficiency of buildings and waste management (both 4.6). However, issues such as social inclusion and accessibility (4.3) receive less attention, indicating a greater awareness of environmental issues than social ones in the context of urban development.



Perceptions of the effectiveness of urban measures are more varied, as illustrated by **Figure 6**, where urban green spaces receive the highest score (3.9), while sustainable building practices (3.4) and digital platforms (3.1) receive the lowest scores, are perceived as less effective, possibly due to poor implementation or visibility. It is therefore essential to improve the visibility and implementation of such technological solutions.

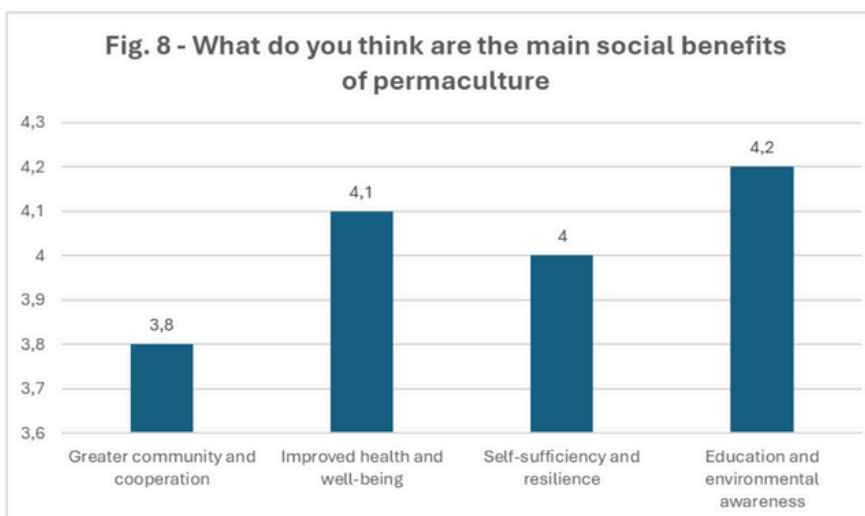


Among the solutions for sustainable urban development, the integration of renewable installations in public spaces is considered the most useful (4.3), as shown in **Figure 7**, while edible flower beds (3.4) and urban farms (3.9) receive lower ratings. This underlines the preference for tangible solutions with direct and visible benefits, such as renewable energy, over those perceived as more aesthetic or symbolic.

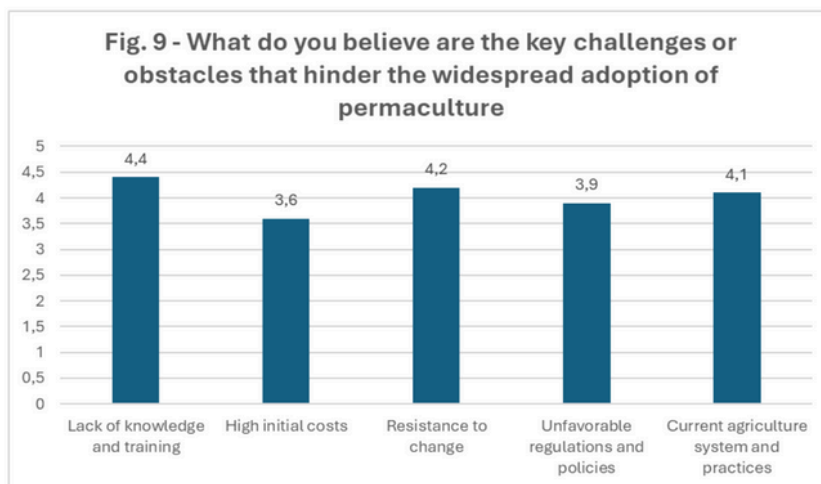


3.3. Permaculture

Turning to permaculture, **Figure 8** shows that its main benefits are educational and environmental (4.2), while community cooperation (3.8) is less valued. This reflects a limited perception of permaculture's potential to strengthen social ties. Projects directly involving local communities could improve perceptions and support for permaculture.

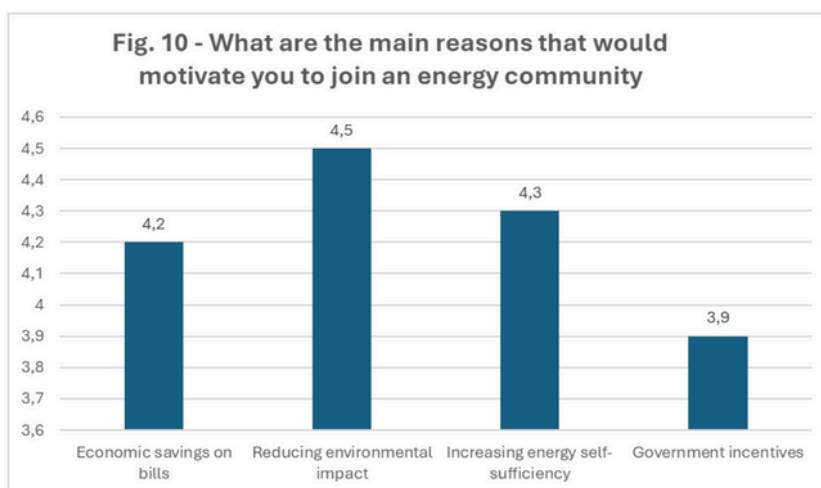


The diffusion of permaculture is hindered by significant challenges, such as lack of specific knowledge (4.4) and resistance to change (4.2), as shown in **Figure 9**. Initial costs (3.6) and unfavourable regulations (3.9) are also significant barriers, suggesting that targeted interventions are needed in terms of both training and supportive policies.



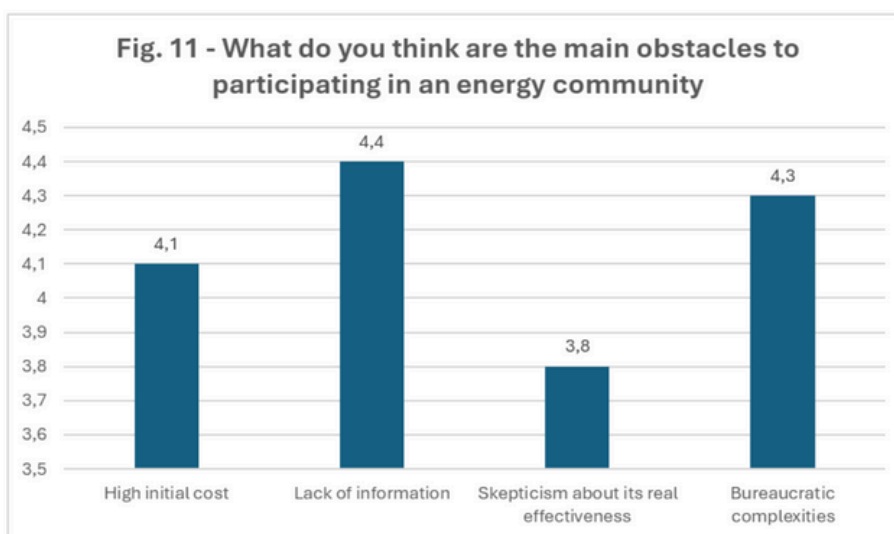
3.4. Energy Communities

Energy communities represent a further area of interest. **Figure 10** shows that the main motivations for joining include reducing environmental impact (4.5) and saving money on utility bills (4.2), while government incentives are less appreciated (3.9). This indicates that participants prefer concrete and immediate motivations, such as savings, over less tangible incentives.

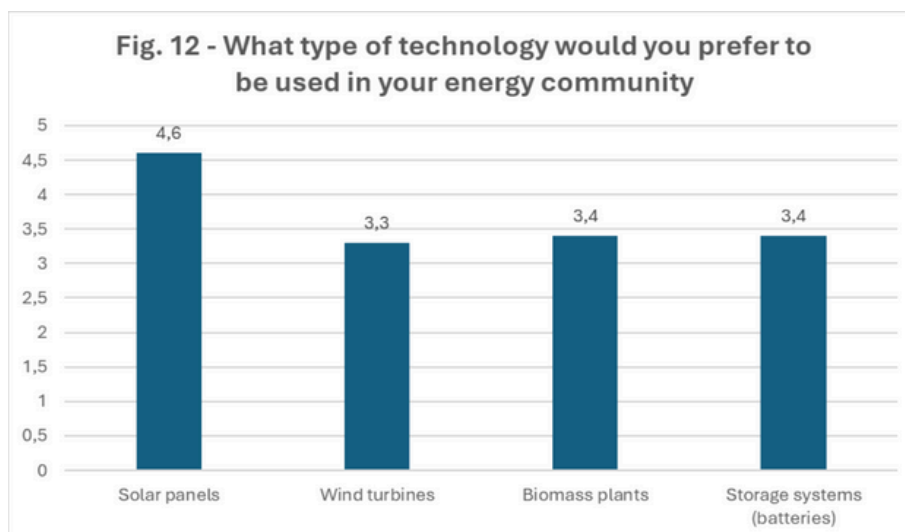


This suggests that, although the concept is generally appreciated, many participants lack an in-depth knowledge of it. The main barriers, such as lack of training and high initial costs, are clearly visible in the graphs and indicate an opportunity for targeted educational initiatives.

Figure 11 shows that lack of information (4.4), bureaucratic complexity (4.3) and high initial costs (4.1) are significant barriers. Lack of confidence in the real effectiveness of energy communities scores lower (3.8), suggesting that participants are more concerned about practical and logistical barriers rather than doubts about the validity of the concept. These results indicate the need for clear and accessible information campaigns accompanied by support programmes to reduce bureaucratic barriers and initial costs.

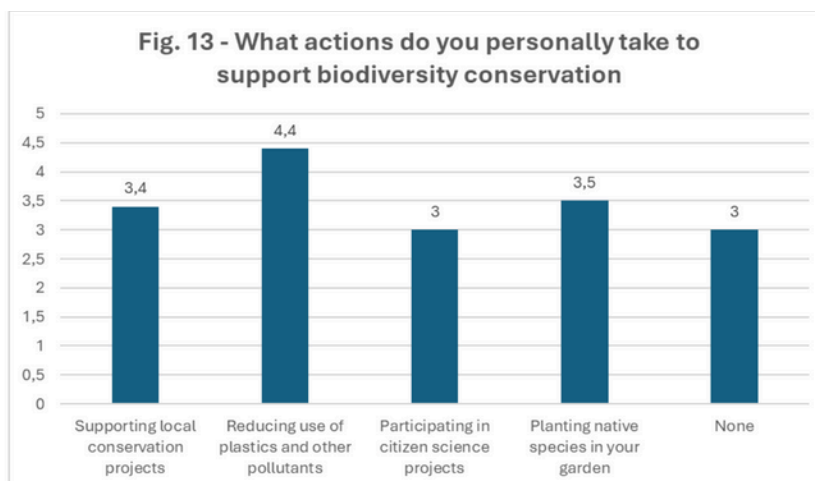


In terms of preferred technologies, **Figure 12** shows a clear preference for solar panels emerge as the most preferred technology with an average score of 4.6, followed by energy storage systems (3.4) and biomass systems (3.4). Wind turbines get the lowest score (3.3), probably due to logistical challenges and their visual or noise impact in residential areas. The preference for solar panels reflects a clear awareness of the efficiency and versatility of this technology, as well as the fact that it is perceived as less invasive.

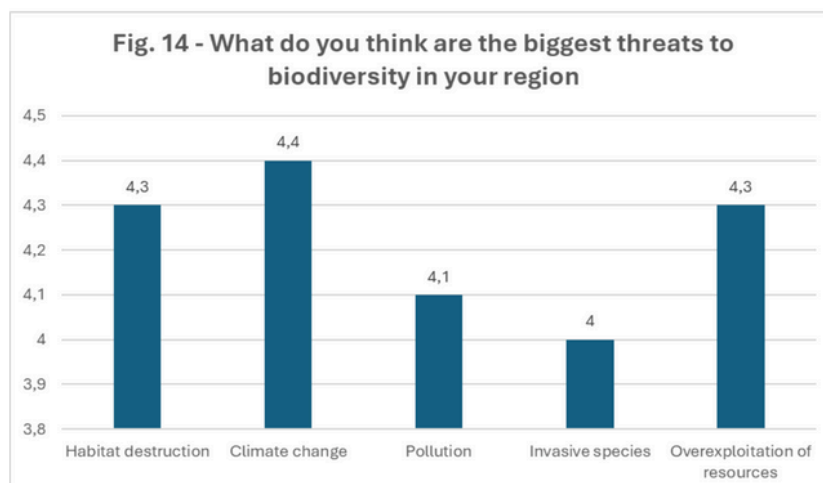


3.5. Biodiversity

Finally, the survey also addresses biodiversity conservation. **Figure 13** shows that reducing the use of plastic (4.4) is followed by planting native species in gardens (3.5) and supporting local conservation projects (3.4). In contrast, participation in citizen science projects receives the lowest score (3.0). This result suggests that participants prefer direct and individual actions over collective or scientific initiatives.



Regarding threats to biodiversity, **Figure 14** shows that climate change (4.4) and habitat destruction (4.3) are perceived as the most serious problems, followed by pollution (4.1) and overexploitation of resources (4.3). Invasive species (4.0), although less considered, still pose a significant threat. There is a need to develop integrated policies to address these issues systematically and to promote a deeper understanding of complex ecological interactions.



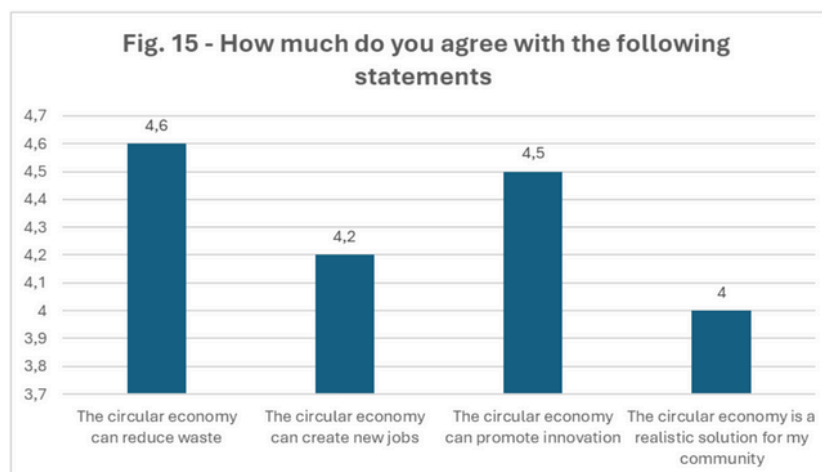
In conclusion, the results show a solid public awareness of the importance of sustainability and climate change. However, areas that require targeted interventions also emerge, such as permaculture education and overcoming barriers to circular economy practices and energy communities. These data provide an important basis for developing policies and initiatives that address the priorities and challenges identified.

4. Analysis by Partner Country

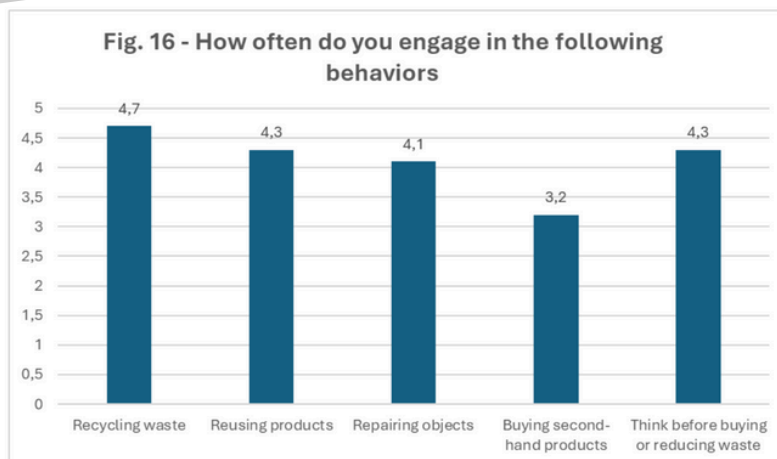
The survey was conducted not only at a general level but also with a country-specific focus, analyzing responses from Portugal, Spain, Greece, and Italy to identify regional perspectives and priorities about the topic.

4.1 Portugal

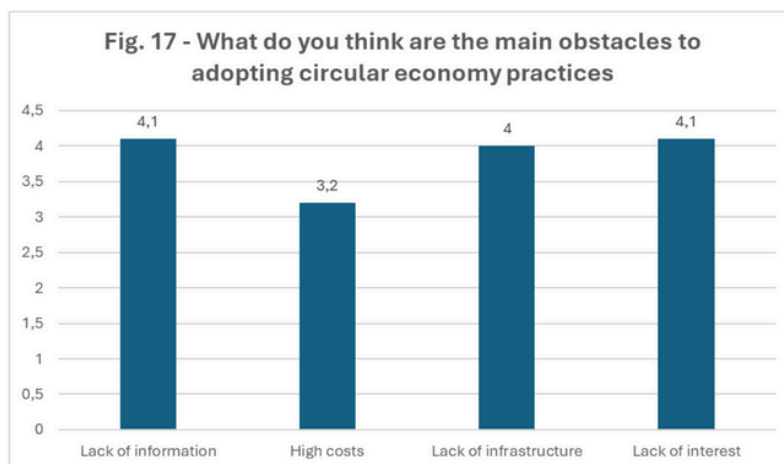
The survey showed that in Portugal the circular economy is highly valued for its ability to reduce waste (4.6) and promote innovation (4.5). However, as shown in **Figure 15**, participants give lower scores to its ability to create jobs (4.2), suggesting that participants may not be fully aware of the employment opportunities offered by circular practices. Furthermore, the score of 4.0 for its applicability at the community level highlights a lack of confidence in the possibility of implementing practical solutions at the local level. There is a need to raise awareness of how the circular economy can offer concrete opportunities for economic and community development.



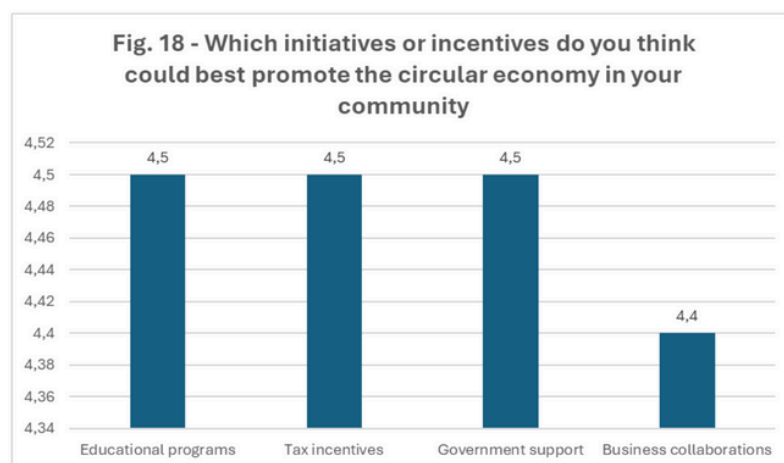
Regarding circular economy-related behaviour, **Figure 16** shows that recycling of waste is the most common activity (4.7), followed by reuse of products (4.3) and repair of objects (4.1). However, buying second-hand products (3.2) is less common, indicating a gap in the promotion of second-hand markets. Thinking before you buy (4.3) indicates a growing awareness of waste reduction. To improve the adoption of these behaviours, more sustainable consumption patterns need to be incentivised through awareness-raising campaigns and economic incentives.



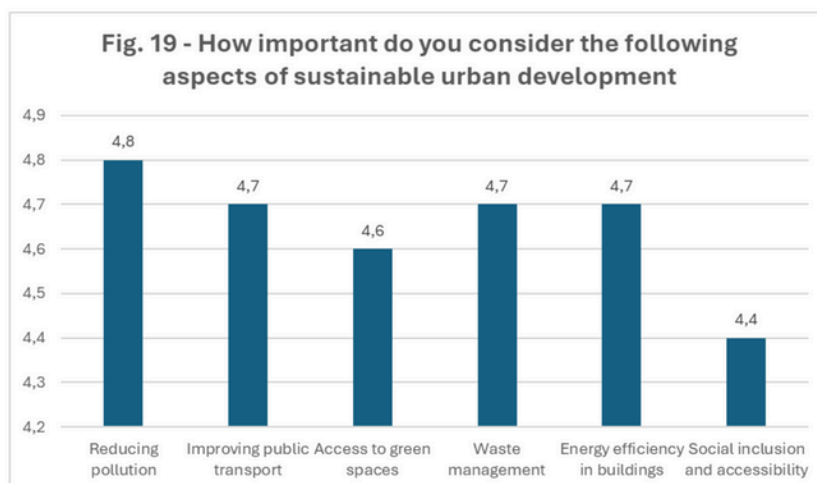
Despite awareness of the benefits of the circular economy, **Figure 17** reveals that the main obstacles are lack of information and interest (4.1), followed by lack of adequate infrastructure (4.0). High costs score lower (3.2), suggesting that, although significant, they are not perceived as the main obstacle. These results underline the importance of developing accessible information networks and investing in infrastructure to support the adoption of circular practices.



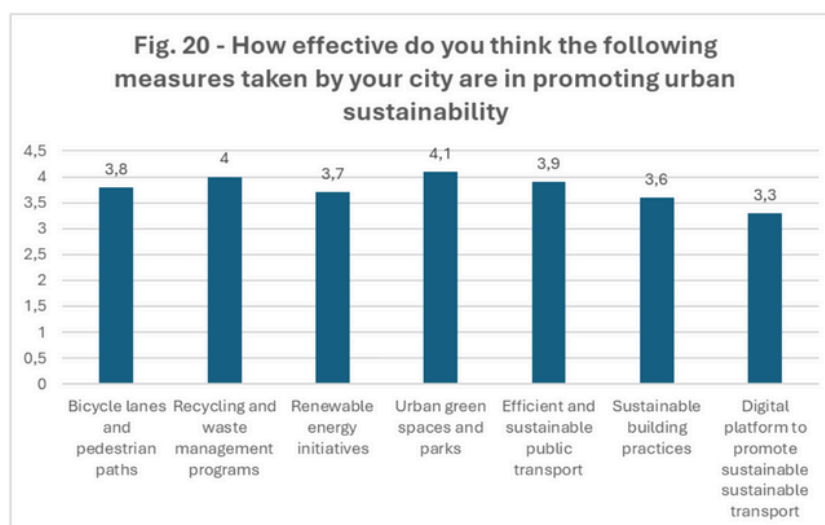
To overcome these barriers, **Figure 18** shows that educational programmes, tax incentives and government support score high (4.5), demonstrating that citizens see an integrated approach as the key to promoting change. Corporate collaborations (4.4) are also seen as helpful in accelerating the transition to the circular economy. These data highlight the need for a multi-stakeholder approach, involving both the public and private sectors.



Sustainable urban development is a priority for participants, as shown in **Figure 19**, where reducing pollution (4.8) is considered the most important aspect, followed by energy efficiency in buildings, waste management and improving public transport (all at 4.7). However, social inclusion and accessibility (4.4) receive less attention, suggesting that environmental issues are perceived as more urgent than social ones. It is crucial to better integrate social and environmental objectives to ensure sustainable and equitable progress.



When analysing urban sustainability measures, **Figure 20** shows that urban green spaces and parks score the highest (4.1), followed by sustainable and efficient public transport (3.9) and waste management programmes (4.0). However, digital platforms to promote sustainable transport receive the lowest score (3.3), highlighting a low perception of their effectiveness. Bicycle and pedestrian paths (3.8) and sustainable building practices (3.6) receive moderate ratings, indicating that they may be considered less of a priority by citizens than other solutions. These data suggest that participants favour more traditional and visible interventions over innovative technologies.



Among the solutions for sustainable urban development (**Figure 21**), the integration of renewable installations in public spaces is considered the most useful (4.5). Solutions such as community gardens (4.2) receive good ratings, but others, such as edible flower beds (3.7) and integrated urban farms (3.9), are less appreciated. There is a need to promote initiatives that combine innovative solutions with educational interventions to increase acceptance.

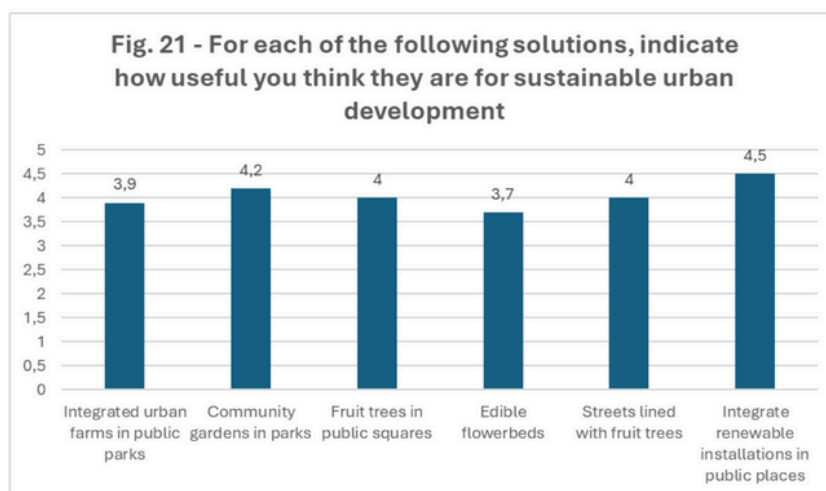
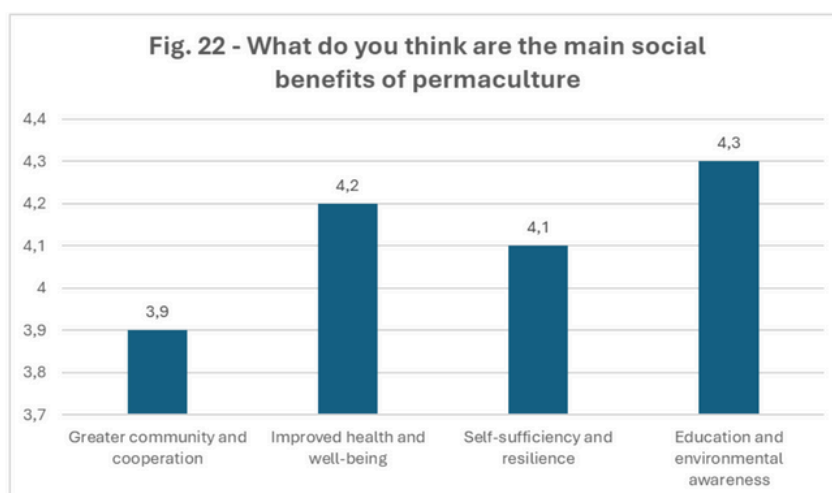
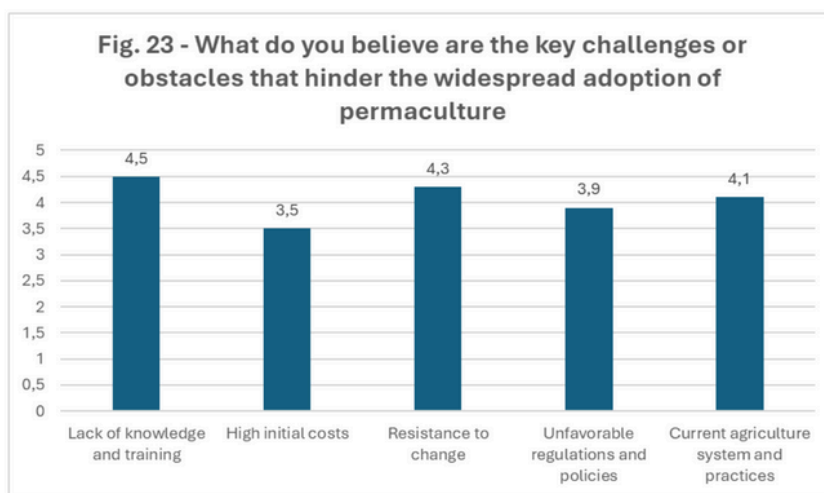


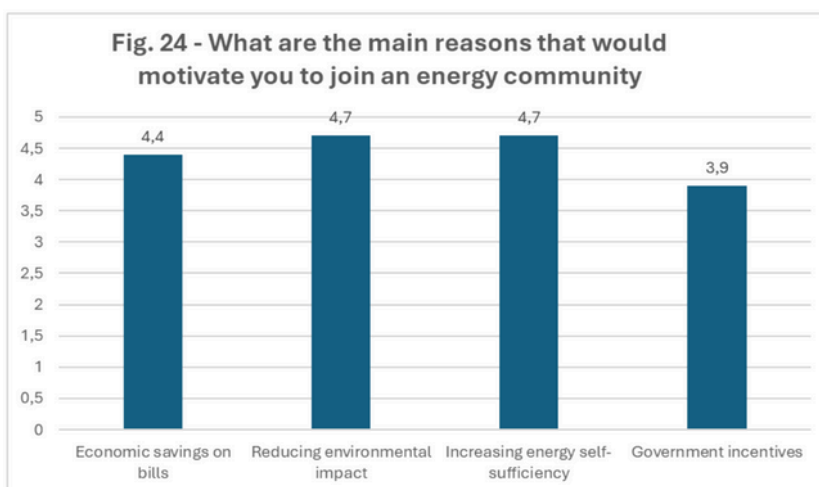
Figure 22 shows that the benefits of permaculture are widely recognised, with environmental education and awareness receiving the highest score (4.3), followed by improved well-being and health (4.2). Resilience and self-reliance receive a score of 4.1, reflecting the importance attached to the ability of communities to adapt to environmental and climate change. However, community cooperation (3.9) is less valued, suggesting that participants do not yet fully perceive its potential to strengthen social ties.



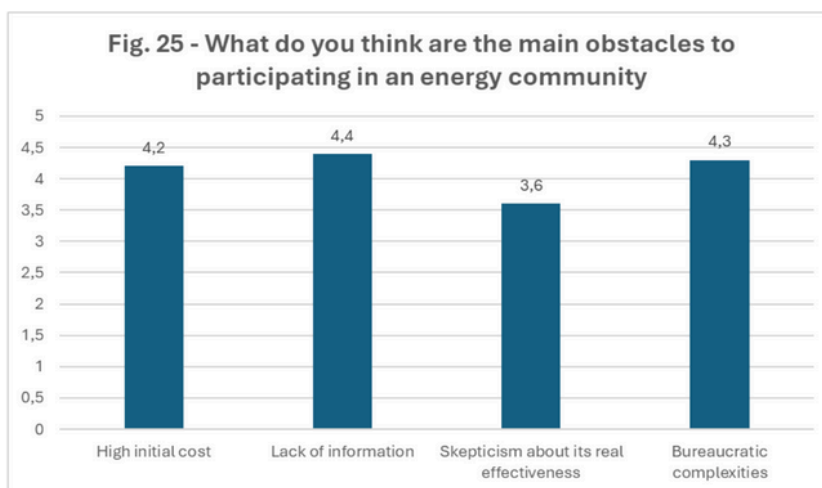
Among the main barriers to permaculture diffusion (**Figure 23**) are lack of specific knowledge (4.5) and resistance to change (4.3). and current farming systems (4.1). Unfavourable regulations (3.9) and high initial costs (3.5) complete the picture of the main barriers. These results indicate that although the benefits of permaculture are recognised, structural difficulties and lack of institutional support represent significant obstacles. To address these challenges, it is necessary to invest in accessible training programmes, create economic incentives to cover initial costs and develop policies that support sustainable agricultural practices.



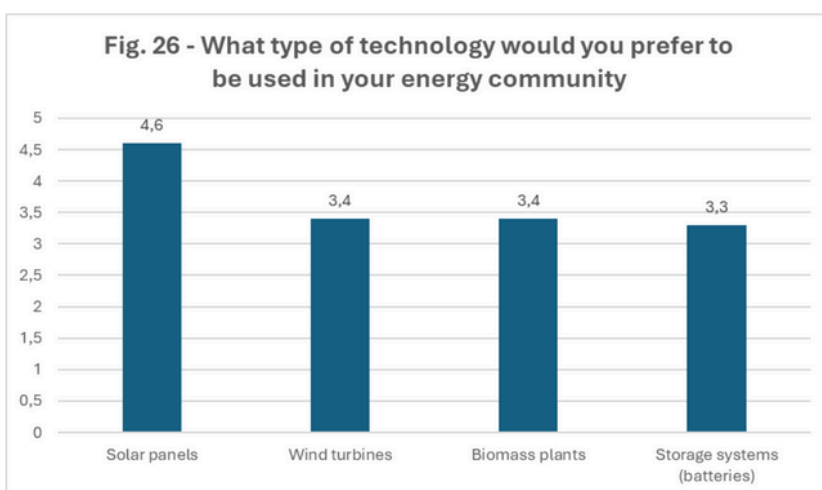
Energy communities represent a growing area of interest. **Figure 24** shows that reducing environmental impact and energy self-sufficiency score highest (4.7), followed by saving money on utility bills (4.4), while government incentives score lowest (3.9). This suggests that participants are more attracted to tangible and direct benefits than external incentives.



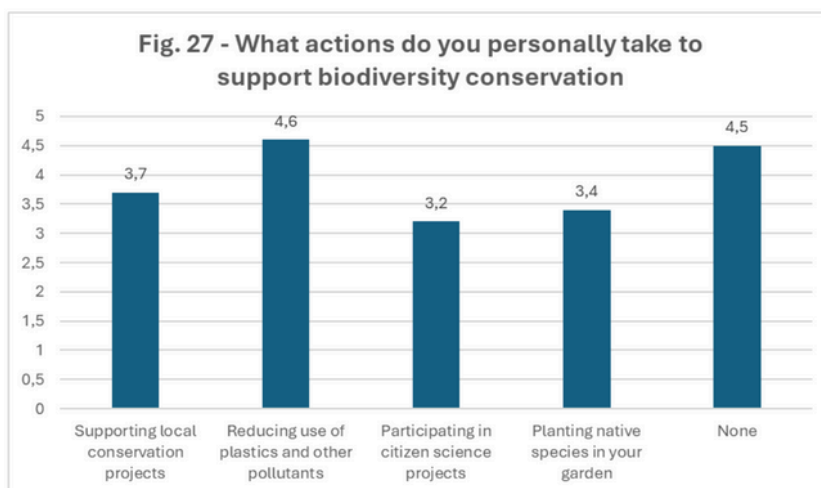
However, **Figure 25** indicates that lack of information (4.4) and bureaucratic complexity (4.3) are the main obstacles, along with high initial costs (4.2). Scepticism about the actual effectiveness of energy communities scores lower (3.6), suggesting that citizens are more concerned about practical difficulties than doubts about the idea itself. To increase participation, it is essential to provide clear information and simplify procedures



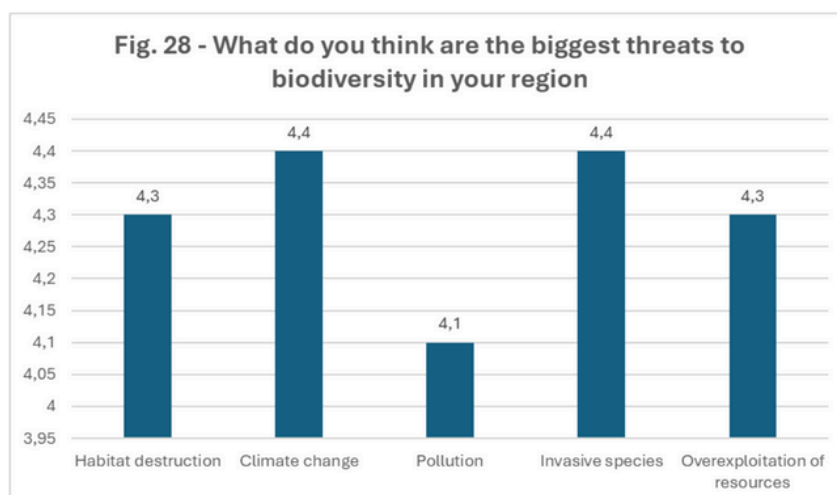
Among the preferred technologies in energy communities, **Figure 26** shows a strong preference for solar panels (4.6), while other options such as wind turbines (3.3) and energy storage systems (3.4) receive lower scores. This reflects a clear awareness of the practical advantages of solar panels, which should be further promoted through targeted incentives.



Finally, the conservation of biodiversity is a topic of growing interest. **Figure 27** shows that reducing plastic use (4.6) is the most common action, followed by supporting local conservation projects (3.7) and planting native species in gardens (3.4). However, participation in citizen science projects (3.2) is limited, indicating the need to increase public awareness of the importance of these initiatives.

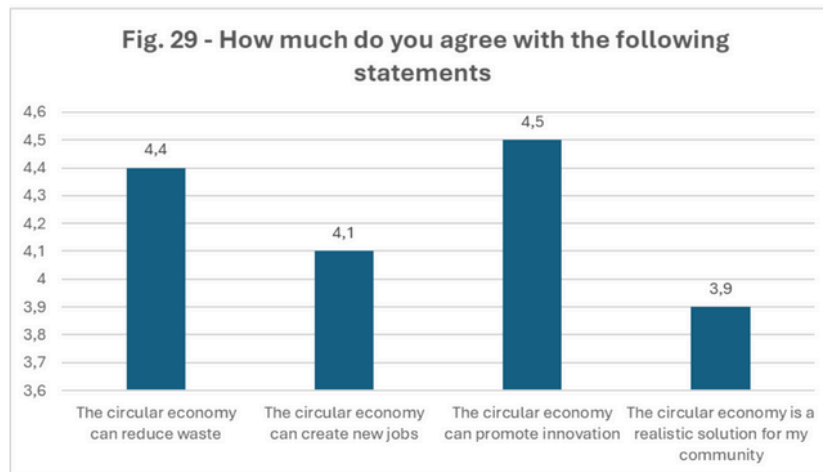


Finally, the main threats to biodiversity, as shown in **Figure 28**, include climate change and invasive species (both 4.4), highlighting a strong awareness of global and local biodiversity challenges. Habitat destruction (4.3) and overexploitation of natural resources (4.3) are also considered serious threats, while pollution receives a slightly lower score (4.1). These data reflect a fairly comprehensive understanding of the factors affecting biodiversity, but also underline the need for more targeted educational campaigns to increase public awareness of the interconnection between these threats and their overall impact on the ecosystem.

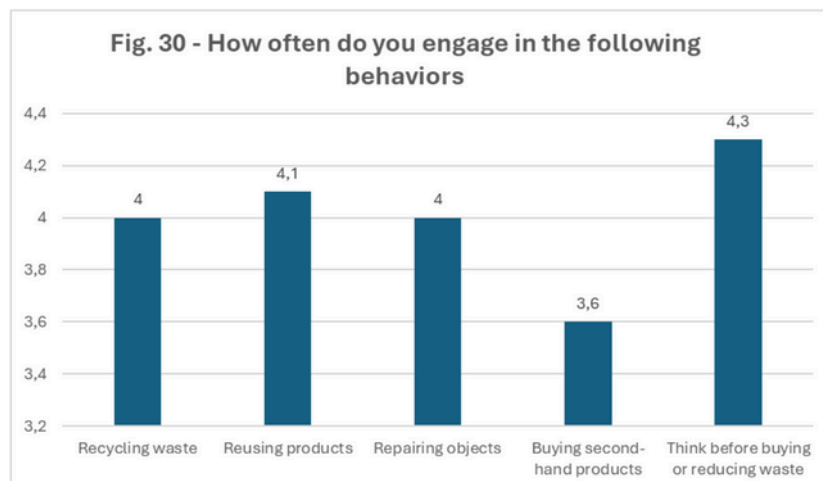


4.2 Greece

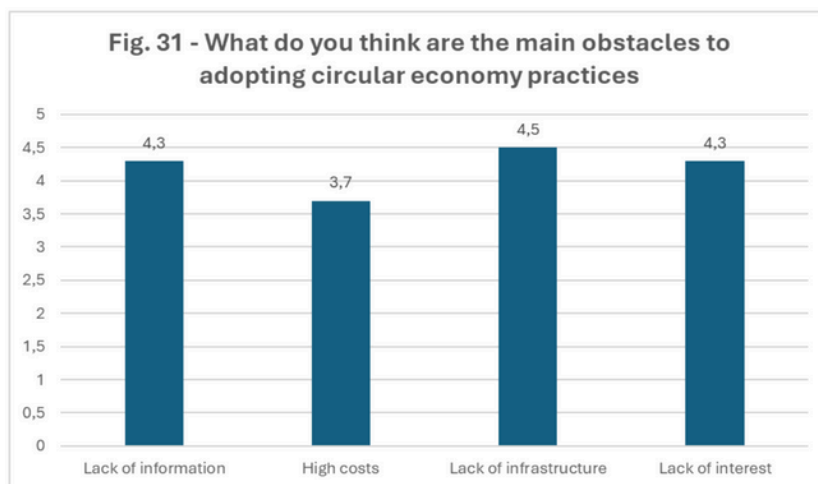
Greek citizens attach significant importance to the circular economy, as evidenced by the scores of 4.4 for the ability to reduce waste and 4.5 for the promotion of innovation (**figure 29**). However, the lowest value of 3.9 for the item ‘Is the circular economy a realistic solution for my community’ highlights doubts about the local feasibility of these practices, despite the positive perception of the overall benefits. Awareness of the opportunities offered by the circular economy is high, but to translate this perception into concrete actions, it is necessary to initiate community-level pilot projects and provide tangible examples of success.



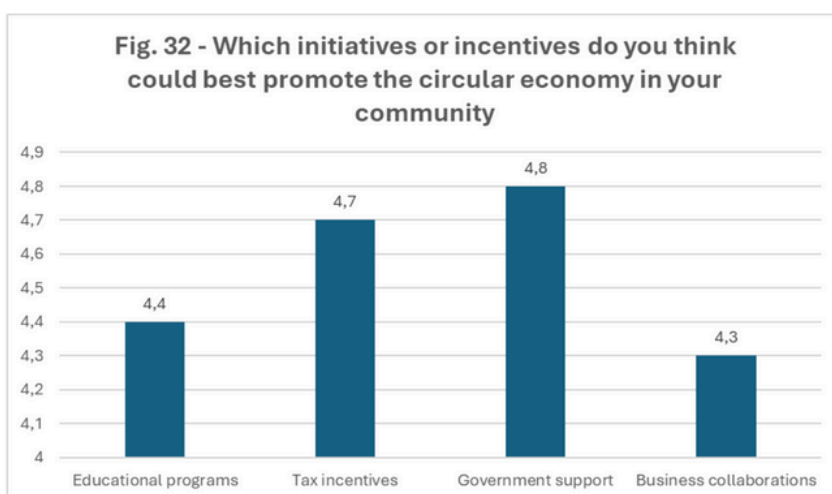
The frequency of behaviours related to the circular economy shows a good level of awareness: recycling (4.0) and reusing products (4.1) are common practices, while repairing objects (4.0) and buying second-hand products (3.6) are less widespread (**figure 30**). Interesting is the score of 4.3 for conscious consumption (‘think before you buy’), which indicates an increasing focus on sustainable lifestyles. To further increase the adoption of circular behaviour, it would be useful to incentivise second-hand markets and make repair services more accessible.



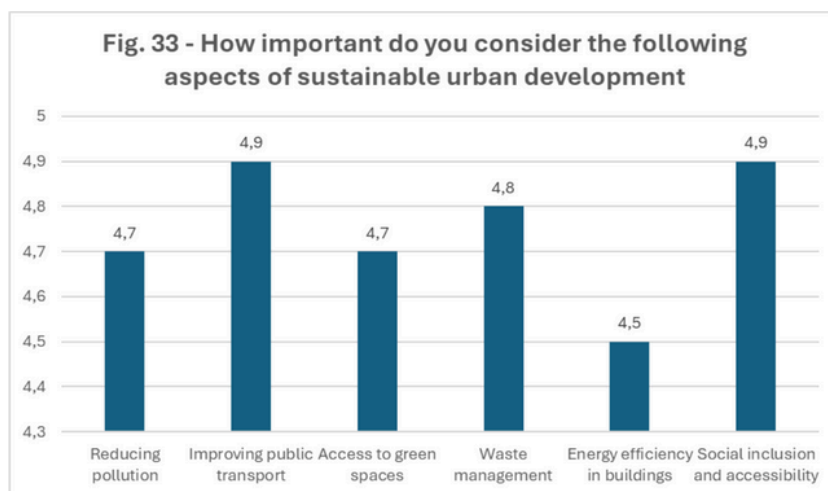
The main barriers to the circular economy in Greece include the lack of adequate infrastructure (4.5) and information (4.3), together with a perceived lack of interest (4.3) (**Figure 31**). High costs, although a barrier, are perceived as less significant (3.7). These data suggest that the main barriers are not economic but rather related to information and logistical deficiencies. Investing in dedicated infrastructure and accessible awareness-raising campaigns could help to overcome these challenges.



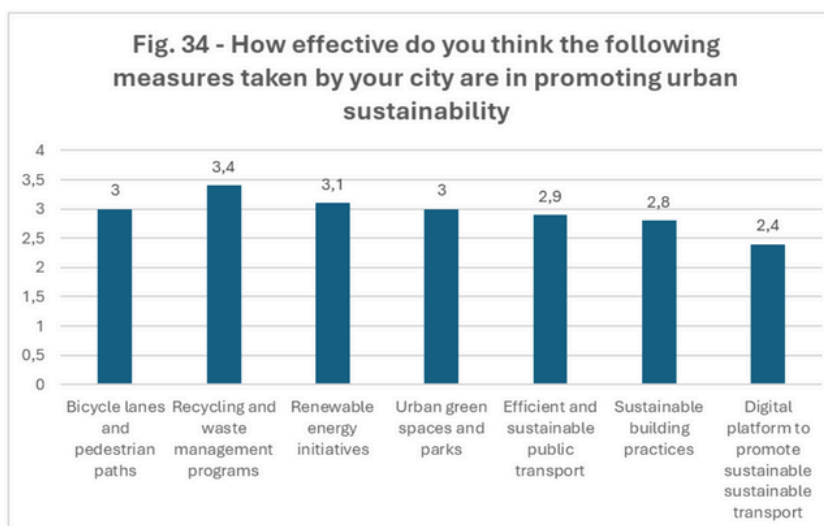
Among the most effective initiatives to promote the circular economy, government support gets the highest score (4.8), followed by tax incentives (4.7) and educational programmes (4.4) (**figure 32**). Corporate partnerships, while receiving a lower score (4.3), remain relevant for accelerating the transition to a more sustainable economy. This highlights the importance of an integrated approach involving both the public and private sectors.



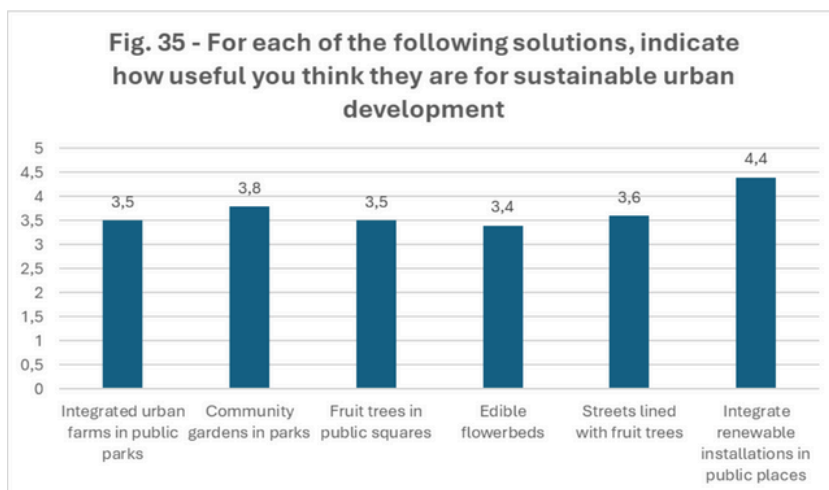
Priority aspects of sustainable urban development include improved public transport and social inclusion, both with scores of 4.9, followed by waste management (4.8) and pollution reduction (4.7) (**figure 33**). These results underline the importance of combining social and environmental objectives to meet the needs of the population.



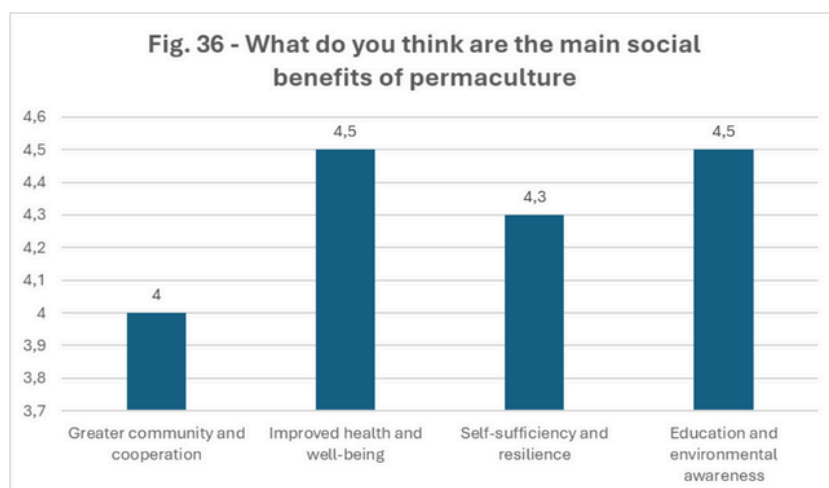
However, the perceived effectiveness of implemented measures is less positive. Cycling and walking paths score 3.0, as do urban green spaces, while recycling and waste management initiatives receive 3.4 (**figure 34**). Digital platforms to promote sustainable transport receive the lowest score (2.4), suggesting poor implementation or visibility of these solutions. It is essential to strengthen the technological infrastructure and raise awareness of the importance of these measures to improve their acceptance.



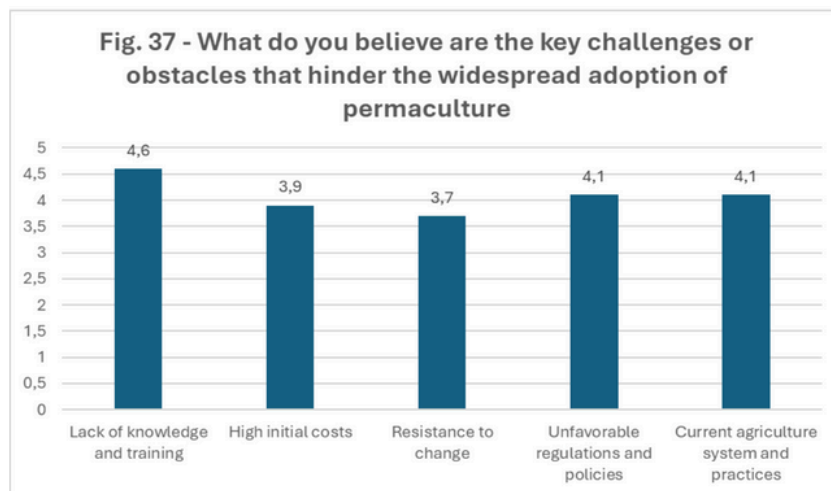
Among the solutions for sustainable urban development, the integration of renewable installations in public spaces is considered the most useful (4.4) (**figure 35**), followed by community gardens (3.8). Less conventional solutions, such as edible flower beds (3.4), are less appreciated, indicating the need to improve public understanding of their benefits through educational programmes.



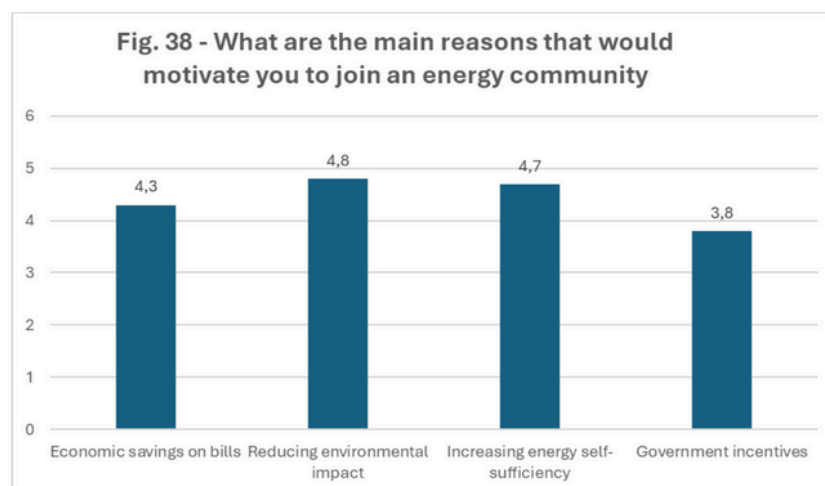
The social benefits of permaculture are recognised, with environmental education and awareness and improved well-being both scoring 4.5 (**figure 36**). However, community cooperation receives a lower score (4.0), suggesting a limited perception of permaculture's potential to strengthen social ties.



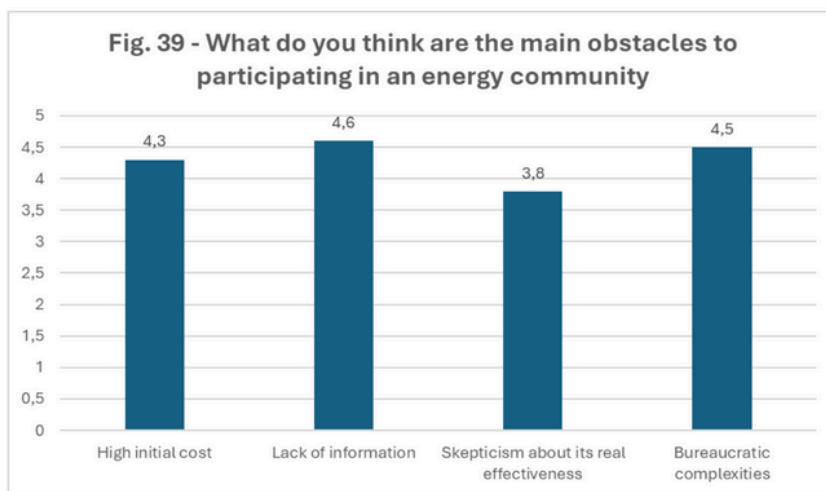
The main obstacle to the spread of permaculture in Greece (**Figure 37**) is the lack of knowledge and specific training, which receives the highest score (4.6). Resistance to change (3.7) is another significant obstacle, indicating that, despite interest in sustainable practices, many citizens find it difficult to alter established habits or adopt new technologies. Unfavorable regulations and high initial costs also receive high scores (3.9 and 4.1 respectively), highlighting the need for policies that reduce economic and regulatory barriers. Lastly, the score of 4.1 for traditional agricultural systems underscores that these represent a structural obstacle to the transition towards sustainable practices.



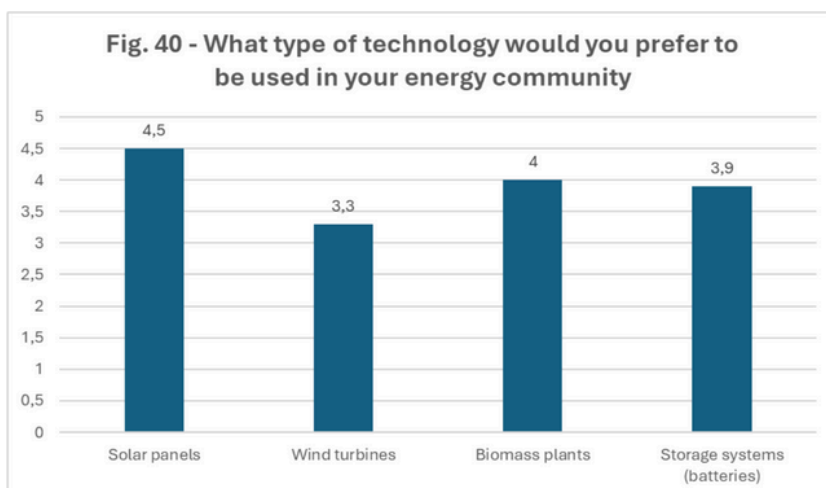
Regarding energy communities, the main motivations for participation include reducing environmental impact (4.8) and achieving energy self-sufficiency (4.7) (**Figure 38**). These scores reflect a strong awareness of the environmental benefits and the need for energy independence, especially in a context of growing concern for sustainability and resource efficiency. Economic savings on bills also receive a significant score (4.3), indicating that citizens value the direct financial benefits associated with participating in these communities. However, government incentives receive the lowest score (3.8), suggesting that state interventions are not perceived as sufficiently attractive or effective.



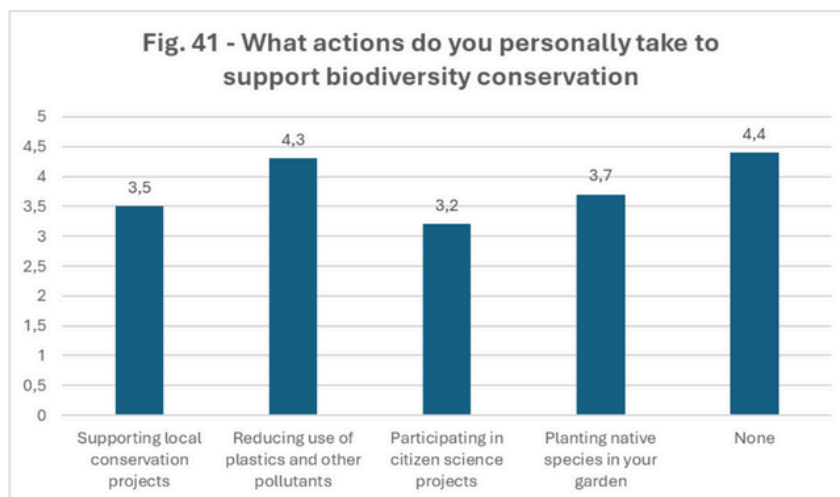
On the other hand, the main obstacles to participation in energy communities are the lack of information (4.6) and bureaucratic complexity (4.5) (**Figure 39**). High initial costs also receive a significant score (4.3), highlighting that the required investment poses a challenge for many citizens. Lastly, skepticism about the actual effectiveness of energy communities scores lower (3.8), suggesting that doubts about the validity of these initiatives are less significant compared to logistical and financial difficulties.



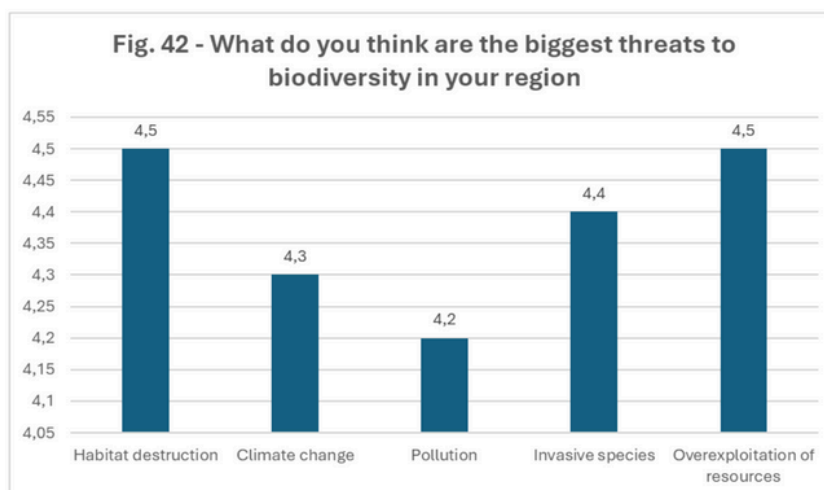
Solar panels have emerged as the preferred technology among Greek energy communities, achieving an impressive score of 4.5. (**Figure 40**). The employment of various solar panels reflects citizens' trust towards photovoltaic systems thanks to their affordability, ease of installation and significant positive environmental impact. Afterwards, people's confidence is oriented towards the use of biomass plants (4,0), due to their predisposition to generate energy continuously without any interruption. Furthermore, citizens present a quite strong consent in the implementation of storage systems (3.9), because they could be powered by energy obtained from solar panels. Lastly, wind turbines receive the lowest score (3.3), because of variable wind conditions that characterise the Hellenic peninsula, making them less reliable options for energy production.



The reduction of plastic and other pollutants is the most common action among Greek citizens (4.4) (**Figure 41**), followed by the planting of native species (3.7). However, a high score for the "no action" category (4.4) indicates that many citizens do not actively participate in biodiversity conservation.

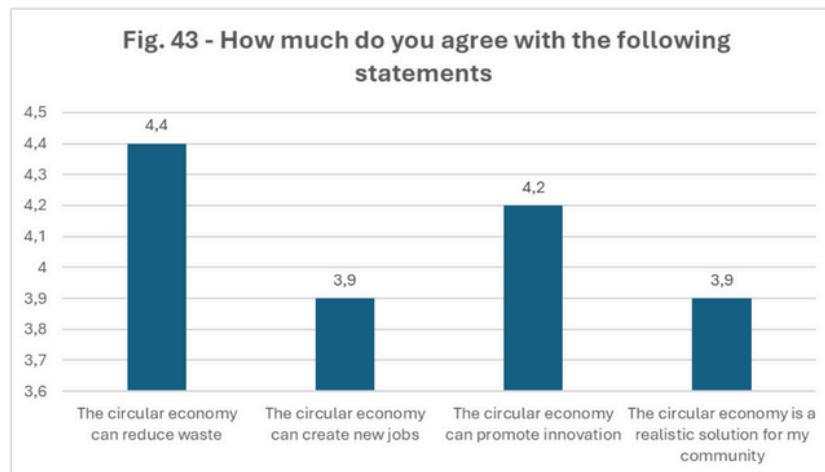


Finally, The main perceived threats include habitat destruction (4.5) and climate change (4.4), followed by the overexploitation of natural resources (4.5) and invasive species (4.4) (**Figure 42**). These results reflect a growing awareness of the interconnectedness of various threats to biodiversity but highlight the need to promote a better understanding of the role of invasive species and sustainable resource management. Targeted educational campaigns could enhance public knowledge and perception of these complex ecological issues.

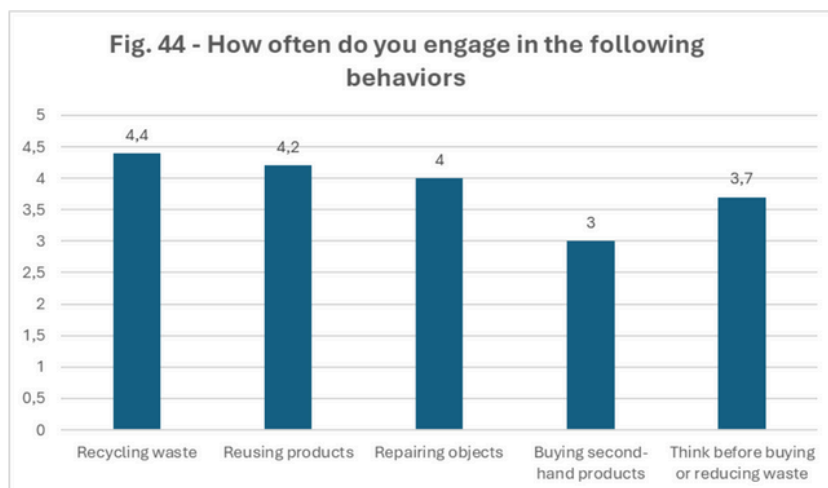


4.3 Spain

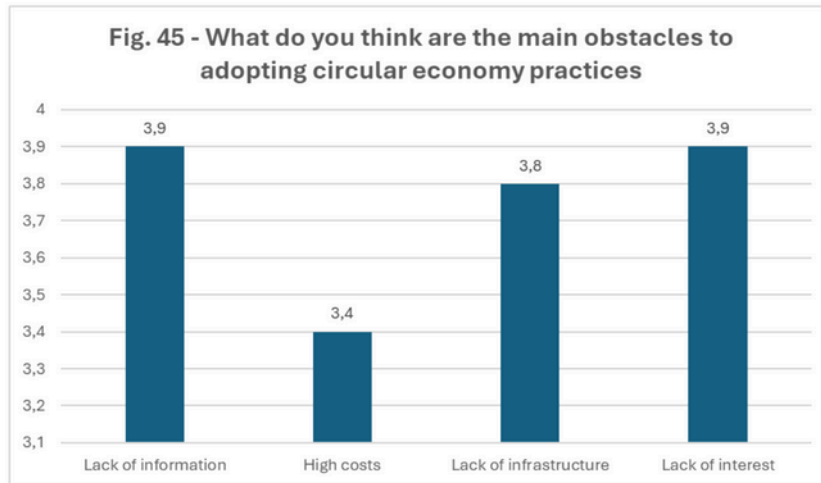
In Spain, the perception of the circular economy is generally positive, with high scores for reducing waste (4.4) and promoting innovation (4.2) (Figure 43). However, the potential to create new jobs and to be a realistic solution at the community level is perceived less favorably (3.9 for both items), indicating skepticism about employment impact and local feasibility.



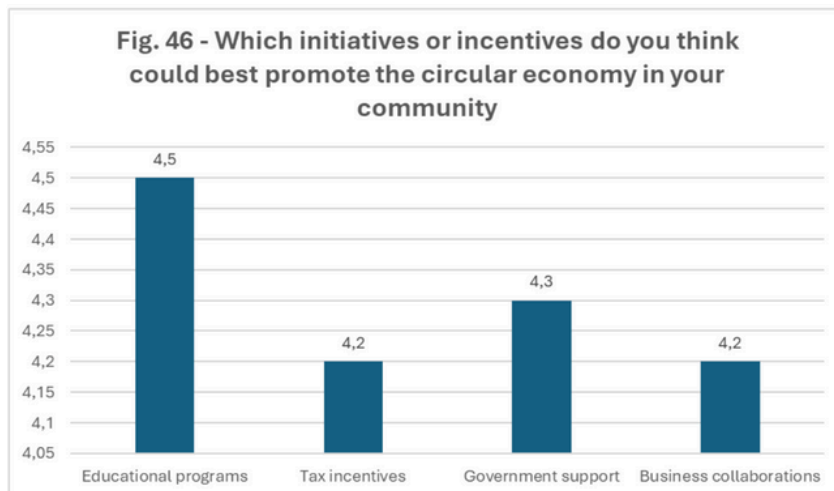
Citizens show common behaviors related to the circular economy, such as recycling waste (4.4), reusing products (4.2) and repairing items (4.0) (Figure 44). However, less widespread practices such as buying second-hand products (3.0) require additional incentives and awareness. The score of 3.7 for “think before you buy” shows moderate awareness about responsible consumption.



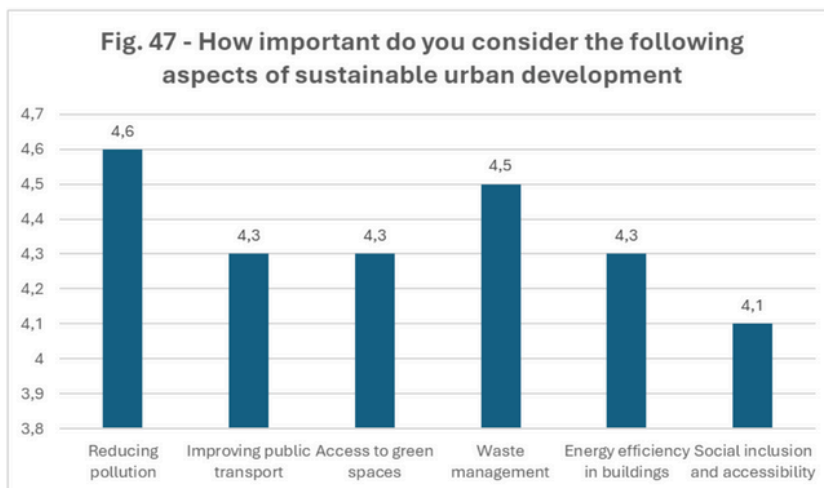
However, the main barriers to adopting circular economy practices include lack of information and interest (3.9 each), followed by lack of infrastructure (3.8) and high costs (3.4) (**Figure 45**). Improving access to information and investing in dedicated infrastructure could facilitate the implementation of these practices.



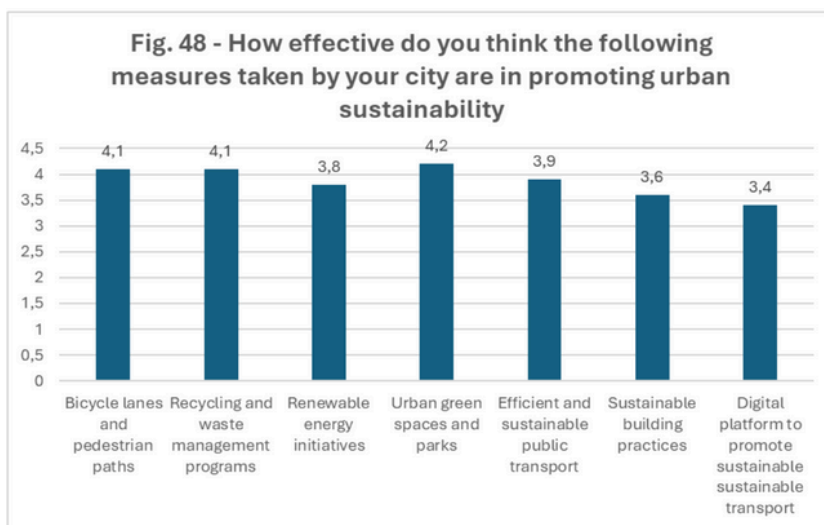
In terms of the initiatives considered most effective, Spanish citizens attach great importance to educational programs (4.5) and government support (4.3), followed by tax incentives and corporate partnerships (both with 4.2) (**Figure 46**). These results underscore the importance of combined public-private sector interventions to foster the adoption of circular practices.



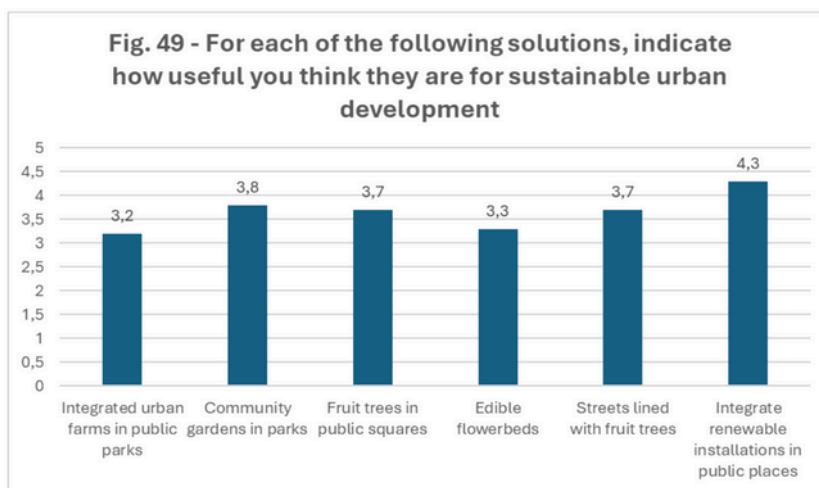
Pollution reduction is considered the most important priority of sustainable urban development (4.6), followed by waste management (4.5) and access to green spaces (4.3) (figure 47). However, issues such as social inclusion and accessibility get lower scores (4.1), indicating a limited perception of the importance of social dimensions over environmental ones.



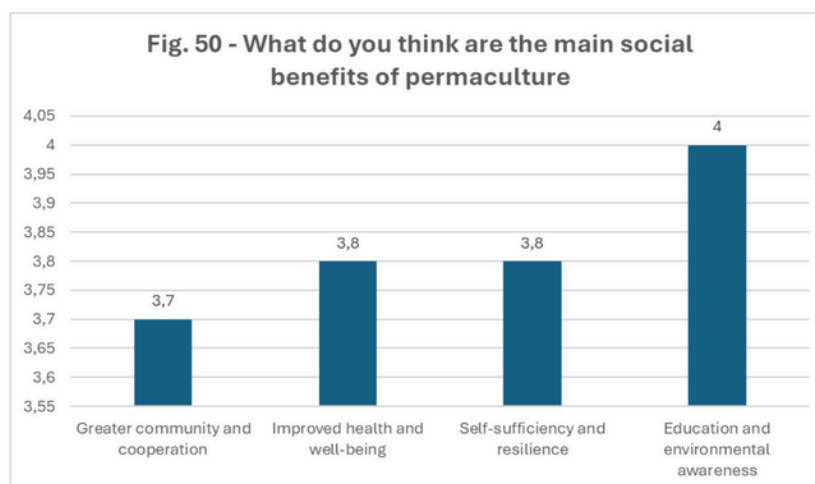
However, among measures to promote urban sustainability, urban green spaces (4.2) and waste management programs (4.1) are considered the most effective. Initiatives such as renewable energy (3.8) and digital platforms for sustainable transportation (3.4) are perceived less favorably (Figure 48). These data suggest a preference for tangible solutions over technological ones, underscoring the need to improve the visibility and perception of their effectiveness.



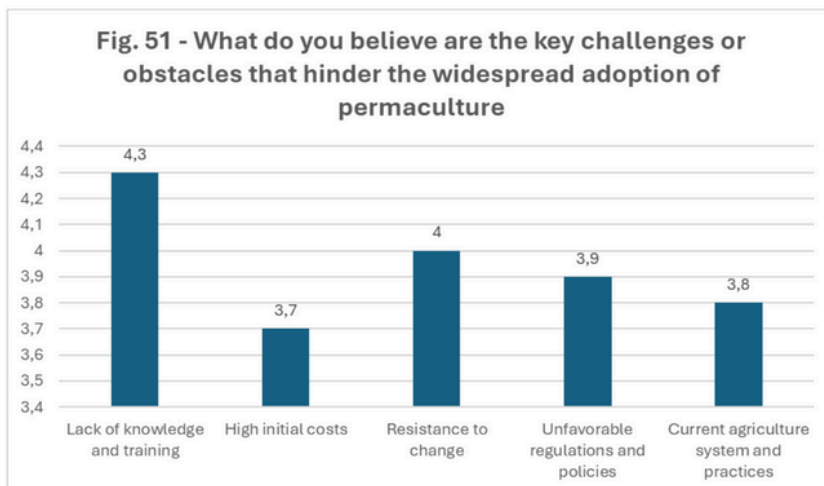
Among sustainable urban development solutions, the integration of renewable installations in public spaces is seen as the most useful (4.3), followed by community gardens (3.8) and fruit trees in squares (3.7) (**figure 49**). Initiatives such as edible flower beds (3.3) are less appreciated, highlighting the need to include educational elements to improve their acceptance.



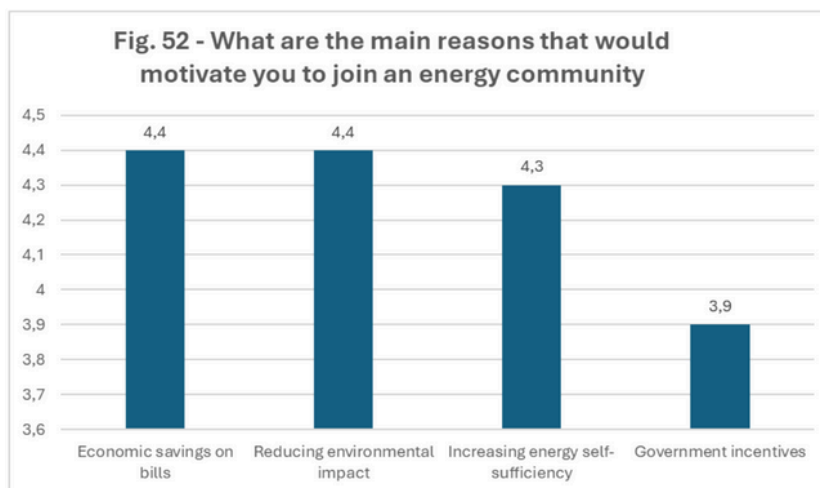
The main benefits of permaculture in Spain include environmental education and awareness (4.0), improved well-being and self-sufficiency (both 3.8) (**figure 50**). However, community cooperation is considered less significant (3.7), indicating the need for participatory projects that strengthen social



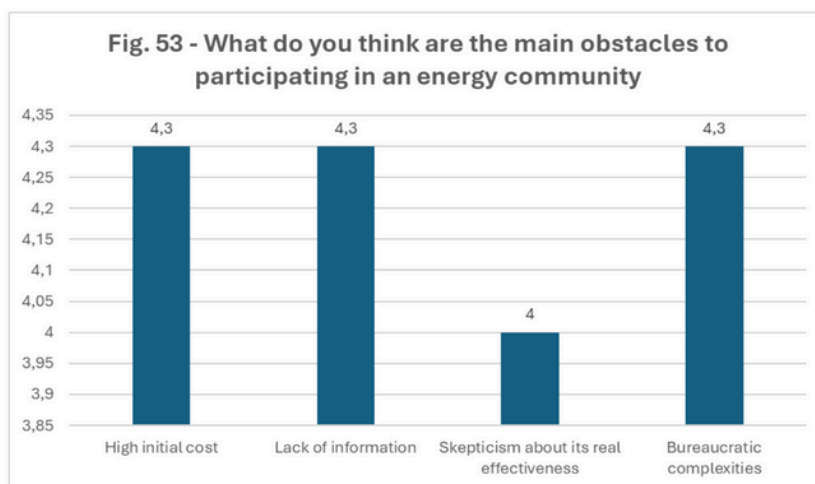
The main obstacles to permaculture diffusion include lack of specific knowledge (4.3) and resistance to change (4.0), followed by unfavorable regulations (3.9) and high initial costs (3.7) (**figure 51**). These data highlight the need for training programs, economic incentives and favorable policies to overcome regulatory and financial barriers.



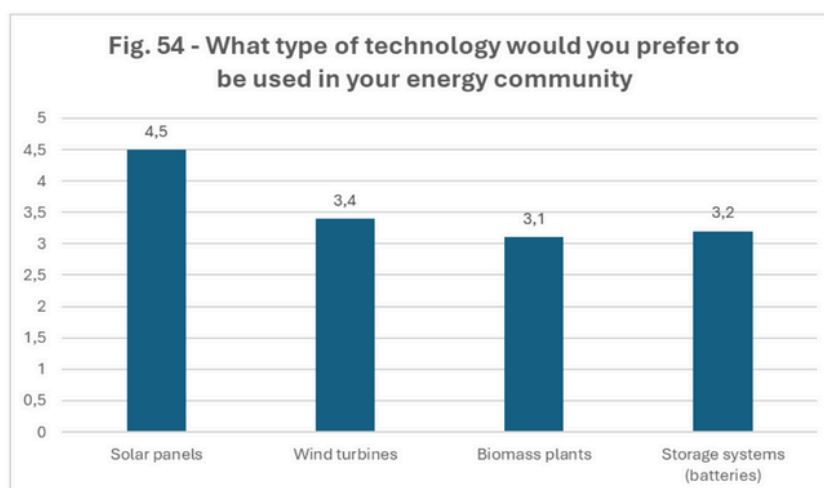
The main motivations for participating in an energy community are saving money on utility bills and reducing environmental impact (both 4.4), followed by increasing energy self-sufficiency (4.3) (**figure 52**). However, government incentives are considered less attractive (3.9), indicating that citizens are more motivated by concrete and immediate benefits.



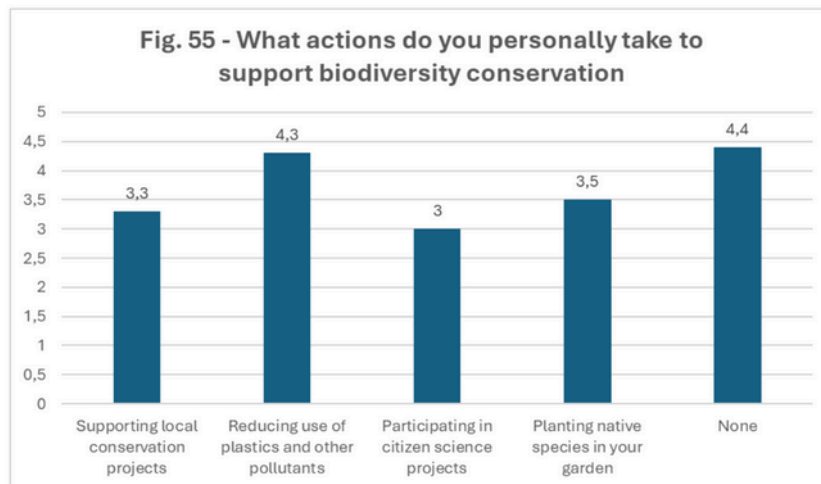
Among the main obstacles, lack of information, high initial costs and bureaucratic complexity get identical scores (4.3), followed by skepticism about the real effectiveness of energy communities (4.0) (**figure 53**). These data underscore the importance of simplifying administrative processes and providing accessible information to increase participation.



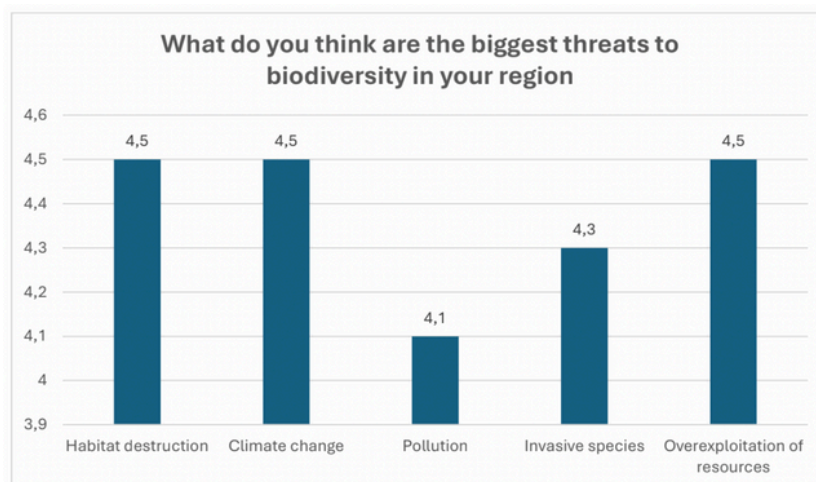
Finally, solar panels are the most preferred technology for energy communities (4.5), followed by energy storage systems (3.2) and wind turbines (3.4). Biomass systems receive the lowest score (3.1) (**Figure 54**). These results indicate a greater reliance on established technologies than lesser-known ones, suggesting the need for incentives and educational programs to promote the adoption of alternative solutions.



The most common personal actions to sustain biodiversity include reducing plastic use (4.3) and planting native species (3.5) (**figure 55**). However, a large percentage of citizens take no action (4.4), highlighting the need for initiatives that stimulate individual and collective participation.

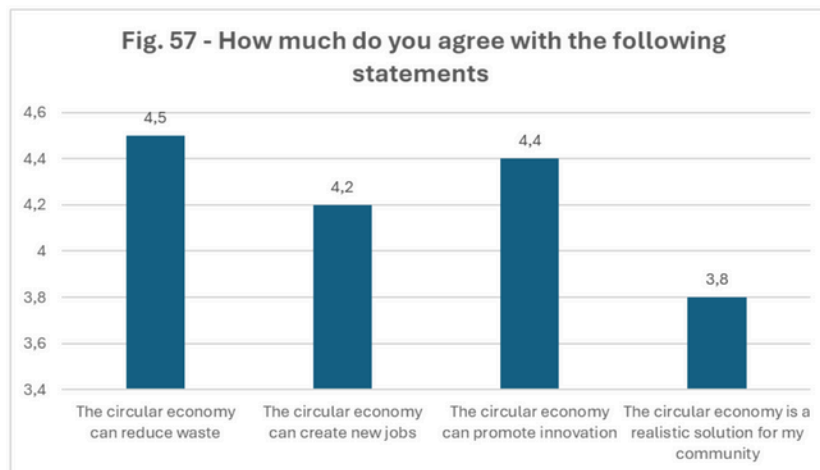


Finally, the main threats to biodiversity include habitat destruction, climate change and overexploitation of natural resources (all with 4.5), followed by pollution (4.1) (**figure 56**). These figures indicate a strong awareness of environmental issues, but also highlight the need for coordinated interventions to address these challenges in an integrated way.

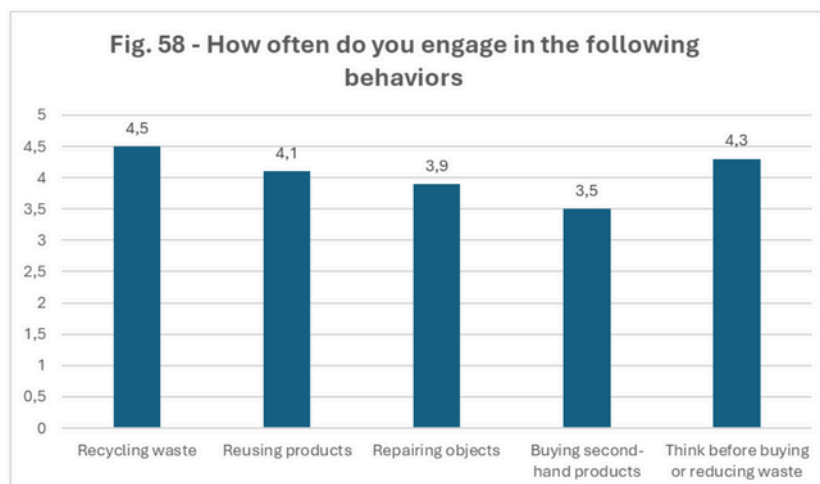


4.4 Italy

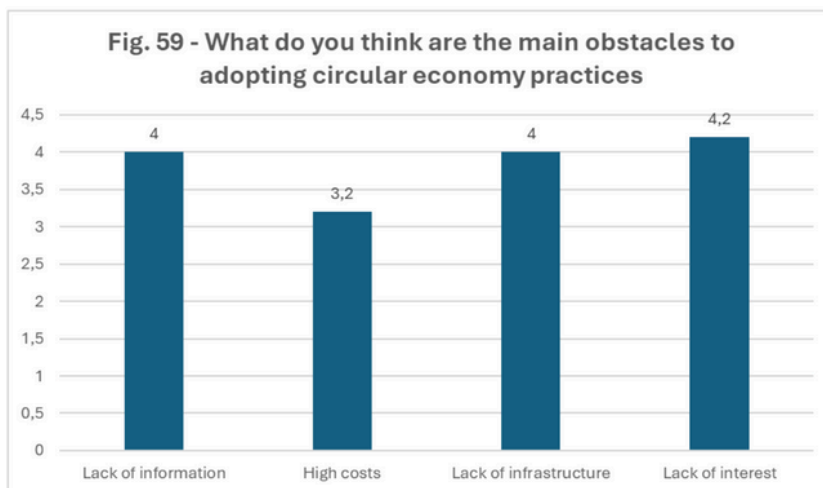
It clearly emerges that in Italy the circular economy is perceived as a key tool for addressing environmental challenges. Waste reduction gets the highest score (4.5), followed by promoting innovation (4.4), while the perception of practical application in local communities is lower (3.8). This suggests that despite the general appreciation, there are doubts about the practical feasibility of these practices at the local level (**Figure 57**).



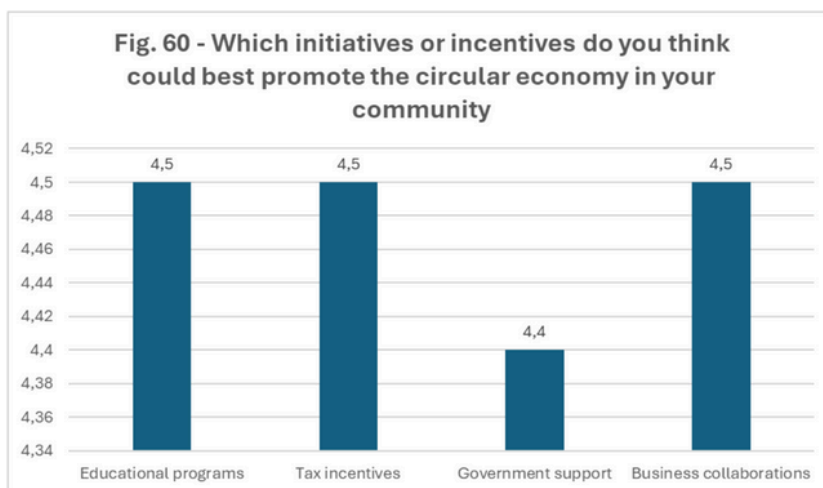
Waste recycling is the most popular circular economy-related behavior (4.5), followed by product reuse (4.1). However, practices such as repairing items (3.9) and buying second-hand products (3.5) are less common, indicating the need to further incentivize these habits through awareness campaigns and second-hand markets (**figure 58**).



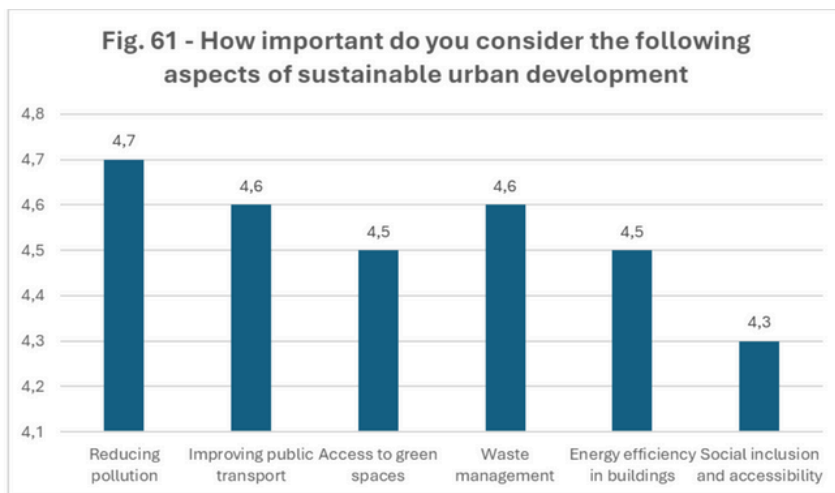
The main barriers to circular economy adoption include lack of interest (4.2), lack of adequate information and infrastructure (both with 4.0), while high costs are perceived as less significant (3.2). This highlights the need to fill information gaps and improve infrastructure to support the adoption of circular practices (**Figure 59**).



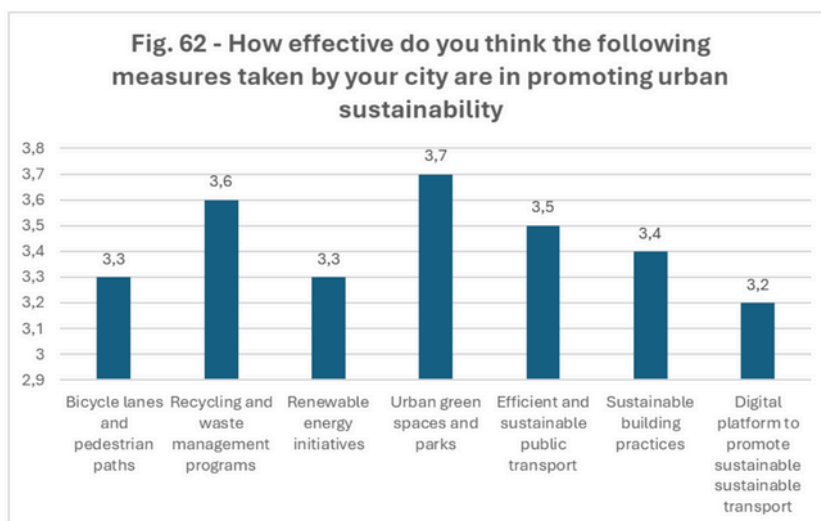
Among initiatives to promote the circular economy, educational programs, tax incentives and business partnerships receive the highest score (4.5), followed by government support (4.4). These results underscore the importance of an integrated approach that combines education, economic incentives and institutional support (**figure 60**).



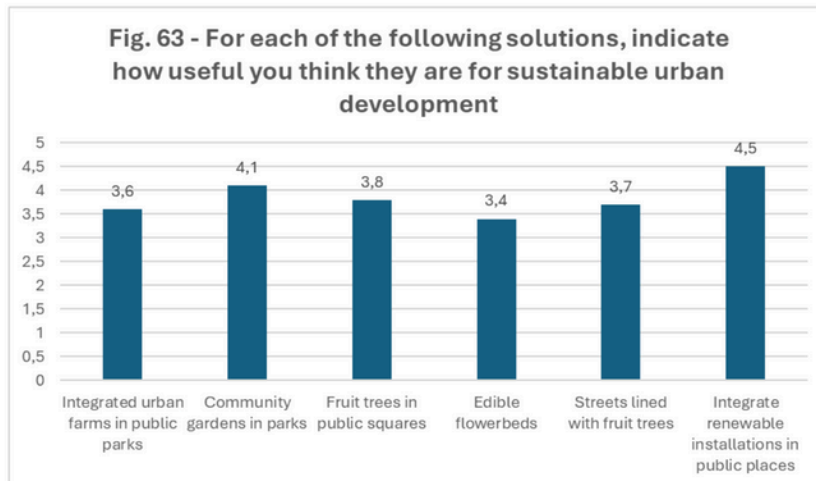
For sustainable urban development, reducing pollution is the top priority (4.7), followed by improving public transportation and waste management (both with 4.6). However, issues such as social inclusion and accessibility (4.3) appear less relevant, suggesting a greater focus on environmental issues than social ones (figure 61).



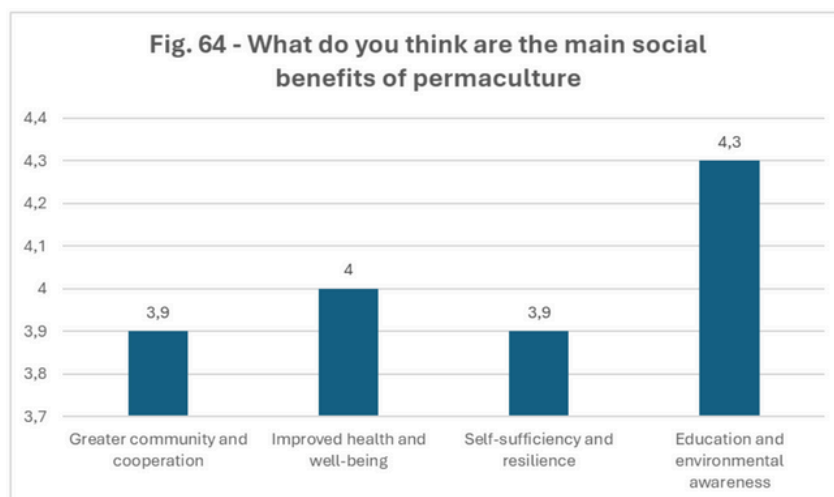
Measures perceived as most effective include urban green spaces (3.7) and waste management programs (3.6). In comparison, bicycle and pedestrian paths and renewable energy initiatives receive a score of 3.3, and digital platforms for sustainable transportation get the lowest score (3.2). These data indicate that citizens prefer traditional and visible solutions over technological ones (figure 62).



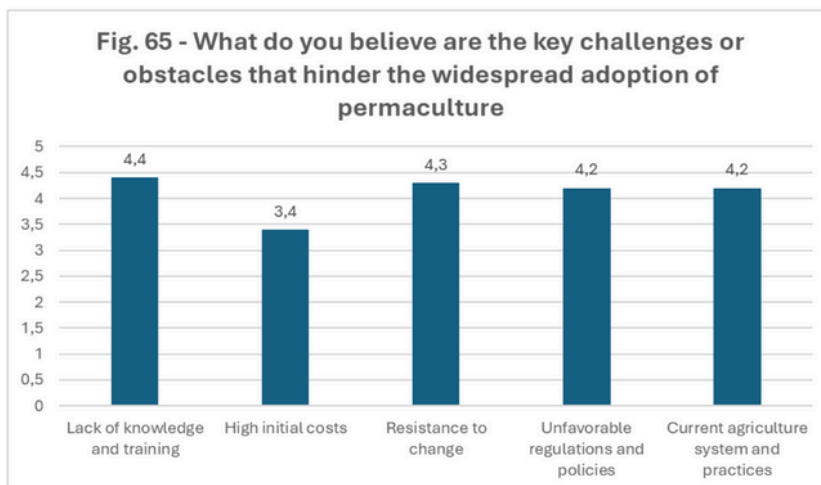
Integrating renewable installations in public spaces emerges as the most popular solution (4.5), followed by community gardens (4.1) and fruit trees in squares (3.8). In contrast, solutions such as edible flower beds (3.4) are perceived as less practical, suggesting the importance of combining concrete initiatives with educational programs (**figure 63**).



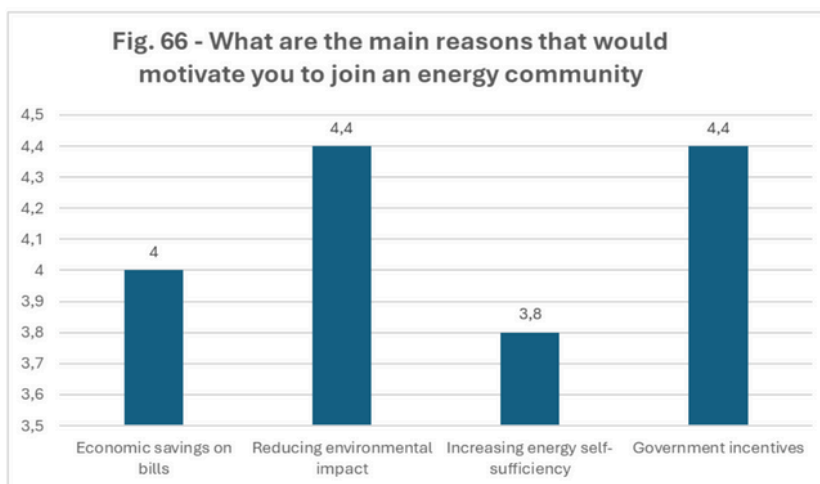
The main benefits of permaculture include environmental education and awareness (4.3) and improved well-being (4.0). Community cooperation and self-sufficiency receive a score of 3.9, showing moderate interest in these aspects. These results suggest that permaculture could be further promoted through participatory projects. (**figure 64**).



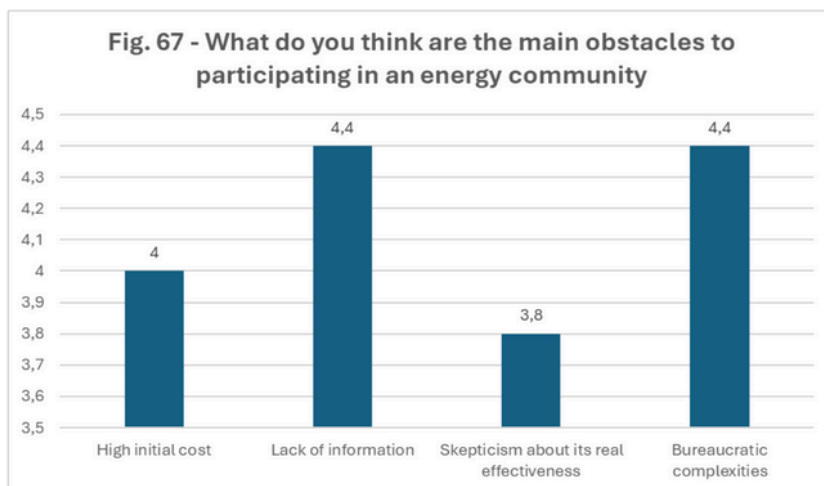
The main barriers to permaculture diffusion include lack of knowledge and training (4.4) and resistance to change (4.3). Unfavorable regulations and traditional farming practices are also significant barriers (4.2), while high initial costs (3.4) are less of an issue. These results highlight the need for policies that address regulatory and educational barriers (**Figure 65**).



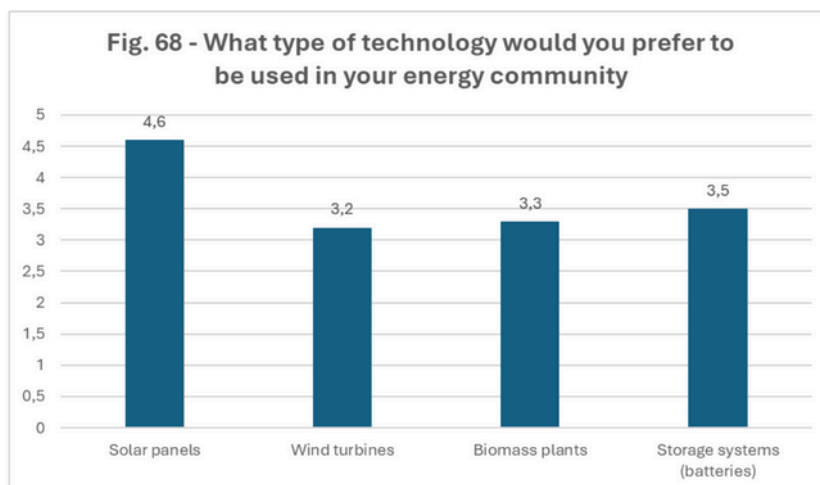
In energy communities, the main motivations include reducing environmental impact and government incentives (both with 4.4), followed by economic savings on utility bills (4.0) and energy self-sufficiency (3.8). These data underscore the importance of incentive policies to stimulate participation and to promote greater awareness of collective benefits (**figure 66**).



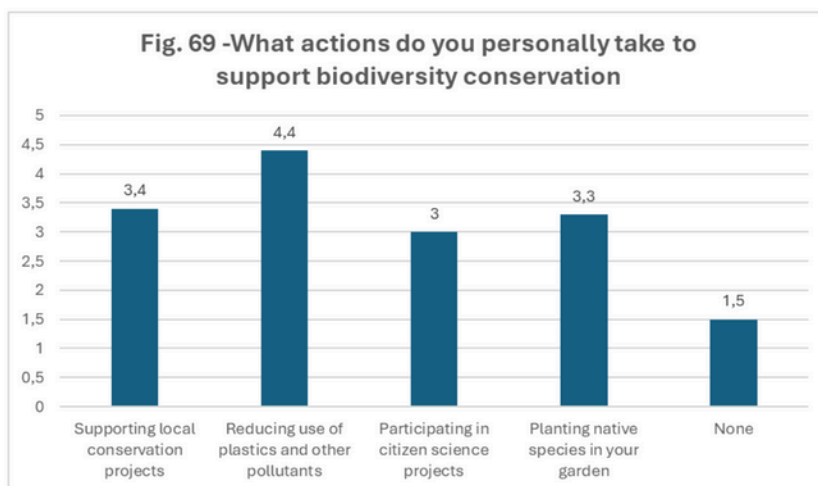
However, significant obstacles, such as lack of information, bureaucratic complexity (both with 4.4) and high costs (4.0), limit the spread of these initiatives. Skepticism about the actual effectiveness of energy communities is less prominent (3.8), but still requires attention (**Figure 67**).



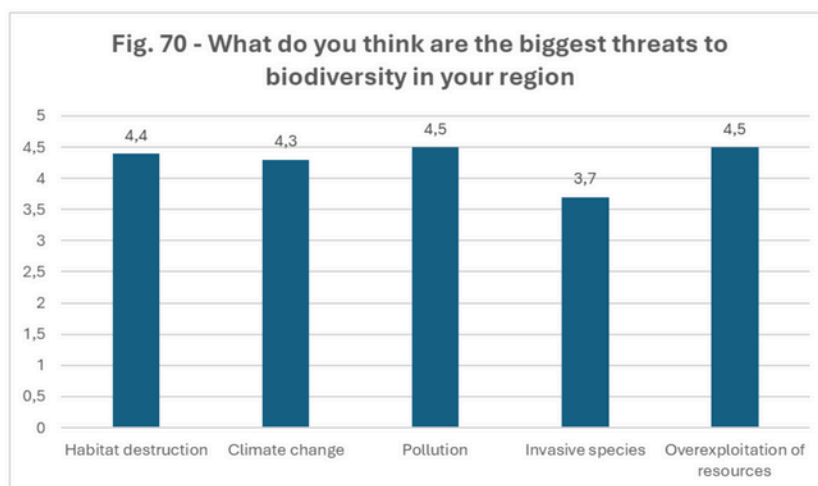
Solar panels are the preferred technology for energy communities, with a score of 4.6. Energy storage systems follow with a score of 3.5, while wind turbines and biomass plants get scores of 3.2 and 3.3, respectively. These figures reflect greater familiarity and confidence in solar panels than in other renewable technologies. (**figure 68**).



Regarding biodiversity conservation, reducing plastic use is the most common action (4.4), while other activities, such as supporting local projects or planting native species, receive lower scores (3.4 and 3.3). However, many citizens do not take any significant action, highlighting an urgent need for awareness raising (figure 69). Participation in citizen science projects or planting native species get lower scores (3.3 and 3.4).



Finally, the main threats to biodiversity include climate change, habitat destruction and overexploitation of resources (all with 4.5). Invasive species and pollution get slightly lower scores (3.7 and 4.3), but still represent significant concerns. These data reflect a clear awareness of environmental issues and the need for coordinated actions to address them (figure 70).



5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The analysis of the research results shows a broad awareness among European citizens of the importance of addressing climate change and sustainability challenges. However, significant differences emerge between countries in terms of priorities and obstacles, reflecting different local needs and infrastructural contexts. The data collected provide a clear picture of areas for action and opportunities to promote innovative solutions.

Regarding the circular economy, European citizens recognise the benefits of sustainable practices such as waste reduction and recycling, with high scores in all countries analysed. In Italy, Portugal and Greece, the graphs show strong support for these practices, with average values around 4.4 - 4.6. However, significant barriers emerge, including lack of information and initial costs, which are also widespread obstacles in Spain, as shown in Graphs 45 and 59. To overcome these difficulties, it is necessary to invest in educational campaigns and tax incentives, instruments that citizens themselves recognise as priorities to encourage the adoption of these practices.

Sustainable urban development is perceived as central to improving quality of life. Reducing pollution and the energy efficiency of buildings are priorities shared by all countries, with particularly high scores in Greece and Portugal, where average values of 4.7 and 4.8 are achieved. However, measures such as bicycle and pedestrian paths, while considered useful, receive average scores of 3.6, highlighting a common perception of limited effectiveness. In contrast, innovative measures such as the creation of urban gardens and the integration of renewable plants in public spaces are rated positively in Portugal and Italy, with average scores of around 4.2. These data suggest the need for more efforts to develop green infrastructure and improve sustainable transport.

Permaculture represents an interesting opportunity to strengthen environmental and social resilience, but evidence suggests that widespread understanding of the practice is lacking. Although the educational and community benefits are appreciated, with average scores of 4.0 - 4.4 in all countries, barriers such as lack of specialised knowledge and high initial costs hinder its diffusion. In particular, the graphs of Greece and Spain show that these barriers are perceived as significant, with values of 4.1 for lack of training. This underlines the importance of developing targeted educational programmes and providing financial support to stimulate permaculture adoption, especially in rural areas.

When it comes to energy communities, all topics received strong public interest, with solar panels and energy storage systems emerging as the preferred technologies in all partner countries. In Italy and Portugal, scores for solar panels reach 4.6. However, barriers such as bureaucratic complexity and high initial costs represent significant obstacles, highlighted in the graphs of Spain and Greece. To promote these initiatives, it is essential to streamline administrative procedures and offer economic incentives, while ensuring fair access to renewable technologies.

Finally, biodiversity is a cross-cutting priority for all Europeans, with average scores of 4.6 reflecting a strong awareness of the need to protect ecosystems and preserve species diversity. Threats such as climate change, habitat destruction and pollution are perceived as major problems in all countries. However, the most common personal actions, such as reducing the use of plastics and supporting local environmental conservation projects, are not yet sufficiently integrated with broader initiatives and are therefore still ineffective. It is therefore clear that it is crucial to expand habitat protection programmes and promote active citizen participation through participatory science projects.

In conclusion, interpreting all the research results together, it is evident that there is a strong public interest in environmental sustainability, which also underlines the urgency of addressing those barriers that limit the adoption of innovative practices necessary for the proper functioning of policies and best practices. Investing in environmental education, infrastructure and introducing new incentives aimed at sustainability and the environment are all essential practices for building a more sustainable and inclusive future for all European citizens.

6. Figures List

Figure 1 - How much do you agree with the following statements

Figure 2 - How often do you engage in the following behaviors

Figure 3 - What do you think are the main obstacles to adopting circular economy practices

Figure 4 - Which initiatives or incentives do you think could best promote the circular economy in your community

Figure 5 - How important do you consider the following aspects of sustainable urban development

Figure 6 - How effective do you think the following measures taken by your city are in promoting urban sustainability

Figure 7 - For each of the following solutions, indicate how useful you think they are for sustainable urban development

Figure 8 - What do you think are the main social benefits of permaculture

Figure 9 - What do you believe are the key challenges or obstacles that hinder the widespread adoption of permaculture

Figure 10 - What are the main reasons that would motivate you to join an energy community

Figure 11 - What do you think are the main obstacles to participating in an energy community

Figure 12 - What type of technology would you prefer to be used in your energy community

Figure 13 - What actions do you personally take to support biodiversity conservation

Figure 14 - What do you think are the biggest threats to biodiversity in your region

Figure 15 - How much do you agree with the following statements

Figure 16 - How often do you engage in the following behaviors

Figure 17 - What do you think are the main obstacles to adopting circular economy practices

Figure 18 - Which initiatives or incentives do you think could best promote the circular economy in your community

Figure 19 - How important do you consider the following aspects of sustainable urban development

Figure 20 - How effective do you think the following measures taken by your city are in promoting urban sustainability

Figure 21 - For each of the following solutions, indicate how useful you think they are for sustainable urban development

Figure 22 - What do you think are the main social benefits of permaculture

Figure 23 - What do you believe are the key challenges or obstacles that hinder the widespread adoption of permaculture

Figure 24 - What are the main reasons that would motivate you to join an energy community

Figure 25 - What do you think are the main obstacles to participating in an energy community

- Figure 26** - What type of technology would you prefer to be used in your energy community
- Figure 27** - What actions do you personally take to support biodiversity conservation
- Figure 28** - What do you think are the biggest threats to biodiversity in your region
- Figure 29** - How much do you agree with the following statements
- Figure 30** - How often do you engage in the following behaviors
- Figure 31** - What do you think are the main obstacles to adopting circular economy practices
- Figure 32** - Which initiatives or incentives do you think could best promote the circular economy in your community
- Figure 33** - How important do you consider the following aspects of sustainable urban development
- Figure 34** - How effective do you think the following measures taken by your city are in promoting urban sustainability
- Figure 35** - For each of the following solutions, indicate how useful you think they are for sustainable urban development
- Figure 36** - What do you think are the main social benefits of permaculture
- Figure 37** - What do you believe are the key challenges or obstacles that hinder the widespread adoption of permaculture
- Figure 38** - What are the main reasons that would motivate you to join an energy community
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Figure 69 - What actions do you personally take to support biodiversity conservation

Figure 70 - What do you think are the biggest threats to biodiversity in your region

7. Appendix Survey

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

1. How would you describe your knowledge of the circular economy?

- I am very well acquainted with the circular economy
- I am informed about circular economy topics
- I have only heard about it
- This is the first time I hear about it

2. How important do you consider the circular economy for a sustainable future?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Quite important
- Slightly important
- Not important at all

3. How much do you agree with the following statements (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 strongly agree)?

- The circular economy can reduce waste
- The circular economy can create new jobs
- The circular economy can promote innovation
- The circular economy is a realistic solution for my community

4. How often do you engage in the following behaviors (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates never and 5 indicates often)?

- Recycling waste
- Reusing products
- Repairing objects
- Buying second-hand products
- Think before buying or reducing waste
- Other

5. What do you think are the main obstacles to adopting circular economy practices (Use a scale from

1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 indicates the most relevant)?

- Lack of information
- High costs
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of interest
- Other

6. Which initiatives or incentives do you think could best promote the circular economy in your

community (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 indicates the most relevant)?

- Educational programs
- Tax incentives
- Government support
- Business collaborations
- Other

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. How important do you consider the following aspects of sustainable urban development (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least important and 5 indicates the most important)?

- Reducing pollution
- Improving public transport
- Access to green spaces
- Waste management
- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Social inclusion and accessibility
- Other

2. How effective do you think the following measures taken by your city are in promoting urban sustainability (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates not effective at all and 5 indicates completely effective)?

- Bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths
- Recycling and waste management programs
- Renewable energy initiatives
- Urban green spaces and parks
- Efficient and sustainable public transport
- Sustainable building practices
- Digital platform to promote sustainable sustainable transport
- Other

3. For each of the following solutions, indicate how useful you think they are for sustainable urban development (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not useful at all and 5 is completely useful)?

- Integrated urban farms in public parks
- Community gardens in parks
- Fruit trees in public squares
- Edible flowerbeds
- Streets lined with fruit trees
- Integrate renewable installations in public places

PERMACULTURE

1. Do you have any knowledge about Permaculture?

- Yes, I am very knowledgeable about permaculture.
- Yes, I have a good knowledge of permaculture.
- Yes, I have a basic knowledge of permaculture.
- I have heard of it, but I don't have in-depth knowledge.
- No, I do not know about permaculture.

2. Do you think permaculture can significantly contribute to reducing environmental impact?

- Absolutely yes
- Yes, partly
- Not much
- Not at all

3. How willing would you be to adopt permaculture practices in your daily life?

- Completely willing
- Very willing
- Fairly willing
- Slightly willing
- Not willing at all

4. What do you think are the main social benefits of permaculture (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 the most relevant)?

- Greater community and cooperation
- Improved health and well-being
- Self-sufficiency and resilience
- Education and environmental awareness

5. What do you believe are the key challenges or obstacles that hinder the widespread adoption of permaculture (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 the most relevant)?

- Lack of knowledge and training
- High initial costs
- Resistance to change
- Unfavorable regulations and policies
- Current agriculture system and practices

ENERGY COMMUNITIES

1. How aware are you of energy communities and their benefits?

- Not at all
- Little
- Fairly well
- Very well

2. Would you be interested in participating in an energy community in your area?

- Yes, very interested
- Yes, moderately interested
- Not sure
- No, not interested

3. What are the main reasons that would motivate you to join an energy community (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 the most relevant)?

- Economic savings on bills
- Reducing environmental impact
- Increasing energy self-sufficiency
- Government incentives
- Other

4. What do you think are the main obstacles to participating in an energy community (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 the most relevant)?

- High initial cost
- Lack of information
- Skepticism about its real effectiveness
- Bureaucratic complexities
- Other

5. What type of technology would you prefer to be used in your energy community (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 the most relevant)?

- Solar panels
- Wind turbines
- Biomass plants
- Storage systems (batteries)
- Other

BIODIVERSITY

1. How would you rate your level of knowledge about biodiversity?

- Very knowledgeable
- Knowledgeable
- Somewhat knowledgeable
- Little knowledge
- No knowledge

2. How important do you consider biodiversity for the health of the planet?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Moderately important
- Slightly important
- Not important at all

3. How much do you agree with the following statement: "Protecting biodiversity is essential for human well-being"?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. What actions do you personally take to support biodiversity conservation (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates never and 5 indicates often)?

- Supporting local conservation projects
- Reducing use of plastics and other pollutants
- Participating in citizen science projects
- Planting native species in your garden
- Other:
- None

5. What do you think are the biggest threats to biodiversity in your region (Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the least relevant and 5 the most relevant)?

- Habitat destruction
- Climate change
- Pollution
- Invasive species
- Overexploitation of resources
- Other: