Climate Policy Survey for CCPI 2023

Please evaluate the national and international performance of your country. The national performance is composed out of a country's policy performance in six categories: **GHG Emissions, Energy Supply and Renewable Energy, Energy Use, Future Targets – NDC, Fossil Fuel Extraction and Infrastructure** and **Non-Energy Sectors**. For each category, we ask for the evaluation of specific policies/targets. If a specific policy is not implemented in your country, please indicate by making your cross at "No policy in place".

Please make sure that you fill in the **overall performance** for each category, as they are most essential for the calculation of the results.

The **comment boxes** below each category leave room for highlighting the **most important features of respective policy frameworks, shortcomings & concrete action points.**

Please input your answers directly in the Word file, save it, and return it to **Thea Uhlich** (uhlich@germanwatch.org) or **Jan Burck** (burck@germanwatch.org).

Thank you very much for your input! Your contribution is extremely valuable to our work!

Disclaimer EU-countries: We are aware that some of the policies in this questionnaire are regulated by EU-level legislations. If existing, please refer to national legislation; if there are "only" EU-level policies in place please evaluate their implementation ("strength of policy" and "level of implementation") in your country.

National Performance Category 1: GHG Emissions Reduction						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**No policy in place**
Long-term low GHG emission development strategy (LTS - 2050)						
Strength of policy	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Plan to phase out fossil fuel subsidies						
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Carbon price signal *(e.g. emissions trading scheme/carbon tax)*						
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	

[1 = weak, 2 = rather weak, 3 = medium, 4= rather strong, 5 = strong]

Overall performance: GHG emission reduction										
Overall grade	very low		low		medium		high		very high	
	☒ **1**	☐ **2**	☐ **3**	☐ **4**	☐ **5**	☐ **6**	☐ **7**	☐ **8**	☐ **9**	☐ **10**

Comments: GHG Emissions Reduction	
Key features & strength of policy framework	The aims and principles described in the Hungarian LTS are excellent.

Main shortcomings of policy framework	The part on implementation is very general and vague. Very important measures are missing. On the basis of the current LTS, meaningful actions to achieve the climate goals are impossible.
Concrete action points	The concrete action points can be summarized as follows: More money should be spent for climate-friendly activities.

National Performance Category 2: Energy Supply and Renewable Energy						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**No policy in place**
Coal phase out						
Strength of policy	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Gas phase out						
Strength of policy	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Oil phase out						
Strength of policy	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Support schemes for RE in the electricity sector *(e.g. green certificates, fiscal/financial incentives like feed-in tariffs and auctioning, obligation schemes, net metering or direct investment)*						
Strength of policy	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
Support schemes for sustainable biofuels *(e.g. fiscal/financial incentives and obligation schemes)*						
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	

[1 = weak, 2 = rather weak, 3 = medium, 4= rather strong, 5 = strong]

Overall performance: Energy supply and Renewable Energy										
Overall grade	very low		low		medium		high		very high	
	☐ **1**	☐ **2**	☒ **3**	☐ **4**	☐ **5**	☐ **6**	☐ **7**	☐ **8**	☐ **9**	☐ **10**

Comments: Energy Supply and Renewable Energy	
Key features & strength of policy framework	The most important strength is that at least there is a Hungarian renewable energy policy on paper (in NECP, LTS, etc.). The installation and use of solar panels is booming, their total capacity is more than 3000 MW while the total capacity of all other Hungarian power plants is about 7000 MW. (However, one has to take into account the strongly limited number of hours when solar panels produce with full capacity.)
Main shortcomings of policy framework	According to the NECP, in 2030, more than 90% of the renewable energy sources will be “bio”: biomass, biogas, and biofuels, and this share will only slightly decrease by 2040. The overwhelming majority of the “bio” will be biomass, predominantly wood. Much more use of biomass is foreseen than the actually available biomass in Hungary.

	Moreover, wood is not a renewable energy: it can be burned in a few minutes but the ”renewal” usually takes a decade or even several decades while ghg emission reduction must take place now. Moreover, wood burning (especially in households) emits an enormous amount of black carbon which is an extremely strong climate polluter. (It heats the atmosphere 500,000 times more intensely than CO2, per unit of mass during the one week it usually stays in the atmosphere. After that, settling on ice or snow, it greatly accelerates their melting.) In August 2022, the Hungarian government adopted a new decree which permits the clearcutting of forests even in protected areas! The cutting of trees and elimination of green areas has also continued in cities. The installation of new wind turbines is practically forbidden. The use of geothermal energy and small hydro power is extremely low in comparison with their potential. Waste incineration in power plants is also considered as renewable energy, which is to be doubted. Waste burning in households is illegal, but it is tolerated and extremely widespread. It emits up to 40 times more black carbon than wood burning per unit of weight.
Concrete action points	The Hungarian government abolished the price cap on gas and electricity for households which consume above a certain level. This will certainly result in the reduction of energy use but there are already many signs that this will also result in more people burning wood, coal (especially lignite), and even waste.
Are there any human rights violations regarding the expansion of renewable energy or does the expansion of renewable energy pose any severe threats to food security in your country? Which ones?	There are gross human rights violations: 1) Wood burning emits an enormous amount of substances harmful for the human health. 2) Wood burning is often accompanied by household waste burning, and the fumes from waste burning can be several thousand times more toxic than those of wood burning. 3) There is an enormous political discrimination (which is illegal according to EU and Hungarian law) against environmental NGOs which means, among others, that the information provided by them on the problems of household heating and possible is not published in the overwhelming majority of the media. (The overwhelming majority of the media is under strict government control which in itself is a violation of human rights, i.e. freedom of speech.) The expansion of renewable energy might pose a serious threat to food security in the near future: 1) Due to the effects of climate change (especially widespread draught) and environmental degradation, Hungarian agriculture can produce much less and in a lower quality than in the previous years. 2) The above factors have already contributed (together with the energy crisis) to a substantial increase in food prices. 3) The above-mentioned new regulation permitting the clearcutting of forests might also detrimentally influence agricultural production (among others, by disrupting the soil’s water balance).

di

National Performance Category 3: Energy Use						
	1	2	3	4	5	No policy in place
Transport						
Overarching policies: low-carbon infrastructure strategy for the transport sector *(e.g. urban planning and infrastructure investment to minimize transport needs, modal split long-term vision, strategy for emissions reduction in good transport)*						
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Specific policies *(e.g. minimum energy/emissions performance standards or support for energy efficient for light and heavy duty vehicles, e-mobility programs)*						
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Industry						
Measures to achieve best available technology benchmark standards with appropriate public support (voluntary approaches, fiscal/financial incentives, obligation schemes, etc). *(This can include (a) setting and enforcing of environmental standards to prevent pollution, ecosphere destruction and emission of non-CO2-GHG (b) measures for energy efficiency, including minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and support for energy efficiency in industrial production)*						
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
National roadmap for industrial defossilisation and climate neutrality (industrial deep decarbonisation) with appropriate public support (voluntary approaches, fiscal/financial incentives, obligation schemes, etc). *(This can include (a) circular economy and shift to secondary materials (b) carbon management (c) deep decarbonisation including electrification, feedstock switches and defossilisation, demanding low carbon breakthrough technologies (d) systemic integration of industrial processes to support the overall demestic energy transition (e) build-up of required infrastructure like power grid extention and pipelines for H2, CO2 etc.)*						
Strength of policy	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Buildings						
Energy/emissions performance standards for buildings						
Strength of policy	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Minimum energy performance standards for appliances						
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	

[1 = weak, 2 = rather weak, 3 = medium, 4= rather strong, 5 = strong]

Overall performance: Energy Use										
Overall grade	very low		low		medium		high		very high	
	☒ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7	☐ 8	☐ 9	☐ 10

Comments: Energy Use	
Key features & strength of policy framework	There is an NECP, Climate Change Strategy, Energy Strategy, Transport Strategy and LTS which mostly set the right targets and correct policy measures.

Main shortcomings of policy framework	The provisions of the strategies are not suitable for concrete actions. The NECP envisages a 30% increase (sic) in transport emissions between 2020 and 2030. The NECP also envisages substantial increase in industrial emissions. The NECP has no forecast for the emissions from buildings. (In principle, it should decrease substantially according to the ESR: the total emission reduction target for ESR for Hungary is 18.7% by 2030 in comparison with 2005. If the emission in other sectors will substantially increase, then the emission from buildings must decrease much more than 18.7%.)
Concrete action points	The government put a price cap on transport fuels between November 2021 and December 2022 (480 HUF instead of the market price which has varied between somewhat less than 700 HUF and more than 800 HUF). This has led to a 14% increase of fuel consumption in the first half of 2022 in comparison with the same period of the previous year – despite the fact that the food and other price increases already put a serious burden on the budget of households. At the same time, local governments (especially in Budapest) are struggling to maintain public transport services as the national government has taken away a lot of money from them. On the positive side, air travel ticket tax was introduced (although rather moderate), and the reconstruction of railway lines and replacement of the old railway rolling stock has continued. There is some EU funding available for energy efficiency improvements in industry, but the resulting ghg emission reduction is almost negligible. Moreover, the Hungarian government has approved and has substantially subsidised and plans to subsidise new highly energy-intensive industries: car manufacturing, battery manufacturing, etc. According to the Head of the Hungarian Energy Office, these investments might require nearly 50% increase of the electric energy production capacity of Hungary in the coming years! There is very little support for improving the energy efficiency of buildings. At the same time, the government has continued to support the construction of new homes without any energy efficiency requirements. Moreover, many of these new homes are being built outside of cities, contributing to urban sprawl. A lot of new constructions have been financed partly or completely with public money which have increased energy use and often had no sense economically (the construction of stadiums, new hotels, underused roads, etc.). Corruption has been practically the only reason behind these constructions. Due to the energy crisis, many new investments are planned to be postponed which might contribute to a decrease (or at least slower increase) of ghg emissions.

National Performance Category 4: NDCs - Future Targets 2030						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**No target in place**
Emissions reduction target						
Compatibility with well below 2°C/1.5°C	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Ambition in relation to the country's capacity	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Renewable energy target						
Compatibility with well below 2°C/1.5°C	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

Ambition in relation to the country's capacity	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
Level of implementation	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
Energy use target						
Compatibility with well below 2°C/1.5°C	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ambition in relation to the country's capacity	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	

[1 = weak, 2 = rather weak, 3 = medium, 4= rather strong, 5 = strong]

Overall performance: Future targets										
Overall grade	very low		low		medium		high		very high	
	☒ **1**	☐ **2**	☐ **3**	☐ **4**	☐ **5**	☐ **6**	☐ **7**	☐ **8**	☐ **9**	☐ **10**

Future target enhancement	**Yes**	**No**	**Under discussion**	**Already submitted**
Commitment to submit updated/ enhanced NDC pre-COP27?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Participatory stakeholder consultation for NDC enhancement process in place?	☐	☒	☐	
Net-zero target in place	☒	☐	☐	☐
Comments: NDCs – Future targets 2030 – Net-Zero target				
As practice has proven, the targets laid down in various strategies don't mean anything for the government. Almost nothing has been done for their implementation. Just to the contrary, many measures have been taken which increase ghg emissions and make adaptation much more difficult.				

National Performance Category 5: Non-Energy Sectors						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**No policy in place**
Forestry						
Incentives to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and support schemes for afforestation						
Relevance for country	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
Strength of policy framework	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Peat lands						
Incentives or regulation to limit peat cutting						
Relevance for country	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	
Strength of policy framework	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Agriculture						
Standards and support for sustainable agricultural practices						
Relevance for country	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
Strength of policy framework	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	

[1 = weak, 2 = rather weak, 3 = medium, 4= rather strong, 5 = strong]

Overall performance: Non-Energy Sectors

Overall grade	very low		low		medium		high		very high	
	☒ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7	☐ 8	☐ 9	☐ 10

Comments: Non-Energy Sectors	
Key features & strength of policy framework	In 2012, an excellent National Strategy for Rural development was adopted.
Main shortcomings of policy framework	No implementation.
Concrete action points	In practice, the government has done just the opposite of what was in the strategy. Most of the EU and national public money spent on agriculture supported environmentally harmful activities.

National Performance Category 6: Fossil Fuel Extraction and Infrastructure						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**No policy in place**
Bans and phase out of fossil fuel extraction						
Relevance for country	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fossil Fuel Subsidies for fossil fuel production						
Relevance for country	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Commitment to stop expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure						
Relevance for country	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strength of policy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of implementation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

[1 = weak, 2 = rather weak, 3 = medium, 4= rather strong, 5 = strong]

Overall performance: Fossil Fuel Extraction and Infrastructure										
Overall grade	very low		low		medium		high		very high	
	☒ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7	☐ 8	☐ 9	☐ 10

Comments: Fossil Fuel Extraction and Infrastructure	
Key features & strength of policy framework	On 1 August 2022, the Hungarian government announced an “energy emergency action plan”.
Main shortcomings of policy framework	The plan includes, among others:

	– Reduction of the state-fixed cap on household gas and electricity prices. (This will certainly result in a substantially increased use of solid fuels.) – Increasing the domestic production of lignite within an immediate deadline. – Ensuring that all (lignite) units of the Mátra power (Hungary's biggest fossil fuel power plant, responsible for more than 10% of Hungary's CO2 emissions) are brought back into production and that production is continuous. – Increasing the domestic production of fossil gas (including unconventional) from 1.5 to 2 billion cubic metres per year. – Extend the operating life of the Paks nuclear power plant. (Besides the construction of a new nuclear power plant.)
Concrete action points	

International Performance						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**No participation**
Performance in international negotiations and fora						
UNFCCC	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other international processes *(e.g. G7, G20)*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Non-formal negotiations / frontrunner - climate diplomacy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
International climate initiatives (e.g. Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, Global Methane Pledge, …)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

[1 = weak, 2 = rather weak, 3 = medium, 4= rather strong, 5 = strong]

Member states performance in EU-negotiations*	Blocker	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐ Frontrunner

* Only fill in, if your country is part of the EU

Overall performance: International performance										
Overall grade	very low		low		medium		high		very high	
	☒ **1**	☐ **2**	☐ **3**	☐ **4**	☐ **5**	☐ **6**	☐ **7**	☐ **8**	☐ **9**	☐ **10**

Comments: International Performance	
Progressive actions and positions	We do not know of any except for some nice speeches on the topic.

Regressive actions and positions	The Hungarian government has been regularly trying to undermine EU climate action.
Concrete action points	For example, the Hungarian government called for the suspension of the EU ETS.

Country profiles On our CCPI-Website we provide detailed country profiles. The related text puts the country specific CCPI results in a more detailed context with political action points, most disruptive politics and other relevant information.	
In a nutshell: What are the main demands for your country?	The CCPI national experts note a substantially decreased performance in the country's climate policy at the national level. They point to a wide gap between the mandatory EU target of reducing GHG emissions 55% by 2030, and a national target of a 40% reduction. In light of this, the experts call for greater ambition across all relevant policy areas. The most important measures they propose 1) Meaningful measures against corruption. 2) Effective nation-wide public awareness raising campaign on climate change and the necessary mitigation and adaptation measures. The campaign should be carried out in cooperation with independent European and Hungarian civil society organisations. 3) Elimination of environmentally harmful subsidies, internalisation of external costs with parallel monetary compensation for households. One of the first steps in this regard should be the elimination of the fuel price cap. 4) Abandonment of all planned investments which do not contribute to climate action and/or substantial improvement of public services (education, care, etc.). 5) Use of the surplus revenue and money saved due to the above measures for improving the energy efficiency of buildings (this is the most important!), environment-friendly transport, and environmental agriculture.
What is the main improvement of the last year?	No improvements.
Further important notes/developments	**EU funding to the Hungarian government has substantially contributed to the negative tendencies described above.**

Questions of Anonymity: Press Contact and Reference

Would you like to be…	
…mentioned as a press contact for your country in the CCPI press release?	☒ yes
…give a feedback on the country text draft?	☒ yes
…cited as a reference for your country's policy evaluation on our website and in the CCPI report?	☒ yes
If yes: In which way would you (and if applicable other colleagues that participated in the survey) like to be cited? Please provide name(s) and/or organisation	András Lukács, Clean Air Action Group (Hungary)