

Grassroots energy transformation.
The support is there, so why aren't
we moving forward?

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Amory Lovins - hard vs. soft energy path

„(...) the energy problem should be not how to expand supplies to meet the postulated extrapolative needs of a dynamic economy, but rather how to accomplish social goals elegantly with a minimum energy and effort (...)“

Amory Lovins, 1977



Amory Lovins - hard vs. soft energy path

- Hard energy path
 - Centralized energy production;
 - Reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear energy
 - Big players dominate the power sector and shape states' policies

Amory Lovins - hard vs. soft energy path

- Soft energy path
 - Distributed energy production close to the consumer;
 - Renewable sources of energy as a solution to the issues of energy security and environmental issues;
 - Power as the mean to a better life, not goal in itself;
 - Local production would empower power consumers by making them independent from the big energy companies

From theory to reality... 30 years later

- In Germany in 2012 there were:
 - 754 energy cooperatives
 - August 2012 – 1.223.000 PV plants in Germany installed
 - Average size of a PV plant – 20 kW
 - 75% of new PV-plants smaller than 10 kW (February 2014)
 - 89% of the society supports further energy transition despite rising energy prices

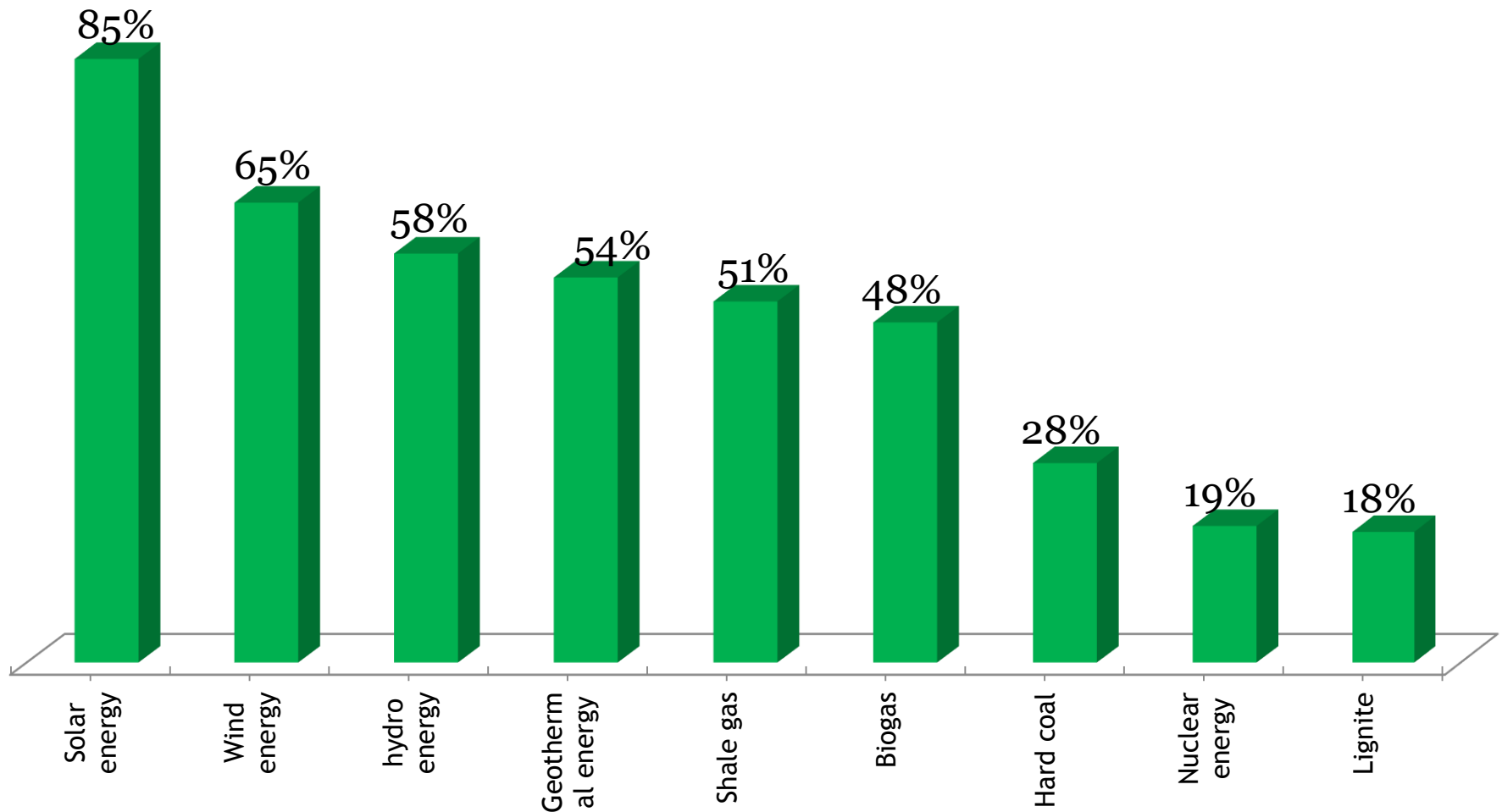
Meanwhile in Poland

- In most Eastern European Countries, including Poland, power market is dominated by state owned companies;
- „New renewables“ such as wind and solar are playing a very small role;
- Distributed power production is almost non existing;
- Close connections between the governments and the state owned energy companies lead to mismanagement of public money for the benefit of few.

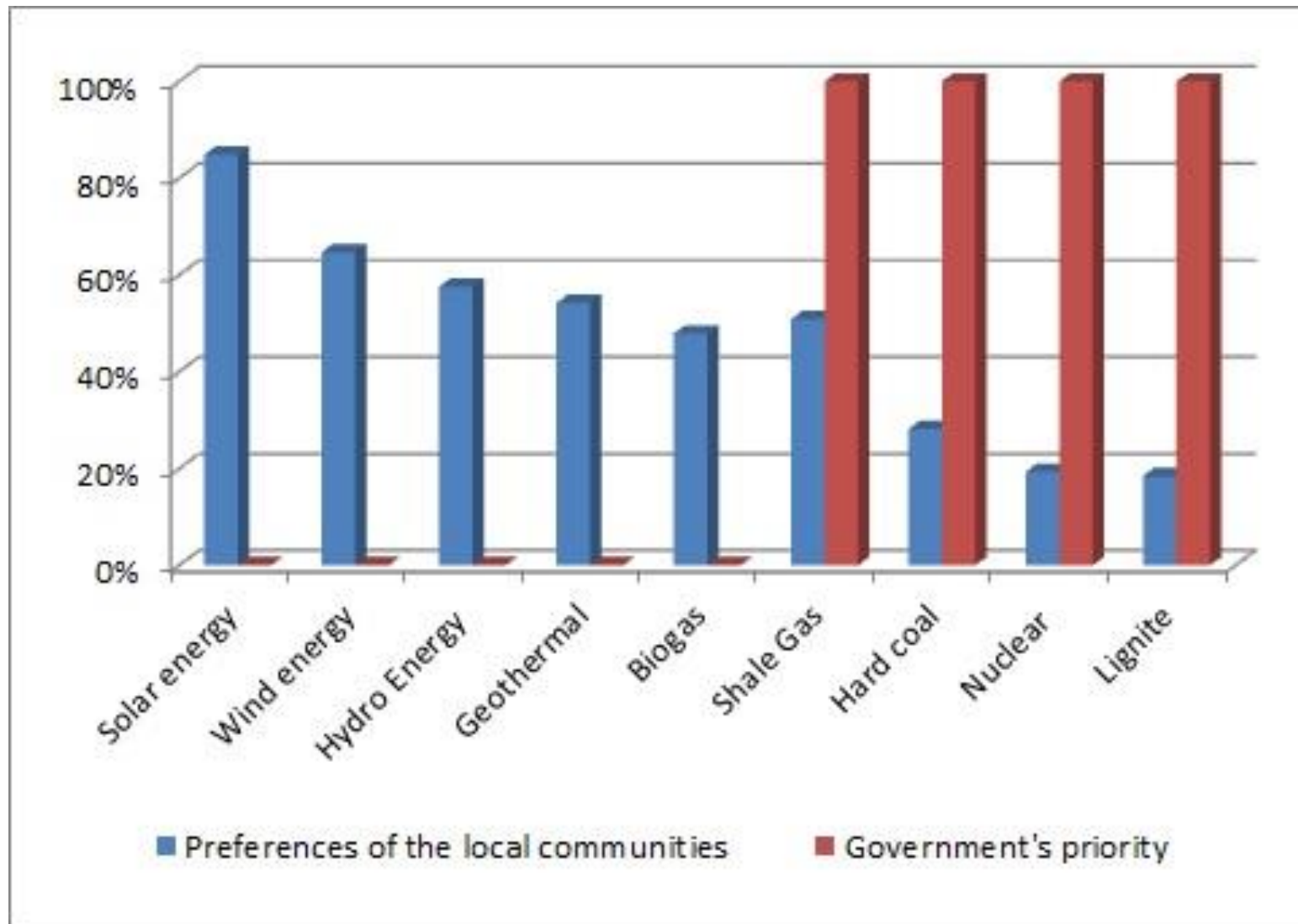
Support for renewable energy at the local level in Poland is very high

- Survey conducted by CBOS in 2013:
 - 89% of Poles would like to see more energy coming from renewable sources.
 - 16% purport that Poland should develop nuclear energy
- Homo Homini Institute
 - The best source of energy: wind 30%, PV 28%, Nuclear 7%.
- SW Research late 2013
 - According to 95% more energy should be retrieved from renewable energies.

What sources of energy should be supported in Poland?



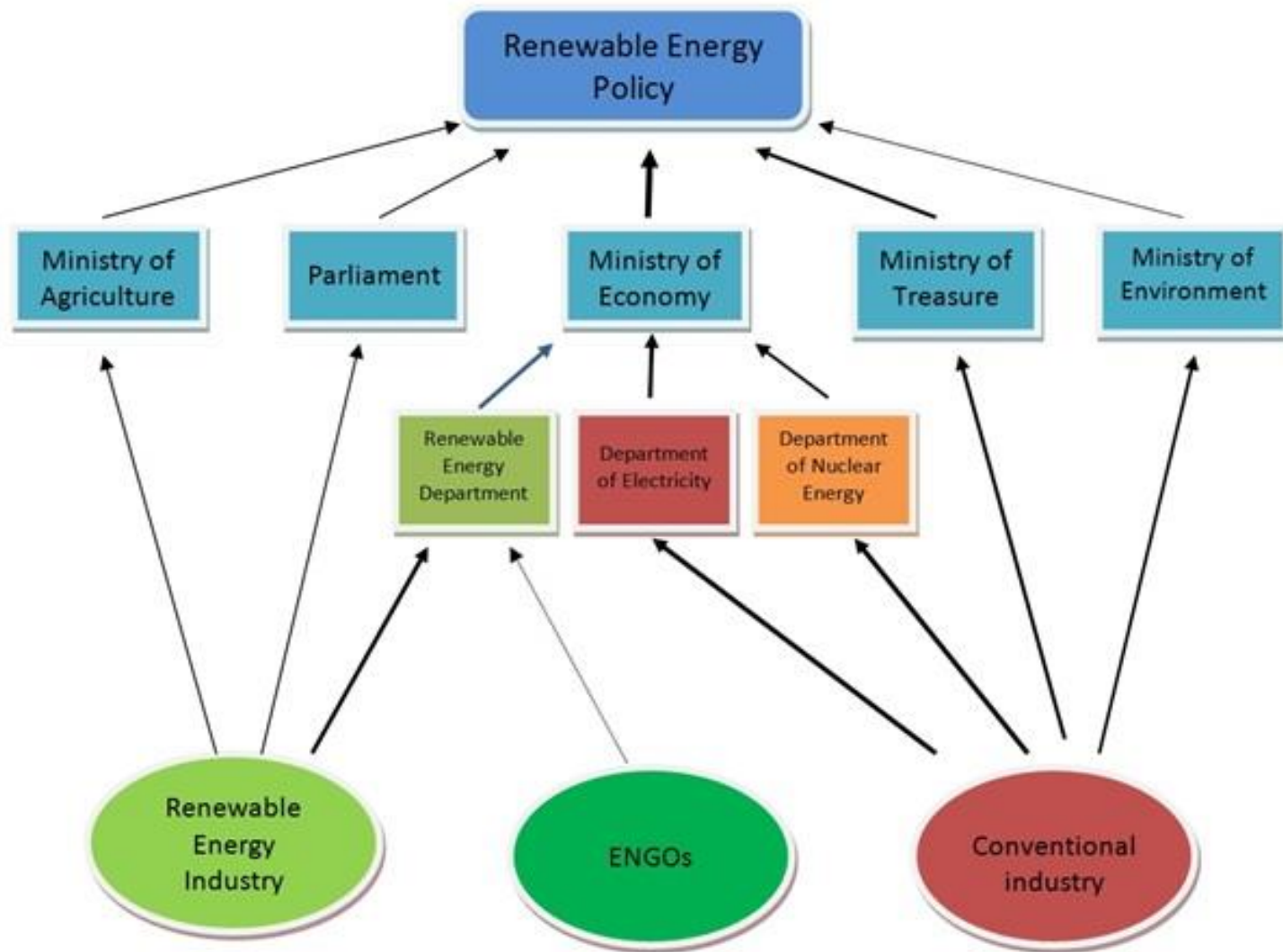
...and the government's priorities



Why is the government's policy not what the population expect?

- Following traditional dependency path?
 - Ambitious climate policy in late 1990s
 - Policy turnaround since 2002
 - Consolidation of the power sector in 2007
- Keeping low prices of electricity?
 - Plans to build nuclear power plant
 - Construction of expensive coal fired power plants in Opole
 - RES support mechanism that's beneficial for big energy companies, not the citizens.

Channels of influence



Conclusions

- Grassroot change is not enough to instigate policy change;
- The policy is far not only from the options preferred by the majority of the populations but also from that of many stakeholders;
- The influence dependends on the efficiency of the *channels of influence*.

- [Link to the survey \(PL\)](#)
- [More about the channels of influence](#)