

# European Perceptions of Climate Change: Scepticism, energy preferences and societal transformation (EPCC)

**Leading Principal Investigator:** Professor Nick Pidgeon, Cardiff University, UK

## **Principal Investigators:**

Claire Mays, Institut Symlog, France

Prof. Ortwin Renn, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Dr. Gisela Böhm, University of Bergen, Norway

## **External partners:**

Dr Marc Poumadère, Institut Symlog, France

Raquel Bertoldo, Aix-Marseille University, France

Dr. Dirk Scheer, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Marco Sonnberger, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Annika Arnold, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Endre Tvinnereim, Uni Rokkan Centre for Social Studies, Norway

Dr Wouter Poortinga, Cardiff University, UK

Dr Adam Corner, Cardiff University, UK

Climate Outreach & Information Network (COIN), UK

## **Project Summary:**

Public engagement with climate change, and support for policies to tackle it, is critical in creating a climate-proof Europe. While attitudes to climate change have been well documented in individual European countries, their designs have never been coordinated. Also, each nation has its own unique sociopolitical context and energy infrastructure that need to be taken into account to make meaningful comparisons. There is an urgent need to connect the within-country knowledge that does exist, conduct rigorous cross-national research, and synthesise public perceptions at a European level.

In a two year project involving an inter-disciplinary team from the UK, Germany, Norway and France, we will address this need through: directly comparable and nationally representative surveys of public opinion; an in-depth analyses of the sociopolitical context in each participating nation; and an innovative international stakeholder panel for co-constructing the sociopolitical analyses and disseminating findings.

Whilst there have been some ad-hoc surveys of European public opinion, no theoretically well-justified cross-national analysis of climate change and energy perceptions has ever been conducted. The project will ground the survey findings in sociopolitical factors relevant to public perceptions, allowing robust international comparisons, and producing a detailed and rich source of knowledge for policy-makers. Outputs will include cross-national data on climate change and energy preferences and a series of recommendations for enhancing public engagement with climate change.

We will take an innovative approach to stakeholder engagement. An international panel will co-construct the socio-political analysis that informs the survey design, and will then play a

central role in a coordinated programme of dissemination and outreach. This will ensure that the project has the maximum possible impact and contributes essential knowledge in the transition towards a climate-proof Europe.