



ESR 10

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## Case study

### La Borda



**Architect(s):** Lacol cooperativa  
**Location:** Barcelona, Spain  
**Project (year):** 2012-present  
**Construction (year):** 2017-2018  
**Housing type:** Cooperative housing  
**Urban context:** Part of an old industrial site  
**Construction system:** First floor with concrete and the next six with CLT  
**Selected option:** New building Built

The project aligns with RE-DWELL's research areas: Design, planning, and building; Community participation; and Policy and financing. It promotes a sustainable building model with low environmental impact and involves dwellers in decision-making. It emphasises a holistic vision of design, considering social, environmental, and economic sustainability. The project follows a participatory process involving open assemblies for collective decision-making. It fosters community-oriented living with shared spaces and activities, encouraging mutual support and cooperation. It developed an innovative housing plan for affordable housing, which led to legislative change and new policies. It is one of the first projects under Spain's "grant of use" model, which separates use value from exchange value to prevent speculation. The project exemplifies innovation in design, community engagement, and policy and financing for sustainable and affordable housing.

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"We need to consider the overall living environment, the connections to nature and the outdoors, to ensure that we build in places with access to transport, work, education and other resources. In addition, what the community has to say is important, and informs our decisions as architects: understanding the relationship of the building to mental and physical health, the sense of continuity in a community and the feeling of being part of it."

Lisa D. Iulo, RE-DWELL Round-table no. 2, "Design of Affordable and Sustainable Housing: Challenges and Opportunities", 16 November 2021



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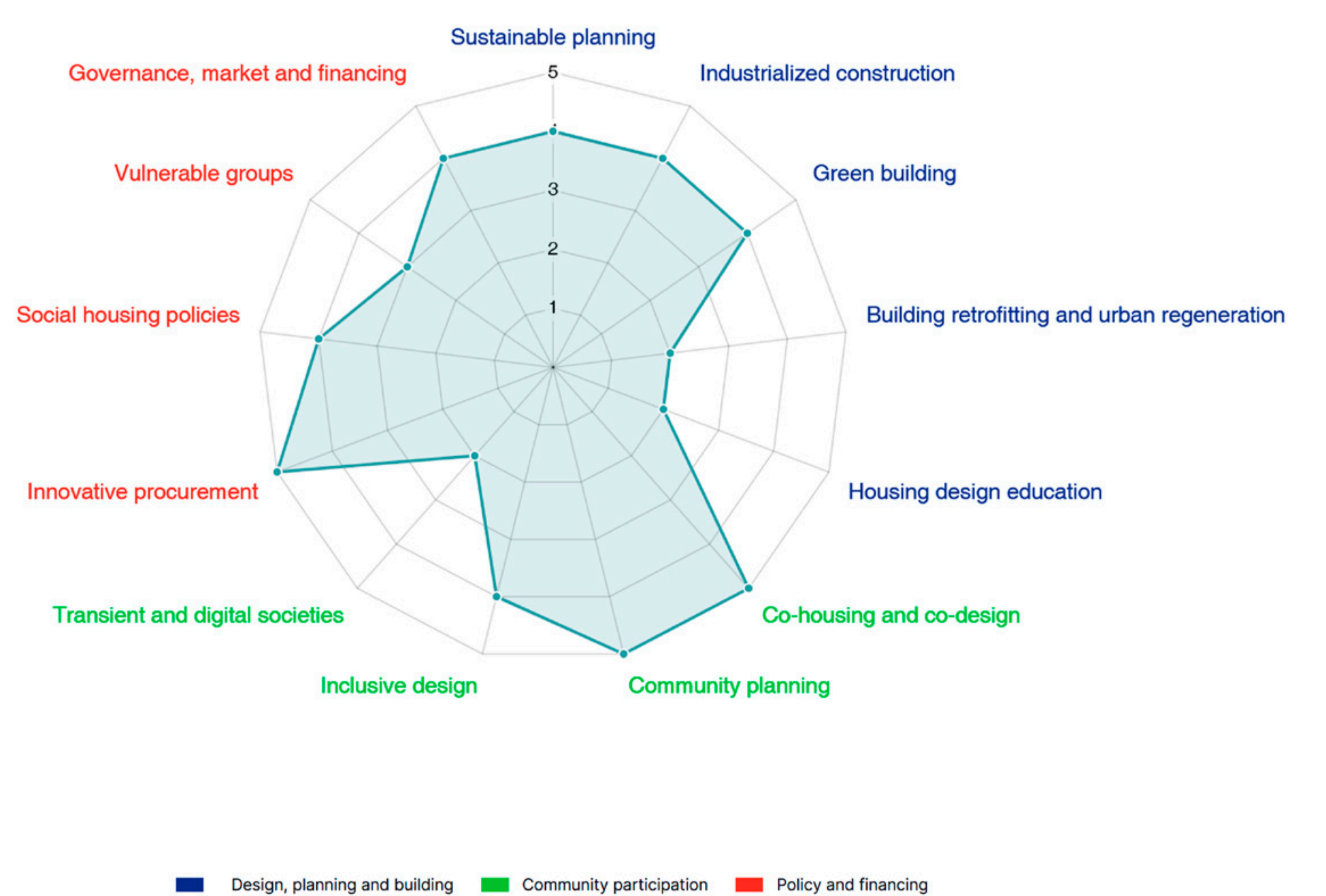
"We are creating something that even if we leave because we someday have another vital project in mind, or because we die or whatever... People will continue to come, and this will continue to progress. With which everything you do... The project makes sense... For me life and what I do makes sense."

Interview with an inhabitant residing in cooperative housing in Barcelona, conducted by Zoe Tzika on 10 April 2023



"Darinka Czischke underlines the fact that we are talking about a housing crisis all around Europe. However, she believes that a crisis is a short-lived and acute event that after a period disappears or becomes integrated in the system. What we experience, Darinka said, is rather a structural failure of the housing provision systems to give suitable answers to several changing housing needs."

Zoe Tzika, personal reflection after Roundtable #2: "Design of Affordable and Sustainable Housing: Challenges and Opportunities"



\* This diagram is for illustrative purposes only based on the author's interpretation of the above case study



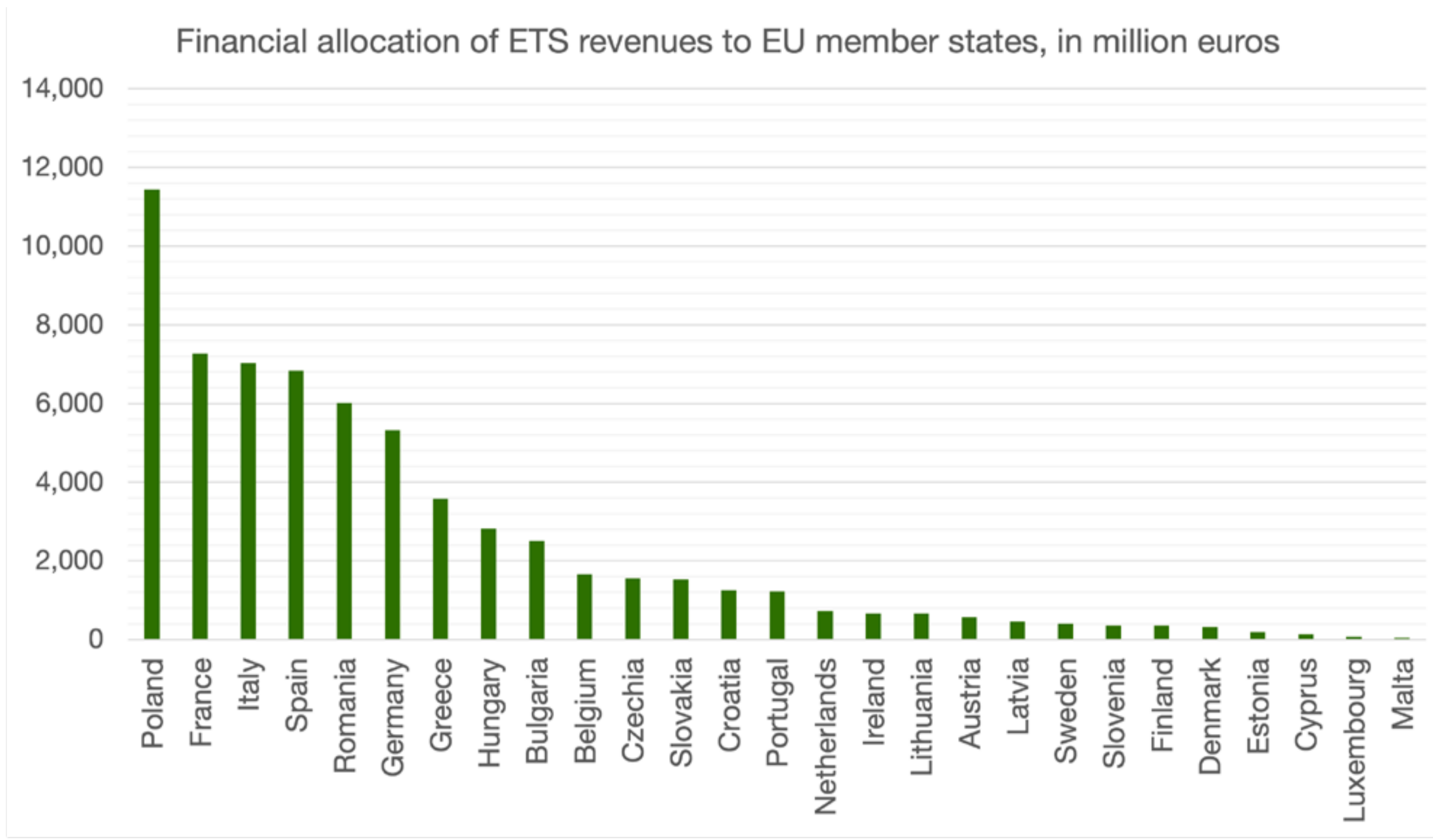
ESR II  
Tijn Croon

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## Case study

### “The Social Climate Fund: Materialising Just Transition Principles?”



**Instrument:** Fund  
**Issued (year):** 2023  
**Application period (years):** 2026-2032  
**Scope:** European  
**Target group:** European households at risk of energy and/or transport poverty  
**Housing tenure:** Mixed  
**Discipline:** Public policy  
**Object of study:** Instrument

The EU's Social Climate Fund (SCF) is a part of the Green Deal initiative and aims to mitigate the financial impact of increased energy costs and gasoline prices resulting from extending the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) to buildings and transport. The SCF will provide resources to assist vulnerable households, micro-enterprises, and transport users. It will operate from 2026 to 2032 and will be funded through revenues generated by the new ETS, with a maximum allocation of 65 billion euros, supplemented by national contributions. Many NGOs applaud the SCF for incorporating a social dimension into EU climate policies and attempting to ‘materialise’ the just transition. Nevertheless, concerns remain regarding the fund’s size, tight timeframe, and limited stakeholder participation outlined in the proposed regulation. The SCF holds particular relevance to my research area, as it addresses housing affordability within the energy transition, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups.

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The theme of workshop “Community Involvement in Affordable and Sustainable Housing”, organized by the Centre for Social Sciences in Budapest, was approached from a sociological perspective, focusing on socio-spatial inequalities, financialization and housing, and green homes and communities. Throughout the different activities of the programme, ESRs had the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to present and communicate research ideas and outputs to expert and non-expert audiences, improve their understanding of transdisciplinary research methodologies and their application to their own research projects, develop personal skills and self-management competences, and engage with local stakeholders.

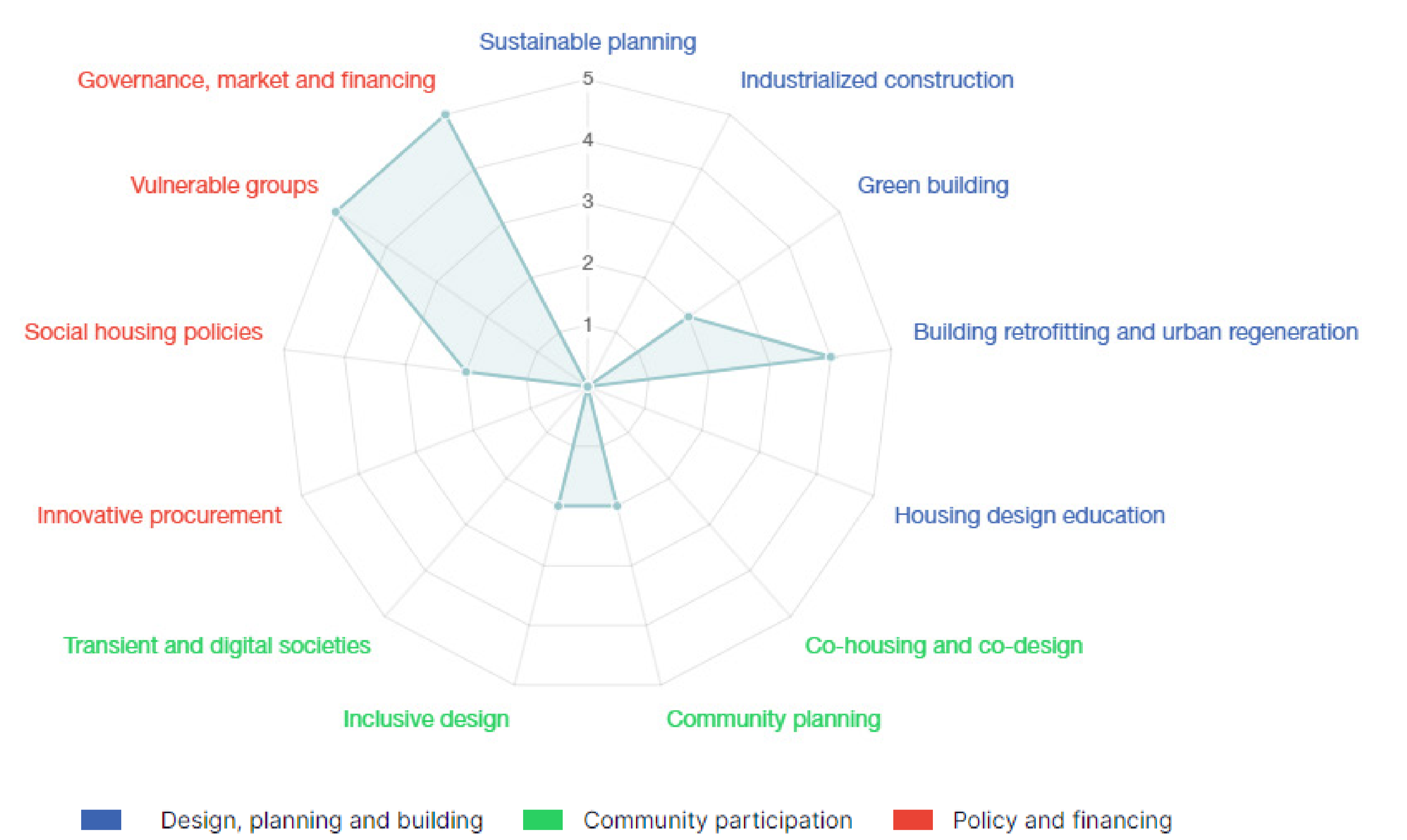
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“As a secondee at Housing Europe in Brussels, I heard Marcos Ros Sempere refer to energy poverty as a ‘key pillar of the Renovation Wave’, emphasising the need to allocate funds to ‘those who need it most’”

Tijn Croon, after a keynote speech by Marcos Ros Sempere (MEP) at Housing Europe’s Renovation Summit 2022

“If you look at transformations in Europe, every transformation, we were successful when we combined market-driven measures with the right social balance. And this is at the core of our social market economy - therefore we call it a social market economy. In this spirit, the climate transition will be accompanied by a Social Climate Fund.”

Statement by President Ursula von der Leyen on delivering the European Green Deal, 14 July 2021



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