

How effective is citizen (e-)participation with online feedback on CO2 emissions for local climate policies?

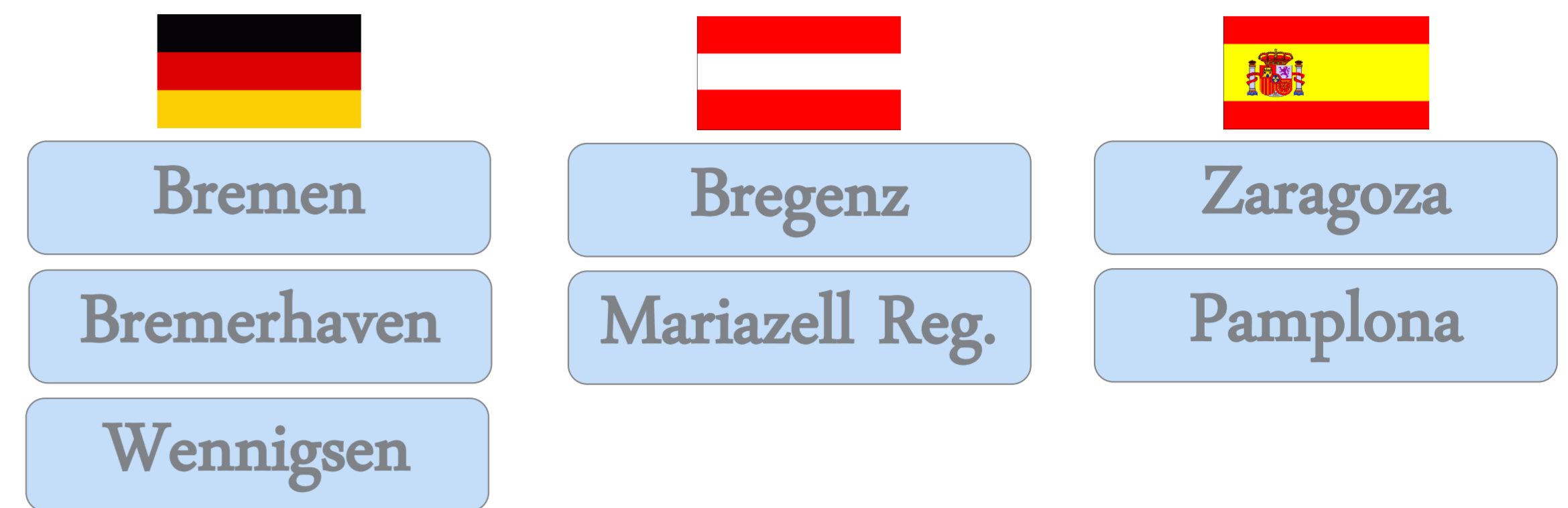
Background

For some time it has become clear that achieving ambitious climate protection targets is not possible without sufficient cooperation from consumers and hence changes in everyday practices in individual lifestyles. A recent development is that governments are seeking the dialogue with citizens and are beginning to discover citizen participation, supported by new media, as a specific strategy for mitigating climate change and raising the performance levels in achieving climate targets.

Research questions

- Does participation help changing attitudes and behaviour in favour of climate protection?
- Which are the impacts in terms of CO2 reduction?
- Does electronic participation make a difference?

The impact of citizen participation in the area of climate protection has not yet been researched. Hence it is not clear to what extent citizen participation may lead to long-term/sustainable improvements of the situation (e.g. change of behaviour, reduction of individual CO2 emissions).



Comparative research

Comparative research enables cross-municipality and cross-national comparison for the use and effects of (e-) participation in the area of climate saving in seven municipalities in three countries.



Hypothesis 1: "Information saves energy" Hyp 2: "Competition boosts CO2 reduction" Hyp 3: "Participation effects are measurable"

Role of ICT

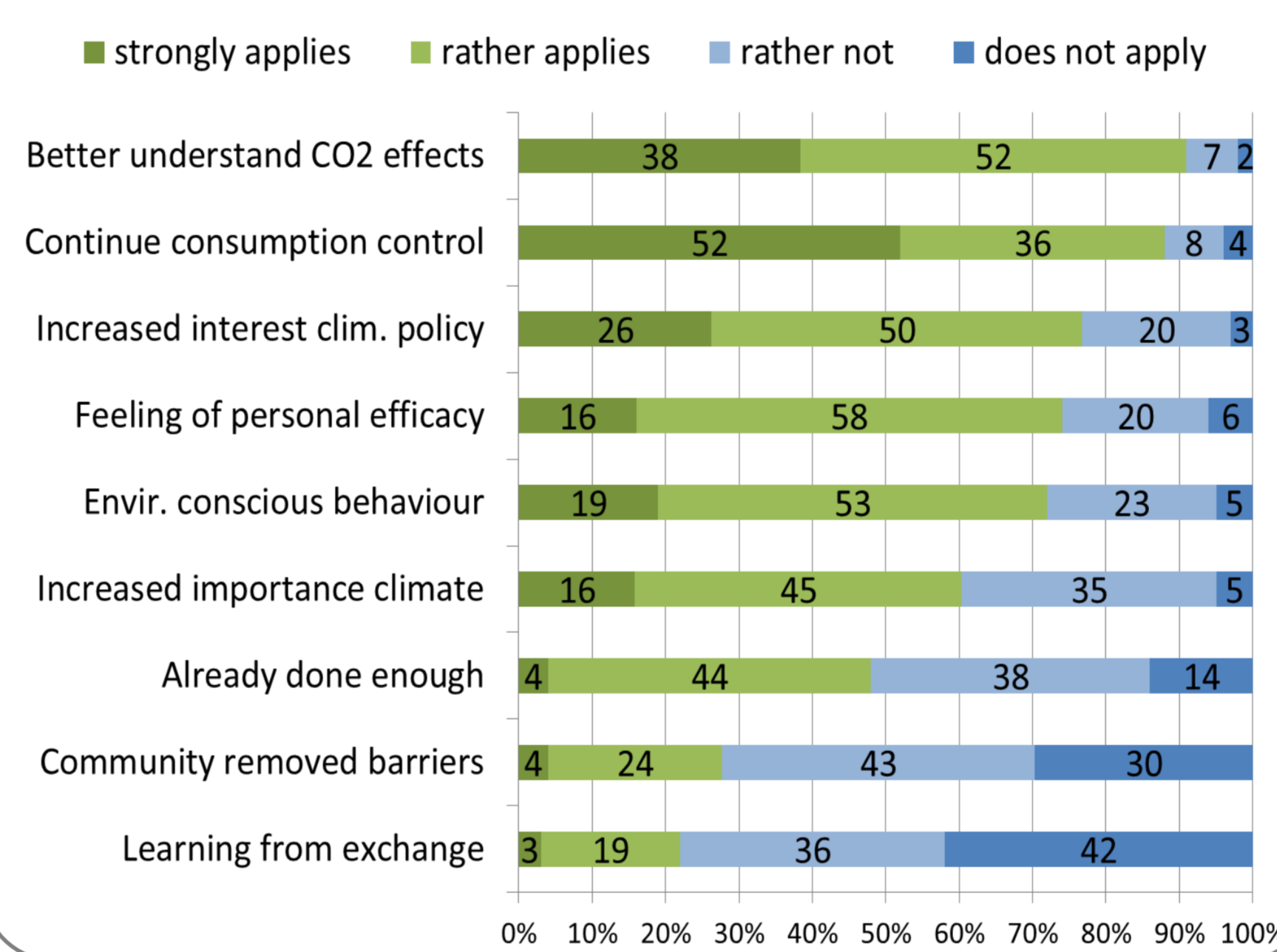
in the e2democracy project: environmental electronic democracy

The project provides continuous exchange of information and experience among participants and experts and collects and analyses climate-relevant consumption data every two months.

- Opportunities for e-participation attract more participants
- Online-tool (CO₂ calculator) essential also for mediated service to offliners
- Significant difference in participation endurance
Onliners are more volatile, Offliners show stronger commitment

Providing choice of participation media is indispensable to match differing preferences, habits and skills

Changes of attitudes and behaviour

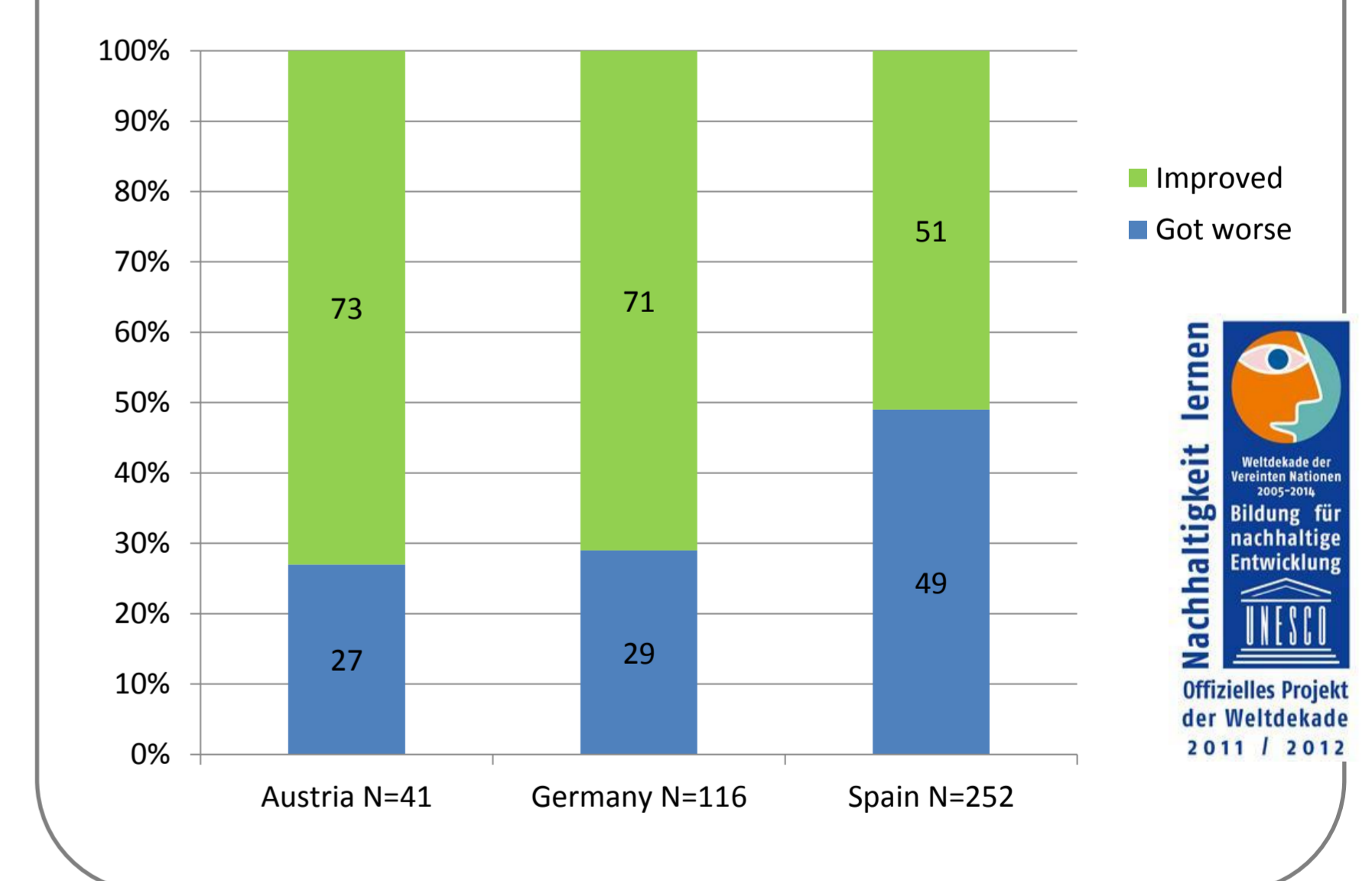


Award

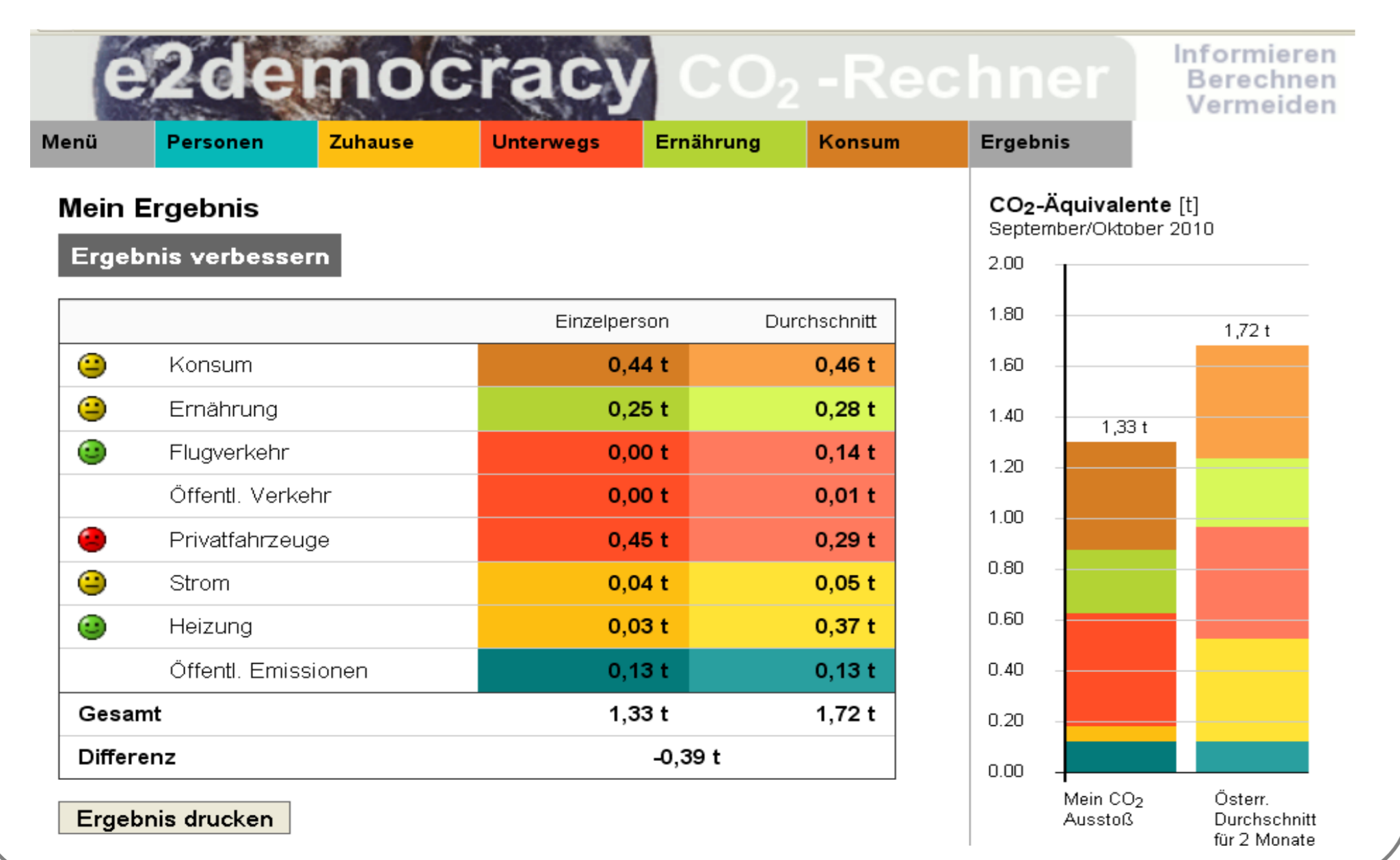
The UNESCO-Commission awarded the e2democracy research project a prize for its work performed for sustainable learning of citizens in the area of climate protection.



Individual CO2 balances after 2 years



CO2 calculator & various forms of feedback



Supporters & further information

The Project was funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF): I 169-G16 and National science funds in Germany and Spain.

Project partners: Institute of Information Management in Bremen/Germany; ÖAW Institute of Technology-Assessment in Vienna/Austria; Department of Accounting and Finance at the University of Zaragoza/Spain.

Project duration: 05/2009 - 02/2013

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For further information visit www.scp-responder.eu