

TRANS

PED

TRANSFORMING CITIES
THROUGH POSITIVE
ENERGY DISTRICTS

CATALOGUE OF PED ASSESSMENT PARAMETERS

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INTRODUCTION

Monitoring and evaluation are central to the development and success of Positive Energy Districts (PEDs). PEDs are embedded in complex urban development processes. Normative goals, which are of great importance in this respect, need to be measured and evaluated. In the TRANS-PED project, we distinguish between first-order and second-order learning in this context. Evaluation and monitoring represent a form of first-order learning. The focus here is essentially on monitoring the goals that have been set in advance.

There is a wide variety of PED approaches, and the goals pursued in PEDs are correspondingly diverse. Energy-related targets in most cases represent just one of several areas. The variety of indicators and measurement methods already used in practice is correspondingly large. This report provides a comprehensive overview of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) already in use to systematize them and facilitate access to existing indicators and methodologies for current and future PED projects. Moreover, this compilation identifies potential gaps and limitations in existing practices by analysing the distribution and availability of KPIs across a range of investigation perspectives relevant to most PED projects. Thus, this report is intended to support the utilisation of existing know-how in this field and at the same time to provide a basis for further development of monitoring and evaluation concepts for PEDs.

It can be used by stakeholders involved in developing and monitoring districts and PEDs in particular to quickly identify available and established KPIs to assess various key aspects in a comprehensive manner. The catalogue provides a quick overview of available KPIs in six main assessment categories and a number of key characteristics such as the suitable assessment moment during the district development, whether it is a qualitative or quantitative assessment and if it is generally applicable to multiple districts or if it is only relevant to a specific project.

HOW TO USE THE CATALOGUE

The PED KPI catalogue is publicly available for use, review and comment as an online [Google sheet](#). It can be used to find, filter and compare KPIs and find supporting information.

KPI Category	Sub-Category	Name of KPI (what is assessed?)	Description	Timetrace	Scope	Type	Level	Reference	Available
Technical	Energy	Degree of energetic self-supply by RES	The ratio of locally produced energy from RES and the energy consumption over a period of time (e.g., month, year). DE is separately determined for thermal (heating or cooling) energy and electricity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical	Energy	Reduced energy curtailment of RES and Distributed energy resources (DER)	Reduction of energy curtailment due to technical/operational problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical	Energy	Average number of electrical interruptions per customer per year	The total number of customer interruptions (numerator) divided by the total number of customers served (denominator). The result shall be expressed as the average number of electrical interruptions per customer per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical	Energy	Average length of electrical interruptions (in hours)	The sum of the duration of all customer interruptions in hours (numerator) divided by the total number of customer interruptions (denominator). The result shall be expressed as the average length of electrical interruptions in hours.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical	Energy	Energy Demand	The energy entering the system in order to keep operation parameters (e.g., comfort levels). The energy demand is based on the calculated figures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical	Energy	Energy Consumption	The energy entering the system in order to keep operation parameters (e.g., comfort levels). The energy consumption is based on the measured data.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical	Energy	Energy Savings	The reduction of the energy consumption to reach the same services (e.g., comfort levels) after the interventions, taking into consideration the energy consumption from a reference period.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical	Energy	Increase in Local Renewable Energy Generation	The indicator accounts for the increase of the renewable energy generation due to the intervention.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
System			Includes all the energy storage technologies integrated in the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 1: Online Catalogue of PED KPIs (online Google sheet)

The catalogue provides the following functionality:

FIND THE RELEVANT KPIs

The list of KPIs can be quickly and easily filtered by category and characteristic. Click on the three vertical bars under each column name and select the desired attribute:

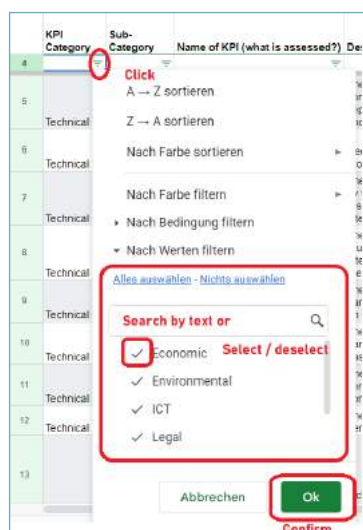


Figure 2: Filtering of KPIs by category (left) and characteristic (right)

METHODOLOGY

The catalogue was created by the following the four steps as illustrated in Figure 6.

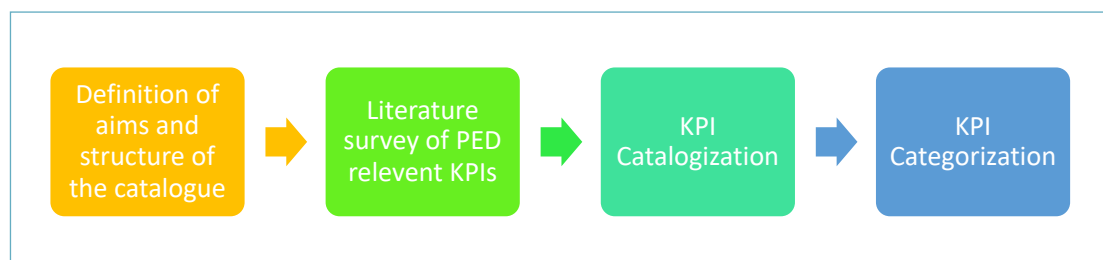


Figure 6: General method of PED KPI Catalogue assembly

The aims of the catalogue were defined during a series of workshops and meetings with the PED lab practitioners and researchers, and this yielded two insights. First, all TRANS-PED practitioners (Graz Reininghaus, Sonnendorf, Abattoir, Brunnhög, and Hammarby Sjöstad) had already established a small number of KPIs to assess specific aspects of their district performance, but their scope and application differed widely. There was no point in designing new KPIs to replace tried and tested versions in the field. The first problem to be addressed in this catalogue was therefore to map out what was already in use and make it easily accessible, and to gauge whether the KPI in question could also be useful in another PED. Second, there is a clear need for assessment in all districts, but rather than a uniform, well-defined task, the requirements differed from district to district. This corresponds to the PED framework itself being open to districts of varying configurations, challenges and sizes. What was unclear was the distribution and focus of the KPIs in use today. What areas of assessment do they cover? Are they strictly quantitative and is their operationalization well-defined and replicable? What size of district are they used for? Are they used for project monitoring or can they also be used to assess (or support) PED planning? To answer these questions, a skeleton structure of characteristics was proposed to classify each identified KPI. These characteristics included the timeframe of assessment, the scope (general or specific), the spatial level of assessment and whether it is quantitative or qualitative. These characteristics are presented in detail in the following sections.

Further, the catalogue was enriched with additional categorization data that became apparent through a literature search that produced 134 KPIs for PED assessment (see Annex A for the complete list). In this stage, an additional topical KPI categorization with sub-categories was introduced, which is also discussed in the following sections.

CATALOGUE STRUCTURE AND ANALYSIS

The KPI Catalogue is presented in a table with six categories: KPI Category, Sub-category, Name of KPI (What is assessed?), Description, Characteristic, and Documentation. Each category is described in the following subsections. These categories allow for a clear and practice-oriented description of the indicators. This aims to support a quick assessment of the goal and possible use of indicators.

KPI CATEGORY

This category defines six general type of KPIs: technical, environmental, economic, social, information and communication technologies (ICT), and legal. Technical KPIs address the technical aspects of PEDs (such as energy supply and demand, characteristics of installed equipment, and so on). Environmental KPIs focus on environmental parameters, such as carbon dioxide emissions and noise pollution. Economic KPIs address everything related to costs and their assessment. Social KPIs include public opinions, reactions to energy transformation, and so on. ICT KPIs address the use of digital technologies in PEDs, for example to control or monitor technical infrastructures. And finally, legal KPIs involve regulatory and institutional issues such as laws, norms and formal and informal rules. The distribution of KPIs in each category is illustrated in Figure 7 and reveals a relatively balanced set of categories. There are a larger number of technical and ICT KPIs but the sample as a whole covers a wide range of topics and objectives.

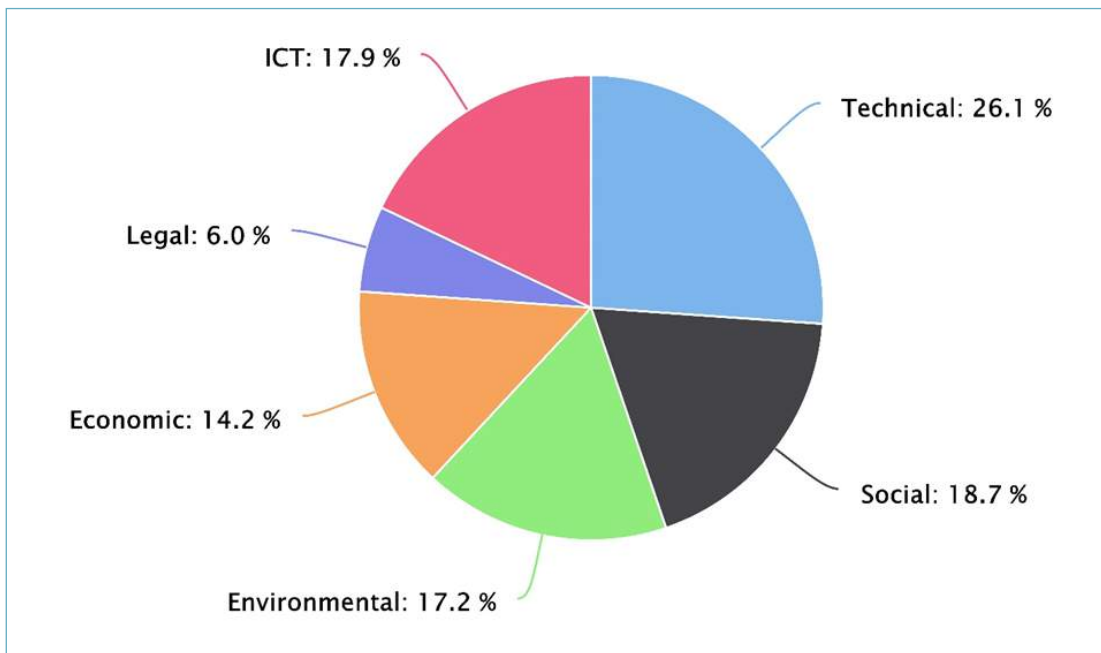


Figure 7: KPI representation by category

SUB-CATEGORY

While the KPI Category delineates the main focus of each KPI, some KPIs have secondary feature(s) and can be further characterized with sub-categories. Sub-categories allow further specification of a KPI and provide more insights on how they can be used. For example, a brief a KPI that describes the legal framework of the usage of electric vehicles can be classified under the legal category (because the essence of this KPI refers to regulatory issues) and then the sub-category of mobility (to address the specific focus on the regulation of mobility in a PED).

We identified 5 sub-categories: energy, system functionality (everything related to functional aspects of a PED), mobility, environmental and social. Figure 8 shows which of the subcategories apply to the 6 categories in the sample. The ICT and legal categories include 4 sub-categories, the technical and economic categories include 3 sub-categories, and the social category includes 2 sub-categories. The environmental category includes no sub-categories.

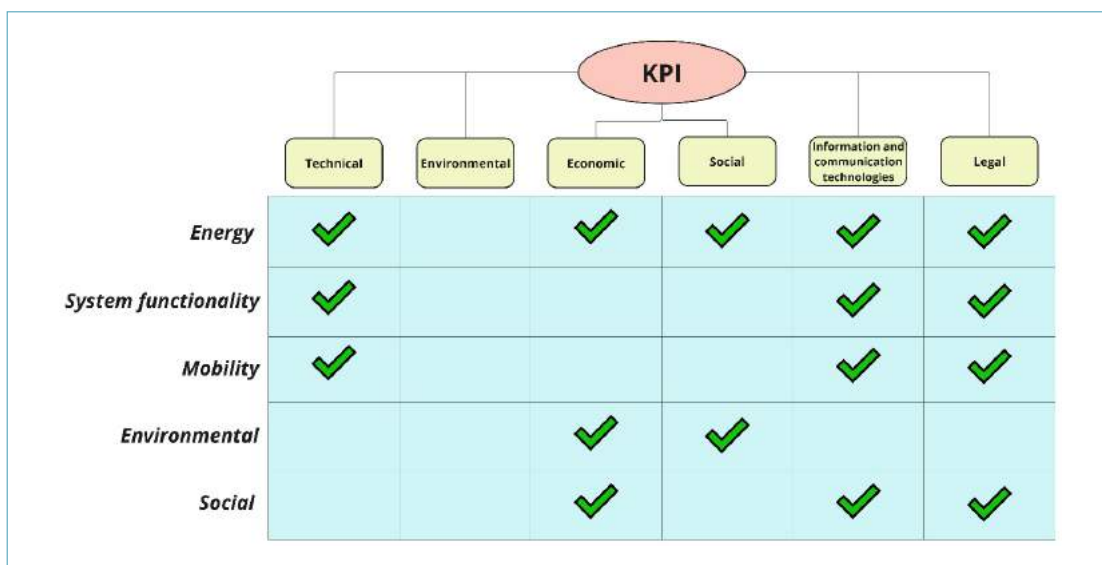


Figure 8: Categories and sub-categories of KPIs in the catalogue

NAME OF KPI AND DESCRIPTION

This is a label to describe the target of the KPI. In some cases it is not obvious what exactly is addressed by a KPI and thus, a Description column was added to provide additional details on the purpose of the KPI. All descriptions of KPIs were formulated based on descriptions provided in the literature (see References).

CHARACTERISTIC

The characteristic category includes 4 sub-categories (timeframe, scope, level, and type) and briefly describes each KPI according to its level of application. It is important to note that the KPIs can be applied at different points in time (or in different time frames) and can also be applied selectively or continuously (repeatedly). In addition, measurements are used both in advance, for example in the course of certifications, or at the end of the process. We refer to these cases as “ex-ante” or “ex-post” indicators.

Timeframe describes when a KPI is applied, whether it be ex-ante, ex-post or continued. KPI categories are distributed approximately equally according to the timeframe of application. Technical KPIs are most common while legal KPIs are rare (Figure 9).

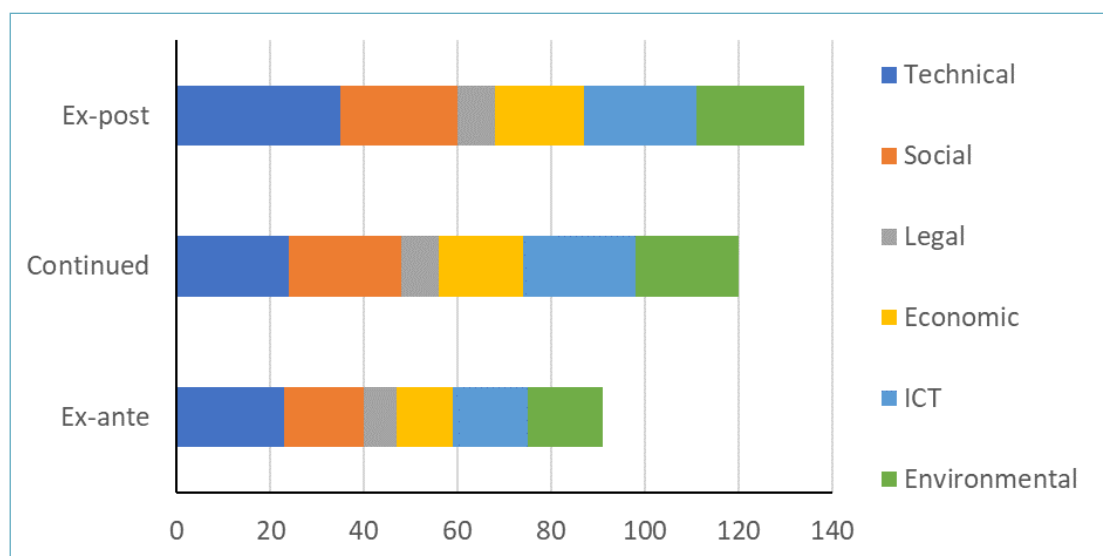


Figure 9: Categories of KPIs by stage of application

The scope is general if it could be applied to any PED and Project-specific / subjective / local if it strongly depends on the types of targets formulated for a PED. Figure 10 shows the distribution of general and specific KPIs. General KPIs are evenly distributed among technical, social, economic and environmental, with less representation in legal and ICT. Specific KPIs are mostly represented by the Technical and ICT categories. ICT KPIs are less represented in the scope of PED and their implementation strategies and are strongly dependent upon concrete project goals. Consequently, they are mostly situated on a general level. The wide representation of technical KPIs on both levels indicates the possibility to evaluate technical aspects of the PED’s objectives both normatively and specifically. Almost a third of all project-specific KPIs are technical.

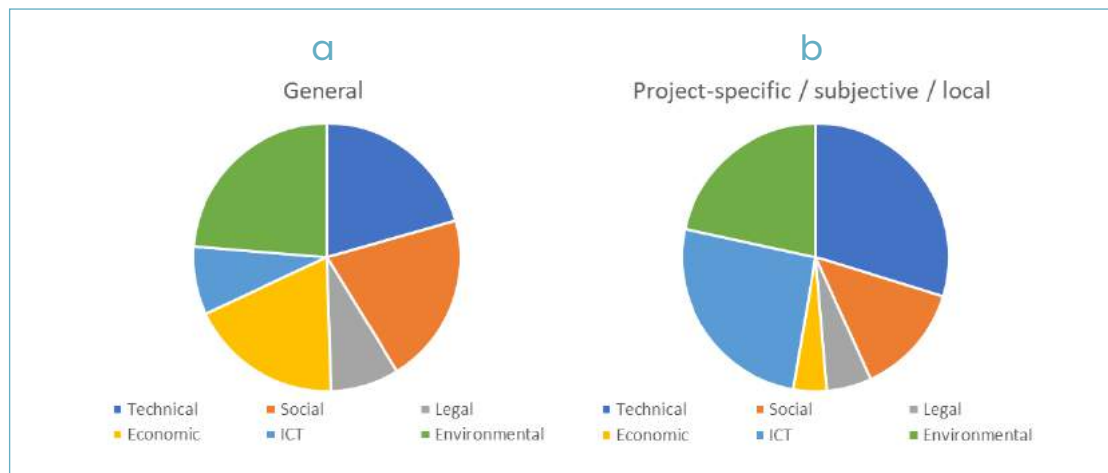


Figure 10: Category representation of (a) general KPIs and (b) specific KPIs

The Type category indicates whether a KPI is qualitative or quantitative. Figure 11 shows that 98 of the analysed KPIs are quantitative (73.1 %) while 36 are qualitative (26.9 %).

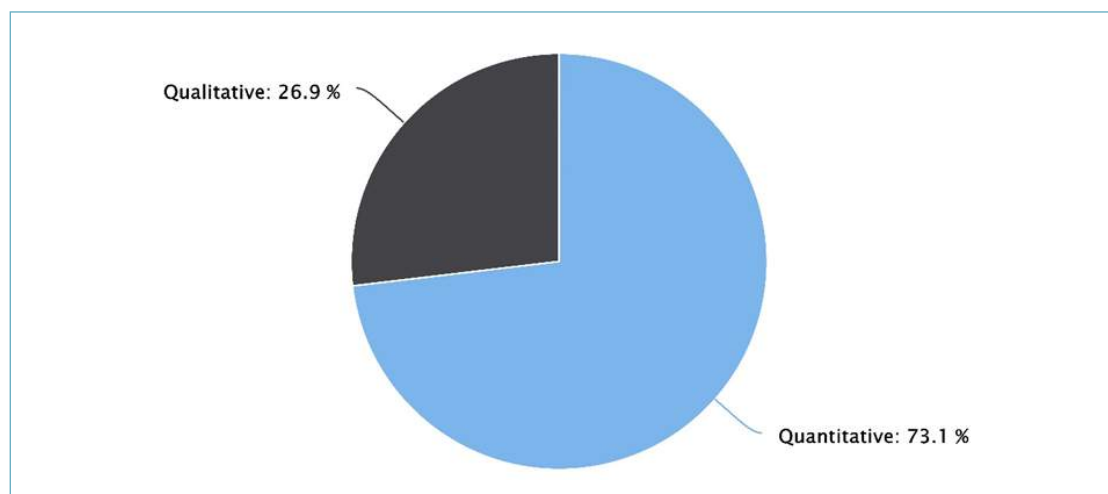


Figure 11: Qualitative and quantitative KPIs

The qualitative and quantitative KPIs are distributed by category in Figure 12. The legal category has no quantitative KPIs while the other categories have both quantitative and qualitative KPIs (although quantitative indicators clearly dominate).

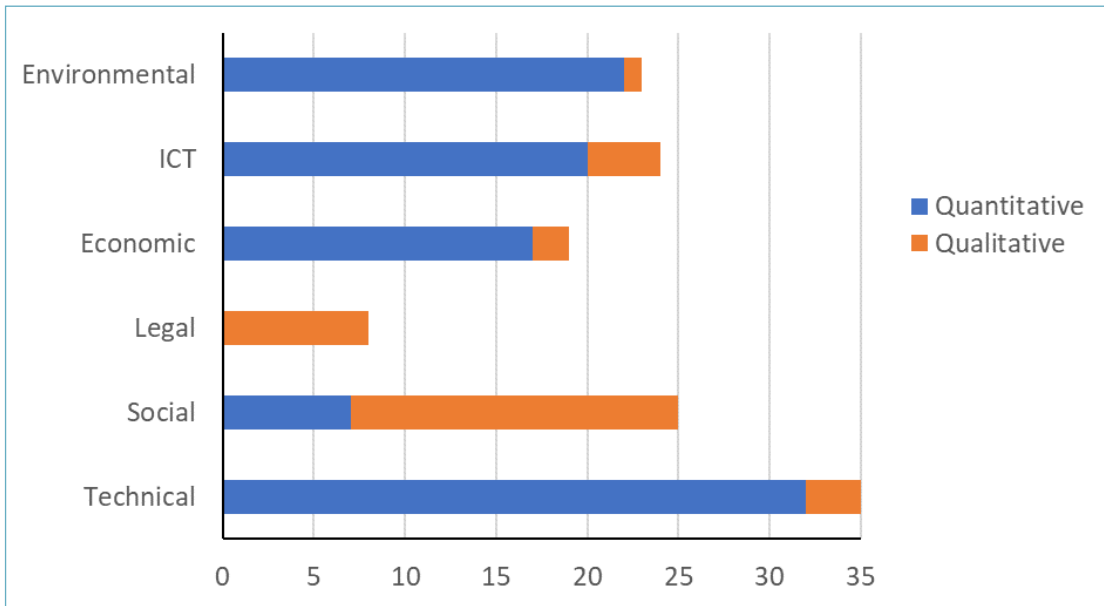


Figure 12: Qualitative and quantitative KPIs by category

The level category indicates the scale at which a KPI is applied and choices include building, set of buildings, energy supply unit, set of energy supply units, neighbourhood, and city (see Figure 13). The analysed KPIs mostly target the city level and quantitative KPIs are dominant, reflecting the overall distribution in the catalogue.

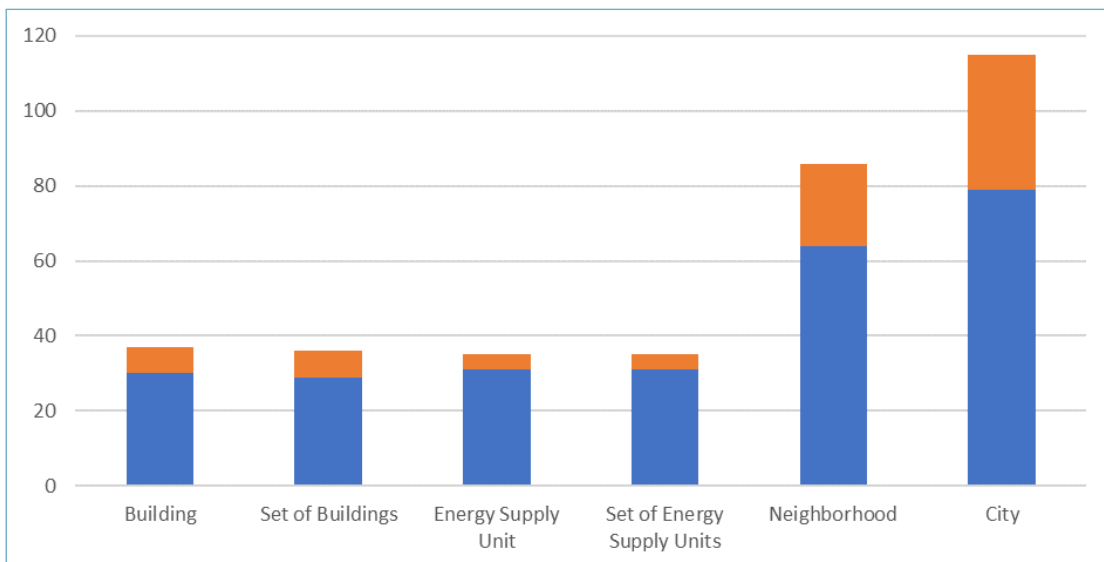


Figure 13: Qualitative and quantitative KPIs representation by level of application

The analysis of the KPI Catalogue shows that all KPIs can be applied once a PED is built while 91 can be applied before the PED project starts and 120 KPIs can be applied during PED development. Those KPIs that can be applied at any stage of PED project realization are indicated in the catalogue with a checkmark (✓) in all relevant columns.

The level of KPI application is relevant for the scope of the KPIs as well: 97 are general and 74 are specific. The same, multiple application is relevant to the KPI levels. 37 KPIs can be applied to buildings, 36 to sets of Buildings, 35 apply to Energy Supply Units, 35 to sets of energy supply units, 86 to neighbourhoods, and 115 to cities. Categories of KPIs at each level of application are shown in Figure 14.

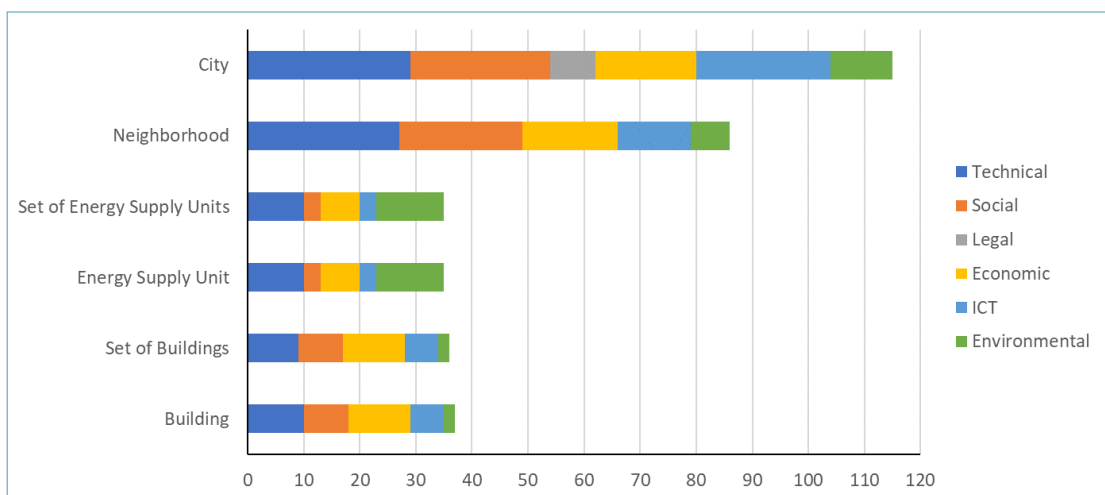


Figure 14: Categories of KPIs at each level of application

KPIs related to legal issues are represented only at the city level, which matches the common domain of rules and laws. It also indicates a lack of legal instruments at smaller spatial scales such as districts and neighbourhoods (except for specialised legal instruments involving district development contracts and citizen energy communities).

The small number of KPIs for energy supply units and sets of energy supply units are mostly addressed by environmental KPIs while other categories are less represented. Environmental aspects are of great importance at the city level, but there are significantly fewer indicators at the other application levels. Again, this indicates a lack of concrete targets and their operationalization at the scale between individual buildings (which are covered by national and regional building codes) and the city level (which is covered by local laws and regulations).

DOCUMENTATION

The final column in the catalogue provides references for the KPI where more detailed information can be found. It is important to note that some of the KPIs do not include descriptions and others do not include calculation methodologies. This makes these KPIs less useful.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Unsurprisingly, technical KPIs to monitor PED performance are the most common followed by environmental, social and ICT KPIs. There are only a few legal KPIs (this category covers only 6% of the analysed KPIs). There were no legal KPIs related to the energy supply units in the literature and it is necessary to study specific PED projects to develop legal KPIs. This is of particular importance for the growth of the PED concept and to facilitate interactions between municipal and national stakeholders and project developers and practitioners on the ground. Most KPIs are quantitative and use metrics to facilitate comparison. Such KPIs can be used to standardize PED assessment procedures. Meanwhile, legal and social KPIs are predominantly qualitative KPIs and are more difficult to standardise. This indicates that social goals are more situational and context-dependent and for the most part do not involve quantifiable KPIs. Thus, a comparison between districts based on quantitative KPIs is unwarranted. A topic for future research is the variation of stakeholders from one district to another and their associated KPI responsibilities. The participating experts of the investigated PED labs were very diverse and stakeholder groups were not represented equally. From such a sample it is not possible to draw general conclusions about KPI requirements and the organization of PED assessment, but it seems apparent that it varies based on which type of stakeholders are most involved in the PED process. It would also be helpful to assess the required infrastructure, data and know-how to utilize each KPI from the perspective of these different stakeholders. The catalogue provides an initial indication of the availability of operationalisation documentation but in practice, most PED stakeholders are probably unequipped to conduct certain assessments and require detailed guidance. This is related to the question of standardising PED assessments. The lack of standards can be attributed to the varying availability of data and infrastructure (or even need for that matter) to apply a given KPI. Figure 15 summarises the three requirements to assess a PED and highlights the challenges of standardising PED assessments across different project contexts. Given that PEDs are heterogeneous and vary in scope, goals and focus and subsequent approach, it seems unlikely that it will be possible to sharpen the international PED definition to a point where it could include a set of prescribed and well-defined metrics to be assessed. Instead, districts face very different challenges and the best way to address them is to work on a comprehensive and easy-to-navigate knowledge-base that can be customised to a specific district to guide choices about appropriate instruments and tools to apply.

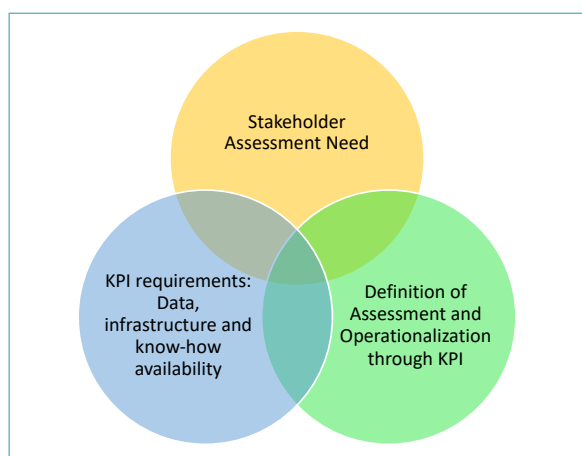


Figure 15: The three requirements to assess a PED

Nevertheless, this catalogue provides a summary of existing PED assessment options. There is a wide range of KPIs to address many aspects of district development at different spatial, temporal and qualitative levels. The catalogue serves as a basis for monitoring and evaluating PED performance over time. Stakeholders can browse through the catalogue, identify desired KPIs and access the required documentation. In the future, a more comprehensive guide would also be beneficial. Apart from the perspectives covered in this catalogue, it would be helpful to address the process of KPI selection and how they are defined.

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THE PED KPI CATALOGUE

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