

1 SUMMARY: RESULTS

The experts surveyed in the emerging countries saw Germany's Energiewende in a different way to people in Germany. While debates in German politics and the German media focus on the problems, costs and risks involved, these three countries clearly saw the potential in the switch. Of course, from a short-term perspective, the experts did discuss problems such as energy security and energy costs. Yet, surprisingly, the countries barely registered public protests against the measures involved in the Energiewende, as they tended to ascribe a high level of ecological awareness to German society.

From a long-term perspective, however, the experts almost completely overlooked the problems. One of the most significant findings was the positive overall image Germany enjoys in the three countries. The experts thought that, although Energiewende was an ambitious project, Germany, of all countries, would succeed in making it a reality. Germany was regarded as a country of planners that is quick to get a handle on its problems. The experts said that Germany's future independence from raw material imports would be one of the positive long-term effects. Given that Germany lacks raw materials, the experts considered the decision to make the switch to be entirely logical. They believed that it would bolster Germany's economic power in the long term, and some even talked of Germany being a model for a new industrial revolution. The Energiewende will therefore have a positive global impact and will provide an initial impetus for other countries. If Germany's switch proves a success, it can serve as a blueprint for other nations. The experts also saw distinct competitive advantages on the global market. German products will no longer just be "made in Germany", they will be "made with green energy in Germany".

Attitudes to Germany's Energiewende: differences between the three countries



South Africa

- Sees itself as a developing country
- Prioritises economic goals
- Has resource issues (money, expertise)



Brazil

- Refers to traditionally clean energy mix
- Has resource issues (money, expertise)



China

- Very interested in technology, very self-confident
- Sees the Energiewende as a project for industrial policy

Attitudes to Germany's Energiewende: differences between the groups of experts

Industry/
Administration

- In favour of gradual changes
- Emphasise economic prudence
- Interested in technologies (industry)
- Interested in implementation (public administration)

Science

- Feasibility depends on technological breakthroughs
- More likely to question the security of energy supply

NGOs

- More critical of energy policies in own country
- Favour a faster transition
- Favour larger-scale restructuring/stronger alignment