Public Perceptions & Citizen Participation

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Ranking Exercise

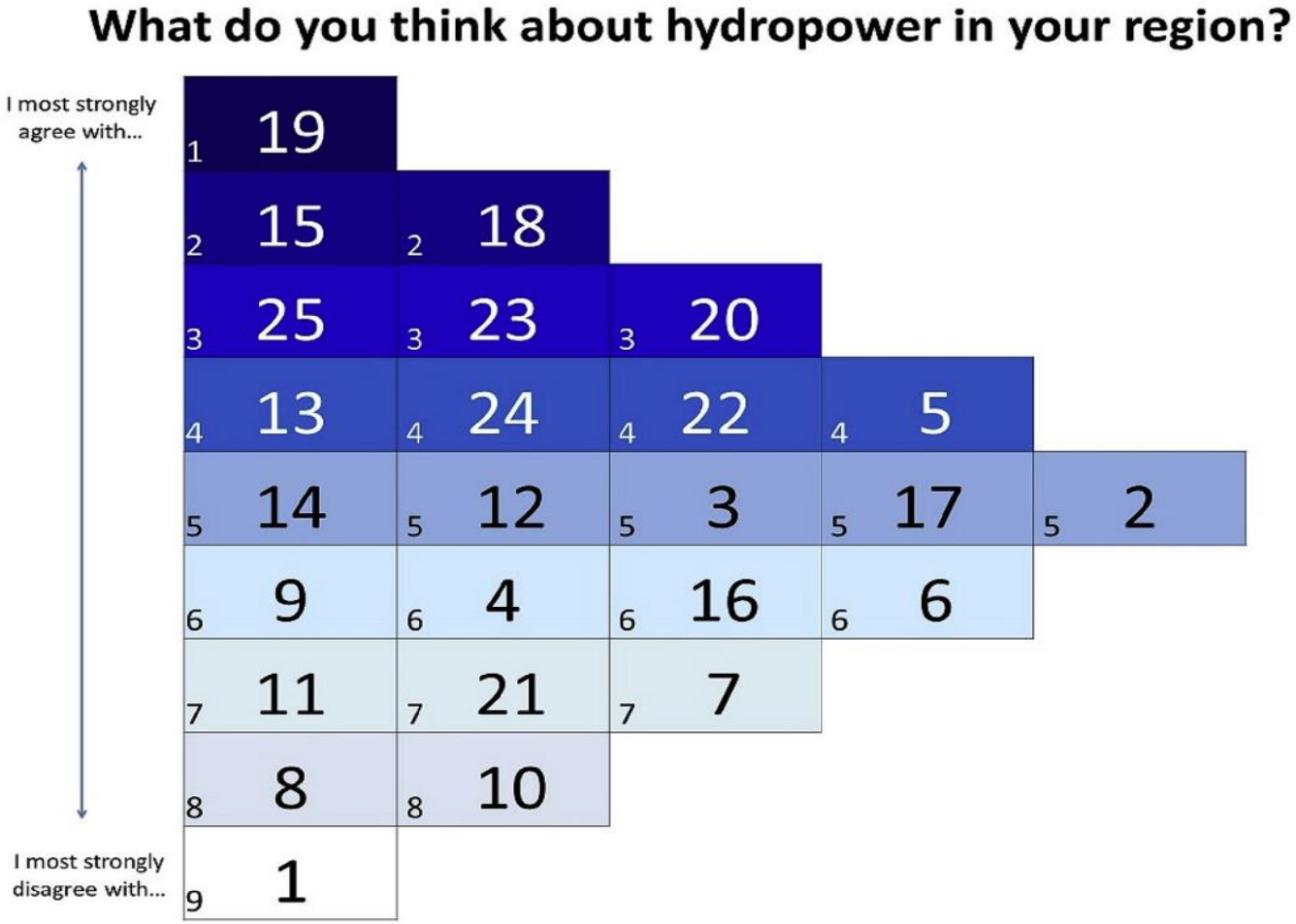
I strongly agree

I strongly disagree

- Rivers are meant to flow freely.
- I appreciate that hydropower fights climate change.
- Low electricity prices are important to me.

Method

- Locals ranked 25 statements about hydropower
- Aims to understand range of perspectives
- Small selected sample



The public’s perception of run-of-the-river hydropower

Aim:

- Compare public perceptions of hydropower
- Identify controversy and consensus among locals

Case Studies

Landshut, Bavaria
Germany
Alpine Region

Vila Real, Norte
Portugal
Iberia

Örnsköldsvik, Vasternorrland
Sweden
Scandinavia

Toulouse, Occitanie
France
France/Belgium

Findings

Identified four perspectives about RoR hydropower:

Factor 1:
Maintain regional control

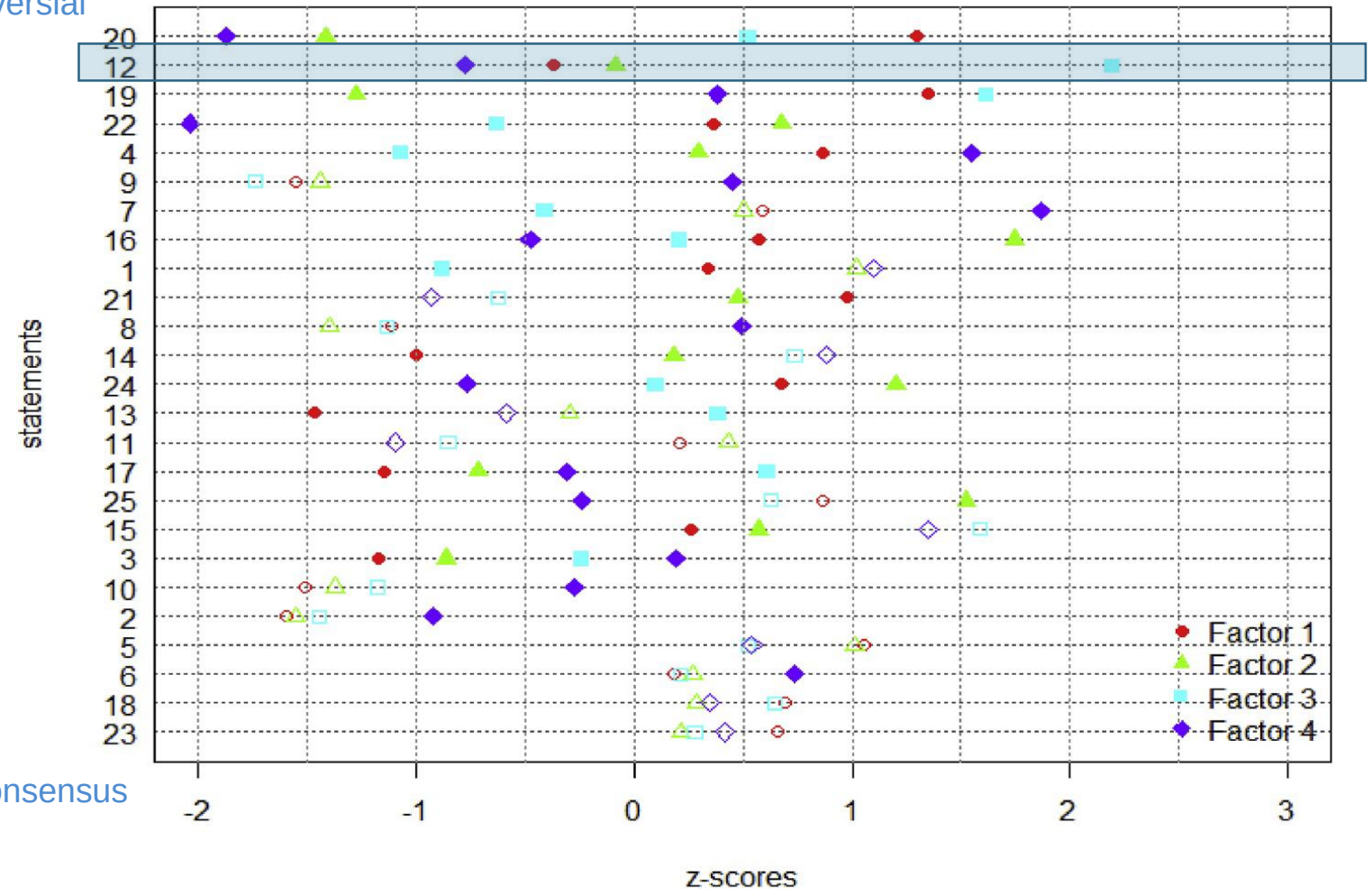
Factor 2:
Fight climate change

Factor 3:
Protect natural ecosystems

Factor 4:
Promote citizen well-being

Controversy and Consensus

Most controversial



Greatest consensus

"Rivers are meant to flow freely"

- Factor 4 (promote citizen well-being) strongly disagrees
- Factor 3 (protect natural ecosystems) strongly agrees

Main Message

- Major controversial theme: ownership

- Similar perspectives across regions
    - Maintain regional control
    - Fight climate change
    - Protect natural ecosystems

- Method is useful for understanding the different types of perspectives with a small sample of stakeholders

Venus, T. E., et al. (2020). The public's perception of run-of-the-river hydropower across Europe. *Energy Policy*, *140*, 111422.

THANK YOU LET IT FLOW

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