



# Public Figures WP

Workshop  
29-31 March 2022  
Tunis

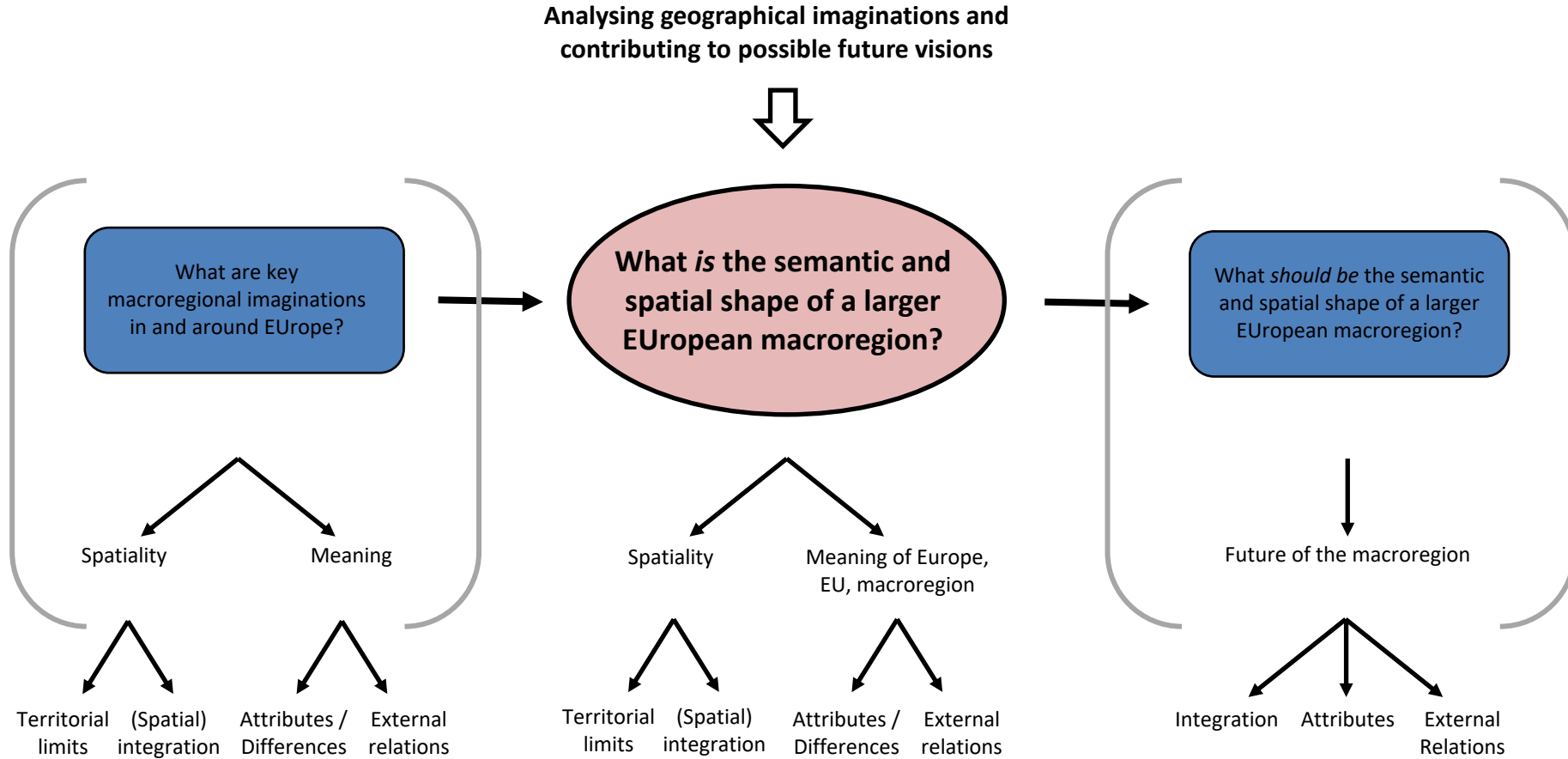
# refresh and update

- Twofold approach
  - Twitter analysis for comparative component
  - Interviews with multitude of public figures for depth
- Most interviews conducted
  - Almost all recorded and transcribed
  - Will try to add some more in F, TN, TR and whenever good opportunities open up
- Started with coding, first version of coding tree
  - Programme: MaxQDA
  - Refining still necessary

# update – who and how many

	D	F	TN	TR	NI	
					Irl	UK
civil servants	12		1			1
diplomats	5				3	1
parliamentarians	7	10				
other political actors						
EU official	4					
journalist/researcher	6	4	1	1		
civil society	5		7	1		1
	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

# update – what



# update – what

- Which macro-region?
- Description of macroregion mentioned
  - Spatially and semantically
  - E.g. “What does Europe stand for?”
- Future visions
  - Divisions, solidarity?
  - Future integration steps
- Europe’s future role in the world? / Future relation of mentioned macroregion with Europe
- Three most positive and most negative things?
- Relation between science (SHS) and “the real world”?

# QDA – qualitative data analysis and coding

- Not “**who** has said what?”, but “**what** has been said on a particular topic by whom?”

	Person A	Person B	Person C
What region?	bla	blabla	blablabla
Spatial shape	blab	blablab	blabiblab
Semantic shape	papp	papperlap	papperlapapp
Future	pub	pubdi	pubdipub

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Person A has said **bla** about the region, **blab** on the spatial shape...

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The region has been defined as **bla** by Person A, as **blabla** by Person B...

# QDA – qualitative data analysis and coding

- Not “**who** has said what?”, but “**what** has been said on a particular topic by whom?”

... now let's have a look at the programme 😊

# snapshots and trends: 3 most positive



# snapshots and trends

## **... on the EU as a peace project**

The most positive aspect, by large, is peace in Europe! This is the European Union, in the end it is the guarantee that we can exclude the possibility of violent conflict between states. And, leaving everything else aside, just this would be enough to have the EU. Actually, you do not even need any other reason. (AA3)

# snapshots and trends

## **... on the EU as a democracy project**

« Et puis la démocratie, ce n'est quand même pas un système anti-démocratique comme on peut le croire. Il y a des élections, un Parlement européen un contrôle des parlements nationaux sur la Commission européenne, une implication sur les textes de lois... Cela reste démocratique. »

“And democracy. It is not an anti-democratic system as one might think. There are elections, a European Parliament, a control by national parliaments over the European Commission, an involvement in the texts of laws... It remains democratic.”  
(J. Comte, journaliste, FR)

# snapshots and trends

## **... on the EU as a space of power**

« What is Europe ?

- Firstly, I would say economic power. We are recognized as an economic power. » (Gontard, MP, Greens)



# snapshots and trends

**... on the EU as a space of social progress**

“But Europe is progress, progress for all in this world region.”

# snapshots and trends: 3 most negative



# snapshots and trends

## **... on the Euro**

The Euro is both most positive and most negative aspect of European integration. (Irl\_DFA2)

# snapshots and trends

## **... on divisions and an “elitist” EUrope**

- We have done too little to explain Europe to its citizens – since decades! (RLP\_LV1\_Bru)
- European integration has to go from the bottom up. People just do not like to be ordered around from the top. You have to better include the lower and the lower middle classes. In future we have to pay more attention to economic resilience (RLP LV2\_Bru)
- We need much more social policy on a European basis (BeobLänderEU\_Bru)

# snapshots and trends

## **... on divisions and an “elitist” EUrope**

- Il y a un décalage entre ce qui constitue l'Europe pour les citoyens avec des niveaux, des sentiments d'appartenance différents selon les régions de l'Europe, et la réalité de la machinerie européenne. C'est incompréhensible pour le commun des mortels. (Fernique, MP)
- There is a gap between what constitutes Europe for the citizens, with different levels and feelings of belonging in different parts of Europe, and the reality of the European machinery. This is not understandable for ordinary people.

# snapshots and trends

**Some arguments can be taken as both positive and negative by the same person**

Four examples:

- Power : Europe can be described as a place of power (economically) and as a place where power is divided and remains hypothetical if the Europeans would be more united
- Social progress : EU is described as a place where the market is regulated by social policies but the EU, as an institution, is said to be reluctant to ambitious social programs
- Democracy : EU as an island of democracies but that remains a remote bureaucracy
- EU Enlargement : some countries seen as obvious future members (Western Balkans for instance) but necessity to deepen the EU before the integration of new states

# snapshots and trends

## **... on the future and different national interests**

- Ideational vs utilitarian interest in Europe
- The downward trend of the last years has been stopped somehow in light of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine (BeobLänderEU\_Bru)

# Snapshots interviews

## ... on the belonging of Tunisia

„[Tunisia has]Historically European and Arab-Asian influence. But now we have something new. It's kind of, these last years or this last decade, we realized that we were part of Africa. And before we weren't very aware about that. We don't give a lot of importance to that.

[...] I think that Africa came to Tunisia before Tunisia went to go to Africa. And we witnessed the presence of African people in Tunisia more and more, starts mainly with the African bank, [...]. So it really created a kind of new dynamic and they opened a kind of, yeah, not traffic, traffic about exchange yeah, but also traffic of workers and all these kinds of problems because they find themselves here, so they organize the networks there and start something and this kind of thing. So that's why I'm saying that it's more about coming to Tunisia than Tunisia going to Africa.“

TU\_cs1\_march\_2022



# Snapshots interviews

## **... on Tunisia's role in EU-African relations**

„Just Africa will be part of the European Union it's just question of time you know and ## will be everywhere. So Tunisia could play this role and for that I think that Europe should integrate this kind of countries, the North African that are more developed than the others in the region West African countries, to make them as a ## to form more cooperation, diversification of the cooperation and more economic exchange and all of this.“

TU\_cs1\_march\_2022

# Snapshots interviews

## **... on other partners**

„Maybe now we know that the Gulf countries not invest more and more in Tunisia, they have other destinations. So we try to attract them to Tunis.“

TU\_cs3\_march\_2022

# Snapshots interviews

## **... on EU visa policy**

„I'm telling you, I'm telling you. Europe consider me exactly by default as the worst and the last terrorist or thief or criminal. And I have to bring the proof that I'm not like that. What kind of system is this? What kind of human rights respect is that? “

TU\_cs2\_march\_2022

# Snapshots interviews

## **... on EU's migration policy**

„Well, thanks [to] Europe for what it is doing, because as you see, what it's doing now with Ukraine refugees was not done for Afghanistan or Iraqi or Syrians.

[...] it's like saying all people are equal but now you're not doomed. You cannot teach someone about values that you don't have. Even we can neglect someone who smokes and he told you don't smoke.“

TU\_cs5\_march\_2022

# snapshots and trends

## **A regional definition ?**

- On the French side, classical definition of Europe as going from the Atlantic to the Oral mountains. No mention about Turkey. Evidence that Iceland belongs to Europe
- Europe as the playground of a smaller EU and close neighbour states.
- Few mentions of Northern Africa as an entity. Africa is mentioned as a whole.

	1	2	3	4	Non évoqué
Fernique	Europe	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident		UE
Lavarde	UE	Europe	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident	
Gontard	Europe	UE	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident	
Melot	Europe	UE	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident	
Gallicher	Europe de l'Ouest	UE	Europe	Occident	
Comte	UE	Europe	Occident	Europe de l'Ouest	
Beaudonnet	UE	Europe	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident	
Pouzyreff	UE	Europe de l'Ouest	Europe	Occident	
Thomas	UE	Europe	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident	
Lecomte	UE	Europe	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident	
Jerretie	Europe de l'Ouest	UE	Europe	Occident	
Roux	UE	Europe	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident	

	UE	Europe	Europe de l'Ouest	Occident
Rang moyen	1,3	2	2,6	3,8



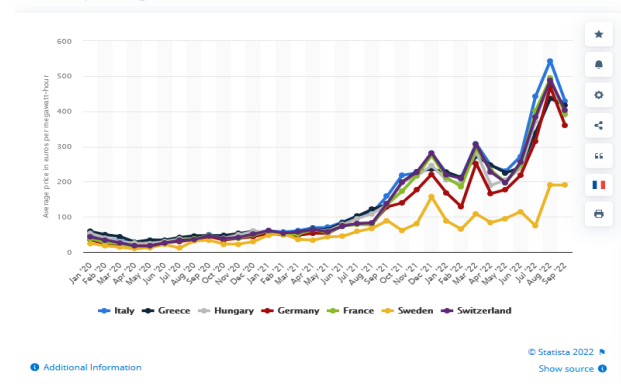
Empirical snapshots from MEP Twitter

# **GEOGRAPHICAL IMAGINATIONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS: EUROPE AND THE GULF MONARCHIES**



# In the middle of multiple crises...

Average monthly electricity wholesale prices in selected countries in the European Union (EU) from January 2020 to September 2022  
(in euros per megawatt-hour)



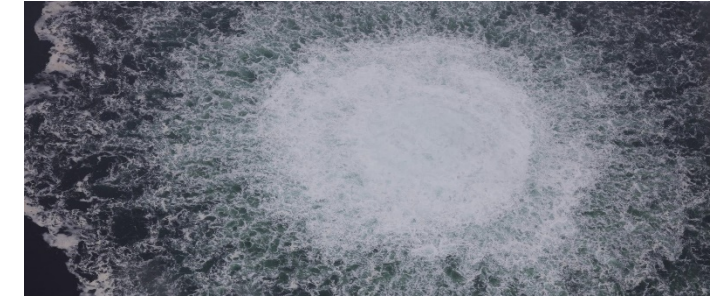
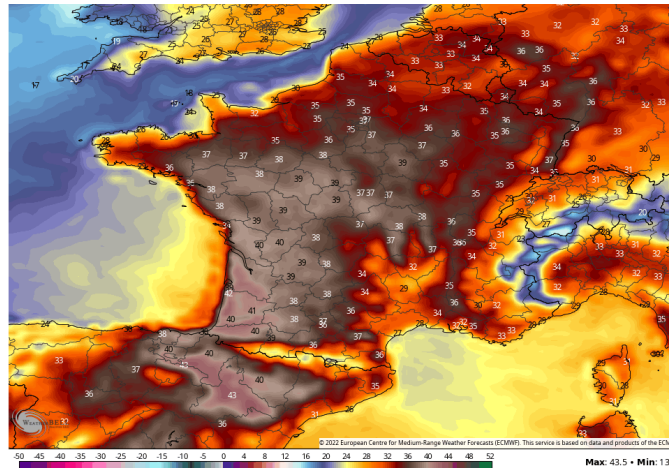
## Wie viel Gas derzeit an der Börse kostet

Gewichteter mittlerer Großhandelspreis für Erdgas in Europa (TTF)

40 Ct/kWh



Zuletzt aktualisiert: 28. Oktober 2022  
Quelle: EEX





...there is light at the end of the tunnel (or pipeline)



# Europe's „new“ strategic partnership with the Gulf

- EU commission announced a strategic partnership with the Gulf in May 2022

*“A stronger partnership with the Gulf region has a **key role** to play in the implementation of the European strategy to REPowerEU2 and the complementing EU External Energy Strategy.”*

*(European Commission, 2022, p. 1)*

- Planned cooperation in various fields planned
  - LNG supplies, stabilization of oil markets, hydrogen, energy efficiency & renewables
  - Carbon capture economy
  - Digitalization, artificial intelligence
  - Green transition, climate adaption and mitigation
  - Food security
  - Regional (WANA) security issues

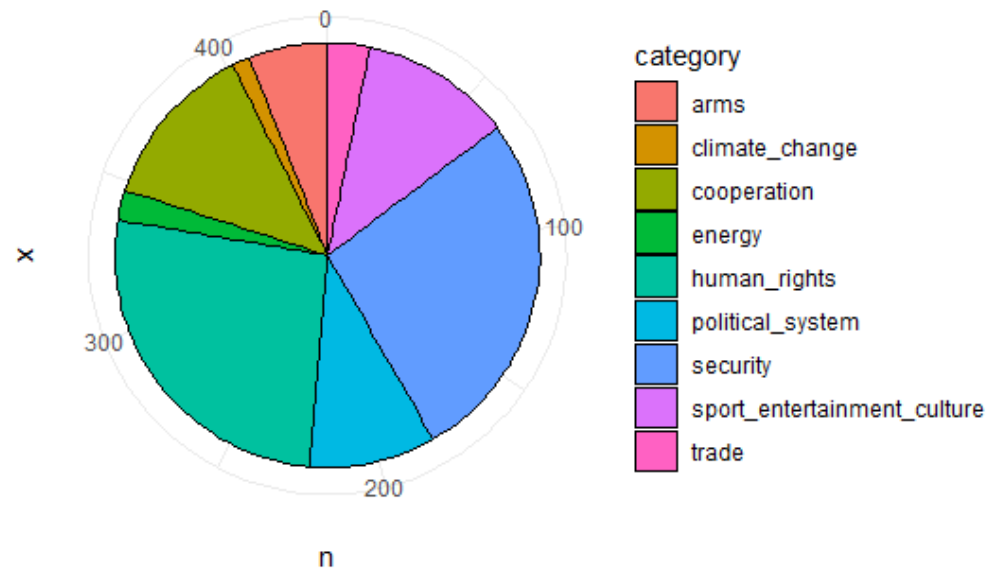
# What does the EP say about that on Twitter?

	2021	2022 (Jan. – July)
Accounts	725*	725*
Tweets (total)	619,742	377,760
Tweets (en)	196,284	122,500
Keyword in context** (en)	922	363

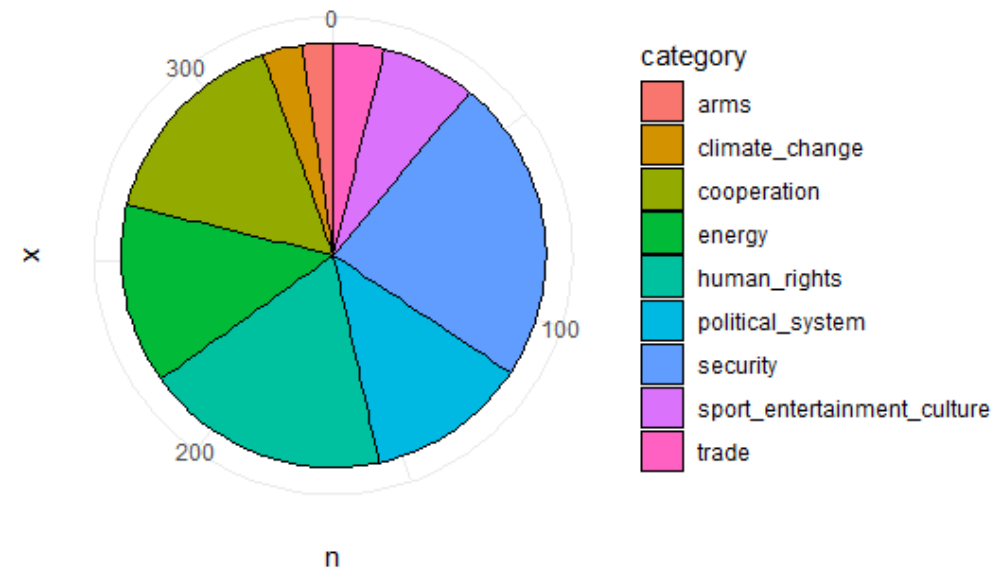
*\* a total of 725 personal accounts from members of the European Parliament. There, were 705 seats in the parliament for the period under review. The differences result from the fluctuation of members in the parliament. Accounts from the UK were included.*

*\*\* qualitative analysis of keywords in context. Keywords: “gulf\*”, “gcc\*”, “saudi arabia\*”, “qatar\*”, “emirates\*”, “uae\*”*

# empirical snapshots I

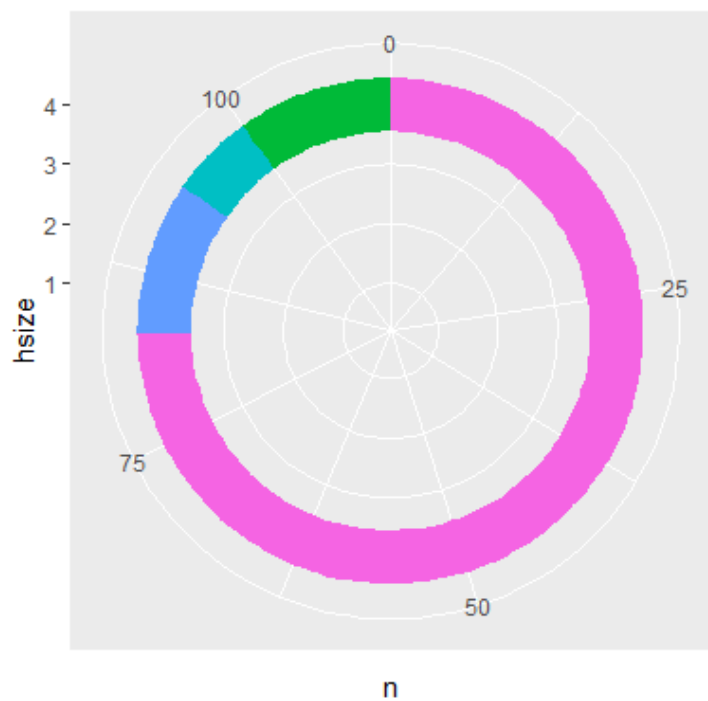


2021

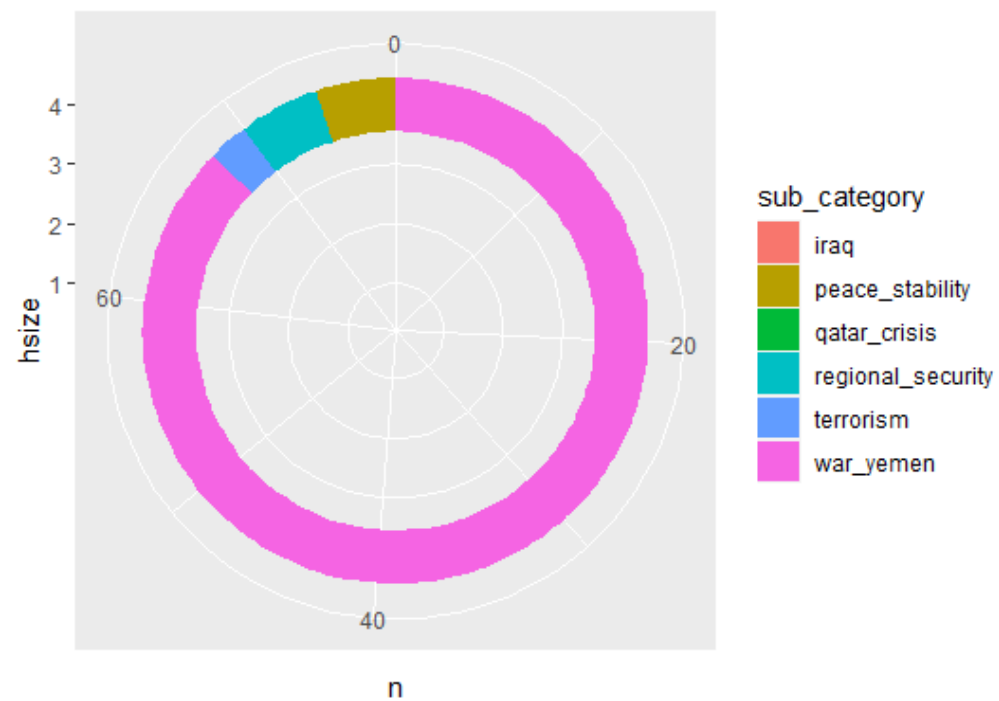


2022

# security

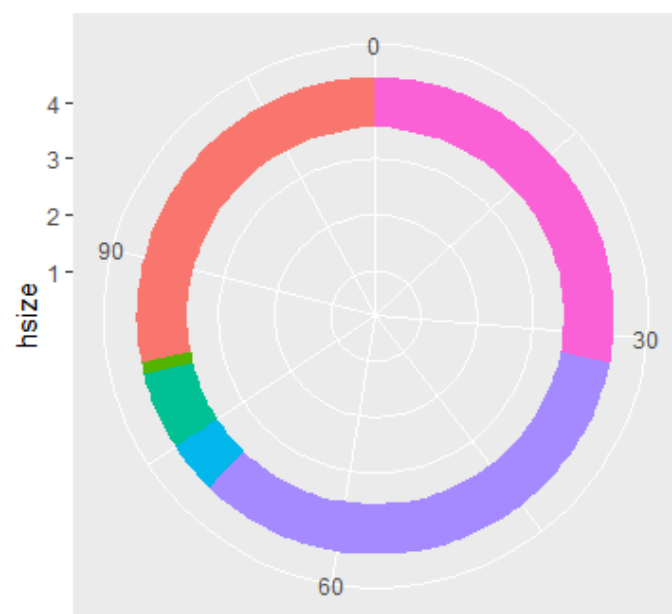


2021

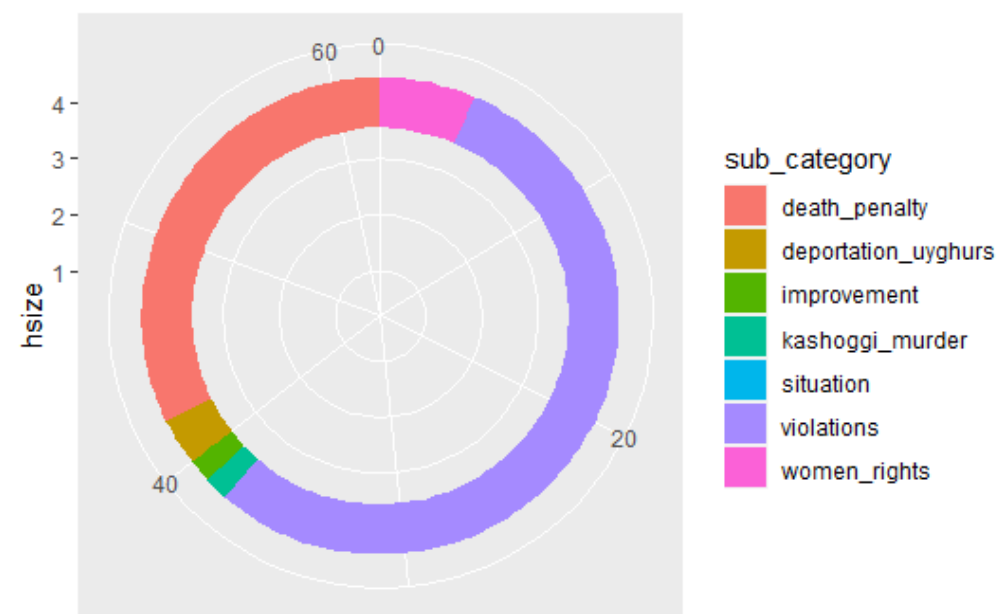


2022

# Human rights

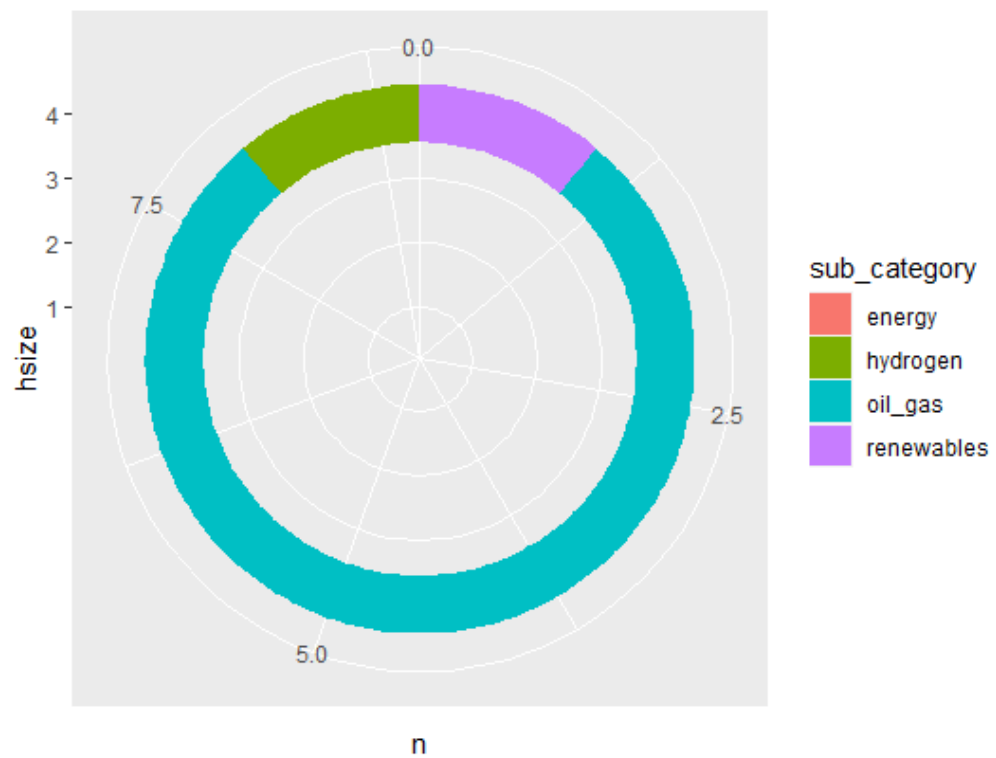


2021

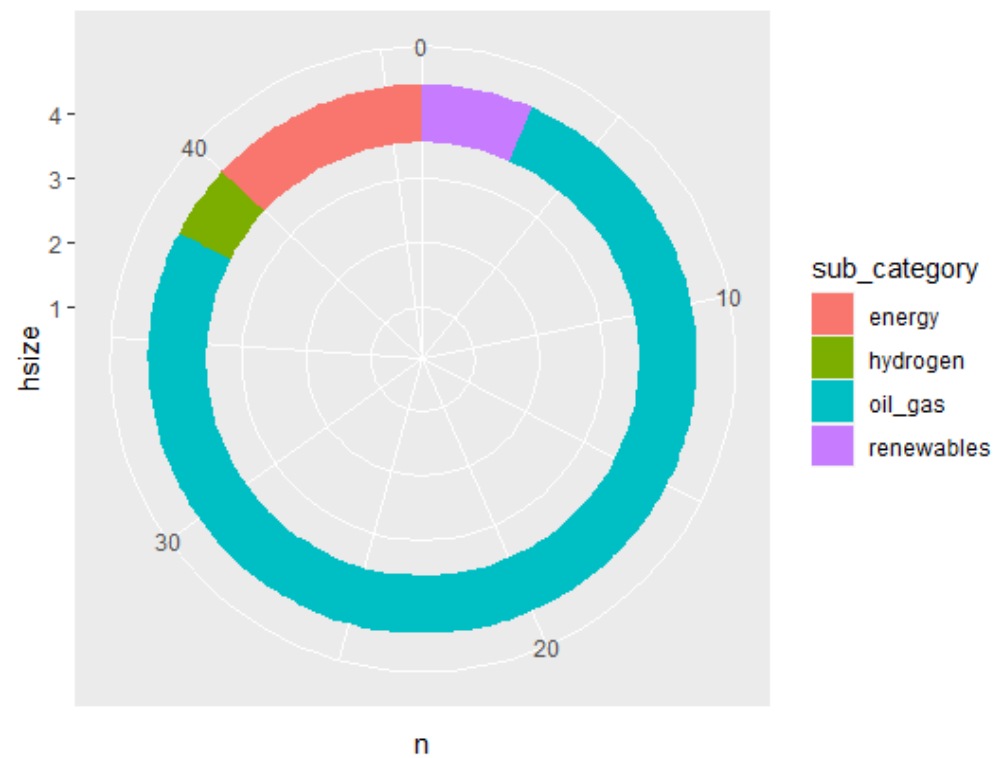


2022

# energy



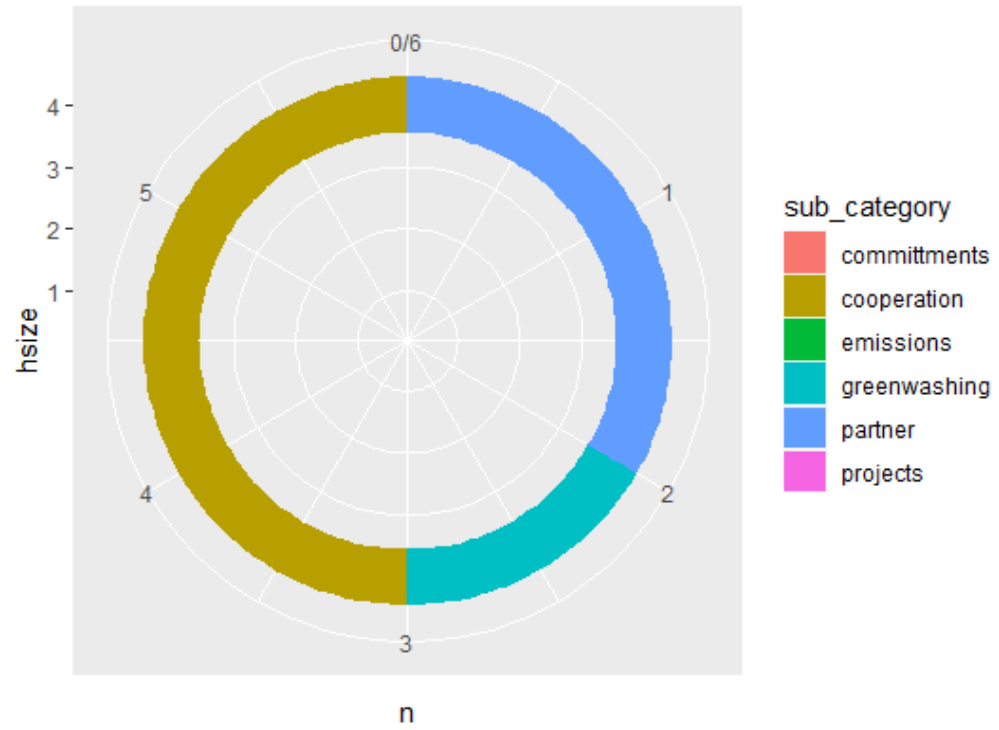
2021



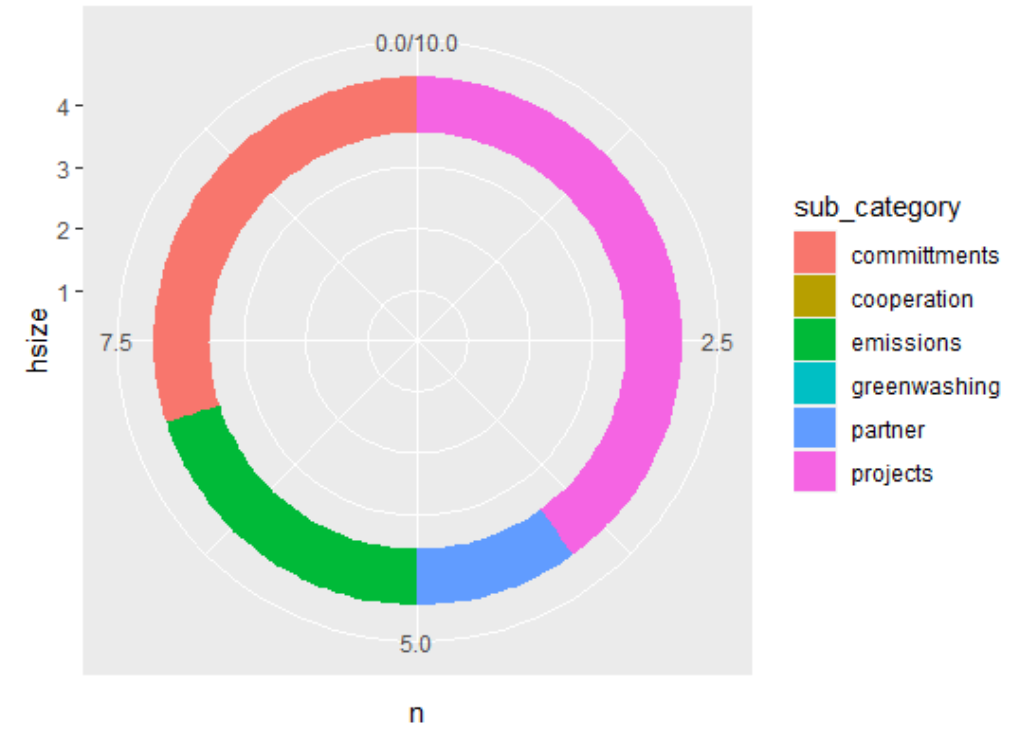
2022



# Climate change



2021



2022

# Snapshots 2021

1100	dollar donation UAE used <b>whitewash</b>	Gulf	state's <b>poor human rights record</b>	<i>gulf*</i>
1500	Parliament just voted Resolution condemning	Saudi	Arabia <b>death penalty minors politically</b>	<i>saudi*</i>
1100	human rights problems <b>forced labour</b>	Qatar	1 5	<i>qatar*</i>
1400	parliamentarians signed joint statement support	#Saudi	<b>women human rights defenders call</b>	<i>saudi*</i>
6100	agreed <b>work together</b> turn oil-rich	emirate	exporter <b>blue green hydrogen</b>	<i>emirate*</i>
6300	investment Brexit-embracing England whatever happened	Saudia	Arabia <b>wind power</b>	<i>saudi*</i>
9100	<b>net zero goals</b> trumpeted everyone	Saudi	Arabia oil firms <b>greenwash threatens</b>	<i>saudi*</i>
9200	slams leaders crisis mode blames	Saudi	Arabia <b>blocking #COP26</b> Today	<i>saudi*</i>
5100	Genocide #Palestinians <b>EU Principles help</b>	#Saudi	#UAE <b>commit Genocide</b> #Yemen	<i>saudi*</i>
5100	#EU #UN silent	#Saudi	#UAE <b>Genocide</b> taking place #Yemen	<i>saudi*</i>
5100	Member States <b>support sell arms</b>	Saudi	UAE mean European Values never	<i>saudi*</i>

# Snapshots 2022

9400 world's <b>biggest polluter</b> per capita	Qatar	<b>criminalises gay sex</b> max penalty	qatar*
9600 7 years now <b>Western backed</b>	Gulf	States Coalition targets <b>Food Processing</b>	gulf*
6200 alternative relying <b>Russian tyrant's oil</b>	Saudi	<b>tyrant's oil</b> maybe reliant oil	saudi*
6200 energy also diversify gas imports	Gulf	countries <b>important partner</b> us areas	gulf*
6200 heading ask Saudis <b>increase production</b>	Saudis	<b>murdering children</b> Yemen Real solution	saudi*
5100 Just remind Western supported	#Saudi	#UAE #Qatar <b>Genocide</b> #Yemen left	saudi*
6100 increased gas production USA Canada	Gulf	<b>reduce dependence Russia</b> increased production	gulf*
6200 US talks	Qatar	<b>supplying EU liquefied natural gas</b>	qatar*
6200 citing worries #ClimateChange time BEGGING	Saudis	UAE etc <b>expand oil production</b>	saudi*