

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Dimitra Spyropoulou
Advisor:	Mgr. Milan Ščasný PhD
Title of the thesis:	Households' adoption of energy-efficient technologies in Greece: Independently or Jointly?

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

The thesis by Ms. Dimitra Spyropoulou provides an important contribution to the understanding of households' adoption of energy-efficient technologies in Greece, focusing specifically on the synergy between battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and photovoltaic (PV) systems. The study's main strength lies in its collection of primary data through discrete choice experiments, which captures the preferences and willingness to pay for different vehicle and energy technologies among Greek consumers. I see the clear contribution to the current stream of literature of EV adoption.

Methods

The methodology is robust, utilizing discrete choice experiments to gauge consumer preferences effectively. This approach is particularly suitable for understanding complex decision-making processes in real-life scenarios and is complemented by a sophisticated statistical analysis using Mixed Logit models. These models consider both observed and unobserved heterogeneity in consumer preferences, providing a nuanced view of the factors influencing technology adoption.

Literature

The thesis offers an exhaustive review of the literature, effectively positioning its research within the existing body of knowledge. The literature review thoroughly examines the factors influencing electric vehicle adoption and the role of renewable energy sources like photovoltaics, identifying a clear gap in research specifically related to the Greek context. This thorough grounding in previous studies reinforces the relevance and necessity of the research. However, I would like to see some statistics about EV adoptions outside from Europe in section 2.2 (for example China or the USA).

Manuscript form

The thesis is well-structured and clearly written, demonstrating a high level of academic rigor. However, it is noted that the manuscript was prepared using MS Word. For future academic dissemination, converting the thesis into LaTeX could enhance the document's professionalism and readability, especially for the display of mathematical models and large data tables.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Overall, the thesis is a commendable work that significantly contributes to the fields of energy policy and consumer behavior regarding clean technologies. The findings suggest that joint support for BEVs and PV installations could significantly influence consumer decisions, supporting the policy recommendations for integrated renewable energy incentives.

Suggested Questions for the Defense

Consumer Heterogeneity: How do you account for potential biases in consumer responses in discrete choice experiments, especially considering the socioeconomic diversity in Greece?

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Also it would be nice to comment the literature review in terms of economic theory – i.e what type of good is car for various households? The elasticity of substitution may vary greatly between luxury goods and necessities.

Policy Impact: Could you elaborate on how your findings might influence specific governmental policies in Greece regarding the adoption of BEVs and PVs?

Scalability of Results: How do you see your findings being applied in other contexts or countries, especially those with different energy profiles and consumer behaviors? Interestingly, I would be happy to see some comparison with the USA (stil more market oriented environment versus subsidy oriented environment in the EU)

Technology Dependence: How might advances in related technologies, such as improvements in battery technology or reductions in PV costs, affect your conclusions? It would nice to see some technical note about getting energy from 1kg of battery vs 1kg of gasoline or diesel. In this way, the storage is stil much more efficient in gasoline or diesel.

Longitudinal Studies: What are the potential benefits and challenges of conducting a longitudinal study following up on the same consumer sample to observe changes in preferences and decisions over time?

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	17
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	95
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Matěj Opatrný*

DATE OF EVALUATION: 6.5.2024

Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F