

Youth Engagement Survey

June 2022

RES4AFRICA FOUNDATION

pwc



Who responded to the survey

Young people are increasingly emerging as protagonists of the clean energy transition

This is why it is important that the views of young people are properly considered and reflected in the decision making process. With this Survey, RES4Africa aims to increase the engagement of young people and provide a space for them to express their views about the future of renewables and the relationship between business and governments to ensure a fair and equitable energy transition.

The 127 young people who responded to the survey come from 18 African countries and are all between 18 and 35 years old. Few are over 30, while the majority fall in the age group 22-27 years old.

127 *Respondents*

18 *Countries*

22-27 *Average age*

Of those who answered the survey, around 38% are working while a large share, around 35%, are looking for opportunities.

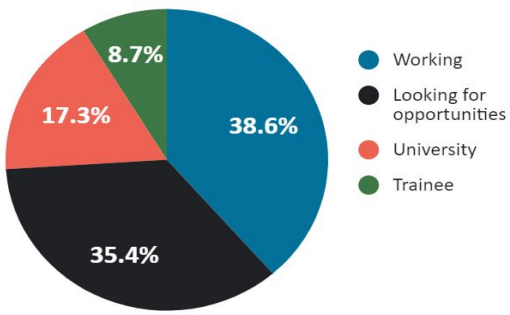
Survey Question

What is your country of origin?



Survey Question

What do you currently do ?

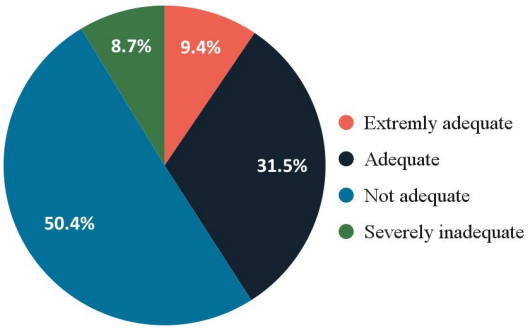


Delivering a clean energy transition requires a workforce with a mix of skills, including technical, financial, economic and social. Indeed, young people who responded to the survey come from many different educational backgrounds. Regardless of their educational background, 50% of young people believe that their country's university and higher education system is inadequate to create the skills needed to meet the requirements of the clean energy transition.

Respondents were also asked how they think companies can help drive the change if the education system is not considered perfectly adequate. Conducting workshops and group projects in cooperation with educational institutions is considered one of the best ways to help young people build a solid skills base. Another action that companies can take, according to survey respondents, is to put pressure on educational institutions to adapt education to the needs of the market.

Survey Question

How adequate do you think is the university and higher education system of your country to build out the skills needed to meet the requirements of the clean energy transition?



Educational Background

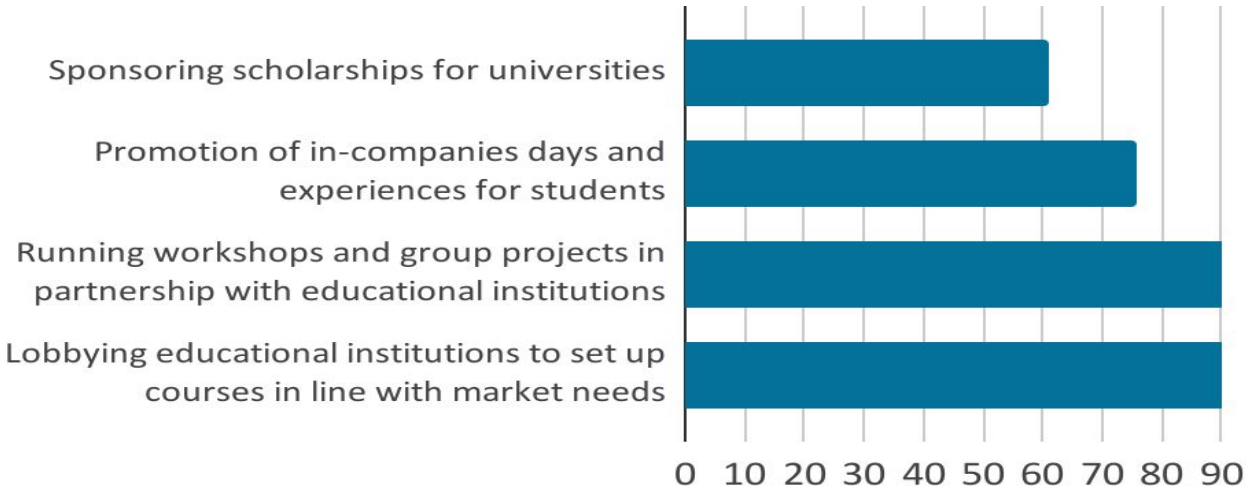
Energy, Engineering & STEM

Social Sciences & Humanities

Economics, Management & Finance

Survey Question

In case you feel the education system is inadequate to build out the skills needed for the clean energy transition, how do you think companies could help driving the change?





What companies and governments should do

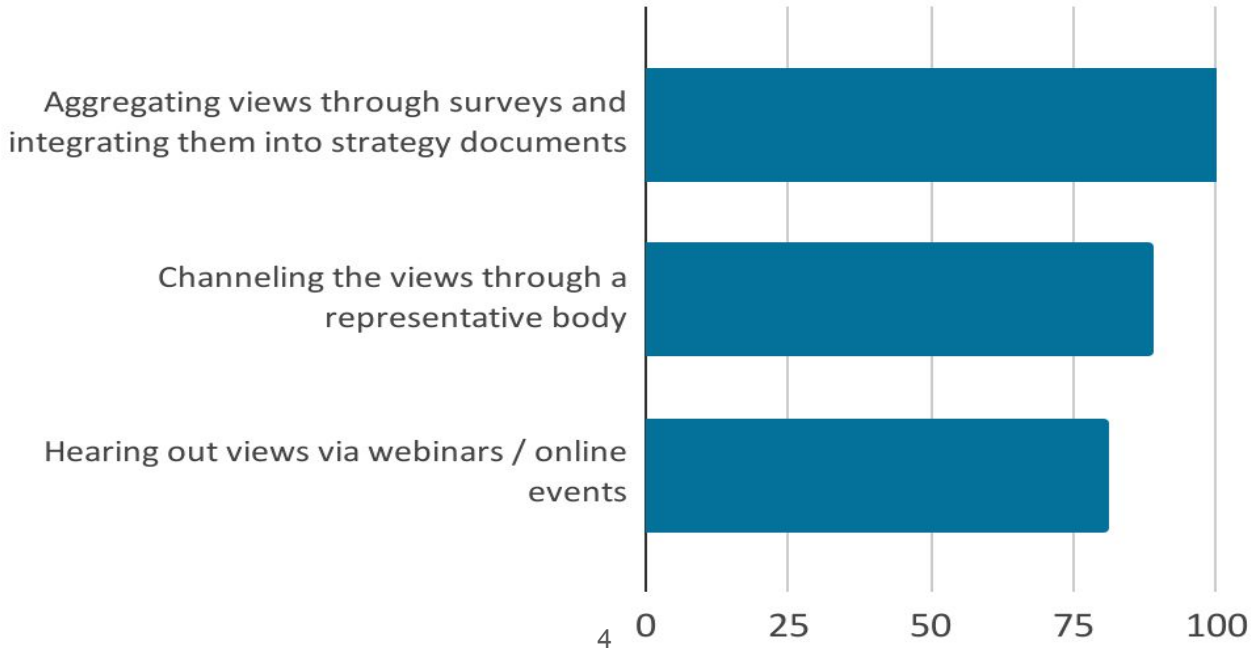
Young people are often underrepresented in decision-making and governmental bodies, which leads to an underrepresentation of their views and interests in key policy decisions and in the strategic direction their societies are heading. At the same, young people are the ones who will be most impacted by decisions taken today.

For this reason, the RES4Africa Foundation found it important to ask what the private sector and governments can do in order to make the views of young people heard louder and clearer. What emerged is that a majority of respondents would like their voices and opinions heard through structured surveys, and then have companies and governments turn these ideas into concrete and strategic actions.

Others also found it important to channel their views through a representative body, or via webinars and online events which give them direct contact with the companies that are driving the energy transition.

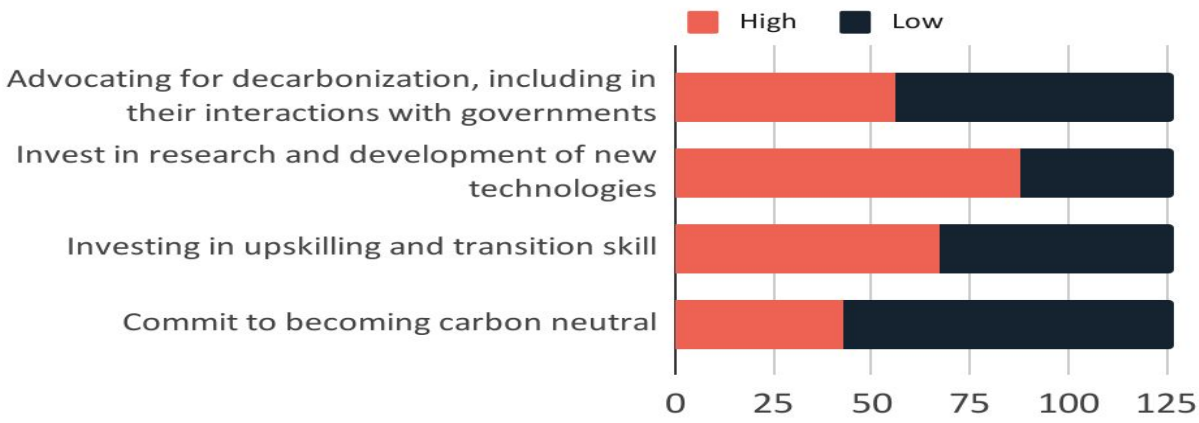
Survey Question

Assuming that you would like private sector companies to consider the voice of youth in their strategic orientation, how would you prefer for that voice to be sounded out and incorporated?



Survey Question

Which do you think are the most meaningful ways through which businesses can effectively take action on the sustainable energy transition?

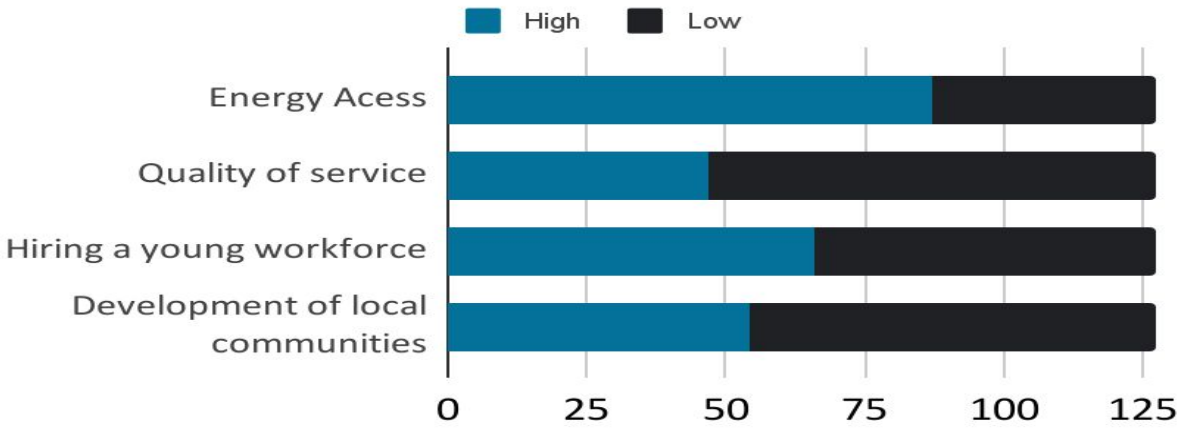


Africa's clean energy transition cannot disregard the crucial role of youth: endowed with knowledge, an inclination to innovation, and technological means to deliver on their ambition, young Africans represent over 70% of the continent's population and have the potential to be the real protagonists of its journey towards a sustainable tomorrow.

In this survey, respondents were asked to rank the actions that companies should take to do their part for the sustainable energy transition. The majority prioritized investment in research and development to develop new technologies. A majority also felt that investors and companies should do more in the area of ensuring energy access to energy for all, while the quality of service provided was considered the least important area of investment.

Survey Question

In which key impact and value areas of the RES sector do you think investors and companies should do more?



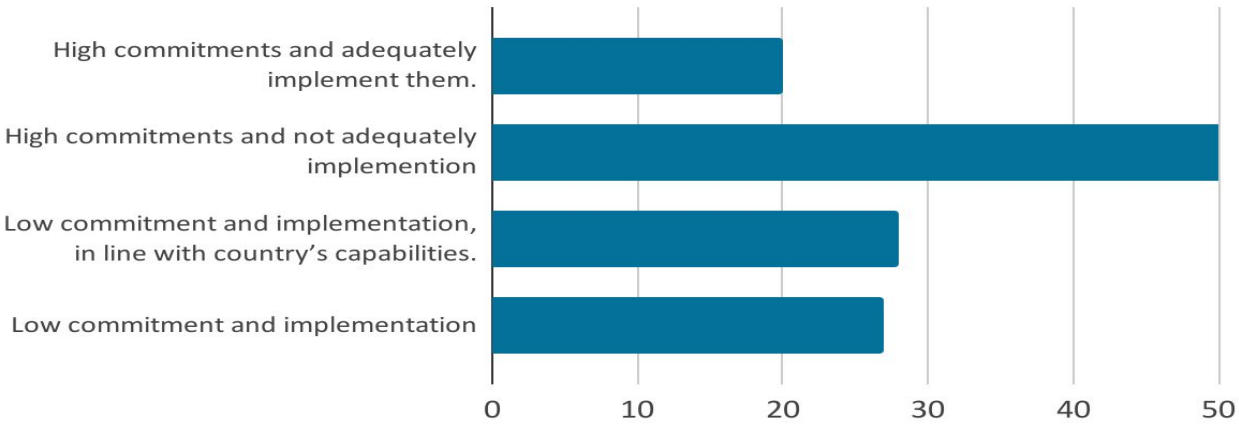


When it comes to assessing how well African policymakers are doing on climate commitments, the most commonly shared view is that governments set sufficiently high commitments but they are not doing enough to implement them. By extension, most young people expect that their countries will not meet the targets in due time. Only 15% of respondents believe that the high targets set by policy makers will be achieved in due time.

Companies can help stimulate government reforms, according to young people, mainly by setting up training courses and awareness-raising seminars on energy transition and climate change issues.

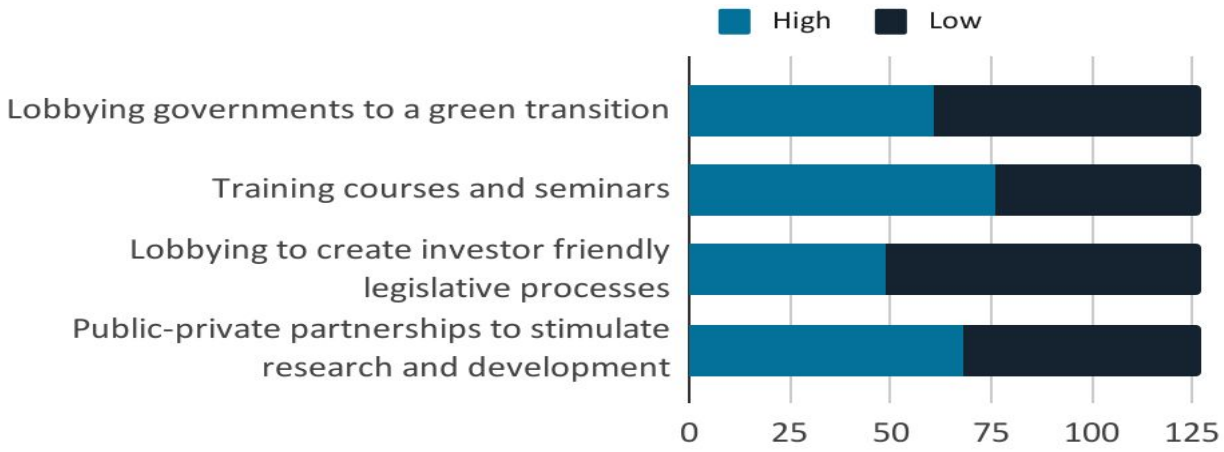
Survey Question

How would you characterise the attitude of energy policymakers in your country to energy transition and climate change mitigation and adaptation?



Survey Question

What actions should companies take to stimulate government reforms to achieve energy and climate targets in the country where they operate?

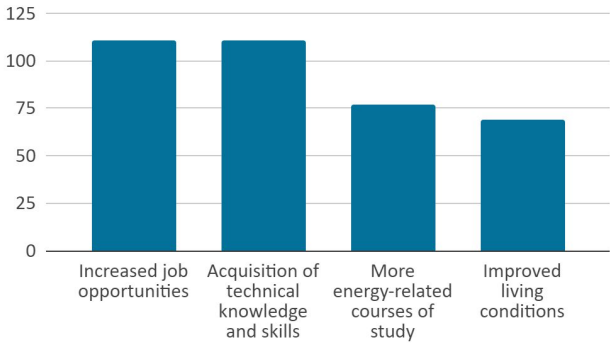




Young people and the renewables market

Survey Question

What do you think are the prospects for young people in the renewables market?

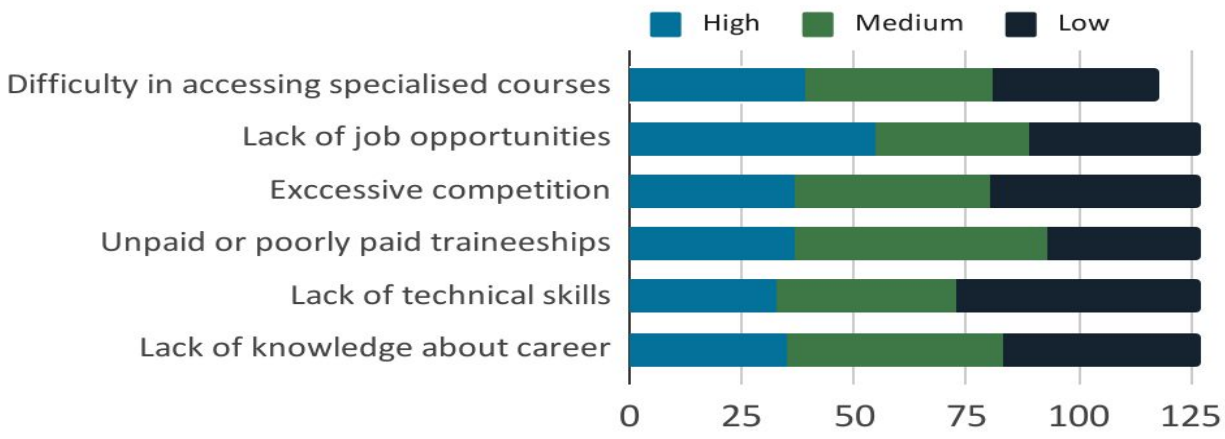


Many young people expect the renewable energy market to offer numerous new employment opportunities, as well as opportunities to acquire technical knowledge and skills. More broadly speaking, many respondents said they expect the RES industry to deliver an improvement in living conditions.

Besides opportunities, respondents were also asked to rank the obstacles they face in the renewables market. The main concern that emerges is the lack of job opportunities. On the other hand, being paid too little during traineeships is considered to be of medium importance. Finally, the obstacle regarded as least important is the lack of technical skills needed to enter the labour market.

Survey Question

What do you think are the main obstacles young people face in the renewables market?





When entering the workforce, young people are faced with a number of choices. In this survey, respondents were asked to rank which criterion is most relevant in their choice of career, choosing from the following options:

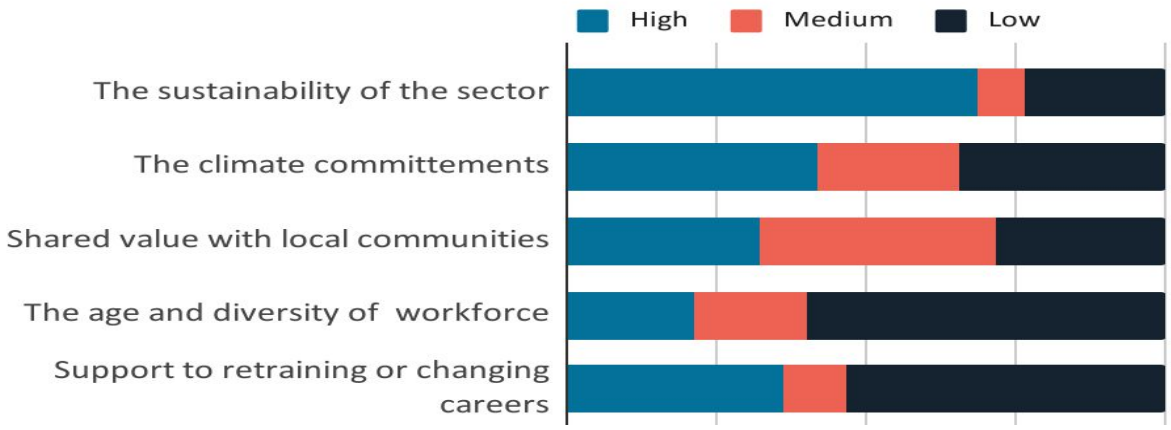
- The sustainability of the sector in which the company operates
- The climate commitments that the companies take
- The extent to which the company is committed to creating shared value with local communities
- The age and diversity of the company's workforce
- The company's support to retraining or changing careers

The data show that young people are broadly unwilling to work in a sector that is unsustainable. They also place a high value on the climate commitments of the companies they work for.

On the other hands, it emerges that the age and diversity of the company's workforce is not of paramount importance. The reflection that emerges is that diversity may be mitigated by the common desire to take an active part in the energy transition and the fight against climate change.

Survey Question

When deciding where you want to work in the future, how do you rate the significance of the factors below





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