**SSC2030: Comparing transition plans – lessons learned?**

Each of you has found a source that describes the plans of a country to transition from conventional, largely fossil fuel-based, energy systems to a lower carbon more sustainable energy system. And throughout the semester you’ve been reading about the successes and failures of the energy transitions of two European countries, Germany and Denmark.

**Your final significant writing assignment asks you to:**

**(1)** Identify three critical ***lessons learned\**** from the German and Danish energy transitions.

**(2)** Analyze the energy transition plan of your country of interest in light of these lessons learned.

* Does the plan consider these issues?
* If there is an approach that addresses these issues is it likely to be successful? Why or why not?
* If there isn’t a plan to address these issues what general approaches would you recommend?

Your **thesis** might argue that, based on what you’ve learned from Germany and Denmark’s transition experiences to date, country X’s plan is likely (or unlikely) to succeed because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Questions that might jump-start your thinking:**

* Is technology the largest barrier or challenge? If not, what is?
* Do transition plans focus on goals or technologies or policies?
* In terms of what lessons can be learned from the progress, or lack of progress, in Germany and Denmark consider these questions.
  + What role have economics played?
  + What role has politics played?
  + Have transition plans managed to successfully engage citizens in transitions? How or how not?
  + How is infrastructure involved?
  + Has transition been portrayed as a difficult challenge or as an exciting opportunity?
* What do the governments, businesses and citizens of the country that you are profiling think of GCC and energy issues?
  + Are they discussing these issues?

Please note that it is very likely that you will have to do **additional research** about your country of interest!

**\* “Lessons learned** or **lessons learnt** are experiences distilled from a project that should be actively taken into account in future projects.

There are several definitions of the concept. The one used by the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Aeronautics_and_Space_Administration), [European Space Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Space_Agency) and [Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan_Aerospace_Exploration_Agency) sounds as follows: “A lesson learned is knowledge or understanding gained by experience. The experience may be positive, as in a successful test or mission, or negative, as in a mishap or failure...A lesson must be significant in that it has a real or assumed impact on operations; valid in that is factually and technically correct; and applicable in that it identifies a specific design, process, or decision that reduces or eliminates the potential for failures and mishaps, or reinforces a positive result.” [[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lessons_learned#cite_note-1)

The [Development Assistance Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Development_Assistance_Committee) of the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development) defines lessons learned as “Generalizations based on evaluation experiences with projects, programs, or policies that abstract from the specific circumstances to broader situations. Frequently, lessons highlight strengths or weaknesses in preparation, design, and implementation that affect performance, outcome, and impact.” [[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lessons_learned#cite_note-2) “

\* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lessons\_learned

**RP 2: outline and thesis**

Once you have identified three critical lessons learned from the energy transitions of Germany and Denmark and have some understanding of the energy systems of your country of interest it’s time to create an outline and generate a thesis.

**Your outline should include this information:**

Introduction:

* Summary of the current energy system of your country of interest.
* That country’s plan to transition to a (more) sustainable energy system.
* A basic description of that country’s:
  + System of government
  + Governmental entity responsible for energy and energy policy
    - Is there an entity responsible for guiding or implementing energy transition?
  + Major players in the energy sector of your country of choice. These may be private, nationalized or international corporations.
* The three most critical lessons learned that you have taken from the German and Dutch experiences with energy transition.
* **Thesis**I suggest these sorts of thesis:
  + ‘Country X has successfully applied one (or two or three) of these lessons learned.’
  + ‘Country X has not successfully applied one (or two or any) of these lessons learned.’
  + ‘Country X has not yet applied one (or two or any) of these lessons learned but could benefit by applying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and here’s how.’

Body:

Each section should expand upon the introduction or (most importantly) support your thesis.

Conclusion:

Successful wrap up of your arguments.

I suggest adding citations to the outline so that you know you have the sources that you need.