# Assignment 1 - Task 3: Chart Critique

The chart illustrates Final Energy Demand (FED) shares across sectors in the EU-28 and includes a breakdown of residential energy consumption. The upper section uses stacked bar charts to show changes over time, while the lower section employs a donut chart to compare sectoral energy demand. Although the visualization is colorful and engaging, it suffers from several issues that reduce clarity.  
  
First, the stacked bar charts make it difficult to compare small category changes over time, particularly for tertiary and residential shares, which are thinly stacked at the top. Readers must carefully trace colors across years, which can lead to misinterpretation. A grouped bar chart or line chart would make temporal changes easier to see. Second, the donut chart at the bottom is visually appealing but suffers from the inherent weaknesses of pie/donut charts: human perception is poor at comparing angles and areas, so differences between sectors (e.g., residential vs. services) are not immediately clear. The nested design further complicates interpretation because the eye must decode multiple layers.  
  
Another limitation is the use of many bright colors. While the palette differentiates categories, it can overwhelm the viewer and reduce accessibility for color-blind readers. Adding direct value labels to bars and simplifying the color scheme would improve clarity. Finally, the mixture of stacked bars and a donut chart creates inconsistency; sticking to one visualization type (e.g., bar charts throughout) would make the story more coherent.  
  
In summary, while the chart succeeds in presenting a large amount of information in a visually engaging way, its design choices—stacked bars and donut chart—make interpretation harder than necessary. A clearer alternative would be a series of bar or line charts, supported by consistent labeling and fewer colors. This would ensure the important message about energy demand trends and sectoral differences is communicated more effectively.

## Chart Critiqued

