

# Design explained - Dataprocessing, Week 3

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## **The data**

This week's design concerns a barplot. I decided to depict the percentage of renewable energy out of all energy consumption for each EU member state. There are several reasons why I chose to depict this data. First, it allows for comparison among member states. The question which members are most supportive of sustainable energy is quickly answered. This is important to see where perhaps the EU might focus its efforts to incentivise more sustainable energy. Second, given current climate change trends it is important to be aware which countries contribute most to bettering our environment. Obviously, the extent to which countries use sustainable energy is not the only indicator of how environmentally friendly a country is. But it is a significant one, and hence important to showcase. The data is from the year 2015, since this is the most recent year for which data is available.

## **The Design**

There were several steps that led to the final design.

1) I decided to put each EU member on the X axis as a categorical variable. This consequently means the percentage of renewable energy consumption was put on the Y axis as a continuous variable. This is because it is easier to follow the barplot in this way. Switching the two axis would mean one constantly has to look to the side of the screen, which feels a lot more effort.

2) On the X axis, nations are put in alphabetical order. I ranked nations based on their percentage first, and then put them on the X axis from lowest to highest. My reasoning behind this was that it shows where nations stand compared to all other member states.

3) In terms of colours, I decided for steelblue as the initial colour of each bar. When one hovers the mouse over a bar, it turns green and shows the exact percentage. I went for steelblue because it is colour representing the EU, and green because the topic is green energy.