This document is the Accepted Manuscript version of a Published Work that appeared in final form in: Akizu-Gardoki, O.; Wakiyama, T.; Wiedmann, T.; Bueno, G.; Arto, I.; Lenzen, M.; Lopez-Guede, J.M.. 2021. Hidden Energy Flow indicator to reflect the outsourced energy requirements of countries. JOURNAL OF CLEANER PRODUCTION.278. DOI (10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.123827). © Copyright 2020 Elsevier B.V., All rights reserved. This manuscript version is made available under the CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 license http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

1 Hidden Energy Flow indicator to reflect the outsourced

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energy requirements of countries

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20 **ABSTRACT** – Globalisation and the outsourcing of industrial manufacturing from developed to less 21 developed countries has an increasing effect on the national energy balances of most developed 22 economies. The current standard metric Total Primary Energy Supply of a country does not take into 23 account the energy embodied in goods and services imported from other countries, leading to the 24 perverse outcome of a country appearing to be more sustainable the more it outsources its energy-25 intensive industries. Academia has addressed this problem by suggesting the use of the Total Primary 26 Energy Footprint as an additional metric, but there has not been a clear proposal put forward by 27 academia to governments or international institutions about how to officially adopt Consumption-28 Based Accounting in the field of energy. This paper states that acknowledging the existence of 29 embodied energy flows is indispensable when formulating new national and international energy 30 policies for the transition towards energy systems that are socially and environmentally more 31 sustainable. In this study, the Hidden Energy Flow indicator of 44 countries has been quantified using, 32 for the first time, five different Global Multi-Regional Input-Output databases for the latest available 33 year, 2011. The proposed indicator provides a percentage to be added to or subtracted from the Total 34 Primary Energy Used value of a country, provided by the International Energy Agency, to get its real consumption-based energy requirement. This study demonstrates that, from 44 countries analysed, the 35 36 ten most developed countries demand on average 18.5% more energy than measured by the 37 International Energy Agency; the medium developed 24 countries demand 12.4% more, and the ten

- least developed countries demand 1.6% less. This means that most developed and medium developed countries displace their indirect energy consumption towards less developed countries in a hidden way. Furthermore, this research supports evidence that direct energy consumption in households is less relevant than the energy embodied in goods and services purchased by households, reaching 59.1% in the case of Switzerland, used as a reference among developed countries. The proposed Hidden Energy Flow indicator supports scientists, policymakers and citizens in the effort to focus the energy transition actions towards conducting the necessary energy consumption and production changes in the most effective way, improving energy justice and energy democracy.

47 Key words: hidden energy flow indicator; energy footprint; energy transition; consumption-based
48 accounts; sustainability; energy justice;



GRAPHIC ABSTRACT:

54 **1. INTRODUCTION**

In the current globalised era, high-income countries tend to outsource their heavy industry production 55 or even service management from lower-income countries, mainly to be competitive and make more 56 57 profit in internationalised markets. The value of world merchandise exports grew more than 260-fold from 1948 (US\$59 billion) to 2016 (US\$15,464 billion) and, on average, exports made up 29% of a 58 59 country's gross domestic product in 2016 (Wiedmann and Lenzen, 2018). Thus, taking into account 60 the complexity of international production flows, traditional production-based energy measurement 61 systems (Production Based Accounts, PBA) are no longer able to provide a whole panorama of the 62 energy consumed by the inhabitants of a country as a result of their lifestyle. Therefore, the whole 63 international energy consumption panorama is now being reinterpreted with Consumption Based 64 Accounts (CBA). For some countries that have apparently been decreasing their energy consumption 65 in recent years (such as the United Kingdom or Switzerland), it has been detected that this is partial 66 interpretation due the outsourcing of their energy consumption (Hardt et al., 2018) (Moreau and Vuille, 2018) (Akizu-Gardoki et al., 2018). According to Hardt et al. (Hardt et al., 2018), most of the 67 68 energy reductions from structural changes in the UK are the result of offshoring production. In fact, in 69 the case of Switzerland, a "virtual decoupling" has been detected, meaning that, while a national 70 reduction in energy consumption is claimed, in reality, an increase in consumption is occurring when 71 taking into account the energy consumed outside national boundaries (Moreau and Vuille, 2018). The 72 same problematic virtual decoupling phenomenon has been detected in later analyses in 10 countries 73 for years 2000-2014: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Luxemburg, Norway, Netherlands, Romania, 74 Tajikistan, Slovakia and Switzerland (Akizu-Gardoki et al., 2018). Similarly, countries that have 75 apparently had a high energy consumption increase in the last 20 years (such as China, India, Korea, 76 Russia, or Bulgaria) have been reported to use only part of that energy to satisfy their own needs and 77 part to provide goods and services to other countries (Moreau and Vuille, 2018), (Arto et al., 2016).

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79 This energy displacement between developed and developing countries generates a confusion when 80 examining the energy requirements for the achieved living standards, since most developed countries 81 seem to show that they need less energy than the quantity really needed in order achieve higher 82 development standards. This could generate confusions even when choosing the "most sustainable 83 countries of reference" and their respective energy policies to be followed, or to find out how much 84 energy per capita is required to achieve high standards of development.

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The problem has been previously addressed in significant studies, and Total Primary Energy Footprint 86 87 (TPEF) data has been calculated for several countries for certain year periods, offering an alternative 88 to the PBA Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) estimations. In the estimation of country footprints, 89 variations and errors in results have been detected due to different sectorial aggregations (Zhang, 90 Caron and Winchester, 2018), suggesting a non-aggregated use of data. However, the standardisation 91 of energy footprint data is lacking and there are discrepancies in results; thus, it is difficult to replace 92 the use of TPES data with TPEF data in an extensive and normalised way. This has been thoroughly 93 dealt with in CO₂ Consumption Based Accounts (CBA) (Moran and Wood, 2014), (Owen, 2017), 94 where Eora, GTAP and WIOD Databases are compared. GTAP and WIOD databases have also been 95 compared in Carbon Footprints, concluding similarities higher than 75-80% (Arto, Rueda-Cantuche 96 and Peters, 2014). Furthermore, although the CBA in policy applications have been considered 97 necessary to minimise their uncertainty and ensure their robustness (Rodrigues et al., 2018), there is 98 an absence of comparative information in the energy sector at global level.

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100 Given this context, the main goal of this paper is to generate a unified indicator of Hidden Energy 101 Flows using the latest reliable data currently available (2011). This study does not aim to emit an 102 ethical judgement of exporting or importing embodied energy, but rather to attain the ability to 103 measure net embodied energy in a standardised way, within a single indicator. The percentage 104 difference (±%) between TPES (offered by the International Energy Agency, IEA) and TPEF 105 calculated by Global Multi-Regional Input-Output methodology (GMRIO) has been defined as 106 Hidden Energy Flows (HEF). The concept of HEF has its origins in the term Hidden Debt (between 107 developed and non-developed countries) in the frame of International Cooperation and coined by 108 Akizu et al. (Akizu et al., 2017) (Akizu et al., 2018). HEF allows us to understand the extent to which 109 a country's energy consumption according to the CBA deviates from traditional measurements of 110 energy consumption based on PBA. If countries are sincere and can recognise their energy 111 consumption, it may enhance global energy literacy and promote the transition towards socio-112 environmentally lower-impact energy systems.

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114 Thus, the specific aims of this paper are twofold. The first is to define a standardised HEF indicator, in order to offer the amount of energy requirement that all of the 43 counties analysed and RoW (rest 115 of the world) have imported or exported embodied in products or services. This first novel 116 contribution is a tool to better understand global Energy Justice (Sovacool and Dworkin, 2015), since 117 it shows in precise numbers how developed countries are using the energetic resources of non-118 119 developed ones in general, and how some of the developed countries are more dependent than others. 120 This first goal also provides a country more tools to disaggregate the Total Primary Energy Consumption into different consumption categories, such as: energy consumed directly at homes, 121 energy consumed embodied in products and services, as well as transformation and losses; giving 122 123 more knowledge to the inhabitants of a country to decide where to start reducing energy consumption 124 and contributing to the Democratization of Energy (Burke and Stephens, 2017). The HEF indicator 125 will help academics, policymakers and even citizens to understand how much energy is needed when 126 consumption-based accounts are taken into account and standards of living can be reflected.

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Secondly, this paper allows us to understand why five MRIO databases (Eora, WIOD, EXIOBASE, OECD and GTAP) provide diverging results when calculating the average HEF for the year 2011. This shows the need for further standardisation of GMRIO databases, since IO analysis is a relatively new field in the environmental economic sector. In the incoming years, further standardisation could provide direct and significant benefits in environmentally friendly policymaking.

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135 **2.** Literature review

136 The following literature review contextualises this research within 34 relevant (cited) international 137 articles using "footprint" and "energy footprint" keywords, mainly using the ScienceDirect research 138 engine, which encompasses the Journal of Cleaner Production (classification of analysed papers in 139 Supplementary Material Table A.1). One of the first national Energy Ecological Footprint (EEF) 140 analyses was developed for China (Chen and Lin, 2008), integrating the CO_2 emissions from burning 141 fossil fuels within the corresponding bioproductive area. For the UK, the development of the first 142 empirical comparison of energy footprints embodied in trade (Wiedmann, 2009) clearly detected that 143 the use of National Footprint Accounts (NFA) was very restrictive, and Input-Output based models, such as UK-MRIO were more comprehensive, robust, and offered results of higher relevance. The 144 145 first global energy footprint was calculated with the GTAP database (Chen and Chen, 2011) (Chen 146 and Chen, 2013), but inaccuracies due to differences in the Input-Output (IO) structure were 147 perceived (Arto et al., 2016). The accuracy of the results for 39 countries in the period 1998 to 2008 148 was improved with the use of the WIOD database (Arto et al., 2016). Accuracy analyses have also 149 been performed with the structural decomposition analysis of global energy footprints (Lan et al., 150 2016), using the Eora dataset for 189 countries. Recent research has been carried out trying to detect 151 not only the final consumption activities in the economic system but also the intermediate production 152 of industries separately (Wu and Chen, 2017).

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154 Owen et al. (2017) have made a footprint analysis for the UK, detecting the difficulties when 155 aggregating the TPES data for each of the five currently most used databases for the calculation of the 156 TPEF. Min and Rao (2017) have detected that uncertainty could be higher in over 20% of household 157 Energy Footprints at most income levels in the case studies of Brazil and India. Kucukvar et al. (2017) 158 have made one of the first footprint forecasts, just for the electric part of the energy sector for the UK 159 and Turkey, creating scenarios until 2050. Rocco et al. (2018) compared CBA energy consumption to 160 the Global Multi-Regional Input-Output (GMRIO) PBA in South Africa and Botswana, discovering 161 not only the relevance of empowering efficient local industries to decrease inland energy consumption, 162 but also the embodied exported energy in goods and services. The use of CBA has been considered 163 vital in Switzerland, where a "virtual decoupling" reality has been detected (Moreau and Vuille, 2018), 164 and the Decoupling Index has been analysed with the Eora database for 126 countries (Akizu-Gardoki 165 et al., 2018), detecting some virtually decoupled countries and others that have really managed to achieve decoupling (reducing energy consumption while increasing their HDI). In this context, it has 166 167 been argued that footprint accounts should be considered when evaluating the relationship between 168 resource consumption and welfare (Wiedmann and Lenzen, 2018). One prominent example of where 169 consumption-based accounting has been applied in a policy context is the inclusion of the material 170 footprint as an indicator for two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 8 and 12) (Allen et al., 2016) 171 (Wiedmann and Lenzen, 2018). However, CBA has not been internationally recognised in national 172 energy consumption measurements thus far.

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174 Furthermore, although global energy reduction has been deemed necessary to maintain the sustainable 175 use of resources (McGlade and Ekins, 2015), Kaltenegger et al. (2017) detected that global energy 176 consumption increased by 29.4% from 1995 to 2009, and may increase by 52.9% from 1995 to 2030. 177 Wu and Chen (Wu and Chen, 2017) found that overall, the energy use embodied in international trade 178 has reached 90% of global energy use, in which energy induced by final product trade is around 20%, 179 while the rest is induced by intermediate trade consumption. Furthermore, Wood et al. (2018) found 180 that the energy consumption displaced through trade rose from 20 to 29% during the 1995 to 2011 181 period. Chen et al. (2018) have found that embodied energy inflows and outflows for five world 182 economies (USA, CHN, JPN, RUS and IND) constitute more than 43.7% and 45.4% of total through-183 flow, concluding that footprint accounting polarises countries according to their incomes.

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Concern about direct and indirect energy use in households arose in the 1970s (Bullard and Herendeen, 1975) (Hannon, 1981), where a 357 sector based Input-Output calculation was computed to calculate the energy embodied in the goods and services of the US economy. The relevant indirect energy consumption in national contexts was also identified in several other studies; in Norway it was detected that, in 1973, approximately 23% of the energy was indirectly consumed among rich families, and 13% by poor ones; and in New Zealand, when comparing the growth of income to the increase in energy consumption (Herendeen, 1978) (Peet, Carter and Baines, 1985). Van Engelenburg et al. (1994)

192 proposed a method to calculate national energy footprints in ten steps. In the Netherlands, Vringer and 193 Blok (1995) calculated that indirect energy requirements were 54% of the total, and a further 194 disaggregation by sector was made in order to provide insights into understanding where to reduce 195 energy consumption. In Australia, Lenzen (1998) defined that 70% of the energy was consumed, on 196 average, in an indirect way by households during 1993-94. In 1999 it was found that in the 197 Netherlands, during the period from 1950 to 1995, the share of indirect energy consumption embodied 198 in goods in the total energy requirements fluctuated between 50% and 60% (Biesiot and Noorman, 199 1999), using a combined Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Input-Output Analysis. Similarly, in the Netherlands it was found that, in 1990, 59% of energy consumption was indirect (Wilting, Biesiot and 200 201 Moll, 1999). It was also stated that direct consumption (41%) had a reduction potential of 55%, and 202 total consumption (direct plus indirect) had reduction potential of 59% (Wilting, Biesiot and Moll, 203 1999).

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In this respect, cities were identified as places where indirect energy or energy embodied in the consumption of goods and services by their residents is as important as direct energy use (Lenzen, Dey and Foran, 2004), (Harris et al., 2020). Lenzen et al. also expressed the need to calculate global impacts through Input-Output analysis and their origins in order to truly be able to act and "think global".

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211 In Brazil, 11 cities were analysed, calculating the rate of direct and indirect energy consumption 212 embodied in goods and services in 1995-96, using Input-Output methodology (Cohen, Lenzen and 213 Schaeffer, 2005). According to that study, an average of 48.22 MWh/cap were consumed, of which 61% 214 was indirect. A similar study shows that, in India, indirect energy consumption was also higher than 215 direct consumption (Pachauri, 2004), being up to ten times higher in some households (Pachauri and Spreng, 2002). A later study analysed how energy intensity and national expenditure were related in a 216 217 number of countries, arguing that, within footprint accounts, energy expenditure in households does 218 not apparently lead to sustainable energy management, in contrast with Kuznets theory (Lenzen et al., 219 2006).

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Thus, measuring the embodied energy requirement and the corresponding emissions is deemed necessary in order to accomplish an energy transition in affluent and urbanised societies, where direct energy is less important than embodied energy (Lenzen, Wood and Foran, 2008), (Wiedenhofer, Lenzen and Steinberger, 2011), (Vetőné Mózner, 2013), (Caro et al., 2017). A later study confirms that indirect energy is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, such as in the eastern Australian area, where indirect energy is 74% in the former and 67% in the latter (Wiedenhofer, Lenzen and Steinberger, 2013).

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- 229 3. METHODOLOGY AND DATA
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231 **3.1. Methodology**

Environmentally Extended Global Multi-Regional Input-Output analysis (EE-GMRIO) has been 232 233 widely used to calculate the environmental footprints of nations (Wiedmann and Lenzen, 2018) (Owen et al., 2017), (Oita et al., 2016), (Lenzen, Pade and Munksgaard, 2004), (Wiedmann et al., 234 235 2007), (Kulionis and Wood, 2020), (Chen et al., 2020). In our case, we use this method to assess the 236 energy footprint of countries (TPEF) by combing GMRIO data and the original data from the IEA on 237 the energy consumption of countries (defined as TPES). The relation between the two has been 238 defined as the Hidden Energy Flows (HEF) of a country and is given as a percentage to add to or subtract from the TPES in order to obtain the consumption-based reality of a country (Eq. 1). Since 239 240 the obtained results have some variations across all of the 5 databases, an average value has been 241 obtained in order to define the HEF of a country (Eq. 2), and the typical deviation has also been reflected so as to understand the accuracy of a certain country's HEF. 242

- $(Eq. 1) HEF (\%) = (TPEF-TPES)/TPES \cdot 100$
- 244 $(Eq. 2) \overline{HEF} = (HEF_{WIOD} + H_{Eora} + H_{EXIOBASE} + H_{GTAP} + H_{OECD}) \cdot 1/5$
- 245

Figure 1 summarises the GMRIO framework, where Z^{RS} denotes a sub-matrix of intermediate deliveries from country *R* to country *S*, with destination industries in columns and delivering industries in rows; y^{RS} denotes the final demand of country *S* for goods and services produced by country *R*; x^{R} is the vector of gross output by industry in country *R*; va^{R} represents the vector of value added by industry in country *R*; q^{R} denotes the vector of energy use added by industry in country *R*; and h^{R} is the vector of direct energy consumption by households in country *R*.





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254	IEA data. Countries and their inhabitants would be able to know the average amount of energy embedded in
255	imported/exported products and services. This figure shows HEF calculations for three regions R, S and T, and it has
256	adapted in our algorithm to the number of regions and industrial sectors used in each of the five databases.
257	
258	The relation between \mathbf{x} , \mathbf{Z} and \mathbf{Y} is defined by the accounting equation:
259	$(Eq. 3) \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Z}\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{Y}\mathbf{j}$
260	Where i and j are column summation vectors of appropriate dimension (vectors of ones).
261	For any country R, the production-based energy consumption (which is equal to the TPES) can be
262	expressed as the sum of the energy consumption of all the industries in country R plus the direct
263	energy consumption by households:
264	$(Eq. 4) TPES^R = \mathbf{q}^R \mathbf{i} + h^R$
265	From Eq. 3, the input coefficients are obtained as:
266	$(Eq. 5) \mathbf{A^{RS}} = \mathbf{Z^{RS}}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{R}})^{-1}$
267	where $(\hat{\mathbf{x}}^R)^{-1}$ denotes the inverse of a diagonal matrix of total outputs in country <i>R</i> .
268	Likewise, the energy coefficients ($\mathbf{c}^{\mathbf{R}}$) for country R are defined as:
269	$(Eq. \ 6) \ \mathbf{c}^{\mathbf{R}} = \left(\mathbf{\hat{x}}^{\mathbf{R}}\right)^{-1} \mathbf{q}^{\mathbf{R}}$
270	Eq. 3 can now be written as a standard input-output model as:
271	$(Eq. 7) \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{Y}\mathbf{j}$
272	The solution to the this model is given by:
273	$(Eq. 8)$ $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{Y}\mathbf{j}$
274	where $\mathbf{L} \equiv (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}$ denotes the so-called Leontief inverse. From Eq. 6 and 8, the energy
275	consumption by industry can be calculated as:
276	$(Eq. 9) \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{\hat{c}} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{Y} \mathbf{j}$
277	Finally, operating in $Eq. 9$ and adding the energy directly used by households, we can derive the
278	expression for the TPEF of country R as:
279	$(Eq. 10) TPEF^R = \mathbf{c}'\mathbf{L}\mathbf{y}^\mathbf{R} + h^R$

where $\mathbf{y}^{\mathbf{R}}$ is a column vector that represents the domestic final demand of country R for final goods produced domestically ($\mathbf{y}^{\mathbf{RR}}$) and imported ($\mathbf{y}^{\mathbf{SR}}, \mathbf{y}^{\mathbf{TR}}$).

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284 **3.1. Data and standardisation**

285 Energy data have been drawn from the IEA database (International Energy Agency, 2019) and 286 economic data have been extracted from five databases: Eora 26 (Lenzen et al., 2012a), with 189 countries and 26 industrial sectors; WIOD (Timmer et al., 2015), with 43 countries and 57 industrial 287 sectors; EXIOBASE (Tukker et al., 2009), (Tukker et al., 2013), (Stadler et al., 2018) with 44 regions 288 and 163 sectors; GTAP, with 140 regions and 57 sectors (Huff, McDougall and WALMSLEY, 2000) 289 290 (Narayanan, Aguiar and McDougall, 2015); and OECD, with 64 regions and 34 sectors (OECD, 291 2015). The year 2011 has been used to calculate the HEF indicator since EXIOBASE database has the 292 latest release of that year.

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All the GMRIO databases have been standardised using a concordance matrix that map the sectors and regions of different GMRIO models into our defined sector and regional classification within 17 sectors (Supplementary Material Tables B.1 to B.5) (Eq.11). Also, the regions have been standardised, converting them into 43 regions plus the rest of the world (RoW) grouped into a 44th one. Similar aggrupation methods among MRIO databases have been used with sectors 18 and 19 (Owen *et al.*, 2014).

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301
$$(Eq.11)$$
 $GMRIO_{(17 x 17 DIMENSION)} = Concordance Matrix \cdot GMRIO_{(i,j DIMENSION)}$

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Later on, IEA energy consumption data (TPES), also known as satellite data, has been converted from the original TPES values to the 17 industrial sectors of our IO matrix. During the standardization process, firstly a direct concordance was used to extract TPES from IEA (Supplementary Material Tables C.1). Nevertheless, authors have realised that making these assumptions transportation sector was not properly disaggregated to take into account residential use of fuel, and also non-resident inhabitants' consumption in other countries was not faced. To solve this problem, satellite data from
EXIOBASE database (denominated as Net Energy Use, NEU) has been used (Eq.12) developed by
Usubiaga-Liaño et al. (Usubiaga - Liaño et al., 2020). Thus, identical satellite data has been used in
the different algorithms of five databases in order to calculate the TPEF and respective HEF.

- 313 (Eq.12) $Q_{NEU_{17}_SECTOR} = Concordance Matrix \cdot Q_{NEU_{163}_SECTOR}$ 314
- 315

316 **4. RESULTS**

The main result of this paper has been obtaining the HEF from the five most relevant databases (Figure 2), which provides the possibility to standardise the HEF for year 2011 (Figure 3). This allows to obtain for all the countries their energy footprint value from the TPES, integrating a new global consumption reality based on CBA.

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Figure 2 shows the HEF values for the 43 countries analysed and for RoW. These values have also 322 been compared to the achieved HDI values of each country. Countries have been organised along the 323 324 X axis from the highest HDI value to the lowest. We can see that, in general, the most developed countries have a higher HEF than less developed ones. The results show that the ten most developed 325 countries demand on average a Hidden Energy Flow of + 18.5% (on average 8.98 MWh·cap⁻¹), while 326 for the medium developed 24 countries the average HEF is + 12.4 % (on average 5.19 MWh·cap⁻¹). 327 328 and the ten least developed countries have an average HEF of -1.6% (on average -1.34 MWh cap⁻¹). 329 This means that the ten least developed countries are feeding the embodied energy requirements of the 330 most and even medium developed ones. It must be said that, although a general trend has been 331 observed, countries such as NDL, DEU, USA and CAN have a lower HEF than other countries with 332 similar HDI values.



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Figure 2: HEF comparison between the analysed five GMRIO databases.

Variations in the results point to the need for the homogenisation of the GMRIO databases. In this 336 337 research, a deviation of over 30% has been detected in two countries (MLT 40% and LUX 35%), 338 between 10% and 21% in twelve countries (BEL, CYP, GRC, SVK, IRL and DNK), and the 339 remaining 36 countries have a standard deviation of less than 10%. As a result, the footprint accounts 340 in the energy field could be accurate enough to start including them in national and international policies. Nevertheless, divergences in the economic data of GMRIO databases are still significant. 341 342 These variations coincide with those previously detected by Moran and Wood (Moran and Wood, 2014), whose sensitivity analysis within a harmonised carbon footprint satellite account obtained a 343 344 positive view, reporting differences of less than 10% in most major economies among Eora, WIOD, 345 EXIOBASE and GTAP databases. Taking all of this into account, our research confirms that reducing 346 uncertainty in MRIO analyses is relevant work for the future standardisation of results (Rodrigues et 347 al., 2018).



Secondly, Figure 4 shows that the major variations among databases occur in the sector defined as

Commercial and public services where higher uncertainty is cumulated (with a total deviation of

11,000 TWh), followed by the Commercial and Public Service sector (2,417 TWh). To a lesser extent,

the Petrochemical sector also display significant differences (1,608 TWh), as does the Electricity and

Construction sectors (1,251 and 1,217 TWh). These are the sectors that most need to be standardised

across the five different databases analysed.

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367 4.1 INCLUDING HEF RESULTS IN A COUNTRY'S REALITY

368 In order to show how the HEF indicator can modify our perception of the national energy consumption reality, the country with the highest HEF rate has been analysed. Switzerland, with a 369 370 +68% HEF is the country with the highest energy consumption embodied in imported products and 371 services. This converts its national average energy consumption from the 25.36 MWh/cap declared by 372 the IEA into 44.67 MWh/cap in year 2011. This means that, to maintain the average consumption 373 quality and life standards in Switzerland, almost double the nationally measured energy is required. 374 Furthermore, this does not take into account the energy consumed in other countries in tourism travels 375 (Lenzen et al., 2018).

376

To further illustrate these proportions, Figure 5 shows the national energy use reality according to the CBA. Now it can be observed that the energy consumed at homes in terms of electricity only accounts for 3.6% of the national energy consumption, and the residential thermal consumption represents 8.9% of the TPEF. A further 14.0% of total consumption derives from the transportation sector. However, when citizens try to reduce energy consumption, the maximum effort is placed on the energy consumed at homes, especially in electric form. Nevertheless, 59.1% of the energy consumption corresponding to a person is hidden in consumed goods and services, thus related to material lifestyle and to the material consumption model of the Swiss population. Lastly, 14.4% of the consumption is

385 due to the transformation and losses of the current fossil fuel based and centralised energy system.

386

In this paper we would like to define this phenomenon as the "iceberg phenomenon", and we might view the national energy transition strategy as a "cruise ship". In order to avoid our cruise possibly colliding with the iceberg, we have to fully visualise the challenge that we face of reducing energy consumption. As inhabitants of a country, we normally try to change what we understand as energy: the energy at home, especially electricity. Meanwhile, however, we are not able to see the energy hidden behind the current material consumption model, 40.6% of which is actually consumed outside the national boundaries.





Figure 5: The "iceberg effect" in the current energy transition, using energy consumption data from Switzerland in 2011
 and integrating the Hidden Energy Flows (HEF). It can be seen that only 11.1% of energy is consumed in homes, (and just
 3.2% in the form of electricity) whereas 63.7% is consumed in the form of products and services.

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Attempts to reduce electricity consumption in households are easily perceived by citizens, since these directly impact their electricity bill; therefore, society is driven to act on these. Nevertheless, switching to low-energy consumption appliances, such us energy-efficient bulbs, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, etc. could actually increase the global Total Primary Energy Footprint 403 (TPEF), since producing these goods corresponds to 59.1% of the "iceberg", despite the aim to reduce404 the 3.6%.

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406 Following the ETH researchers' advice to emit a maximum of 1 tCO₂-eq emissions per person and year, the Swiss government have established a target to reduce the national average energy 407 408 consumption to 17.5 MWh per capita per annum (equivalent to 2000 watts, during 365 days a year 409 and 24 hours per day, called the "2000 Watt society") as a sustainable amount (Stulz et al., 2011). 410 Nonetheless, this goal has not been achieved. In fact, the energy consumed in the country has been increasing in a hidden way. The HEF indicator helps to track energy consumption in a global context, 411 and it could be especially helpful in a city context, as cities consume high amounts of energy 412 413 embedded in goods and services (Villamor et al., 2020).

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415 **5. DISCUSSION**

416 These results bring us to conclude that, in order to transition towards a sustainable energy model, 417 there is a profound need to change our current material lifestyle, due to its significant energy and 418 socio-environmental costs. This affirmation has been made in the past (Baynes et al., 2011) 419 (Wiedenhofer, Lenzen and Steinberger, 2011) (Wiedenhofer, Lenzen and Steinberger, 2013) (Zhang, 420 Lahr and Bi, 2016) (Lenzen, 2016), but we consider that HEF indicators provide solidity. An 421 international HEF indicator comparing 44 countries by the same standards, goes beyond previous country-based analyses where individual countries or couples of countries were analysed (Owen et al., 422 423 2017) (Min and Rao, 2017) (Kucukvar et al., 2017) (Rocco et al., 2018) (Moreau and Vuille, 2018) 424 (Wilting, Biesiot and Moll, 1999). We also consider that the results of our broad international study 425 could be further analysed in city-based models within a nation and we support city-based studies to better define different national realities, such as was already attempted in the research developed by 426 427 Cohen et al. (2005).

429 These results also support the theory that social aspect of the energy transition will gain importance 430 over technological efficiency (Morris and Jungjohann, 2017). There is a huge energy reduction 431 capacity in changing the current material consumption system, especially in developed countries. In 432 fact, trying to change the current energy system by increasing the purchase of efficient high-tech 433 appliances (a reflection of our current consumerist society) may produce a confusing placebo effect among citizens, and even contribute to perpetuating our old unfair energy system. In this context, 434 435 claims like that regarding degrowth (Weiss and Cattaneo, 2017) could be relevant when approaching a 436 low energy consumption system, where the iceberg phenomenon will be taken into account.

437

438 It is clear that the current energy model needs to be transformed. It is environmentally unsustainable 439 (Inman, 2008) (Gies, 2017), socially unfair (Sovacool et al., 2016) (Eisenstein, 2017), and further 440 economic losses and crises have been forecast (Hsiang et al., 2017) (Fouquet, 2017) (Inman, 2013). 441 Politicians, scientists and citizens are aware of this, which begs the question: how can we implement 442 the transition towards a sustainable energy model? Citizens in the Global North, in general, and 443 particularly citizens living in large cities (Lenzen, Wood and Foran, 2008), are historically responsible 444 for this situation, and are now at the centre of providing responses to be able to create a socio-445 environmentally stable panorama.

446

447 In order to bring about a deep energy transition, the recognition of the "real" global consumption-448 based energy demand of countries is essential. Current statements defining energetically sustainable 449 countries as an example to be followed could be contradictory because of the lack of integrating HEF, 450 such as: "The Danish economy since the 1980s has grown by around 80% while maintaining constant 451 energy consumption and, at the same time, decreasing CO₂ emission by 34%." (Wang et al., 2017); "An active Danish energy policy that focuses on energy efficiency, energy diversification and the 452 development of renewable energy has resulted in a resilient energy system in Denmark [...]" (Hertel 453 et al., 2015); "The German Energiewende constitutes a major challenge for the energy supply system." 454 (Uhlig, Neusel-Lange and Zdrallek, 2014); or "The energy sector is at the core of any modern 455 456 economy, and Germany serves as an international showcase for the transition of a large industrialised

economy to a low-carbon energy system." (Rommel *et al.*, 2018). These statements could be
misleading when visualising only the consumption-based total energy requirement of countries.
Overlooking the energy embodied in imported goods and services could generate erroneous
"reference countries" to be followed in coming years (Akizu-Gardoki *et al.*, 2018) for the creation of
a sustainable energy system. Some previous examples, such as the case of Denmark, have already
been criticised in footprint-based accounts (Munksgaard, Pedersen and Wien, 2000) (Wier *et al.*, 2001)
(Wier *et al.*, 2003).

464

465 In the process of finding sustainable energy system reference countries, or being able to understand the full reality of our own country outside the illusion of the iceberg phenomenon, Figure 3 (as well as 466 467 Supplementary Material Table D.1) offers the HEF percentage to convert the TPES value into the TPEF and also into absolute value per country in $MWh \cdot cap^{-1}$, thus a consumption-based energy 468 requirement comparison can be made. Attempts to introduce CBA-based policies instead of the 469 470 traditional CBA have already been considered in previous works, especially in the Climate Change 471 Mitigation and Adaptation field (Filho and Leal-Arcas, 2018) (Karakaya et al., 2019), and these works 472 also support the idea that CBA indicators (such as HEF) could be introduced into national policies to 473 better shape environmental and social policies.

474

475 Being conscious of the Hidden Energy Flows among countries not only provides a new energy reality 476 for a given country, as shown in Figure 5, but also helps to understand how developed countries are 477 using the energetic resources of non-developed countries. Thus, the acknowledgment of HEF can also 478 trigger international solidarity towards fairer and more proportionate payment for the energy that 479 developed countries consume in non-developed ones. Furthermore, international cooperation to 480 improve the energy efficiency of developing countries could become a common interest. Measuring 481 the energy consumed in other countries will be the first step towards the recognition of a country's 482 responsibility in socio-environmental impacts, and towards a shared responsibility between Global North and Global South countries to reduce said impacts. The new energy model not only needs to be 483

484 environmentally sustainable, but also socially fair and equitable, based on the democratic485 management of resources.

486

487

488 6. CONCLUSIONS

Consumption-Based Accounts (CBA) have been suggested to be a complementary indicator to address the current environmental and climate change mitigation policies (Afionis et al., 2017), (Kander et al., 2015), (Steininger et al., 2016). United Nations has considered it a strategic tool to link global economies to their respective environmental impacts (United Nations, 2018). Following in this line of research, our Hidden Energy Flow indicator (HEF) provides a clear example of where the relevance of CBA can directly help to generate changes in future policymaking and practices in cleaner national and international production systems.

496

This research shows how developed countries depend on the energy consumed in non-developed countries (consuming on average 18.5% more energy than that declared). The integration of Hidden Energy Flows in the national accounts gives a country the possibility to understand the same energy consumption reality from a different perspective, where the energy embodied in products and services gains relevance, and energy consumed at homes loses magnitude (energy embodied in products and services can reach up to 59.1% of the energy consumed country wide).

503

This research shows for the first time how the TPES data provided by the International Energy Agency can be adjusted to the Consumption-Based Accounts with the use of HEF, overcoming the current individual countries' footprint analysis or non-uniformised studies. The limitations of this study lie in the degree of accuracy of the indicator, which depends on the lack of uniformisation of the currently most relevant five global GMRIO databases (even though most of the countries analysed, 36 out of 44, 82%, have a standard deviation of under 10%). It has also been detected that these differences are mainly generated in four sectors: "Commercial and Public Services", "Petroleum,
Chemical and Non-Metalic Mineral", "Electric, Gas and Water", and "Transport".

512

513 Shifting the focus from changes in residential electricity consumption to the whole energy 514 consumption panorama could boost the necessary energy transition towards a low socio-515 environmental impact and sustainable energy model, acting directly upon the current consumerist consumption model. Having the HEF data available, countries could adapt their international energy 516 policies in order firstly to reduce their energy dependency, and secondly to start promoting a 517 518 responsibility campaign for the socio-environmental impacts underlying the indirect energy 519 consumption. This can lead to modifying not only the consumption attitudes of citizens but also the 520 industrial production system on an international scale, going one step forward from the current 521 literature, firstly going beyond national IO analysis and secondly going beyond the individual 522 GMRIO analysis.

523

524 The potential international collaboration between countries has been discussed in great depth in the 525 climate policy arena, but it is difficult to implement specific changes in the international field. In this 526 respect, the HEF indicator could be a small but firm and tangible contribution to the field. HEF offers 527 a real panorama of the complex energy dependencies and corresponding responsibilities, where 528 countries could have the freedom to act according to their available resources and ethical values. This 529 will boost the achievement of "Goal 12", enhancing sustainable consumption patterns among 530 countries (UN, 2015); "Goal 7" of SDG, promoting insights to reach a sustainable energy system for 531 all individuals; and "Goal 10" of the SDG, nurturing the reduction of global inequality.

532

As future research lines for this study, and to further contribute to understanding a consumption-based energy reality, city-based national studies could be performed in order to provide individual citizens with more specific data. Currently, GMRIO methodology displays difficulties for city-level application, but current research efforts are focused to overcome this challenge. Furthermore, we consider it interesting to take steps towards increasing the number of countries where a HEF indicator

could be obtained, as well as updating the analysis year, since some databases are still only able toprovide accurate data for 2011.

540

541 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

542

543 The research has been a collaboration between the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) and 544 the UNSW Sydney, Australia, with the Sustainability Assessment Program (SAP). The research was 545 funded by the team "EKOPOL: TRANSITION PATHWAYS" recognised by the Basque Government 546 (IT-1365-19) and the University of the Basque Country (GIC-18/22). The Australian Industrial 547 Ecology Virtual Laboratory electronic research infrastructure was used for computation, supported by 548 the Australian National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources project (NeCTAR, grant 549 VL201) and by the Australian Research Council (grants DP0985522, DP130101293 and 550 LE160100066).

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Thanks also for the support of the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities, through the project MALCON, RTI2018-099858-A-I00, the Spanish State Research Agency through María de Maeztu Excellence Unit accreditation 2018-2022 (Ref. MDM-2017-0714), the Basque Government BERC Programme, the Czech Science Foundation under the project VEENEX GA ČR 16-17978S, and the EU H2020 project LOCMOTION GA no 821105.

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816 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

817 A) Classification of the literature review:

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Table A.1: Classification of the 34 papers analysed.

			Types of	Ю	Т	ypes of MI	RIO databas	se
	Energy	IO	National	International	EORA	WIOD	GTAP	Others
	Ecological		MRIO	MRIO				
	Footprint							
(Chen and Lin, 2008)			х					
(Wiedmann, 2009)			х					
(Chen and Chen, 2011)				x			x	
(Chen and Chen, 2013)								
(Arto et al., 2016)				х		х		
(Lan et al., 2016)	х			x	х			
(Min and Rao, 2017)	х							
(Kucukvar et al., 2017)	х							
(Owen et al., 2017)	х		х					
(Rocco et al., 2018)				х				
(Moreau and Vuille, 2018)			х					
(Akizu-Gardoki et al., 2018)	х			x	х			
(Wiedmann and Lenzen, 2018)								х
(Allen et al., 2016)				x				
(Wu and Chen, 2017)	х			x				
(Kaltenegger et al., 2017)	х			x				
(Wood et al., 2018)	Х							
(Chen et al., 2018)	х			x				
(Bullard and Herendeen, 1975)	х	х						
(Hannon, 1981)								
(Herendeen, 1978)	х	х						
(Peet, Carter and Baines, 1985)								
(van Engelenburg et al., 1994)								
(Vringer and Blok, 1995)	х	х						
(Lenzen, 1998)	Х	х						
(Biesiot and Noorman, 1999),	х	х						
(Wilting, Biesiot and Moll, 1999)	Х	х						
(Lenzen, Dey and Foran, 2004)	х				х			
(Lenzen, Wood and Foran, 2008),	х				х			
(Wiedenhofer, Lenzen and Steinberger,								
2011)								
(Wiedenhofer, Lenzen and Steinberger,	х				х			
2013)								
(Harris et al., 2020)								х
(Vetőné Mózner, 2013)								х
(Caro et al., 2017)								х

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- B) Concordance matrix for unification of the selected five GMRIO databases

Table B.1: Unification from WIOD to the 17 standardised sectors.



Table B.2: Unification from Eora to the 17 standardised sectors.



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Table B.4: Unification from GTAP to the 17 standardised sectors



Table B.5: Unification from OECD to the 17 standardised sectors.



- 834 C) Concordance matrix for unification of IEA data 2011 to create satellite data to feed the GMRIO
- 835 matrix.

836

Table C.1: Unification from IEA to the 17 standardised sectors.



838 D) HEF indicator results for the 5 databases analysed and the average.

Table D.1: HEF indicator for year 2011, for the 5 databases analysed, the average maximum and

- minimum for each country, the standard deviation and the corresponding HDI of countries.

Country	Code	Eora	WIOD	EXIOBASE	GTAP	OECD	HEF (%) Average	HEF (MWh/Cap)	MAX	MIN	ST.DEV	HDI	
Norway	NOR	9%	3%	8%	25%	10%	11%	8.09	25%	3%	8%	0.941	
Switzerland	CHE	68%	65%	65%	64%	79%	68%	27.49	79%	64%	6%	0.932	
Australia	AUS	9%	27%	25%	14%	30%	21%	14.13	30%	9%	9%	0.930	
Denmark	DNK	25%	12%	17%	35%	13%	20%	10.12	35%	12%	10%	0.922	
Netherlands	NLD	-5%	-8%	5%	-1%	-10%	-4%	-2.61	5%	-10%	6%	0.921	
Germany	DEU	1%	14%	19%	17%	11%	12%	6.43	19%	1%	7%	0.916	
USA	USA	16%	11%	11%	11%	10%	10% 12% 9.		16%	10%	2%	0.913	
Canada	CAN	-6%	-1%	-3%	-7%	0%	0% -3% -3.16		0%	-7%	3%	0.907	
Sweden	SWE	8%	11%	20%	11%	14%	13%	7.38	20%	8%	5%	0.903	
UK	GBR	46%	27%	30%	41%	31%	35%	12.10	46%	27%	8%	0.898	
Ireland	IRL	18%	22%	26%	-1%	15%	16%	7.24	26%	-1%	10%	0.895	
Luxembourg	LUX	92%	25%	26%	80%	16%	48%	41.28	92%	16%	35%	0.892	
Japan	JPN	22%	18%	17%	16%	19%	19%	8.55	22%	16%	2%	0.889	
South Korea	KOR	-14%	-12%	-8%	-12%	-12%	-12%	-7.55	-8%	-14%	2%	0.889	
Belgium	BEL	-20%	6%	25%	35%	13%	12%	5.06	35%	-20%	21%	0.886	
France	FRA	14%	16%	25%	21%	23%	20%	9.19	25%	14%	5%	0.885	
Taiwan	TWN	-42%	-24%	-23%	-30%	-20%	-28%	-17.46	-20%	-42%	9%	0.885	
Austria	AUT	31%	23%	27%	31%	34%	29%	13.40	34%	23%	4%	0.884	
Finland	FIN	-12%	-3%	10%	3%	1%	0%	-0.24	10%	-12%	8%	0.884	
Italy	ITA	21%	25%	32%	30%	31%	28%	9.06	32%	21%	5%	0.877	
Slovenia	SVN	14%	20%	14%	15%	12%	15%	6.36	6.36 20% 12		3%	0.877	
Spain	ESP	23%	12%	18%	18%	17%	18%	5.85	23%	12%	4%	0.871	
Czech Republic	CZE	-5%	-9%	-3%	-8%	-4%	-6%	-3.02	-3.02 -3% -9		3%	0.864	
Greece	GRC	20%	-7%	9%	-4%	-16%	0%	0.22	20%	-16%	14%	0.858	
Cyprus	СҮР	32%	-1%	14%	33%	0%	16%	6.90	33%	-1%	17%	0.850	
Estonia	EST	-4%	-11%	2%	7%	-13%	-4%	-1.91	7%	-13%	8%	0.850	
Slovakia	SVK	28%	8%	4%	0%	7%	9%	3.49	28%	0%	11%	0.835	
Poland	POL	8%	0%	7%	6%	2%	5%	1.46	8%	0%	4%	0.834	
Lithuania	LTU	24%	14%	8%	15%	3%	13%	4.22	24%	3%	8%	0.830	
Portugal	PRT	27%	16%	19%	16%	9%	17%	4.63	27%	9%	6%	0.824	
Hungary	HUN	4%	-1%	5%	2%	1%	2%	0.71	5%	-1%	2%	0.823	
Malta	MLT	37%	47%	44%	114%	6%	50%	17.61	114%	6%	40%	0.821	
Croatia	HRV	15%	5%	10%	24%	11%	13%	3.22	24%	5%	7%	0.815	
Latvia	LVA	21%	14%	19%	32%	10%	19%	6.18	32%	10%	8%	0.812	
Romania	ROU	10%	6%	5%	4%	6%	6%	1.30	10%	4%	2%	0.797	
Russia	RUS	-21%	-19%	-25%	-17%	-28%	-22%	-12.80	-17%	-28%	5%	0.792	
Bulgaria	BGR	-22%	-14%	0%	-18%	-16%	-14%	-4.25	0%	-22%	8%	0.778	
Turkey	TUR	23%	14%	23%	18%	27%	21%	3.95	27%	14%	5%	0.750	
Mexico	MEX	2%	5%	4%	-1%	8%	3%	0.65	8%	-1%	3%	0.748	
Brazil	BRA	7%	8%	9%	6%	8%	8%	1.23	9%	6%	1%	0.730	
China	CHN	-14%	-15%	-14%	-16%	-13%	-14%	-3.51	-13%	-16%	1%	0.703	
Indonesia	IDN	-5%	4%	2%	2%	8%	2%	0.20	8%	-5%	5%	0.669	
Rest of the World	ROW	-3%	-1%	-5%	-2%	-3%	-3%	-0.01	-1%	-5%	1%	0.641	
India	IND	-8%	0%	-1%	-3%	-3%	-3%	-0.20	0%	-8%	3%	0.590	