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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Clean vs. Green: Redefining Renewable Energy. Evidence from Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania

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### Abstract

23 As the role that the society plays in energy and use of resources is of importance, what is vital is 24 early education, as it is one of the pillars significantly influencing the planning of a "cleaner future" 25 energywise, especially through utilizing energy-specific education techniques. Up to this point, it 26 has been suggested that younger students tend to describe Renewable Energy Sources (RES) as 27 'Clean' rather than 'Green', while their selection in the color that best describes them is Yellow or 28 White rather than Green. On the subject of redefining RES, a total of 1689 face-to-face surveys are 29 conducted in schools in the Baltics and Eastern Europe countries, i.e. Latvia, Lithuania, and 30 Romania, in order to further contribute on the discussion of which term -'Clean Energy' or 'Green 31 Energy'- is the term of choice for students of younger age with no or less formal education and 32 experience on the subject of best naming RES. As far as the color to best represent RES is 33 concerned, younger students tend to choose Yellow or White instead of Green, a choice that shifts 34 to Green in higher grades. The results, with the exception of Lithuania where older students chose 35 the term 'Clean Energy', confirm those of previous studies in Greece and Bulgaria, enhancing the 36 importance of the elicitation of such preferences in order for energy issues to become part of the 37 educational system of all levels. As Clean and Yellow or White are the terms of choice for naming 38 and describing Renewable Energy Sources according to young students, it is imperative that the 39 scientific community reconsiders and adjusts said preferences in education and research, for the 40 better -future- implementation of renewable energy practices and use of resources.

Keywords: clean energy; education; energy; green energy; public awareness; renewable energy
sources

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