

Monte Carlo Simulations and Renewable Energy Scenarios: Dealing with Uncertainty Using Statistical Estimations

Mehmet Sıddık Çadırıcı^{1*}

¹Cumhuriyet University, Faculty of Science, Department of Statistics and Computer, 58140, Sivas, Türkiye

*(msiddikcadirci@cumhuriyet.edu.tr) Corresponding author

Abstract - The rapid adoption of renewable energy sources will influence global energy systems in the future due to technological advancements, legislative incentives, and environmental objectives. This study examines the contributions and growth rates of wind, hydro, solar, and bioenergy production trends in various countries. This time series data science heavily relates the concepts of statistical and machine-learning approaches to understanding correlations, variabilities, and regional preference patterns for different forms of renewable energy. While hydropower continues to dominate in wetter regimes, the data suggests an impressive surge in solar and wind energy. Additional visual hints about the state of renewable energy in our day and age would be generated by heatmap indicators such as distribution plots, correlation of related data, and time-series analysis. Therefore, the above statistics help clarify the global energy transition, enabling us to make knowledge-driven plans for renewable energy investments and policy.

Keywords: Statistical modelling, renewable energy, Monte Carlo simulation, energy demand forecasting, and uncertainty management.

1. Introduction

The production and consumption of energy have undergone a significant shift because of the globalisation of clean energy. Having precise estimates of energy needs is essential for the foundation of efficient energy management, policymaking, and investment planning in an energy environment where fossil fuels are on the brink of extinction and renewable energy sources are rapidly being adopted. Furthermore, the basis of any precise forecast of energy supply and demand is threatened by the variable nature of renewable energy sources that provide energy, such as solar technologies, wind, hydro, and bioenergy environments. These uncertainties can actually decrease grid stability, increase energy distribution loss, and underutilise generation resources [1], [2]. Traditional forecasting models, such as those involving time series and regression approaches, have occasionally failed to handle these uncertainties. Due to this common belief, numerous academics have started using novel probabilistic frameworks to simulate the production of renewable energy in recent years. Monte Carlo Simulation (MCS) is arguably the most widely used tool for this type of task.

1.2 Monte Carlo Simulation for Energy Demand Forecasting

A probabilistic modelling technique that can be used to capture different sources of uncertainty in energy demand prediction is Monte Carlo simulation (MCS). By simulating several outcomes for input variables obtained in economic, technological, and environmental uncertainty, MCS offers a range of potential solutions in contrast to conventional models, which only offer a single-point forecast [3], [4]. Because it considers variations in patterns of energy usage, this stochastic approach increases the accuracy of estimation. It is very helpful for renewable energy industries as demand is influenced by market behaviour, policy changes, and weather patterns.

Studies underlined the importance of Monte Carlo simulations (MCS) for dealing with challenges in predicting renewable energy integration. Indeed, [5] Zawodnik shows that MCS has a significant role in modeling energy consumption for electric arc furnaces, in desperate need of adaptive forecasting strategies. Similarly, [6] Eikeland et al. support the argument that deviations from deterministic predictions are less harmful as far as the correct penalization of operational programs and financial risks is concerned in case of overestimation of energy demand. Application of MCS with machine learning algorithms marks refinement in

terms of achieving accurate forecasting. This is illustrated in [7], where ensemble learning methods, paired with MCS, made anticipated demand traffic more reliable.

1.3 Novelty and Contributions

This work contributes to research in renewable energy forecasting by expanding the boundaries of possibilities by integration Monte Carlo simulation with advanced analytic techniques for a more viable and probabilistic way of forecasting uncertainties. Unlike traditional deterministic models, where energy forecasting is mostly done in a very primitive and static manner, MCS used in these situations handles all matters with evidence and probability understanding, allowing for the simulation of one or many outcomes for demand and their chances, economic, environment, and technological uncertainties all together.

This work presents several new ideas and contributions:

1. Improved Forecasting Accuracy – Here, the energy efficiency demand forecast reliability was improved with a stochastic modelling approach to reduce errors brought about because of intermittent renewable energy generation.
2. Against Energy Source Spots - This research study maintains that previous findings have been based on MCS forecasts of a single energy type and succeeding undertakes to compare the forecast accuracy of the Energy Trends for the multidimensional variability model across the sectors of wind, solar, water, and bioenergy.
3. Integration with Advanced Machine Learning - This research looks at hybrid approaches combining MCS with ensemble learning techniques to make them more adaptable to real-world energy consumption fluctuations.
4. Having characterized the long-term demand trends, it provides insights for policymakers, energy planners and investors to create more robust and efficient energy systems.

Ensuring these critical gaps have been bypassed, this research proceeds to apply probabilistic forecasting in renewable energy systems as a smarter move, ensuring enhanced sustainability, efficiency, and adaptability of their energy.

1.4 Long-Term Energy Demand Forecasting and Policy Implications

Monte Carlo simulations have shown to be useful in long-term forecasting, of energy demand, particularly during the transition to renewable energy. In another research, Sánchez-Durán et al. [8] mentioned how the MCS framework catches policy-ruled shifts in energy consumption ability beneficial in strategic planning for sustainable energy infrastructure. Furthermore, Hu [9] notes cite issues in traditional forecasting models that derive from sample-size-related issues, which are now absolved by MCS-driven simulation; the latter generates probabilistic scenarios derived from historical and forecasted trends. In many such instances, the utilization of Monte Carlo simulation for renewable energy demand forecasting proved to be a significant advancement in managing the uncertainties that arise from intermittent energy. Through these implicit views into the stochastic nature of global fluctuation in energy demand, MCS can enhance the accuracy of grid planning, resource allocations, and energy policy formulations. From here on, MCS would, in the future, be a great partner to assist the energy forecast process when combined with machine learning and other advanced analytics, thus protecting the global energy system on a more sustainable and efficient footing. The study that follows is restricted to analysing the development of the Monte Carlo Simulation used in forecasting renewable energy demand with comparison with traditional deterministic models. By bringing in factors of uncertainty, this study is being valued in nurturing more efficient, adaptive, and trustworthy energy prediction schemes that can support the world's move toward a sustainable energy era.

2. Methodology

The methodology used in this study is established to deal methodically with the inherent uncertainties associated with the demand forecast of renewable energy, with reference to Monte Carlo Simulation (MCS). Since energy consumption patterns are stochastic, the usage of MCS allows for a probabilistic outlook of the

forecast so that multiple demand scenarios amongst the many produced are considered. This perspective advances a more accurate and versatile predictive model in comparison to those based on deterministic models.

2.1. Monte Carlo Simulation Framework

Using Monte Carlo Castillo, a stochastic modelling technique simulation, expected future results are estimated by running several scenarios inputted with random samples. A significant difference between MCS and conventional forecasting methods is that the latter yields single-point estimates. At the same time, MCS incorporates varying input parameters, such as economic movement, technological progress, and policy flexibilities, to produce a complete distribution of possible energy demand outcomes. The steps in the MCS to be prescribed in this study are as follows:

Monte Carlo Simulation Algorithm

As the technique used in this research, the algorithm for MCS is presented as follows:

Input Parameters:

- D_0 : Initial energy demand (Determined based on consumption trends over history).
- μ : It refers to the annual growth rate that is expected with energy demand and (as projected using models incorporating economic and policy scenarios).
- σ : Annual demand deviation for certain products or services computed from historical changes.
- T : Forecasting period (e.g., 10 years).
- N : The quantity of simulations (e.g., 1000 iterations).
- Δt : Time step (e.g., 1 year).

Output:

- A variety of forecasts of probabilistic energy consumption.

Algorithm Steps:

1. Initialize Parameters:
 - Calculate D_0 from historical energy records
 - Compute σ using past demand variability.
2. Run Simulations:
 - For $i = 1$ to N :
 - Set $D_t^i[0] = D_0$.
 - For $t = 1$ to T :
 - Create a random variable Z_t from $N(0,1)$.
 - Apply the following formula to determine future demand:

$$D_t^i = D_t^i[t-1] \times \exp((\mu - 0.5\sigma^2)\Delta t + \sigma\sqrt{\Delta t} Z_t)$$
3. Compile and Examine Results:
 - Determine the standard deviation, mean, median, and confidence intervals.
4. Output Results:
 - Presently available probability distributions for future energy consumption.

Implementation and Validation

The Monte Carlo-based energy demand estimates are validated to guarantee model fidelity by:

- Analysis under which sets of reshaped data the shifted objects tend to bring a significant difference in the model.
- Trying out multiple scenarios to see how different input conditions influence demand plans.
- Making the probability density functions and cumulative distributions on the slide to show the levels of reliabilities-quite successfully.

The employment of the Monte Carlo Simulation technique in this study offers a probabilistic forecasting alternative to augment the accuracy of renewable energy demand forecasts. This method promotes better decision-making concerning energy policy development and infrastructure planning while providing energy management strategies that are more resilient and adaptable in fostering happy cooperation as companies endeavour to transit to sustainably competitive energy systems.

3. Findings and Discussion

Figure 1 demonstrates that total renewable energy production has been growing continuously, supported by technology, policy incentives, and climate change mitigation efforts. The smooth line conveys sustained investments into renewable infrastructure, while the oscillations may reflect shifts in economic conditions, changes in regulations, or the availability of resources. Such a visualization again emphasizes the need for diversified energy portfolios, which will counterbalance supply stability against long-term sustainability and further reaffirm the importance of integrating renewable energy within the larger picture of energy transition.

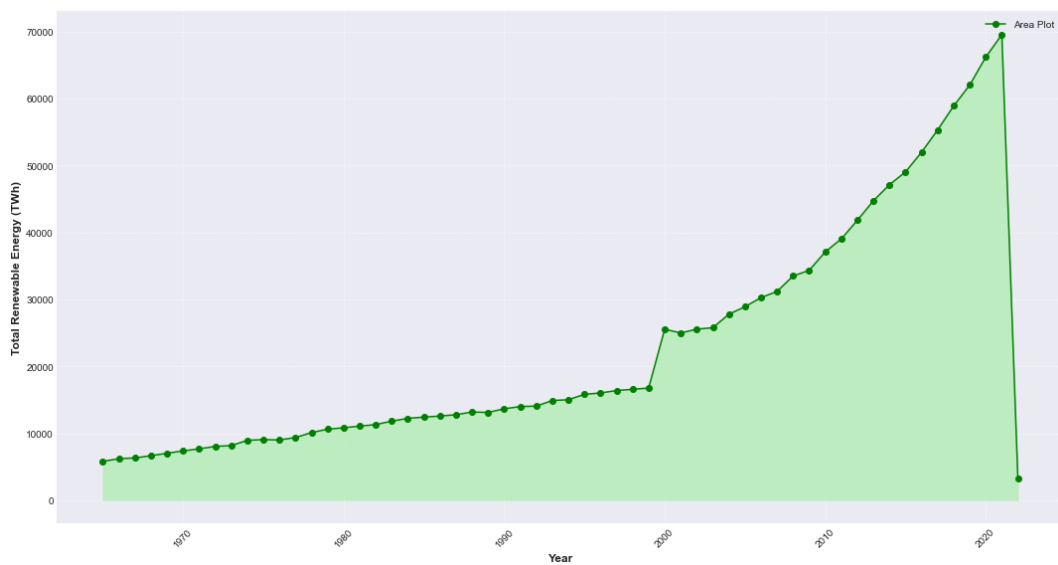


Figure 1 Total Production of Renewable Energy across Time.

The grouped bar plot in Figure 2 compares renewable energy annual production by source and gives insights into the relative importance of time series wind, solar, hydro, and bioenergy. Hydropower remains, by far, the principal renewable energy source, and its share has held constant in the energy mix; wind and solar have grown much, representing technology progress, reduced costs, and favourable policies. An increasing share of bioenergy is yet another signal toward more environmentally acceptable energy diversification.

Successively, this implies an increasing role for various renewables, thus demonstrating a strategic transition to a resilient and balanced energy system.

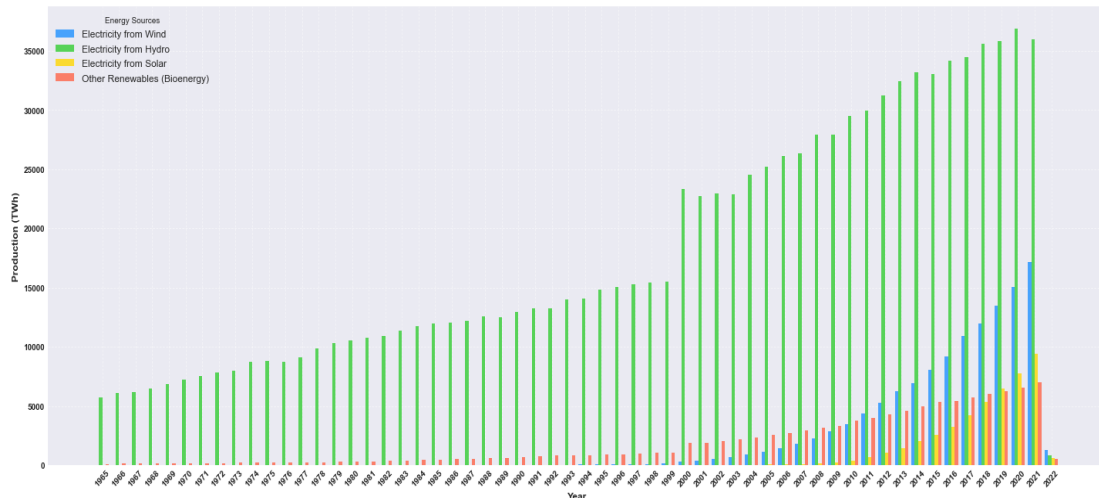


Figure 2. Production of renewable energy per year from various sources across time

The preferences for renewable energy worldwide are shown in Figure 3, indicating the different geographical distributions of various renewable sources countries use. Countries favouring wind, hydropower, solar, or bioenergy are delineated with colour classification, thus providing insights into regional energy dependencies. Hydropower dominates in regions rich in water, while regions with a fair sharing of sunlight and wind energy are active in both. Therefore, this visualization could help identify regional renewable energy strengths and gaps and thus facilitate investment decisions and policies towards maximizing the potential of renewable energy worldwide.

Figure 4 presents the correlation of the different renewable energy sources and shows how these sources expand together or independently. A strong positive correlation indicates a simultaneous expansion of wind and solar energy due to common policy support, financial incentives, and the advancement of technologies. On the other hand, the weak correlation between hydropower and solar energy reflects geographical and infrastructural limitations, because hydropower generation depends on flowing water for effective energy generation. In contrast, solar PV generation utilizes the level of incoming solar radiation. These observations are of significant for policymakers and grid operators in delivering an optimized, well-integrated, and balanced renewable energy transition.

Dominant Renewable Energy Source by Country

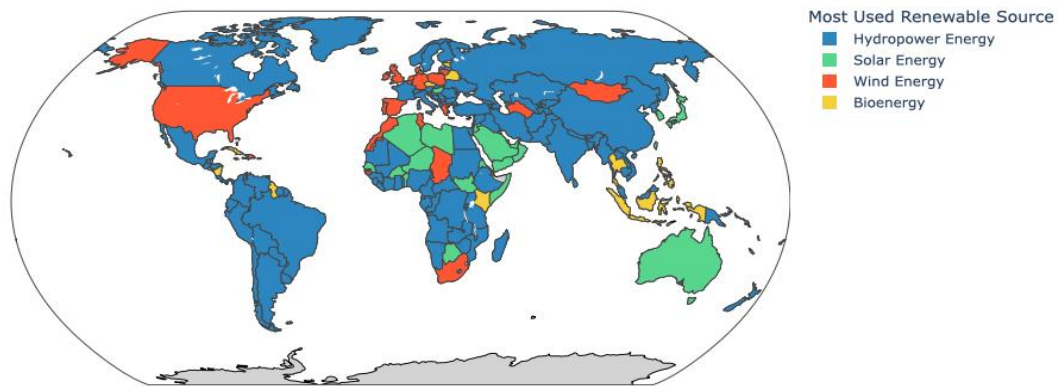


Figure 3. Highlight on the global distribution of major renewable sources, applying data as per the earlier data to enunciate regional energy preferences.

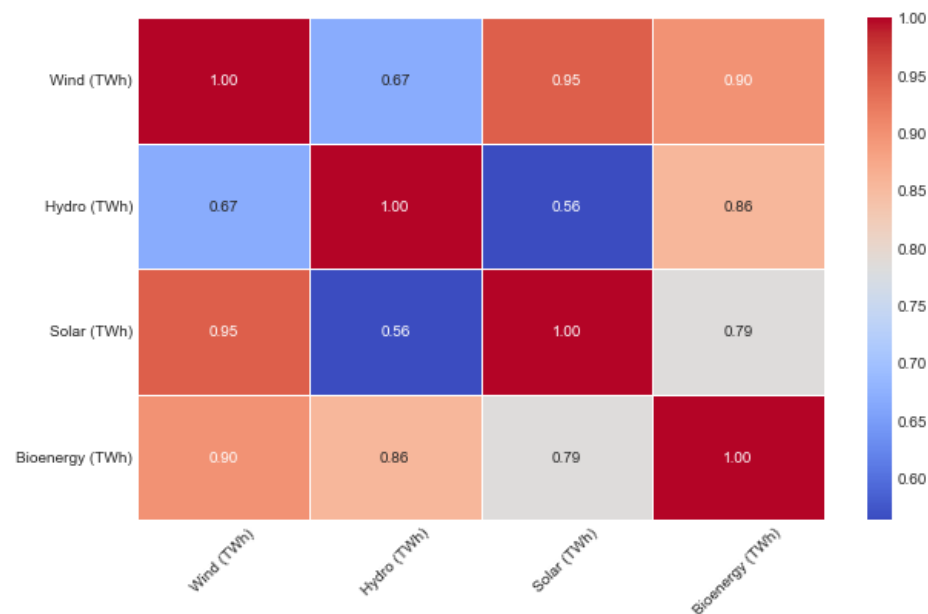


Figure 4. The correlation matrix of various kinds of renewable energy. The higher the indicator, the stronger the relationship between types of energy production.

In Figure 5, a stacked bar graph provides data for the top 10 renewable energy-producing countries and highlights differences in the proportions of hydropower, wind, solar, and bioenergy. Hydropower predominates in countries blessed with water resources instead of wind and solar energy, which are growing quickly in developed countries. Countries with a high level of solar energy adoption have favourable climatic conditions and lower photovoltaic costs, while bioenergy usage indicates firm biomass policy and agricultural sustainability. A blend of energy portfolios shows that some countries restrict themselves to one energy source

while others adopt a multi-pronged approach. The results indicate that geography, policy framework, and technology would impact the energy strategy adopted by the nations.

The stark contrast in capacity expansion illustrated in Figure 6 describes the contrastive analysis of renewable energy development in developed and underdeveloped states. While developed countries show steady and very high renewable energy output that is the product of long-standing investment, matured infrastructure, and stable policy framework, developing countries tend to fluctuate considerably, with some witnessing fast growth and others receiving the slow adoption of renewable energy technologies due to economic and policy barriers. Such dissimilarities bring into focus the necessity for considerable investments and policy actions specifically tailored to fast-track the energy transition in emerging economies into the discussion of an equitable and sustainable global energy system.

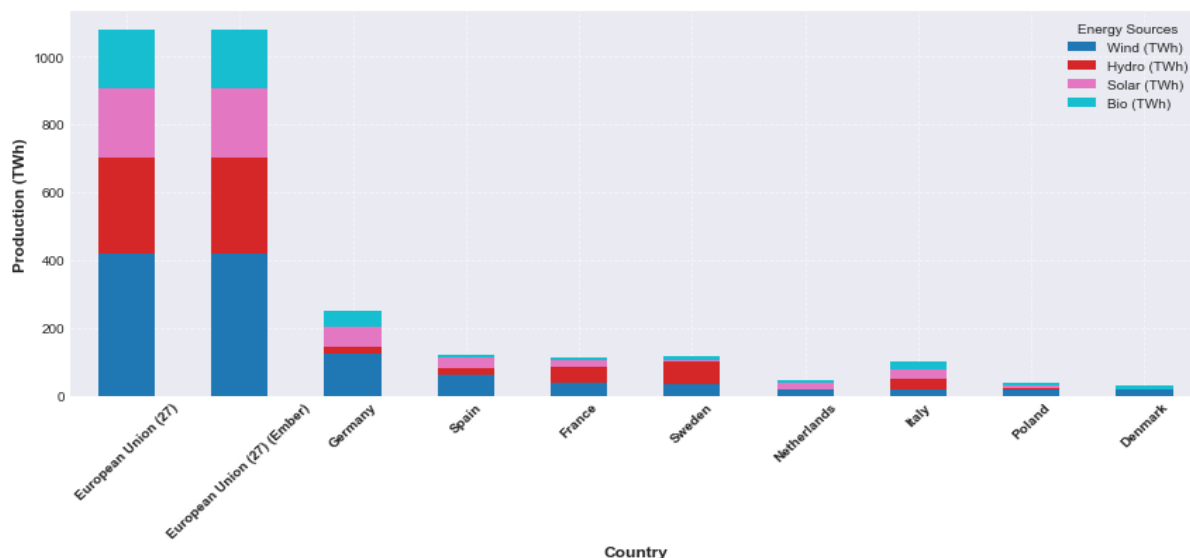


Figure 5. Latest data for the top 10 countries based on renewable energy generation.

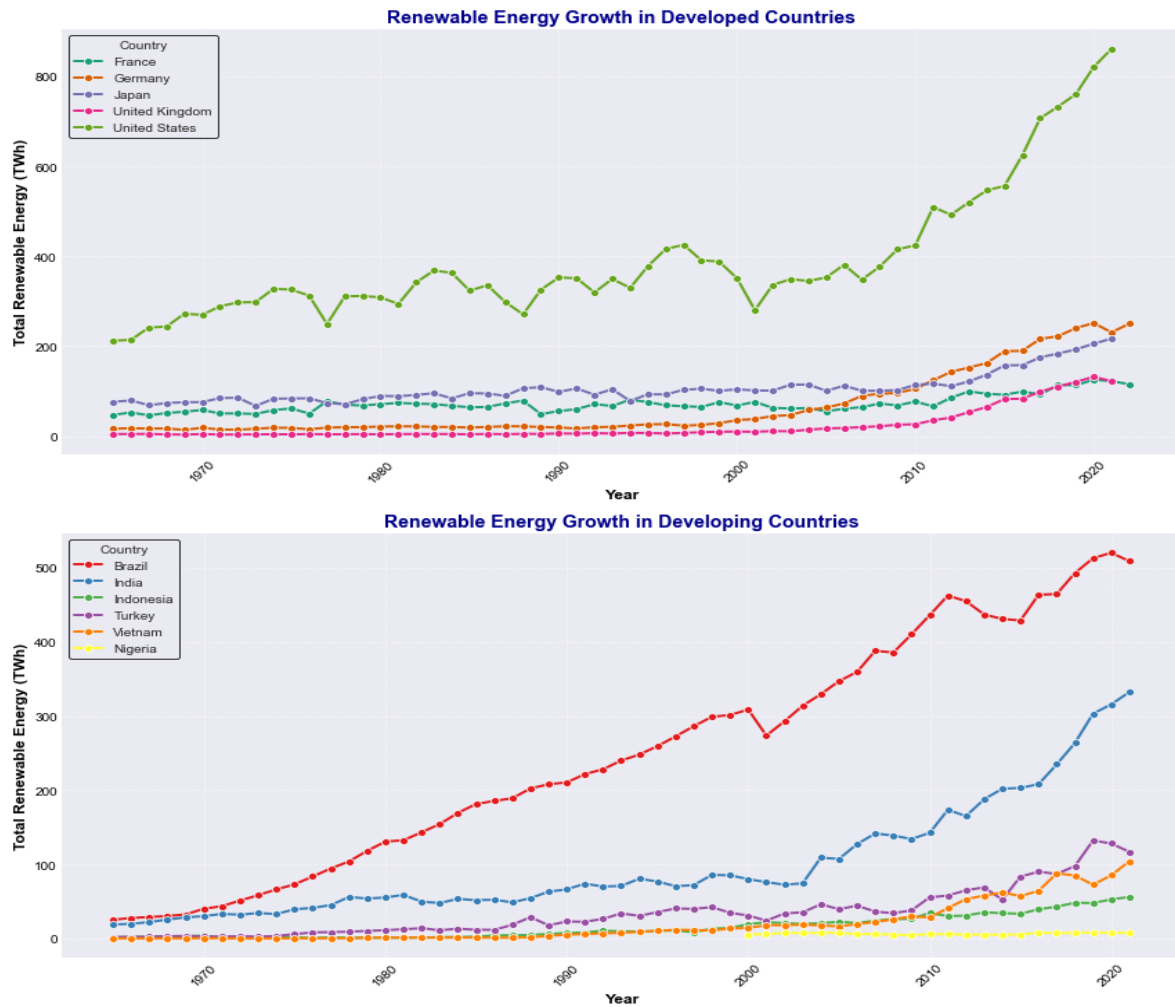


Figure 6. Rising renewable energy in the developing and the developed worlds have been a spectacle over the years.

The distribution of renewable energy across continents, depicted in Figure 7, gives insights regarding production variability, medians, and temporal density trends. The wider sections of the visualization indicate higher energy production concentration, and the longer tails demonstrate enhanced fluctuations in regional disparities of energy performance. Some continents portray remarkable consistency or persistence in their renewable energy performance, while others exhibit high variability severely affected by the policy misalignment, resource constraints, and viability. In so doing, such analyses would point towards the various pathways in the developing of renewable energy worldwide, stressing further the need for regionally focused policy and investment solutions.

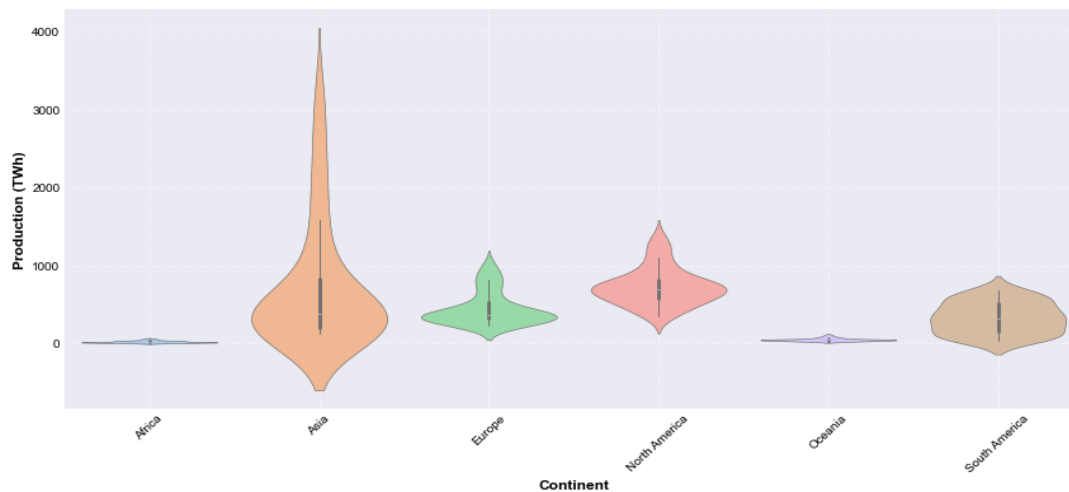


Figure 7. The Renewable Energy Production Distribution by Continent (Violin Plot).

Figure 8 provides a comparative picture of five leading countries in renewable energy production by source, substantiating that wind, hydro, solar, and bioenergy generation are practically dominated worldwide. The results unveil that the European Union (EU) performs well in various renewable energy industries; this confirms the EU's coordinated energy policies, infrastructure investments, and technological development. Wind-generated energy is concentrated in the EU, Germany, and Spain, where regulatory frameworks are conducive, and wind technology matures. Due to natural geographical conditions and variable hydro-infrastructure, Hydropower is still an important energy source in Sweden and France. Solar power generation is top ranked in Germany, Spain, and Italy, whose photovoltaic technology capabilities have been backed by huge investments and favourable state policies. Bioenergy production is significant for the EU, Germany, and Finland, thus signifying the region's intent toward sustainable biomass production and diversified energy strategies. This shows how the global production of renewable energy grows under the influence of policy support, investment environment, and availability of all kinds of resources. Hence, EU-accredited being a front-runner in several categories can say a lot about how coordinated energy policies can bring about the rapid uptake of renewable energies.

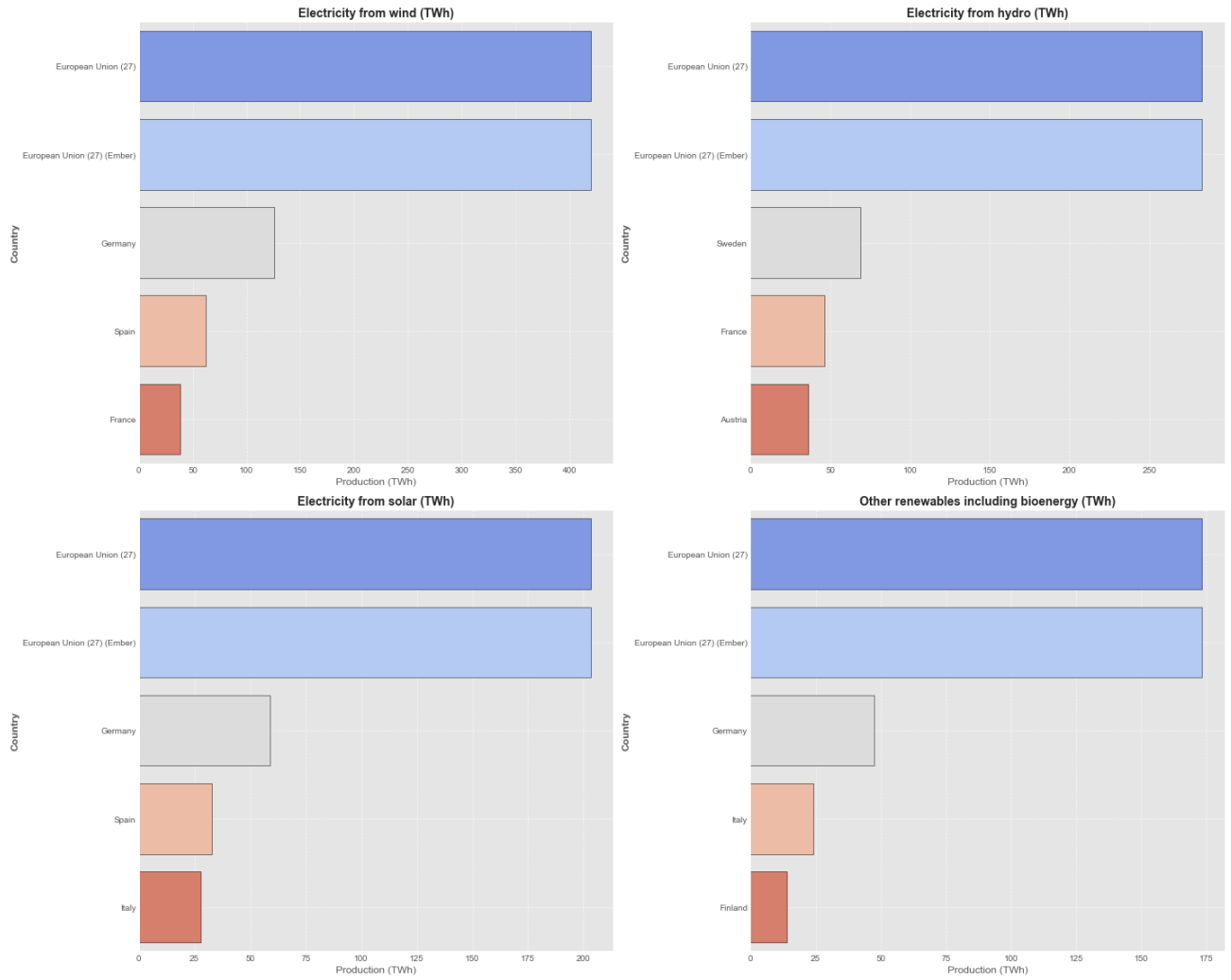


Figure 8. A comparative analysis of the top five countries for each energy source.

The findings of this investigation allow for a thorough global understanding of renewable energy trends, revealing an ever-increasing integration of various renewable sources into the national and regional energy systems. The visualizations show geographical differences and correlations between energy sources and variances in pattern production across countries and continents. It has valuable information for policymakers, investors, and energy planners regarding future energy policy development trends, grid integration, and sustainability. Technological advancement, investments, and policy improvement will contribute significantly toward a sustainable and resilient energy future.

4. Conclusion

The current study offers a detailed statistical evaluation of global trends in renewable energy production and indicates an increase in total renewable output over time. The correlation analysis indicates a strong relationship between wind and solar energy growth, while hydropower production activity remains more diversified as geographical constraints hamper its growth. The stacked bar comparison shows the regional differences in production trends, wherein developed countries have a stable growth trend. In contrast, those in developing countries have a trend that is greatly affected by the economic and policy environment. The

geospatial distribution of renewable energy validates hydropower as the most significant player in water-rich regions. At the same time, wind and solar become the champions in regions with just the right conditions. Further concerning the countries analyzed in terms of production, this study looked at how the varied renewable energy sectors' growth had been dominated by the European Union, indicating the effectiveness of policies and technology. These findings showcase how statistical modelling remains important for guiding energy predictions and policies that data can justify. Future works should incorporate Monte Carlo Simulation and machine learning-based models to improve predictive accuracy for effective energy management and sustainable development in the global renewable energy transition.

References

- [1] T. Hong, P. Pinson, Y. Wang, R. Weron, D. Yang, and H. Zareipour, "Energy Forecasting: A Review and Outlook," *IEEE Open Access Journal of Power and Energy*, vol. 7, 2020.
- [2] J. Hao, X. Sun, and Q. Feng, "A Novel Ensemble Approach for the Forecasting of Energy Demand Based on the Artificial Bee Colony Algorithm," *Energies*, vol. 13, no. 3, 2020.
- [3] Z. W. Wang, G. H. Huang, and Y. T. Niu, "A chance-constrained interval-inexact energy systems planning model (CCIESM) for city b based on power demand probabilistic forecasting," in *Advanced Materials Research*, 2013, vol. 753–755.
- [4] R. J. Hyndman and S. Fan, "Density forecasting for long-term peak electricity demand," *IEEE Trans. Power Syst.*, vol. 25, no. 2, 2010.
- [5] V. Zawodnik, F. C. Schwaiger, C. Sorger, and T. Kienberger, "Tackling Uncertainty: Forecasting the Energy Consumption and Demand of an Electric Arc Furnace with Limited Knowledge on Process Parameters," *Energies*, vol. 17, no. 6, 2024.
- [6] O. F. Eikeland, F. M. Bianchi, H. Apostoleris, M. Hansen, Y. C. Chiou, and M. Chiesa, "Predicting energy demand in semi-remote arctic locations," *Energies*, vol. 14, no. 4, 2021.
- [7] R. Porteiro, L. Hernández-Callejo, and S. Nesmachnow, "Electricity demand forecasting in industrial and residential facilities using ensemble machine learning," *Rev. Fac. Ing.*, no. 102, 2022.
- [8] R. Sánchez-Durán, J. Luque, and J. Barbancho, "Long-term demand forecasting in a scenario of energy transition," *Energies*, vol. 12, no. 16, 2019.
- [9] Y. C. Hu, "A genetic-algorithm-based remnant grey prediction model for energy demand forecasting," *PLoS One*, vol. 12, no. 10, 2017.