

**EXCERPT** 

# eMSP Loyalty Benchmarking Study 2023 (DACH)

Data instead of opinions: eMSPs from the customer's point of view

UScale GmbH www.uscale.digital



### **Initial situation**



Charging services not only offer service providers a source of revenue, but also an important instrument for **customer loyalty**. The prerequisite is that EV drivers use the services actively and - more importantly - *preferably*.

According to industry experts, there are over 1,000 eMSP offerings in Germany. This leads to fierce competition in a rapidly growing market.

eMSP providers are not sufficiently aware of their own competitive position. The study shows the performance of the most important provider groups and potentials for improvement for each provider group.



### Working with the study

The study is specifically aimed at eMSPs who want to measure and improve their competitive position:

#### **eMSP Product Owner / Business Development**

The study shows how product owners can determine the performance of their own eMSP offerings in comparison to the competition. The details show the need for action for eMSP providers. The opinions on tariff models provide input for the development of own tariff systems.

#### **eMSP Marketing**

The study results show the USPs or reasons for use and the reasons for churn for all provider groups.

#### **eMSP App Development**

The data illustrates which features attract users and which (missing) features cause users to leave. This supports the backlog and the prioritisation of own development projects.





### Added value of the study

#### **Time**

Comprehensive, quantitative and qualitative customer input saves time in developing and revising the specifications for the relevant use cases.

#### **Costs**

Customer-driven prioritisation of feature requests in the backlog directs budgets and resources to issues with the greatest value proposition.

#### **Market share**

In the current market with many new services and apps, providers can gain market share with the right offers.

#### **Diffusion**

Manufacturers who meet or exceed customer expectations for products and services support the successful ramp-up of e-mobility.





### **Target group**

#### Sample:

Owners and drivers of electric cars (no plug-in hybrids)

- Total sample: N = 2,758

#### Survey:

– Sampling: online

Countries: German-speaking countries (DACH)

Recruitment: Social Media, Access Panels\*

Interview duration: 15 min

Implementation: August 2023

CUSTOMER SURVEY

THE SURVEY

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<sup>\*</sup> Social media panels consist of mainly EV-savvy drivers, access panels of less EV-savvy people.



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## **Preliminary remark**

# Why are two KPIs important for "market share"?

1 KPI: Active Use

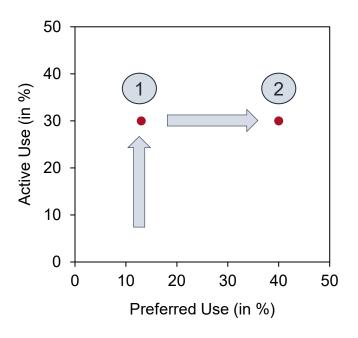
Beyond ad-hoc charging, EV drivers can only use services they are registered with.

2 KPI: Preferred Use

Most business models are based on usagebased remuneration models.

For successful commercialisation, the actual use and the preferred use of the services is therefore crucial.

In addition to the sales potential, preferred use opportunities for cross-selling.





"Which charging services or

#### Market shares charging services

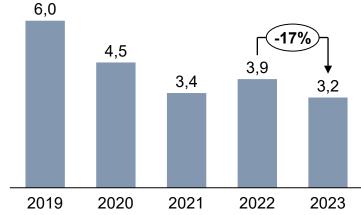
## Number of charging services used

On average, EV drivers use 3.2 charging services actively.

The number of actively used eMSP services declined for several years. After an increase last year, it goes down to 3.24.









### Active use of the services

"Which charging services or apps do you actively use?" (multiple selection possible)



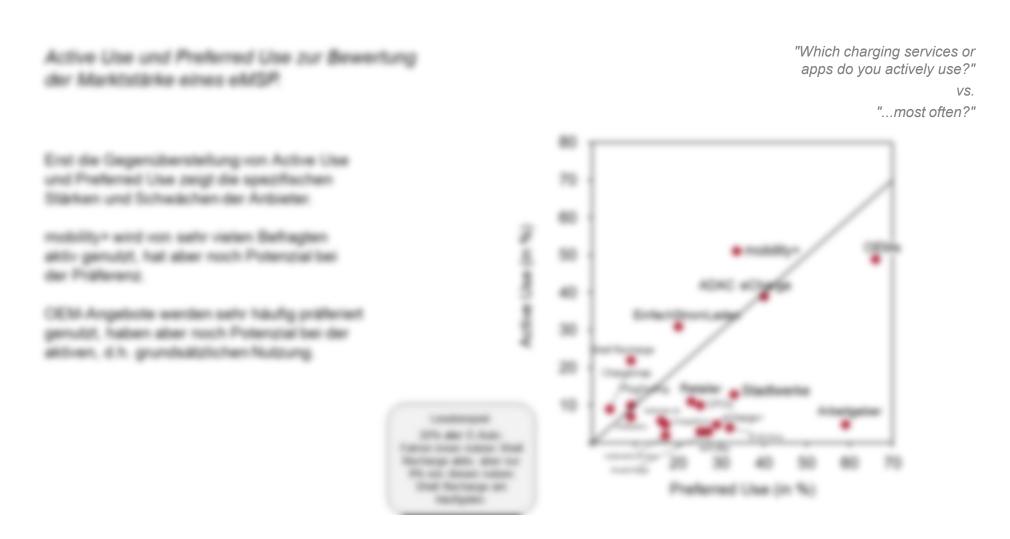
### Preferred use of services

"Which of the charging services just mentioned do you use most often?"

(shown: share among active use mentions)



### **Use of eMSP charging services**





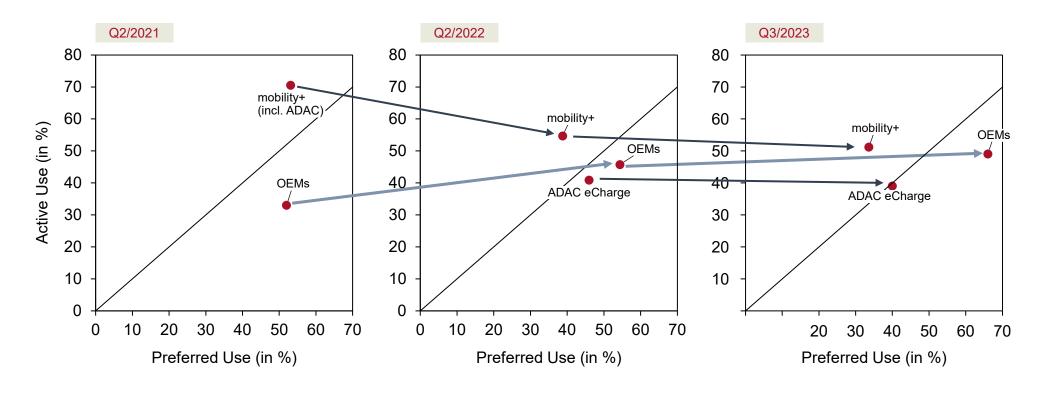
### Use of eMSP charging services (selected services)

OEM services are increasing in both Active Use and Preferred Use. mobility+/eCharge largely maintains its position.

"Which charging services or apps do you actively use?"

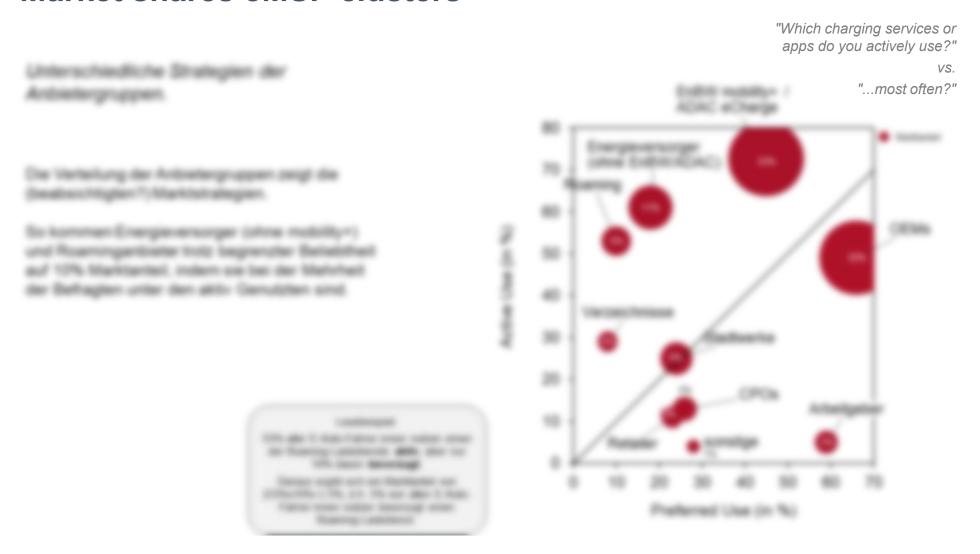
VS.

"...most often?"





### **Market shares eMSP clusters**





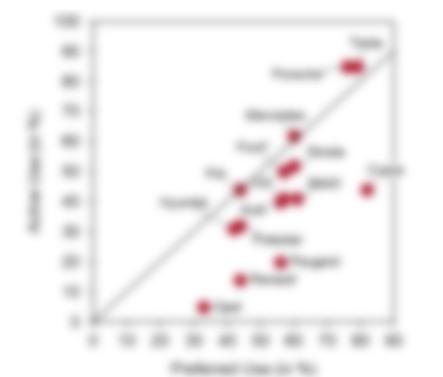
## **OEM** services in comparison

Wide dispersion between the brands.

"Which charging services or apps do you actively use?"

VS

"...most often?"





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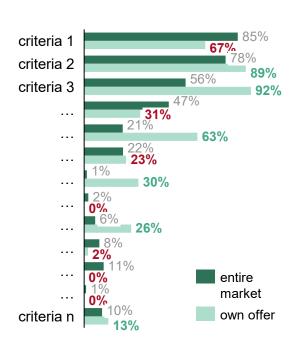
## **Preliminary remark**

# Why are drivers for preference important for eMSPs?

The drivers for preference show with which proposition individual providers or provider groups score.

#### Questions for eMSP:

- In general, what criteria is important to EV drivers when choosing their preferred eMSP?
- How does an offer or provider group perform in relation to the competition?
- Where are competitors better?
- Where is your own service ahead?
- Does your own profile fit the defined strategy?
- Where does your own service need to improve?





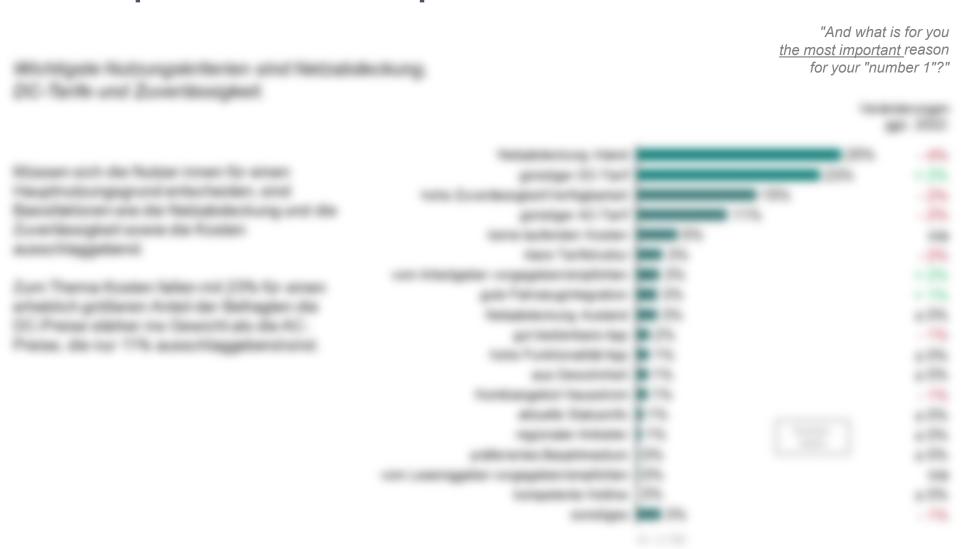
## **Usage reasons for #1**

"What are the main reasons you use your "number 1" most often?" (multiple selection possible)





### Most important reason for preference



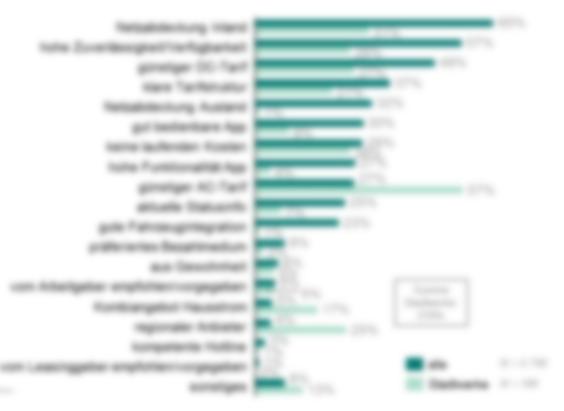


## Performance of the municipal utilities

Municipality utilities' offer with great need for action, especially in the hygiene factors.

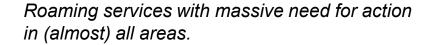
The municipal utilities are clearly behind the average of all providers in almost all areas.

The USP of the municipal utilities is their low AC tariffs (DC tariffs are below average) and their regionality, which is appreciated by many users. "What are the main reasons you use your "number 1" most often?"
(multiple selection possible)





## Performance of roaming services

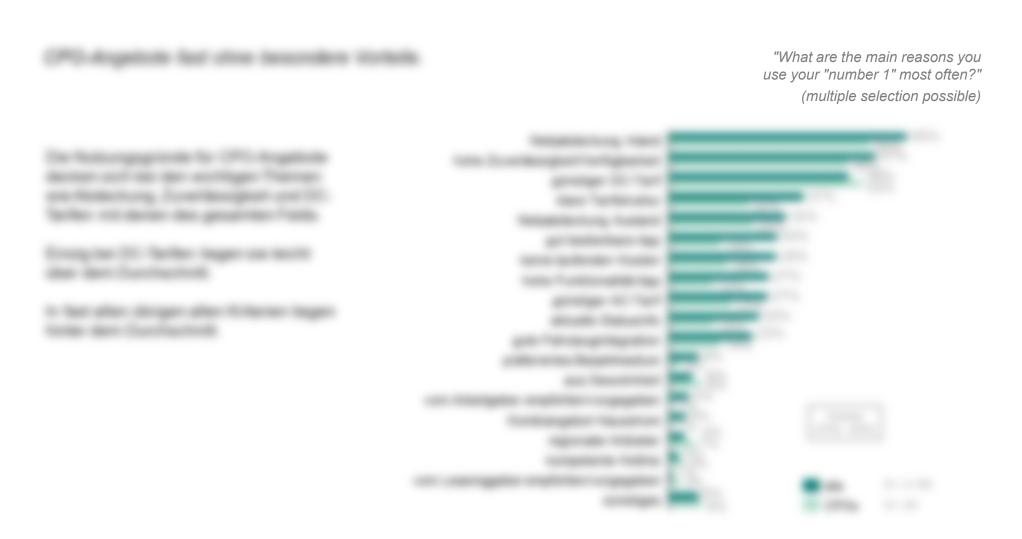


"What are the main reasons you use your "number 1" most often?" (multiple selection possible)





### **Performance of CPOs**





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#### Barriers to preference

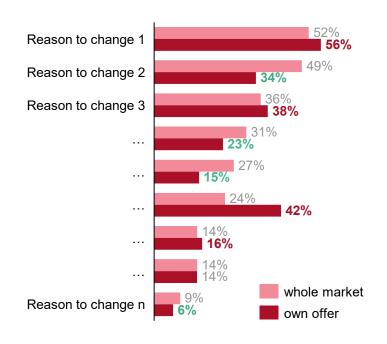
## **Preliminary remark**

#### Why are barriers to preference important?

The barriers to preference show for which service offers individual providers or provider groups lose users.

#### Questions for eMSP:

- In general: What are the reasons that drive EV drivers to the competitors?
- How does one's own offer or provider group perform in relation to the competition?
- Where does your own service lose users?
- Where is your own service ahead?
- Where does your own service need to improve?





#### Barriers to preference

### Reasons for #2...n

"What about the other charging services or apps you use? On what occasion do you use them?" (multiple selection possible)





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#### Churn from preferred eMSP

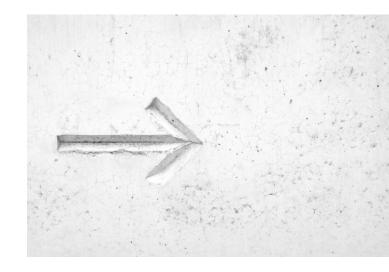
## **Preliminary remark**

#### What are the reasons for churn?

eMSP services are easy to use with a few clicks, i.e. hurdles are low. This is contrasted by the habit of the known.

#### Questions for eMSP:

- Which factors have an influence on the willingness to switch?
- What factors were ultimately decisive for a change in 2022 / 2023?





#### Churn from preferred eMSP

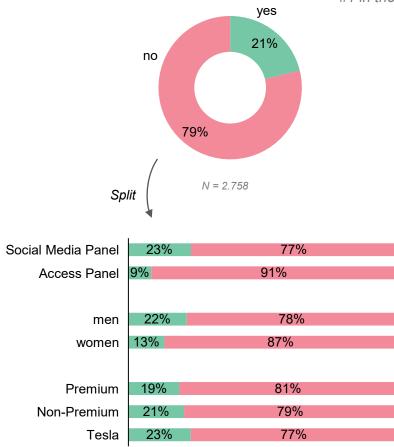
## Change frequency of #1

One in five have changed their #1 in the last year.

Only one fifth of the respondents has changed their preferred charging service in the last year. In the 2022 study year, 19% have changed their preferred provider.

Among EV-savvy respondents, the switching incidence is higher than among the less EV-savvy respondents of the access panel.

"Have you changed your #1 in the last 12 months?"





#### Churn from preferred eMSP

### Possible reasons for change in the future

Many criteria relevant to loyalty.

Churn from preferred eMSP = no:
"When would you give up your #1 and
switch to another provider?
Switching comes into question when
another provider offers..."
(multiple selection possible)





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#### Charging app features

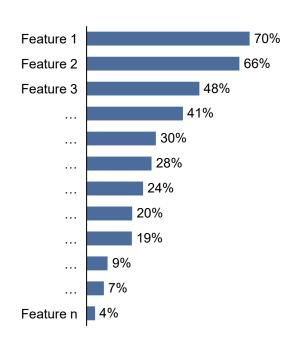
## **Preliminary remark**

#### Which features are important?

eMSP services offer many important functions. Customer loyalty is achieved when an offer performs better than the competition in the functions relevant to the target group.

#### Questions for eMSP:

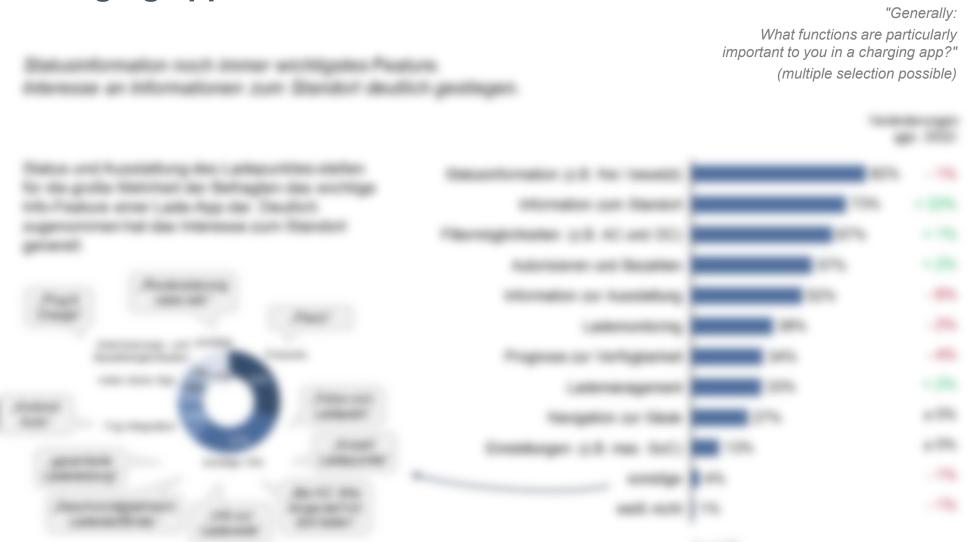
- In general: What features are important to EV drivers?
- Which relevant functions are particularly frequently used or appreciated in an eMSP's offer?
- What features does the target group miss in an eMSP's offer?
- Which competitors' features are more convincing?





#### Charging app features

## **Charging apps: Features used**





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## **Preliminary remark**

#### Are CPOs relevant for the charging decision?

A charging station supplies electricity independently of the operator. As supply increases, so do the differences and the choices available to users.

#### Questions for eMSP:

- How important is the CPO from the users' point of view? Which factors are decisive?
- What are the differences between the providers?





### Relevance of CPOs

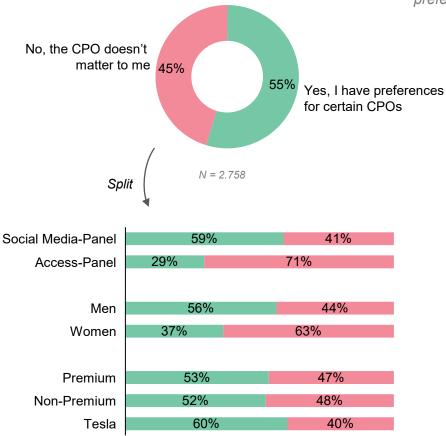
Over half with preference for specific CPOs.

Even though only a few respondents pay for charging ad-hoc directly at the charge point, more than half of the respondents prefer certain charging station operators.

There are big differences depending on the target group. Especially the EV-savvy target group from the social media panel and Tesla drivers have strong preferences for a CPO.

"At charging locations and hubs with several charging pole operators:

Do you have any preferences?"





### Relevance of CPOs

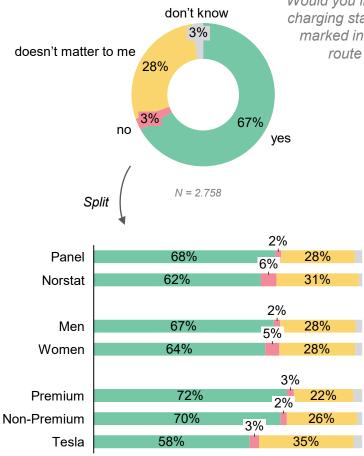
Two thirds request CPO information in the charging app.

Regardless of whether respondents have a preference for specific CPOs, two-thirds of respondents want operators to be clearly displayed in charging apps.

Tesla drivers in particular are less often interested in seeing the CPO in a charging app. A possible reason is that they can easily find Tesla charging parks in their vehicle's navigation system.

"Today, charging station operators are only displayed in a hidden way in charging apps.

Would you like the operator of charging stations to be clearly marked in the charging app, route planner or vehicle navigator?"





## **Preferences in charging parks**

Big differences between Tesla drivers and the other brands.

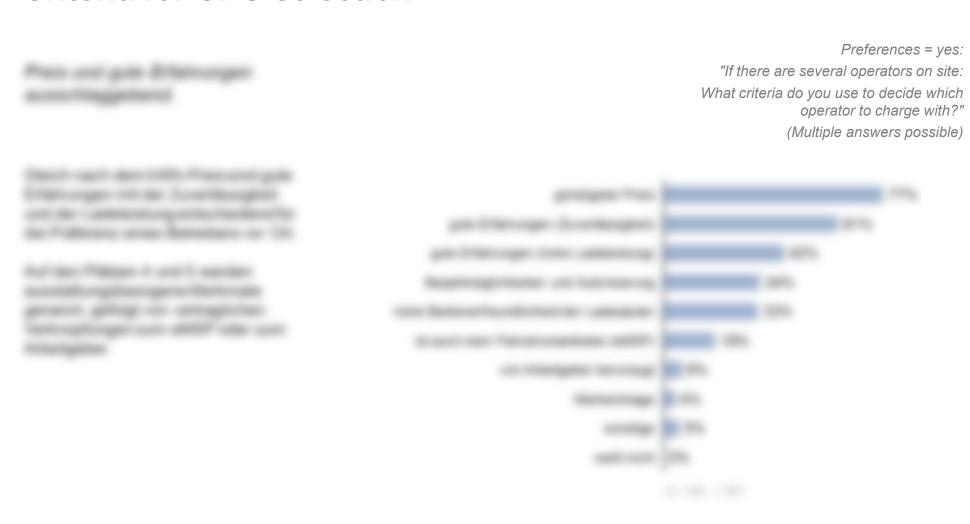
"How attractive do you find the following charging parks?"





## CPO preferences

# **Criteria for CPO selection**





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# **Preliminary remark**

# Why are payment methods important for user retention?

In addition to the tariff structure, coverage and functionality of individual eMSP services, EV drivers have specific preferences for payment methods. The choice of the preferred eMSP service is therefore also influenced by the payment methods associated with the service.

#### Questions for eMSP:

- Which payment methods are preferred by which target group?
- Do payment methods and modalities need to be optimised to increase customer loyalty?





# **Authorisation and payment** (actual)







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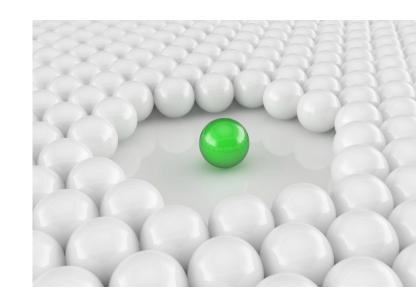
# **Preliminary remark**

# Which payment methods will prevail in the long term?

The current preferences for payment at the charging station are overlaid by the current offer and the current technical possibilities. In order to assess which method will prevail in the medium term, it is important to know what advantages and disadvantages EV drivers see in the options.

#### Questions for eMSP:

- Why do respondents use a payment method?
- How will preferences change if, for example, Plug&Charge is offered across the board or the availability of the mobile phone network in Germany will improve?



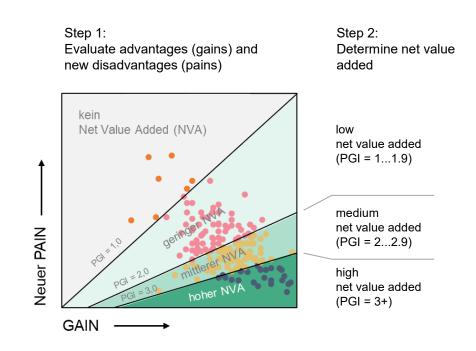


# Preliminary remark on the calculation of net value added

# Determination of the net value added for payment methods with the Pain-Gain test approach\*

Each payment method offers its own advantages, but also its own disadvantages for users.

The decisive factor for acceptance and thus use is the ratio of the respective advantages to the disadvantages, i.e. the net value added of each payment method.



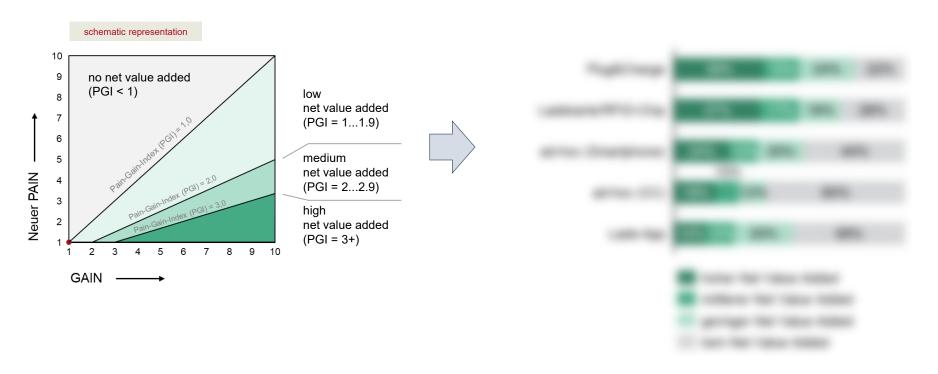
<sup>\*</sup> PGI = Pain-Gain-Index = Gain value / pain value



## Assessment of payment methods

# **Summary: Net value added**

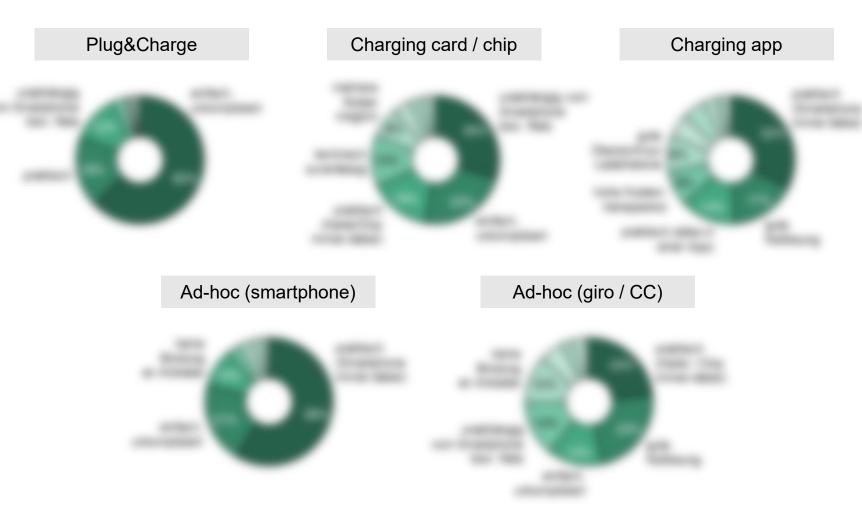
Contrary to what the preferred payment options (see above) suggest, there is a significant proportion of respondents for all payment methods who see high net added value in this particular payment option.





## Assessment of payment methods

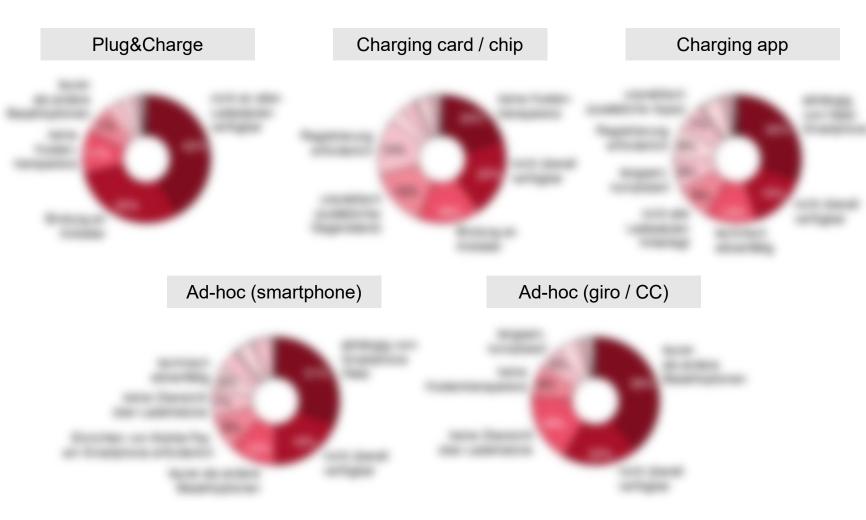
# **Summary: Biggest driver**





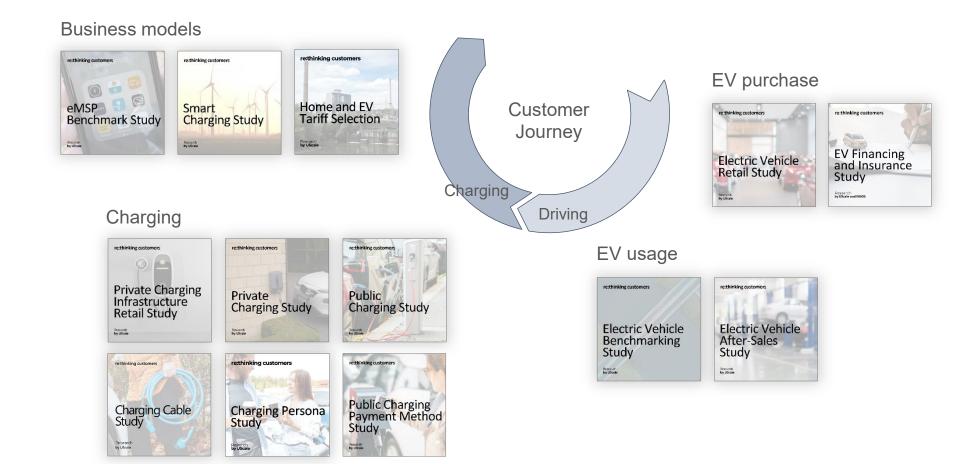
## Assessment of payment methods

# **Summary: Biggest barrier**





# **UScale focus studies**





# **About UScale**

- UScale advises car manufacturers, energy suppliers and service providers on the customer-oriented design of offers and the development of KPI systems for customer perception.
- UScale's work is based on a development framework for the product-market fit for digital and innovative products and customer insights studies on all touchpoints of the e-mobile customer journey.





- UScale is the only provider of a panel specialised in eMobility with over 9,000 panelists in German-speaking countries.
- UScale makes the customer perspective tangible for managers, engineers and IT specialists.
- UScale has extensive industry knowledge of the eMobility ecosystem.
- UScale combines extensive experience with the challenges of corporates with the agility of a start-up.





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