

Press Release

12 February, Madrid, Spain

For immediate release:

**Landmark legislation passed in the Balearic Islands:
H2020 WinWind activities addressing the social acceptance of wind energy on
the Islands given significant boost**

The H2020 project [WinWind](#) aims to promote the socially inclusive and environmentally sound market uptake of renewable energy in Wind Energy Scarce Regions (WESR) in six different countries in Europe. One of those regions are the Balearic Islands in Spain, located in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

On Tuesday the 12th of February 2019, the government of the regional autonomous community of the Balearic Islands passed a landmark piece of legislation. The Climate Change and Energy Transition Law, pioneered by the progressive coalition governing the islands, commits the region to take radical action to combat climate change and to realise the energy transition. To these ends, the legislation contains a timeline of actions and deadlines for progressively reaching these goals in the next decades.

The Law will oblige the Islands to work towards ensuring that 100% of energy consumed in the region comes from renewable sources by the year 2050. This is both praised and criticized for being a highly ambitious target, particularly given that currently renewables only account for 3% of the region's energy source. At this moment, the region is predominantly dependent on fossil fuels, namely coal and fuel, combusted in four highly polluting plants across the islands, as well as energy sourced via a submarine electricity cable from mainland Spain to Mallorca.

In this regard, the Law aims to achieve 10% use of renewables by 2020, 35% by 2035, gradually leading up to the 100% renewable energy use target by 2050. It is envisaged that 70% of such renewable energy is to be produced on the islands, with photovoltaic energy expected to produce the large bulk of this.

Nevertheless, other renewable sources, such as wind energy, will inevitably play a significant role in achieving these ambitious targets. The activities of the WinWind project in Spain have received, and are set to receive additional, boosts from the legislation's approval and implementation. This is thanks to favourable regulatory frameworks, as well as enhanced attention of citizens, policy-makers and investors to the inevitable contribution of wind energy in achieving the legislation targets set for the region.

On the 20th of February, the Spanish Desk of the WinWind project will be coordinating a policy roundtable, hosted by the Balearic Government Department of Energy, to discuss the status and social acceptance of wind energy on the Islands. The timing of the approval of the new legislation

will ensure that the discussions to be particularly topical and engaging for policy makers in the region.

Word Count:

409

About the project:

Wind power plays an important role for mastering the energy transition. Aside from market, policy, technical, and geographic factors, a lack of social acceptance has also begun to slow down the development of wind power.

WinWind is a project under the EU H2020 research and innovation programme, that aims to enhance the socially inclusive and environmentally sound market uptake of wind energy by increasing its social acceptance in 'wind energy scarce regions' (WESR). The specific objectives are: screening, analysing, discussing, replicating, testing and disseminating feasible solutions for increasing social acceptance and thereby the uptake of wind energy. The project considers from a multidisciplinary perspective cases of WESR in Germany, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Norway and Poland. These selected countries represent a variety of realities ranging from large (but with WESR) to very scarce wind energy penetration. Each country hosts a Stakeholder Desk taking-up the operational tasks of the project. The desks consist of the local project partners and selected stakeholders and market actors (e.g. developers, investors, community energy groups, associations, local/regional authorities, policy-makers, and NGOs)

Images:

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