



Deliverable 7.8

Conference Proceedings

Achieving a Win-Win(d):
Socially-Inclusive Wind Energy across Europe
27-28 February 2020, Berlin, Germany

Date: 31.03.2020

Version V1

WP	7	Name of the WP: Dissemination and Communication			
Dissemination level:	Public	Due delivery date:	31.03.2020		
Nature:	Report	Actual delivery date:	31.03.2020		
Lead beneficiary:	FUB-FFU				
Contributing beneficiaries:	All Partners				
Authors: Maria Rosaria Di Nucci, Michael Krug, Dörte Themann and Anna Will (FUB-FFU)					
Document history					
Version	Date	Submitted by	Partner	Reviewed/Approved by/Partner	Date
V1	30.03.2020	R. Di Nucci	FUB FFU	M. Krug/R. Di Nucci	31.03.2020



Executive Summary

The conference entitled “Achieving a Win-Win(d) Socially-Inclusive Wind Energy across Europe” marked the official conclusion of the WinWind project. The event was attended by approximately 70 participants from research, public administration, business and civil society. The aim of the event was, among other things, to illustrate the results of the project, to discuss factors influencing social acceptance and to present replicable measures to enhance acceptance for wind energy projects. This deliverable summarises the presentations and discussion of the two days event.

The conference was opened by the project coordinator Rosaria Di Nucci (FUB FFU) and Jan Steinkohl, Policy Officer at the European Commission, who presented the EUs Clean Energy Package and outlined in particular the measures to promote citizens' energy. In her keynote speech, Prof. Gundula Hübner (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, MSH Medical School Hamburg) presented current national and international research results in the field of acceptance research.

The meeting consisted of three expert panels on key topics, each of which was facilitated by WinWind partners and of a concluding panel. The first day was subdivided in two parts. In the morning session, the first panel chaired by the WinWind Spanish partner Nicoletta del Bufalo (ECORYS) focused on barriers and drivers for social acceptance. The discussion with the panel composed by Kristin Linnerud of the CICERO Center for International Climate Research, Thomas Bjørdal, General Secretary, Norwegian Windpower Municipalities, Ruth Brand-Schock, Head of politics and government relations, ENERCON and Alberto Cena, CEO of BEPTE Consultores in Madrid addressed questions such as whether financial participation can contribute to overcome opposition to wind energy projects and help raising social acceptance and whether a fair distribution of risks, costs and benefits can enhance local acceptability.

The second panel in the afternoon, chaired by Giorgia Rambelli of ICLEI, concentrated respectively on how the recent changes in EU legislation will affect the social acceptance of wind energy at the local level. A further focus of the discussion was on innovative mechanisms to foster social acceptance of wind energy as well as the role of different acceptance-promoting measures and the interaction of different political and administrative levels. In particular, it was debated how different levels of government can foster social acceptance and how policy makers on different levels of government can enhance social acceptance and community engagement, but also how coherence and synergies between the different governance levels can be established. The European dimension was brought to the forefront by Lutz Ribbe, Vice President of the Sustainable Development Observatory of the European and Social Committee who discussed with Frank Sondershaus, expert for acceptance and participation of the Onshore Wind Energy Agency (FA-Wind) in Berlin und Juris Ozoliņš, independent consultant and former Advisor of the Latvian Ministry of Economy.

On the second day, Panel 3 addressed issues concerning key principles and criteria for fair wind energy development and debated whether voluntary labels for fair wind energy could help to raise local acceptance and how to incorporate such criteria into policies. The chair Michael Krug (FUB FFU) and Ivar Kundrenickis of IPE in Riga presented the principles and criteria for fair wind energy developed

within WinWind, and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of corresponding quality labels at the European and national levels. The panel consisted of institutional actors such as Angelika Behlig, Ministry of Energy Transition Schleswig Holstein in Germany, Dieter Sell, CEO of the Thuringian Energy and GreenTech Agency (ThEGA), Wojciech Cetnarski, Vice President and Management Board of the Polish Wind Energy Association and Dorina Iuga, project manager of WindEurope.

In the concluding panel, FFU project coordinator Rosaria Di Nucci, Geraint Ellis of Queen's University Belfast and Dörte Ohlhorst of Technical University Munich, drew some lessons for future policy and discussed research perspectives and recommendations for policy. The panel was chaired by Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien.

One of the highlights of the conference was the signing of three cooperation agreements (Memoranda of Understanding). With these agreements, the project partners and stakeholders acting as mentoring experts as well as practitioners from the WinWind partner countries confirmed their willingness to continue three best practice transfer processes (e.g. to Poland and Latvia) already initiated within the framework of WinWind, especially in the field of community energy.

Within an open market format, best practices from WinWind and other projects were presented and the participants were able to exchange information with WinWind project partners as well as other projects in related fields.

Lastly, the WinWind consortium took the opportunity to launch the WinWind Handbook which is intended to provide guidance on how socially inclusive wind energy can be realised.

Content

Introduction	6
WinWind in a nutshell	6
WinWind pursued the following specific objectives:	6
The Final Conference	7
The Structure of the Proceedings	8
Conference Programme	10
Registration List.....	13
Opening by Maria Rosaria Di Nucci – Project coordinator FFU-FUB	16
Presentation by Jan Steinkohl – Policy Officer, European Commission - DG Energy	21
Keynote by Prof. Gundula Hübner - “What we know about social acceptance of wind energy – an international perspective”	26
Plenary 1: How serious are the existing barriers towards social acceptance?	32
Kristin Linnerud (CICERO, Norway)	32
Thomas Bjordal (NWM, Norway).....	33
Ruth Brand-Schock (ENERCON IPP, Germany).....	35
Alberto Ceña (BEPTE Consultores, Spain)	35
Discussion in Plenary 1.....	35
Plenary 2: How can different levels of government foster social acceptance?	38
Lutz Ribbe (European Economic and Social Committee, EESC)	38
Frank Sondershaus (Onshore Wind Energy Agency, Germany)	41
Juris Ozoliņš (independent consultant, Latvia)	43
Discussion in Plenary 2.....	44
Market of Opportunities	47
PROSEU & SMARTEES – presented by Arthur Hinsch and Niklas Mischkowski (ICLEI) ..	47
Toolkit for Energy Transition – presented by Tomke Lisa Menger (Energieagentur NRW)	48
UPWARDS – presented by Helena Solman (Wageningen University)	49
Som Energia – presented by Pouyan Maleki-Dizaji (ECORYS)	49
Energy Self-Sufficient Municipality of Kisielice – presented by Piotr Nowakowski (KAPE)	49

The WinWind Transfer process: Signing of the Memoranda of Understanding	51
Memorandum of Understanding between Latvian and German Stakeholders	53
Memorandum of Understanding between Polish and German stakeholders	54
Memorandum of Understanding between the German mentoring team including TheGA and Polish stakeholders	54
Plenary 3: Principles and Criteria for Fair Wind Energy	57
Introduction into Principles and Criteria of WinWind.....	57
Q&A on Principles and Criteria for Fair Wind Energy.....	58
Angelika Behlig (Ministry of Energy Transition Schleswig-Holstein, Germany).....	61
Dieter Sell (Thuringian Energy and GreenTech Agency (TheGA), Germany).....	63
Wojciech Cetnarski (Management Board of the Polish Wind Energy Association)	64
Dorina Iuga (WindEurope)	67
Discussion in Plenary 3.....	69
Closing Plenary	71
Discussion during the Closing Plenary	73

Introduction

Wind energy has a key role to play in the transition to a low-emission society. However, its deployment can lead to local tensions and polarised debates. The WinWind conference “Achieving a Win-Win(d): Socially-Inclusive Wind Energy across Europe” analysed the factors influencing social acceptance of wind energy. Replicable measures and effective drivers to overcome the present challenges were discussed based on the experiences of six European countries.

The conference brought the WinWind consortium together with participants from the research community, policy makers, businesses, and civil society.

WinWind in a nutshell

The overall objective of WinWind is to enhance the socially inclusive and environmentally sound market uptake of wind energy by increasing its social acceptance in 'wind energy scarce regions' (WESR). WESR are defined as regions with wind energy penetration levels that are lower than the EU average, despite having considerable economic potentials. The project has selected a number of target regions including Saxony and Thuringia in Germany, Latium and Abruzzo in Italy, Latvia, Norway, the Warmian-Masurian Province in Poland and the Balearic Islands in Spain. Within these regions, assessments are carried out on the conditions, barriers and drivers affecting social acceptance of wind energy, with a particular focus on community acceptance. Additionally, WinWind analyses the regional and local specificities, socioeconomic, spatial and environmental characteristics and the reasons for slow market deployment in the target regions. Alongside these WESR, model regions within the same countries have been identified. These have high wind energy penetration levels and provide potential best practice references, particularly on the issue of how to enhance social acceptance.

WinWind pursued the following specific objectives:

- 1) Identification and assessment of region-specific barriers and social acceptance challenges in selected target regions constraining market deployment;
- 2) Evaluation of legal, institutional and political drivers and barriers for social acceptance and support at community, regional, national and European levels, with a special focus on procedural and financial community engagement;
- 3) Development of a catalogue of social acceptance barriers and drivers in the target regions;
- 4) Assessment and knowledge-building about social and environmental impacts of wind energy including community benefits, taking into account regional specificities, socioeconomic, spatial and environmental aspects;
- 5) Assessment of best practice policies and measures and novel governance mechanisms in the selected six countries and beyond, enhancing social acceptance;
- 6) Analysis of critical success factors of novel governance mechanisms in community engagement and assessment of the conditions for their transfer and uptake in other contexts;
- 7) Engagement with national and regional stakeholders to transfer knowledge about social and environmental impacts of wind energy and initiate a transfer of suitable measures and concepts

- within and between the partner countries and wind energy scarce target regions (“learning laboratories”);
- 8) Development of guiding principles and criteria for fair (i.e. socially inclusive and environmentally sound) wind energy as a guide for policy development taking into account innovative bottom-up initiatives, accompanied by a strategy for implementation;
 - 9) Creation and engagement in a dialogue between WinWind country desks and EU stakeholders to assess how policy relevant initiatives at the country level can be adapted to the EU level to accelerate social acceptance, community participation and citizens’ engagement in wind energy;
 - 10) Facilitation of policy learning, both within each partner country and target regions and among the countries and regions, to contribute towards improving national and regional policy as well as planning frameworks to enhance good governance and improve community participation and engagement.

WinWind made use of a broadly recognised conceptual framework for different dimensions of acceptance. The workflow of the project is based on four key steps:

- 1) Analysis of social acceptance drivers and barriers in the target regions
- 2) Good/Best practice analysis
- 3) Best practice transfer
- 4) Lessons learned and policy recommendations

In parallel to these, the consortium organised stakeholder dialogues via country specific stakeholder desks, thematic workshops, policy roundtables and stakeholder consultations. Each desk consists of the project partners and of selected stakeholders and market actors in the target and model regions.

The Final Conference

The conference entitled “Achieving a Win-Win(d) Socially-Inclusive Wind Energy across Europe” marked the official conclusion of the project WinWind project. It was attended by approximately 70 participants from research, public administration, business and civil society. The aim of the event was, among other things, to illustrate the results of the project, to discuss factors influencing social acceptance and to present replicable measures to enhance acceptance for wind energy projects.

The event was opened by the project coordinator Rosaria Di Nucci (FUB FFU) and Jan Steinkohl, Policy Officer at the European Commission who presented the EUs Clean Energy Package and outlined in particular the measures to promote citizens' energy. In her keynote speech, Prof. Gundula Hübner (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, MSH Medical School Hamburg) presented current national and international research results in the field of acceptance research.

The two days meeting consisted of three expert panels on key topics, each of which was facilitated by WinWind partners and of a concluding panel.

The Structure of the Proceedings

The present proceedings follow the structure of the conference. The Part I comprises the contents, the conference programme, list of participants, and the opening session. This is followed in Part II by the record of the two panels that took place on February 27. Key statements delivered in the panel and the respective following discussion have been summarised and the short presentations of the panelists are included. Part III provides a summary of the “market of opportunities” and of the signing of memoranda of understanding between mentoring teams and teams from learning regions. Part IV contains the discussion on principles and criteria in Panel 3 and the résumé of the presentations and discussions in the closing plenary on February 28.

All texts are supplemented by photos of the panels and of the audience. Consent of the participants was obtained at the time of the registration. The registration list does not include some participants that did not agree to disclose their identity publicly.

PART I

Conference Programme

Registration list

Opening session

Conference Programme

Thursday, 27 February 2020



TIME	PROGRAMME
9:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Rosaria Di Nucci, Coordinator of the WinWind Project, Environmental Policy Research Centre, Freie Universität Berlin • Jan Steinkohl, Policy Officer, European Commission Directorate General for Energy
10:20	<p>Keynote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gundula Hübner, Professor, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg & Medical School Hamburg <p>“What we know about social acceptance of wind energy – an international perspective”</p>
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	<p>Plenary 1: How serious are the existing barriers toward social acceptance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can financial participation contribute to overcome them and raise social acceptance? • In what way does ownership matter for community acceptance? • What role does a fair distribution of risks, costs and benefits play for resistance to wind power? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristin Linnerud, Senior Researcher, CICERO Center for International Climate Research • Thomas Bjørndal, General Secretary, Norwegian Windpower Municipalities • Ruth Brand-Schock, Head of politics and government relations, ENERCON IPP Deutschland GmbH • Alberto Cena, CEO of BEPTE Consultores <p>Moderator: Nicoletta del Bufalo, Director, ECORYS Spain</p>
13:00	Lunch

<p>14:00</p>	<p>Plenary 2: How can different levels of government foster social acceptance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can policy makers on different levels of government enhance social acceptance and community engagement? • How can coherence and synergies between the different governance levels be established? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lutz Ribbe, Vice President of the Sustainable Development Observatory, European Economic and Social Committee • Frank Sondershaus, Specialist for Acceptance and Participation, Onshore Wind Energy Agency, Germany • Juris Ozoliņš, Independent Consultant, former Advisor of the Latvian Ministry of Economy <p>Moderator: Giorgia Rambelli, ICLEI Europe</p>
<p>15:15</p>	<p>Market of Opportunities</p> <p>Short pitches from the projects WinWind, PROSEU, UPWARDS, SMARTEES and the energy agency of the German state North-Rhine Westphalia. After the pitches, the presenters are hosting market tables, where their ideas can be further discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piotr Nowakowski, Specialist Research and Projects, KAPE • Helena Solman, Researcher, University of Wageningen • Arthur Hinsch, and Niklas Mischkowski, Officers, ICLEI Europe • Pouyan Maleki-Dizaji, Consultant, ECORYS Spain • Tomke Lisa Menger, Consultant, EnergieAgentur.NRW
<p>16:00</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>16:30</p>	<p>Signing of Memoranda of Understanding</p> <p>Introduction: Arthur Hinsch, Officer, ICLEI Europe</p>
<p>19:00</p>	<p>Dinner</p>

Friday, 28 February 2020

TIME	PROGRAMME
09.00	Welcome Coffee
09.30	<p>Plenary 3: Principles and Criteria for Fair Wind Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can voluntary labels for fair wind energy help to raise local acceptance? • Would national/European labels for fair wind energy make sense? • What are key principles/criteria for fair wind energy? • How should they be implemented/incorporated into policies? <p>Introduction of the criteria developed under the WinWind project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Krug, Researcher, Environmental Policy Research Centre, Freie Universität Berlin • Ivars Kudrenickis, Senior Researcher, Institute of Physical Energetics, Latvia <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angelika Behlig, Ministry of Energy Transition Schleswig Holstein, Germany • Dieter Sell, CEO, Thuringian Energy and GreenTech Agency (TheGA) • Wojciech Cetnarski, Vice President, Management Board of the Polish Wind Energy Association • Dorina Iuga, Senior Project Manager, WindEurope <p>Moderator: Michael Krug, <i>Environmental Policy Research Centre, Free University Berlin</i></p>
11.00	Coffee Break
11.30	<p>Closing Plenary: Can we still achieve a win-win(d) situation? Lessons for future policy</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Rosaria Di Nucci, Coordinator of the WinWind project, Environmental Policy Research Centre, Freie Universität Berlin • Geraint Ellis, Professor of Environmental Planning, Queen's University Belfast, MISTRAL project • Dörte Ohlhorst, Researcher, Bavarian School of Public Policy, Technische Universität München <p>Moderator: Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien, <i>Adviser, Climate and Clean Energy Finance</i></p>
13.00	Lunch and Goodbye

Registration List



Registration List

	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Function / Job Title	Country
1	Akermanis	Andris	Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments	Adviser on energy issues	Latvia
2	Bachinger	Richard	Human Rights Lens	Business & Human Rights applied	Austria
3	Behlig	Angelika	Ministry of Energy Transition Schleswig Holstein	Head of Division Energy Policy and Energy Law	Germany
4	Białowas	Piotr	VIATEC Sp. z o.o.	Business Development Manager	Poland
5	Bjørndal	Thomas	Norwegian Windpower Municipalities	General Secretary	Norway
6	Brand-Schock	Ruth	ENERCON IPP Deutschland GmbH	Head of politics and government relations	Germany
7	Bönisch	Bettina	FA Wind	Expert	Germany
8	Ceglarz	Andrzej	Renewables Grid Initiative	Researcher & Project Manager	Germany
9	Ceña	Alberto	AEE/BEPTE SL/ Spanish Wind Energy Association	Advisor	Spain
10	Cetnarski	Wojciech	Polish Wind Energy Association	Vice-President of the Board	Poland
11	Colell	Arwen	Mercator Research Institute MCC	Policy Analyst	Germany
12	Côté	Elizabeth	University of St.Gallen	Research Associate & Doctoral Candidate	Switzerland
13	del Bufalo	Nicoletta	ECORYS España	Director	Spain
14	Di Nucci	Rosaria	Freie Universität Berlin FFU	Project Coordinator	Germany
15	Eichenauer	Eva	Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space	Research Associate	Germany
16	Ellis	Geraint	Queen's University, Belfast	Professor of Environmental Planning	United Kingdom
17	Garayoa	Susana	ZABALA Innovation Consulting	Communication Manager	Spain
18	Hildebrand	Jan	IZES gGmbH - Institut für Zukunfts- und Stoffstromsysteme	Head of Department	Germany
19	Hinsch	Arthur	ICLEI Europe	Officer	Germany
20	Hoffmann	Julia	IFOK GmbH	Consultant	Germany
21	Hübner	Gundula	Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg & MSH Medical School Hamburg	Professor	Germany

22	Iuga	Dorina	WindEurope	Senior Project Manager	Belgium
23	Jacob	Klaus	Freie Universität Berlin FFU	Research Director	Germany
24	Karakislak	Irmak	Institute for Future Energy and Material Flow Systems	Early Stage Researcher/ PhD Student	Germany
25	Kittel	Julia	ICLEI European Secretariat	Officer	Germany
26	Knauf	Jakob	University of St.Gallen	Research Associate & Doctoral Candidate	Switzerland
27	Knothe	Bettina	Kompetenzzentrum Naturschutz und Energiewende (KNE) gGmbH	Head of Department	Germany
28	Koprowiak	Tomasz	Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management	Energy Adviser	Poland
29	Krug	Michael	Freie Universität Berlin- FFU	Researcher	Germany
30	Kudrenickis	Ivars	Institute of Physical Energetics (IPE)	Associate Professor	Latvia
31	Linnerud	Kristin	CICERO Center for International Climate Research	Senior Researcher	Norway
32	Maleki-Dizaji	Pouyan	Ecorys	Consultant	Spain
33	Meier	Johanna	Renewables Grid Initiative	Communication Manager	Germany
34	Menger	Tomke Lisa	EnergieAgentur.NRW	Consultant	Germany
35	Mischkowski	Niklas	ICLEI European Secretariat	Officer	Germany
36	Nowakowski	Piotr	The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency	Specialist	Poland
37	Ohlhorst	Dörte	Technical University of Munich	Lecturer and Researcher	Germany
38	Okoye	Vivian	UNFCC	Social media	United States
39	Paschke	Stephan	Freie Universität Berlin	Intern	Germany
40	Platzek	Thomas	ThEGA	Project manager	Germany
41	Poti	Bianca Maria	National Research Council CNR	Researcher	Italy
42	Rambelli	Giorgia	ICLEI European Secretariat	Coordinator	Belgium
43	Rasmussen	Berit	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate - NVE	Senior adviser and R&D coordinator in NVE	Norway
44	Rauch	Jens	FGW - Fördergesellschaft Windenergie e.V.	Managing Director	Germany
45	Ribbe	Lutz	European Economic and Social Committee	Vice President of the Sustainable Development Observatory	Germany
46	Rohe	Sebastian	University of Oldenburg	Researcher	Germany
47	Rothe	Ramona	ThEGA GmbH	Head of the Service Centre Wind Energy	Germany
48	Roux	Jean-Pierre	University of Exeter	PhD candidate	United Kingdom

49	Rump	Wolfgang	Regionale Planungsgemeinschaft Oderland-Spree	Regional planner	Germany
50	Schumann	Roland	ACER	Secretary	Spain
51	Sell	Dieter	ThEGA GmbH	CEO	Germany
52	Simioli	Cristina	Renewables Grid Initiative	Manager Italy	Germany
53	Solman	Helena	Wageningen University	PhD researcher	Netherlands
54	Sondershaus	Frank	Fachagentur Windenergie an Land	Adviser for acceptance and participation	Germany
55	Sonntag- O'Brien	Virginia	independent Consultant	Adviser, Climate and Clean Energy Finance	Germany
56	Steinkohl	Jan	European Commission	Policy Officer	Belgium
57	Tacke	Bettina	Freie Universität Berlin- Sustainability & Energy Unit	Scientific Coordinator	Germany
58	Themann	Dörte	Freie Universität Berlin- FFU	Researcher	Germany
59	Vespa	Mariangela	IZESg GmbH	PhD student	Germany
60	Vondran	Swantje	seecon Ingenieure	Project manager	Germany
61	Will	Anna Saadet	Freie Universität Berlin- FFU	Student assistant	Germany
62	Wnuk	Ryszard	The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency	Senior Adviser to the Management Board	Poland
63	Zucika	Aija	Latvian Environmental Investment Fund	Project manager	Latvia

Opening by Maria Rosaria Di Nucci – Project coordinator FFU-FUB

Maria-Rosaria Di Nucci of Freie Universität Berlin opened the event by presenting the objectives and major achievements of the WinWind project. She underlined that social acceptance of local energy projects plays a key role in the transformation of the EU's energy system. Although the energy transition is generally supported by the vast majority of the population, its implementation faces criticism and large energy projects lack support and provoke considerable local opposition. Initiatives against the deployment of wind energy in particular are proliferating on an unprecedented scale, fuelled by a clear lack of trust in developers, local governments and in the overall participatory procedures. To remedy this, the WinWind project identified region-specific barriers and drivers of socially-inclusive wind development. The project showcased best practice examples and novel governance mechanisms for effective community participation and engagement. While engaging with private and public stakeholders from all government levels, the project initiated a transfer of suitable measures and concepts between



the partner countries and wind energy scarce regions. One of the major outcomes of the project is guiding principles and criteria for fair (socially-inclusive) wind energy. These will serve as an orientation for regional, national or European policy development.

R. Di Nucci pointed out that although much scholarly literature and some collaborative projects have been

dealing with social acceptance of “contested” technologies, WinWind has a distinctive added value, especially because of the comparative analysis of six countries with diverse framework conditions, socio-economic and political constraints as well as the integrative approach with local and national stakeholders in activities of the project. One of the most important characteristics of the project was the best practice transfer that culminated in signing Memoranda of Understanding between mentoring teams and learning regions.

Concerning the lessons learned, key findings are that the active involvement of local people, both in terms of ownership and financing of wind energy projects should be promoted through appropriate regulations. Citizens' foundations and local trusts can be efficient solutions to channel the income to the local community. In addition, opportunities for indirect participation, for example through land leases and reduced electricity tariffs, should not be lost sight of. As far as social and political factors are concerned, it has been shown that early information is important, but this varies from country to country. In some countries the public must be informed about a project at an early stage, while in others there is no mandatory information or consultation process. There is therefore a clear need for effective and

institutionalised public participation. Mayors and "local champions" can act as "change agents", mediators and visionaries for a socially acceptable wind energy expansion. They play an important role in bringing together opponents and supporters of wind energy in a constructive dialogue. If a local advocate drives a project forward, this can remove obstacles.

The WinWind project has shown that the acceptance of wind energy projects depends on the local context and that the influencing factors vary slightly from country to country. Nevertheless, a conclusion that applies across countries is that acceptance can be promoted by a transparent, open and fair planning process and by the participation of local communities and citizens in the benefits of the wind energy projects.



Objectives and Achievements of the WinWind project

Maria Rosaria Di Nucci

Freie Universität Berlin
Forschungszentrum für Umweltpolitik

Freie Universität Berlin

WinWind Final Conference,
Berlin, 27-28 February 2020

ffu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 764717. The sole responsibility for the content of this presentation lies with its author and it in no way reflects the views of the European Union.

1



The project WinWind

WinWind - *Winning social acceptance for wind energy in wind energy scarce regions*

Funding: Horizon 2020 Programme

Duration: 1 Oct. 2017 - 31 March 2020

Consortium: 12 partners from Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Spain

Coordination: Freie Universität Berlin – Environmental Policy Research Centre

<http://winwind-project.eu/>



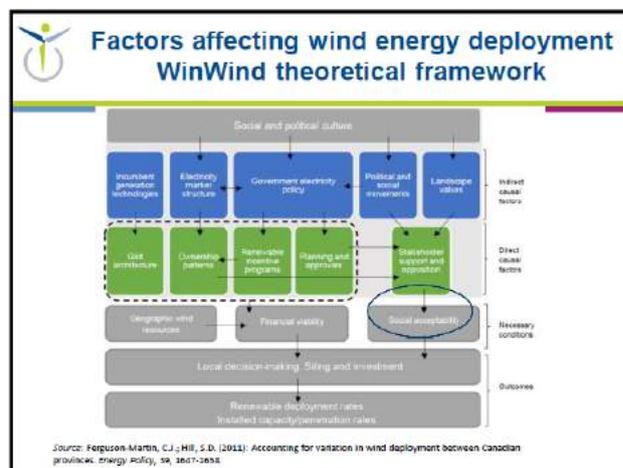
2



WinWind focus and objectives

Focus & Objectives	Progress
Identify and assess the region-specific barriers and social acceptance problems constraining market deployment	✓✓
Evaluate legal, institutional and political drivers and barriers for social acceptance and support with a special focus on procedural and financial community engagement	✓
Develop a taxonomy of social acceptance barriers and drivers in the target regions	✓
Increase knowledge about social and environmental impact of wind energy including community benefits	✓
Identify/assess best practice policies and measures and novel governance mechanisms including effective procedural and financial community participation and engagement	✓
Analyse critical success factors of novel governance mechanisms of community engagement & assess the necessary conditions for their transfer to other contexts	✓
Engage with national and regional stakeholders	✓✓
Initiate a transfer of suitable measures and concepts between the partner countries and wind energy scarce target regions	✓✓

3



4



Social acceptance

- **Complexity of social acceptance**
- **Social acceptance produced at different levels and affected by:**
 - Trust/mistrust
 - Perceived distributional and procedural justice
- **The way in which participation is organised and benefits are distributed matters**
 - What kind of communication?
 - What type of participation (in which phase, how early)?
 - What type of compensation?
 - How are beneficiaries (affected people) defined?
 - Who are the winners and losers?
 - Local ownership rather than transfers?
 - Is acceptance the higher the greater the local benefits?

Social acceptance: "favourable or positive response (including attitude, intention, behavior and – where appropriate – use) relating to proposed or in situ technology or social technical systems by members of a given social unit (country or region, community or town and household, organization)." (Upham et al. 2015)

5



Patterns of conflict

- Hundreds of anti-wind initiatives established in recent years
- Similarities: nature conservation concerns, health risks fears, cultural and landscape heritage, aesthetics
- There is a need for:
 - ✓ disentangling the different reasons for opposition in each country and region
 - ✓ seeking to understand what kind of instruments may affect social acceptability related to each reason
- Opponents' motives extremely different
- Perceived distributive injustice. Rural areas: modest conventional economic benefits (jobs, revenues); mostly rents for land owners
- Citizens' initiatives against RES getting professional
- Initiatives well networked and share methods to successfully block projects
- Tone is becoming harsh. Lack of trust (developers, local councils, procedures)
- Populist parties try to ride the protest. In Germany, AfD notes on its website that it supports the protest against wind energy (very active in East Germany, e.g. WinWind target regions Thuringia, Saxony)

6

Impact: where does WinWind make a difference?

Critical (local) acceptance factors are more or less known

- but the attempt to deliver a comparative analysis over six countries with different starting conditions and political/ socio-economic frameworks is ambitious

WinWind deals with measures/activities which have so far only marginally been assessed by collaborative research:

- Innovative policies & measures and governance mechanisms fostering procedural equity and
- Financial community participation and engagement (fostering distributive equity)

- We involved local and national stakeholders
- We provided guiding principles and criteria for fair wind energy as an orientation also for policy development
- We initiated the transfer of best practices

7

WinWind Approach

Country	Wind energy score target region	Model regions
Germany	Thuringia, Saxony	Schleswig-Holstein (North Frisia), Brandenburg
Italy	Abruzzi, Latium	Apulia, Sardinia
Latvia	Almost entire country	Northern Kurzeme (Northern Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve)
Norway	Mid-Norway	District of Fosen
Poland	Warmia-Mazury Region, selected municipalities of Opolskie voivodeship, Kujawski Country	Municipality of Kłodzice
Spain	Balearic Islands	Canary Islands

8

Project activities

<http://www.wpp.de>

Analytical work

- Literature review + starting conditions
- Taxonomy of acceptance drivers and barriers
- Portfolio of 30 good practices
- 10 Best practice case-studies
- Technical screening report
- Principle and Criteria for fair and acceptable wind energy

Stakeholder Engagement via 6 Country Desks

- Regular Country Desk Meetings
- Thematic Workshops
- Policy Roundtables
- Dedicated stakeholder consultations

9

Project activities (II)

Initiate Best Practice Transfers

- 1 Intra-country transfer
- 4 International transfers, including
 - Community wind farm
 - Renewable energy co-operative

Feeding project findings into policy development

- Policy Roundtables
- EU Policy Roundtable/EUSEW (17 + 19 June 2019)
- Policy input paper
- Policy report
- Input to domestic public consultations
- Input to integrated NECPs
- Recommendations for policy (ongoing)

10

Country Desk Activities

Country	Country Desk Meetings	Thematic Workshops	Policy round Tables
Germany	3	4	3
Italy	3	3	1
Latvia	3	3	1
Norway	4	3	1
Poland	2	2 (1)	1
Spain	3	3	1

11

WinWind Transfer activities

Domestic transfer cases

- Repowering of wind farm (Italy: Sardinia)

International transfer cases

- Renewable energy co-operative (Spain → Italy)
- Community Wind farms (Germany → Latvia/Poland)

Transfer activities

- Transfer management plans and concepts
- Transfer teams incl. mentoring experts
- 6 Transfer workshops
- Transfer guide
- 6 Memoranda of Understanding

12



Feeling part of the Process Impact on Policy

- Policy makers involved in desk activities and/or case studies in all 6 WinWind countries
- Policy Briefs available on the website
- 8 Policy Roundtables with institutional actors
- ES: invitation of WinWind to participate in the public consultation of the Balearic Climate Change Law
- LV: National Environmental Advisory Board
- Input of all partner to the respective NECPs
- EU Policy Roundtable & participation in EUSEW
- DE: Input to the public consultation on energy strategy in Saxony
- Position paper in the frame of the consultation by DG CLIMA on the strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emission reductions
- Policy recommendations for regional, national and EU policy makers



13



WinWind selected findings: general

The experience of DE, IT, PL, LV; NO, SP shows

- ✓ Discrepancy between socio-political acceptance and local acceptance → “social gap”
- ✓ Diversity of influencing factors and different perceptions by different actors
- ✓ Local impacts, whether real, potential or perceived, shape community acceptance
- ✓ Impacts are often context-specific
- ✓ Since both opposition and support of specific projects are so firmly rooted in local community, knowledge about local impacts and local context key to enhance acceptance
- ✓ In the end it is the combination of drivers, most relevant to each context and community that makes wind energy projects more socially acceptable
- ✓ The way in which local impacts are perceived, and how they shape acceptance, depend on the processes surrounding wind energy development.



14



Selected findings: target regions

- Need to support municipalities and residents by providing neutral information
- Important role of intermediary organisations including conflict mediators in achieving trust in planning and permitting processes
- Significance of lighthouse projects involving citizens, highlighting local benefits and positively influencing public opinion
- From the very beginning of a project, information should be transparently and objectively disseminated. The enthusiasm of well-informed citizens is likely to have a highly positive effect on project development
- Project developers should provide clear information. Such information and dissemination should be required from developers as a condition for obtaining permits for development
- Significance of communication strategies addressing the “silent” group of supporters in local communities and the group of undecided persons

15



Thank you for your attention!

dinucci@zedat.fu-berlin.de
winwindproject.eu



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 764717. The sole responsibility for the content of this presentation lies with its author and it in no way reflects the views of the European Union.

16

Presentation by Jan Steinkohl – Policy Officer, European Commission - DG Energy

Jan Steinkohl's speech focused on Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). Beforehand he introduced the participants to the different European Institutions: European Commission, European Council and European Parliament to provide understanding of the different competences and how the European energy policy is organised.

The EU set up energy and climate targets for 2020 and 2030. Regarding the targets for renewable energy, the EU is on a good way to achieving those targets, but a major challenge and an opportunity remain the objective of climate neutrality till 2050 as it is stated in the European Green Deal. For the achievement of these objectives the wind energy development plays a key role. The target for 2030 demands 32% renewable energy (not only for the electricity sector, but also transport and heating). This objective requires a massive increase in RES and asks for a doubling of installed capacity for 2030 and another doubling by 2050.

The Clean Energy Package represents a major revision of the EU energy legislation. It builds on three pillars: energy efficiency, renewables, and the electricity market design. It takes into account an enabling framework which includes social fairness and inclusiveness and much more (e.g., Just Transition Fund, energy poverty, etc. (see presentation)).

For the local acceptance of renewable energy projects, communities represent key institutions. RECs empower citizens and they also mobilise capital for the energy transition. The Commission talks about local acceptance not public acceptance. The EU recognises that there is a high support for renewable energy in overall society, but most people do not want to live next to a windfarm. The concept of RECs is difficult to address on the European level as it is a very local topic and local topics should be addressed at the local level. But RECs are really successful in enhancing acceptance in several Member States. J. Steinkohl further reflected on the implications of the EU Clean Energy Package for a socially fair energy transition. Within the Package, the EC aims to enhance a fair deal for consumers and for the development of decentralised, community owned energy. National regulations within the Member States need to be aligned with these objectives. He explained that in order to achieve the very ambitious goals set in the EU climate strategy for 2050, considerable (private) funding needs to be leveraged. The new EU legislation provides a clear signal to investors that an inclusive, enabling environment is being created. He underlined that the fact that renewable energy communities are now embedded in the EU legislation is a huge step forward as it provides the rights to generate, consume, store and sell renewable energy, without being subject to disproportionate procedures and charges that are not cost-reflective. Member states are working on the implementation into national laws. The deadline for the transposition of the RE Directive is June 30, 2021.

In the discussion doubts were expressed about the intention of key actors to make this process possible or easier. Some participants pointed out that the market has not changed and is not working in favour of RECs. The audience appeared to be skeptical whether a directive will be enough to involve citizens

more as big enterprises are still benefiting much more in the present market system. The question remains how citizens can be empowered in such a market system and how the EU Commission will manage to ensure benefits for local projects.

Steinkohl admitted that the even in countries as Germany where community energy and renewable energy communities are no longer a novelty problems and hindrances persist. In other Member States the concept is less known and the directives will make aware of RECs. The Member States need to make sure to set up enabling frameworks but the EU will need to get closer to the local dimension. It was remarked that it is still unclear is what is meant by “proximity”. Regarding the question of who shall be supported to engage in RECs, Steinkohl explained that the Commission intends to empower stakeholders/citizens in proximity of the project, but did not define yet what is meant by proximity. Learning and communication with stakeholders is needed.

Another question which was raised was whether the EU is planning to provide guidance or best practices to Member States on how to set up enabling frameworks for RECs. Steinkohl reiterated that there will be no formal guidance of the EU on how to do it. It is within the competence of the Member States now and hopefully they are going to transpose the RED Directive in a coherent way. The EU will engage with Member States on this topic and enhance a best practice exchange. It was also asked whether the EU considers to integrate/include RECs into structural or cohesion funds. Concerning the cohesion fund,



he stated that the Commission is working with the responsible authorities in Member States to make sure they are aware.

Some criticism was expressed regarding the gap between the Paris Agreement and the EU objectives. Steinkohl admitted that the observation of a gap regarding the targets is right, but there is an upwards revision of the

Greenhouse Gas Emissions targets to around 55% by 2030.



1



2



3



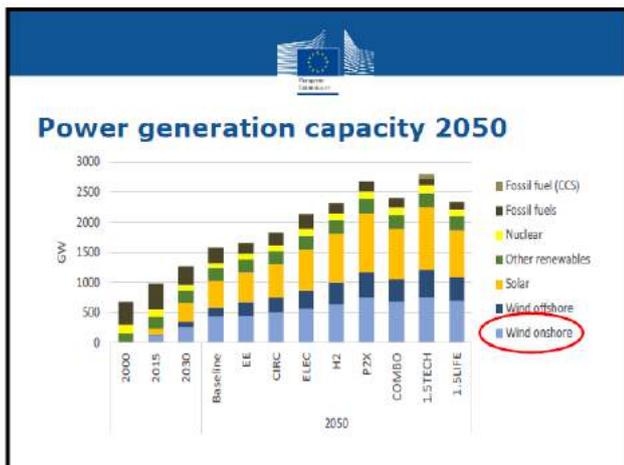
4



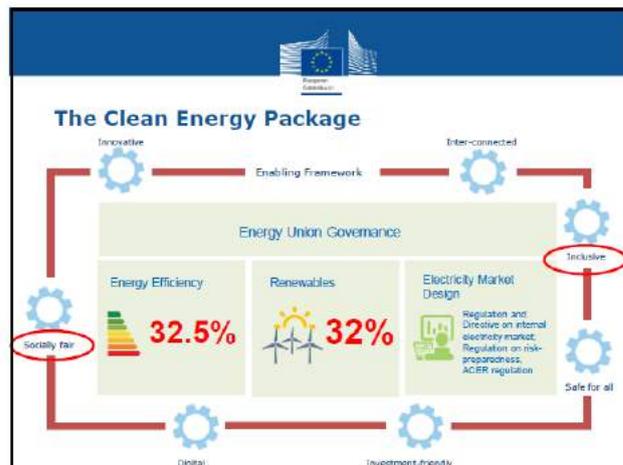
5



6



7



8

Content

- ✓ Institutional context
- ✓ Energy policy context
- ✓ Provisions on energy communities

9

Purpose of consumer empowerment



Empowering citizens

- Energy communities are an effective tool to increase local acceptance of new projects
- Energy communities are a tool to mobilise private capital for the energy transition
- Energy communities could be a tool to increase flexibility in the market

10

Art. 22 of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources on "Renewable Energy Communities"

Art. 2 on definitions: makes clear that renewable energy communities are a social concept

11

Enabling Framework for RECs

- Promote and facilitate energy communities
- Participation is open to all costumers
- Tools to facilitate access to finance and information

12



Slide 13 features a blue header with the European Union flag and the text 'The European Commission'. Below the header, the text 'Next steps' is displayed in blue. Underneath, the text 'Transposition deadlines:' is followed by a bulleted list:

- REDII: 30 June 2021
- Electricity Directive: 1 January 2021

13



Slide 14 features a blue header with the European Union flag and the text 'The European Commission'. The main body of the slide is a solid blue rectangle with the text 'Thank you for your attention' centered in yellow.

14

Keynote by Prof. Gundula Hübner - “What we know about social acceptance of wind energy – an international perspective”

In her keynote, Prof. Hübner (Martin Luther University Halle –Wittenberg and MSH Medical School Hamburg) presented selected findings of current social acceptance research in an international perspective. In her presentation, she highlighted three key issues: acceptance, annoyance and participation.

Research in the U.S and Germany shows that a majority of the local population is in favour of wind energy projects in their vicinity. Prof. Hübner referred to a recent U.S. survey examining the attitudes of U.S. wind turbine neighbours. The results showed that prior to construction, positive attitudes toward the local turbines outweighed negative ones by a ratio of 5:1. After construction, the share of people with positive attitudes grew proportionally more, reaching a share of almost 60% and outweighing those with a negative attitude by a factor of 7:1. This shows that positive attitudes towards wind turbines in the neighbourhood even improve over time. This is a constant result pattern is supported by other research.

By referring to the findings of a recent national research project (AcceptEE) funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Prof. Hübner pointed out that opponents of wind farms are usually more active than supporters. The same pattern applies to biogas and photovoltaic projects. This leads to the impression that resistance is growing. One explanation is that people who are afraid to lose something are more motivated to become active. She stated that we deal with a situation of underestimated acceptance and overestimated opposition.

Her research also shows that annoyance is existing, but to a low extent. One problem is that different studies do not use comparable assessment scales. This means that research findings are often not directly comparable. Single item assessments about annoyance ask whether people are annoyed, but do not capture information on the stress reactions or on whether people show stress symptoms. The speaker highlighted the findings of a comparative study which analyzed a combined sample of survey

respondents from the U.S., Germany and Switzerland. The study utilised a newly developed assessment scale to characterise stress-impacted individuals living within populations near turbines. The results show that on average, annoyance induced by wind turbines in terms of sound, landscape change, lighting, shadow flicker is rather low. Furthermore, there were only few differences between U. S. and European annoyance stress levels. When



evaluating annoyance factors, Prof. Hübner and her colleagues observed that noise annoyance appears less related to wind project characteristics, such as distance or sound pressure levels, but more to the

planning processes. Similar result patterns were found across the European and U.S. samples. For that reason, setback distances, which are often seen as a solution to increase local acceptance, especially by politicians, are not a real solution to address annoyance that people experience. Considering the empirical facts, it is not advisable to focus on setback distances, because there is no empirical evidence that larger setbacks will have an effect.

The problems are more related to the question how people perceive the participation process. Her findings suggest that people who did not feel engaged in a project and considered the planning process to be unfair, felt stress symptoms and felt annoyed afterwards. Health problems often emerge if the process is perceived unfair. In this context, Prof. Hübner emphasised that we need more research on the health effects of wind farms.

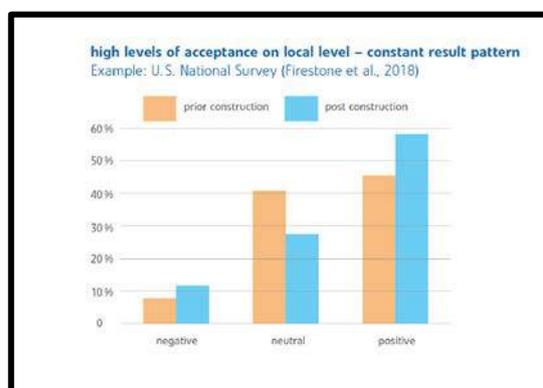
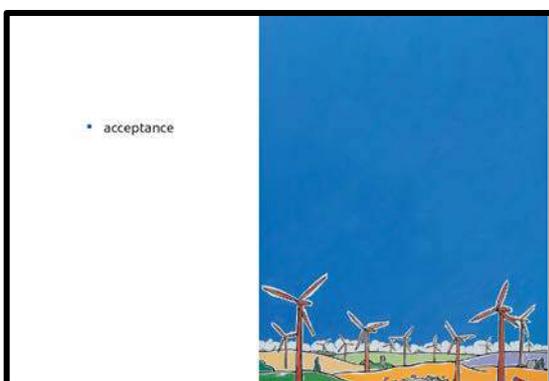
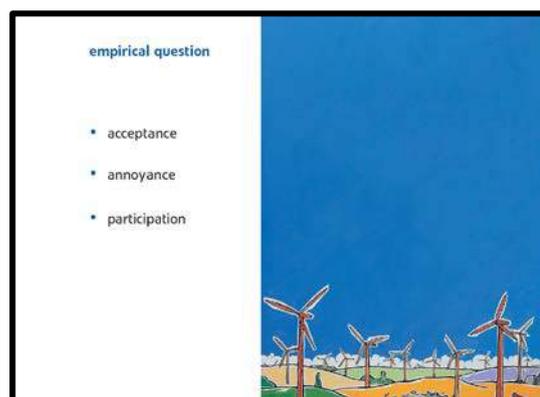
The most important factors influencing annoyance include the planning process (inclusive and fair?), project sense (does it really have an effect on climate?), and social norms (how do other people in my direct environment speak and think about wind energy and the wind energy project?). Hence, annoyance is less affected by other factors, like the number of wind turbines or housing duration, etc. In this sense, annoyance has a strong social dimension.

Local acceptance is influenced by similar factors. Besides the planning process and trust, local acceptance is mainly influenced by the economic impact and the perceived implementation, stringency and meaningfulness of the energy transition. Prof. Hübner referred again to the national research project AcceptEE which analysed the role of nature conservation as an acceptance factor and provided an overview of the conditions under which local renewable energy projects are more likely to be accepted. One particular challenge is the difficulty to explain the need for more wind energy deployment despite the fact that Germany is not reaching its climate protection goals. Properly communicating climate concepts is therefore essential for increasing identification with the project and generate trust in local institutions. Furthermore, people need to feel that they have the chance to influence decision-making and to change design and other features. In this context, it is advisable to present people different design options of a wind farm. Because people can express if one design is more or less favourable and additionally, design can be connected to local identity. Here, the speaker referred to the findings of the ETH Zürich.

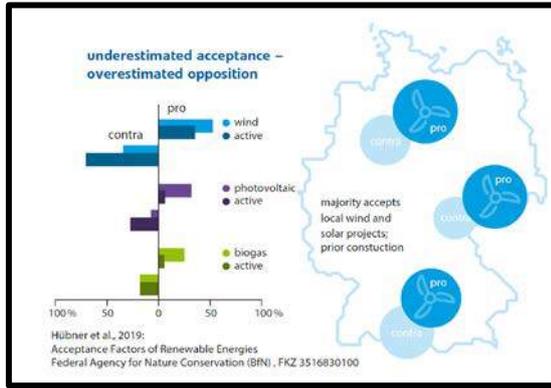
Also new participation formats and especially formats for younger people are needed. People need to see the benefits of wind energy and how projects influence the climate. People are not willing to concede if they feel that they have lost something or if they feel not to be involved in the planning process. With regard to future research, Prof. Hübner emphasised that we need comparable assessments. Additionally, she suggested to promote international annoyance and social acceptance monitoring.

In the subsequent discussion, the question arose how to distinguish between “hard” and emotional/subjective annoyance. Prof. Hübner pointed out that she and her colleagues did not find any effect about emotional annoyance. So far they found no linkage between objective sound and subjective symptoms. But there is still research needed on these kind of questions. A related question was how to objectively measure stress impacts and how this can be correlated to wind energy. Asking people how

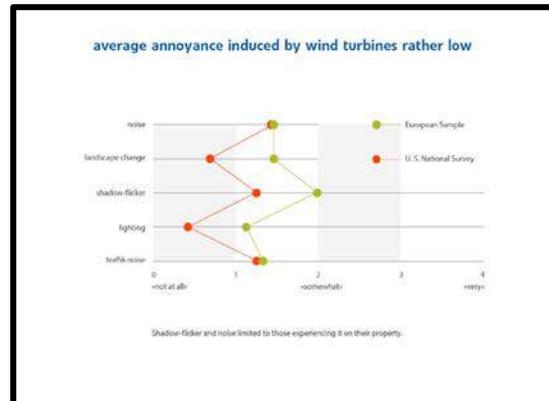
they feel is obviously the only way to collect data about that issue. Referring to the question how the findings of this research might be disseminated in a more effective way, G. Hübner pointed out that she provides her data also to policy makers, and tries to spread the knowledge wherever possible. For instance, a booklet¹ prepared in cooperation with the German Onshore Wind Energy Agency (Fachagentur Windenergie an Land) addressing the role of minimum setback distances as an acceptance factor, was spread across Germany and had a broad impact. She also emphasised that positive impact of scientific research needs to be communicated more actively. For example in the late 1990s, shadow flicker was a serious problem, but thanks to dedicated research efforts, a corresponding regulation was adopted and implemented.



¹ https://www.fachagentur-windenergie.de/fileadmin/files/Akzeptanz/FA-Wind_Abstand-Akzeptanz_Broschuere_2015.pdf



- annoyance – evaluation of a perception**
- single item assessment, „not annoyed – very annoyed“
 - comparable to an attitude assessment, „do not like – like very much“
 - assess a general evaluation of the wind turbine impact
 - captures no information on the stress reactions

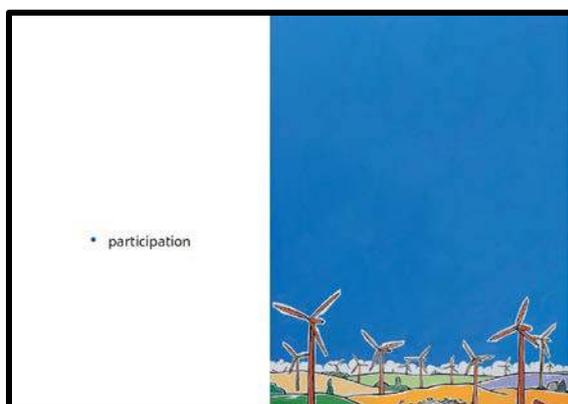


„Strongly“ Annoyed Stress Scale (Inclusive Symptoms)
Residents represent a small portion of the population.
few differences between U.S. and European annoyance stress levels

% (n) total n	U.S. National Survey	European Sample
sound	1.1% (16) 1441	4.3% (28) 657
landscape change	1.5% (22) 1441	0.0% (0) 445
lighting	1.2% (18) 1441	1.2% (10) 817
shadow flicker	0.2% (3) 1441	0.2% (1) 445
total	2.3% (33) 1441	3.7% (38) 1029

Noise annoyance appears less related to wind project characteristics, but more to planning process; U.S. and EU (Germany/CH) very similar.

Pearson correlation	U.S.	Europe
Distance to nearest turbine (excluding those that cannot hear)	.197 (<.0001) 779	.057 (.357) 261
Sound pressure level, day (excluding those that cannot hear)	.116 (.060) 264	.204 (.016) 139
Number of turbines in the nearest project	.365 (<.0001) 1316	.398 (<.0001) 648
Planning process fairness	-.395 (<.0001) 639	-.397 (<.0001) 565
Planning process annoyance/stress	.490 (<.0001) 709	.467 (<.0001) 620
Present attitude towards wind project	-.362 (<.0001) 1294	-.620 (<.0001) 644





- conclusion: empower citizen participation
- provide sense
 - reliable energy and climate politics
 - indirect benefits for nature protection
 - planning process – have a say
 - new formats, younger residents
 - locals as experts, local identity
 - share benefits, reduce impacts
 - direct / indirect financial benefit
 - local nature compensation measures
 - reduce emissions
 - create knowledge
 - assessment standards needed
 - evaluate mitigation measures
 - international annoyance monitoring

literature

Elli, G., Ferraro, G., 2016. The Social Acceptance of Wind Energy: Where we stand and the path ahead. EUR 28182 EN. doi: 10.2789/696070

Hoon, B., Freestone, J., Rand, J., Elliot, D., Hibner, G., Pohl, J., Whiser, R., Lantz, E., Haak, T. R., Kalkbrenner, K., 2019. Attitudes of U.S. Wind Turbine Neighbors: Analysis of a Nationwide Survey. Energy Policy 134(10):981. doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2019.102991

Hibner, G., Pohl, J., Hoon, B., Freestone, J., Rand, J., Elliot, D., Haak, T.R., 2019. Monitoring annoyance and stress effects of wind turbines on nearby residents: A comparison of U.S. and European samples. Environment International 132. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2019.105590.

Pohl, J., Cahrial, J., & Hibner, G. (2019). Understanding stress effects of wind turbine noise – The integrated approach. Energy Policy, 132, 119–128. (doi: 10.1016/j.enpol.2017.10.007).

Freestone, J., Hoon, B., Rand, J., Elliot, D., Hibner, G., Pohl, J., 2018. Reconsidering barriers to wind power projects: Community engagement, developer transparency and place. Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning 20, 370–386.

Michaud, D.S., Fedler, K., Keith, S.E., Volozec, S.A., Marro, L., Than, J., Guay, M., Denwing, A., McGuire, D., Bower, T., Lavigne, E., Murray, B.J., Weiss, S.K., van den Berg, F., 2016. Exposure to wind turbine noise: Perceptual responses and reported health effects. J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 139, 1443–1454.

Poulsen, A. H., Raaschou-Nielsen, O., Peris, A., Palmann, A. N., Buuszup, Nordborg, R., Keitel, M., Brandt, J., Sorensen, M., 2015. Long-term exposure to wind turbine noise at night and risk for diabetes: A nationwide cohort study. Environmental Research 145, 40–45.

Task 28. Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects
<https://community.jeevwind.org/home> | <http://www.socialacceptance.ch>

PART II

Panel 1

Panel 2

Plenary 1: How serious are the existing barriers towards social acceptance?

Moderated by Nicoletta del Bufalo (Ecorys)

Nicoletta del Bufalo welcomed the panel and asked the participants to share their experiences and insights regarding the following questions regarding social acceptance barriers:

1. Can financial participation contribute to overcome them and raise social acceptance?
2. In what way does ownership matter for community acceptance?
3. What role does a fair distribution of risks, costs and benefits play for opposition to wind power?

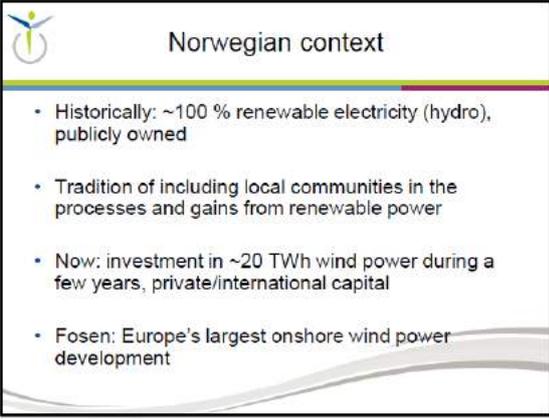
Kristin Linnerud (CICERO, Norway)

Linnerud gave an overview of the Norwegian context and wind energy development. Norway is a country with unspoiled nature, low population density and is close to reaching 100% green electricity, mostly through hydro power. Lot of research has been performed on sustainable development; in the context of wind energy not only a focus on social acceptance is necessary but especially balancing the trio of sustainability: ecology, social, economy. Additionally, there is a need to explain how benefits are going to be shared. Nature and landscape losses cause negative attitudes especially in Norway as people are very much attached to nature. On the other hand, climate mitigation grounds are strong factor for people being in favour of wind power. This argument can be strengthened when a wind energy project has also a local economic impact.

Trade-offs are observable in this context, when there are attempts to mitigate climate change and secure ecosystems at the same time. These can cause conflicts between food production, electricity production and nature conservation. In Norway, the focus is very much on this ethical dilemma. It is much easier to gain support when power is used locally and concrete examples are shown. Another important measure is the obligation for investors to restore nature back to national park standards.

CICERO recommends also compensation measures as an important tool. People want to have a voice in the process and “a piece of the cake”. A fair distribution of gains and losses is important and could be reached by licensing procedure requirements or via tax system. For example for hydro power an extra tax on super profit was established. Part of this tax returned to communities.

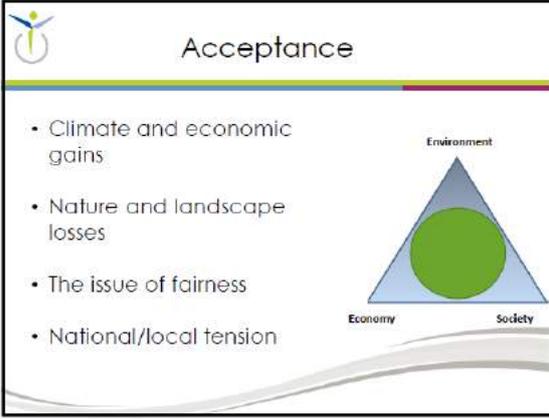
What is observed today is an increasing tension between the national and local level. Local decision making and EU Directives fall apart and these tensions get reflected in political debates.



Norwegian context

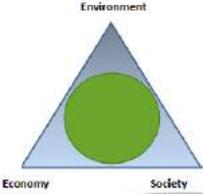
- Historically: ~100 % renewable electricity (hydro), publicly owned
- Tradition of including local communities in the processes and gains from renewable power
- Now: investment in ~20 TWh wind power during a few years, private/international capital
- Fosen: Europe's largest onshore wind power development

1



Acceptance

- Climate and economic gains
- Nature and landscape losses
- The issue of fairness
- National/local tension



2

Thomas Bjordal (NWM, Norway)

Also Thomas Bjordal reflected about the situation in Norway with view on a particular wind park project. In general, the situation in Norway has changed from a positive to a rather negative attitude to wind power. This has also to do with hydro power which was implemented decades ago for large scale industry. Hydro power has been massively used for electrification since the 1970s. Today hydro power is the main source of energy for Norway, but has a big impact on nature and landscape. At the same time. Norwegians have a strong ownership feeling of nature and consider wind power to have a strong impact especially because the developers concentrate turbines in some area.

But there are good practices. Bjordal gave an example of a very successful wind park project on the Sams island. For this wind park, authorities and local people worked together in a constructive way. It was recognised that for locals some areas are more valuable than others, and planning needed to be detailed. In this case residents accepted wind energy especially because of the transparent, communicative and inclusive licensing and planning process in which locals were involved. Today more than 80% of the locals are positive about the wind turbines and the island enjoys the revenues accruing through local tax. By contrast, in another island where there was no such a planning process oppositional groups became powerful.

A key message for Mr. Bjordal is the importance of the planning and licensing process and of an inclusive procedures for wind power development projects.



1



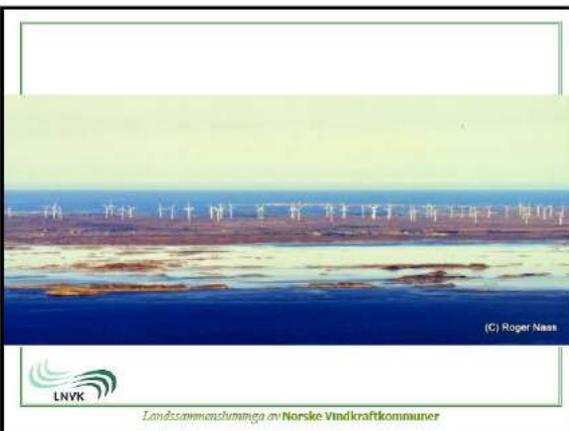
2



3



4



5



6



7

Ruth Brand-Schock (ENERCON IPP, Germany)

Ruth Brand-Schock offered the industrial point of view. She analysed the reasons for diminishing acceptance for wind energy development and emphasised that a ground for opposition in the Eastern part of Germany (ex GDR) could be that many land owners come from western Germany. At the same time, not all developers kept the promise of sharing the benefits of wind energy. There have been many calculations of prospective benefits and business tax, but afterwards only 10% of what was promised could flow into the affected municipality. Consequently, citizens were upset.

According to Brand-Schock, local responsibility and local benefits should be regulated by law, and the diminishing penetration rates of wind energy on the German market are directly linked with fading social acceptance. To gain this acceptance distributive fairness is important. As an example she illustrated the case of a project in the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt where the affected municipality really profited and no acceptance problems arose. Another successful approach is to devolve 2% of the investment to the municipality. In this way, a favourable attitude of the residents is not dependent on land ownership or direct participation in the wind park. Local ownership however should be fostered, as the German wind energy association suggests.

Additionally, community wind farms should be granted better conditions in the auction schemes. Legal arrangements are deemed necessary to commit developers to include social acceptance measures and become active in terms of communication, transparency, etc.

Alberto Ceña (BEPTE Consultores, Spain)

In Spain, everything changed with the new auction system replacing the feed in tariff schemes for renewables. The winner of the auctions are the ones with the lowest price, which is detrimental for renewable energy community projects. Additionally, Spain needs to deal with an economic crisis and a high unemployment rate. Thus, developers need to create jobs in order to gain acceptance, but the problem is that wind energy is not creating enough job opportunities. Citizens in such a situation do not want to be empowered and work on community energy, which demands investments and direct engagement, a fact that restricts the possibility only to residents with a higher income. In this situation is important that developers give citizens the possibility to participate in projects or offer employment. Next to that, wind energy projects compete with PV. In some areas people prefer PV because of visual impact and also the government favours PV.

Discussion in Plenary 1

Nicoletta del Bufalo summarised the main discussion points and opened the floor to the audience. A lively discussion about ownership and what can be understood under “ownership” developed. A question addressed for example whether ownership can be created in such a way that is not necessarily financial ownership, but as a sort of “common good perception” of the plants and infrastructure. In the case of the Sams island it seems that sense of ownership is independent of real ownership. Key to acceptance

was that wind energy became part of the residents' identity and culture. Could this also be a perspective for Spain?

Ceña explained that in Spain that there is limited financial ownership and low risk taking attitude and therefore more dynamic models are needed. Although there are too few municipalities involved in wind farms in Spain, encouraging examples coming from Galicia (50% wind company, 50% municipality ownership) can represent a good practice to be tested elsewhere.

Gundula Hübner agreed that acceptance is not primarily about financial participation. People say that health or nature are not buyable. She agreed that one should provide residents with financial benefits, but there is also the possibility for compensation. Di Nucci remarked that this is a controversial issue and people get suspicious that the developer is paying for the damage caused. Compensation has a negative touch at least in Germany. Steinkohl endorsed that trust cannot be bought and reminded that there are many sources of conflict if there is an unequal financial distribution (e.g. one neighbour gets more than the other).

Thomas Bjordal reiterated that a good approach could be that part of the benefits and wealth generated by wind energy is channelled locally, e.g. through the tax system. Brand-Schock pointed out that in Germany land lease revenues are rising, so that an increasing share of the whole project's benefit goes to land owners and this creates problems in terms of distributional fairness. This situation is caused by a lack of land for projects. But what is also observable is that the developers that follow transparent communication policies are also the ones who tend to share profits. The question remains how to deal with the developers/land owners who do not care.

In countries like Spain a way how to increase wind energy development is to convince people about the



advantages of wind energy, e.g. through ownership. A successful model used in Denmark is to make compulsory to offer 20% of wind farm to the local population. Resistance against wind energy increased in Spain because projects got larger and much more expensive. People got less to say and less financial participation.

In a final round the panel agreed that there is a lot of knowledge on measures necessary to raise acceptance and the wind energy business is aware of it, but - as Brand-Schock stated- the developers are not determined enough. Because of the fact that communities do not own land there are limits due private transactions in renting private land to developers. Moreover, a careful analysis of the fiscal

system is necessary in order to identify new participative models. Non-business stakeholders should point out how to develop participation concepts as a developer, especially from a financial point of view. The amount to be invested in wind energy projects is huge, for that reason additional investors like a municipality represent a great opportunity.

Nicoletta Del Bufalo thanked the plenary for the discussion and concluded the first session.

Plenary 2: How can different levels of government foster social acceptance?

Moderated by Giorgia Rambelli (ICLEI)

In the second panel, three panelists shared their experiences and insights regarding the following questions and with a view on different political levels and their effects on social acceptance:

1. How can policy makers on different levels of government enhance social acceptance and community engagement?
2. How can coherence and synergies between the different governance levels be established?

Giorgia Rambelli underlined that everyone needs to contribute in the best possible way to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. She also clarified that the task of this panel is not only to ask on how to create an enabling framework, but also on how to integrate citizens and ensure coherence between national frameworks.

Lutz Ribbe (European Economic and Social Committee, EESC)

Lutz Ribbe first explained that the EESC is an advisory body for the European Council, Commission and Parliament. Ribbe represents in this body the German environmental and renewable movement. He emphasised that the EESC welcomes the Clean Energy Package and underlined the role of community energy, the importance of ownership and the importance of enabling people to use their local renewable resources. Community-based approaches, strong political commitment, participatory planning, multi-stakeholder cooperation, but also the availability of technical capacity were discussed as being fundamental ingredients for raising social acceptance of renewable energy technologies.

He remarked that wind energy does not face a lack of social acceptance, but rather of political acceptance. The political system has not recognised yet that that new stakeholders are needed in this process. Ribbe emphasised the need for decentralised energy systems, but there seem to be still little awareness that a decentralised energy system also implies citizens' involvement and citizens ownership. He pleaded for making people and politicians aware that money can be saved through self-production of energy and mentioned that 500 billion Euro are spent every year to import energy from outside the EU. This affects especially poor regions.

EESC executed a study on the question in what way the civil society is included in these processes. The main findings were: 1) Local acceptance and opposition are correlated to direct involvement. 2) Civil society is interested to take part in the transition and is highly motivated. They contribute with human resources, money, creativity. 3) Stakeholders want to make use of their local resources (our wind, our sun, our biomass) (see presentation). However, the situation is often characterised by

frustration due to bureaucratic burdens. Political willingness seems to be missing. Policies are still lacking involvement of citizens/civil society.

European Economic and Social Committee

Civil society as a main player in renewable energy generation

Presentation at the "ICLEI WindWin(d)-Conference" Berlin, 27.2.2020

Lutz Ribbe
EESC Sustainable Development Observatory
sdoobservatory@eesc.europa.eu

1

European Economic and Social Committee

Objectives of the "European Energy Union"

1. Transition towards a "low-carbon economy"/ climate protection
2. Secure energy supply/ reduction of energy imports (> 500 bill €/ year) (you export money when you import energy; case for the EU, for each member state, for regions (Podlaskie: 1,5 Mrd €)
3. new jobs

2

European Economic and Social Committee

European Energy Union (2015)

"Most importantly, our vision is of an Energy Union with citizens at its core, where citizens take ownership of the energy transition, benefit from new technologies to reduce their bills, participate actively in the market, and where vulnerable consumers are protected"

KOM(2015) 80, 25.2.2015, page 2

3

European Economic and Social Committee

The EU directive on RES (2009 + 2018)

- Not just the national binding targets for renewables ...
- ... includes some important statement on the benefits of the energy transition and on "players"
- today: a few "big player" (like RWE, EDF ...) are producing electricity in centralized power plants.
- Role of consumer: buying and paying. But what about the future? → prosumer?

4

European Economic and Social Committee

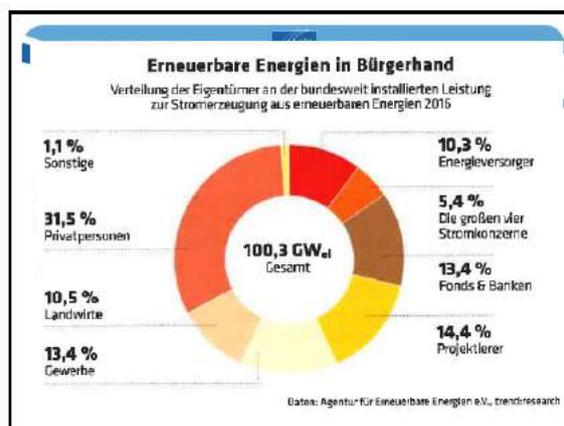
Background: Preamble of the EU directive on RES (2009)

- (3) ... Production of energy from renewable sources often depends on local or regional small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The opportunities for growth and employment that investments in regional and local production of energy from renewable sources bring about in the Member States and their regions are important. ...

→ Who made these investments in the past years???

5



6

European Economic and Social Committee

Energy transition/ opportunities

- Not just a question of money and technology
- New structure: move away from a centralized to a decentralized system, new stakeholders
- regional development via energy policy
- for citizens: cheap(er) self production (solve energy poverty!)
- Who is allowed to make money with electricity
→ Acceptance of the transition: via higher energy prices and wind parks owned by "others" or by participation?

7

European Economic and Social Committee



Report publication:
January 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

EESC Sustainable Development Observatory
sdobservatory@eesc.europa.eu
muro.quental@eesc.europa.eu
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?type=portal.en.sdo-observatory-eeo>

Changing the future of energy: civil society as a main player in renewable energy generation

EESC Study

8

European Economic and Social Committee

3 questions raised in our study:

1. What is the real role of civil society, what kind of involvement is foreseen (see: EU Energy Union) and what is happening in reality: really active producers of energy (= participation) or simply information, consultation?
2. Is civil society ready to play a role?
3. Does the legal framework enable/ allow civil society to play that role?

9

European Economic and Social Committee

Main findings (1)

1. Local acceptance/ local opposition of renewable energy infrastructure, **depending on the involvement**
2. Highly motivated civil society in all of the visited countries, aware of the opportunities for local socio-economic development offered by renewable energy
3. Civil society is interested and ready to be a major driver of the energy transition ...
4. ... contributing with human resources, funds and creativity

10

European Economic and Social Committee

Main findings (2)

5. Stakeholder want to make use of **their** local resources, such a wind, solar and biomass
6. "we will not allow to steal our wind"
7. No need to raise social acceptance; it's on using it!
8. Politicians have to set the legal frame and allow them to act

11

European Economic and Social Committee

Main findings (3)

9. Frustrations with bureaucratic hurdles and with the non-recognition of civic energy by policy makers, and fears about current policy reforms
10. No consistently implemented, **targeted policy support** for civic renewable energy at any level

→ **No lack of social acceptance, but on political willingness?**

12



13

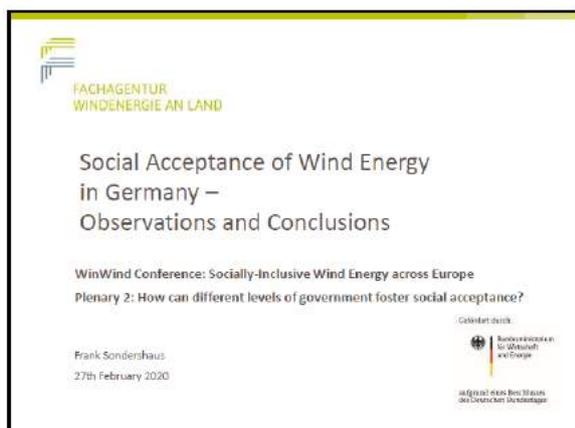


14

Frank Sondershaus (Onshore Wind Energy Agency, Germany)

Frank Sondershaus gave an overview about the findings of the current survey of his organisation *Windenergie am Land* about social acceptance, market acceptance and community acceptance of wind energy (see presentation). A major outcome is that 70% of the surveyed citizens in Germany have no concerns regarding wind energy projects in their area of residence. This result stayed almost unchanged in the last five years. Wind energy is considered key for the energy transition by many people, so the socio political acceptance is good. The results also show that there is a silent majority that needs to be activated.

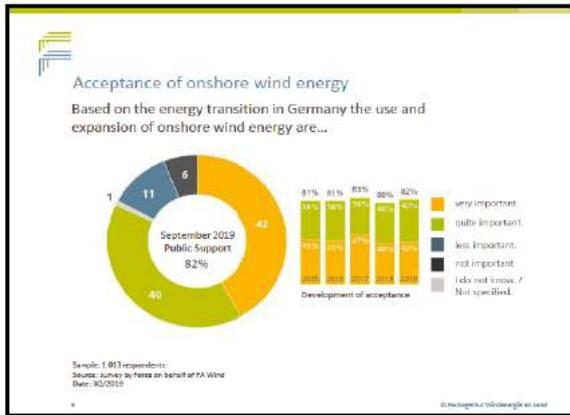
He agreed with Lutz Ribbe, however, that there is a lack of political acceptance, caused by path dependencies and partly tactical considerations. For example, in Germany the populist party AfD takes up the protest and influences the political discourse strongly. Community acceptance is dominated by resistance. In the planning process the acceptance declines, because opponents go on the street – proponents do not. In conclusion, passive acceptance is not enough; it is necessary to activate the silent majority and gain trust in order to create support. Additionally, there is also a need for positive narratives and the dissemination of best practices.



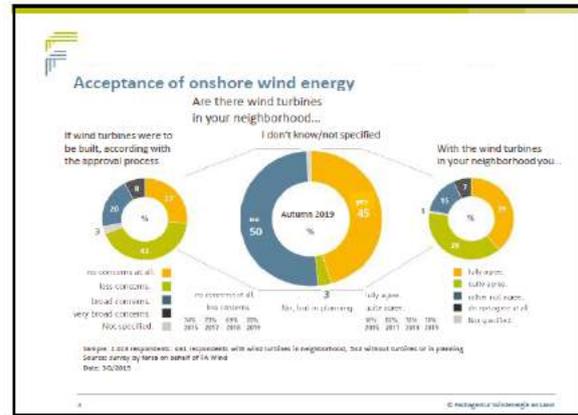
1



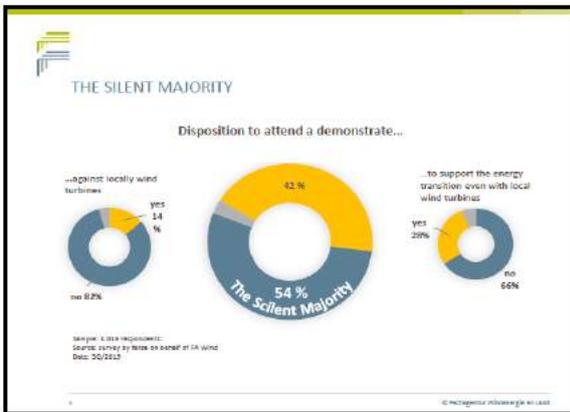
2



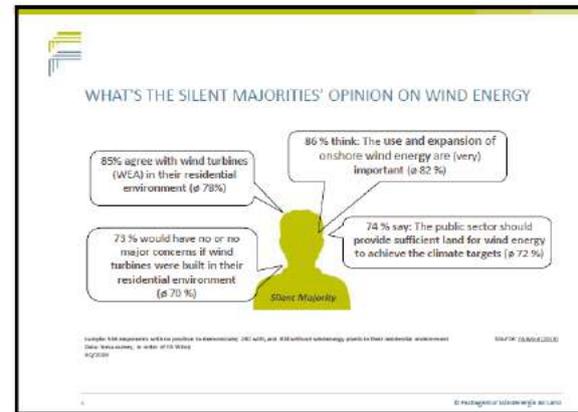
3



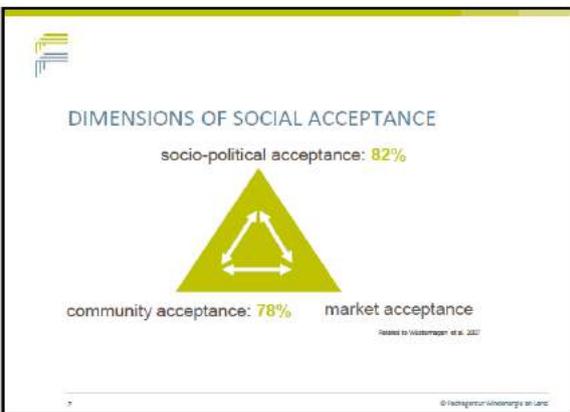
4



5



6



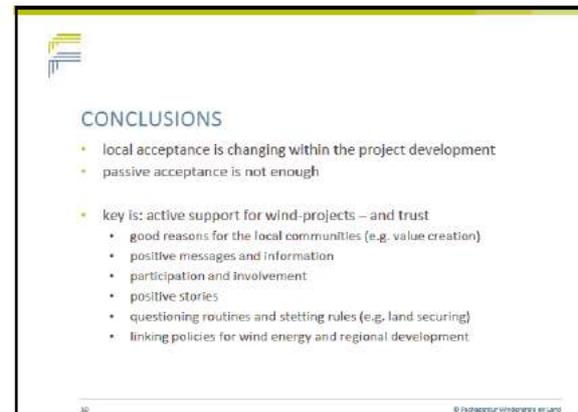
7



8



9



10

Juris Ozoliņš (independent consultant, Latvia)

Juris Ozoliņš gave an overview of the situation in the Baltic States. He spoke of a general political acceptance in the EU Member States and that the EU likes to see prosumers flourishing as well as RECs. He warned that stakeholders should bear in mind that the market is a complex machinery which is not easy to steer. The market and the conditions under which we are operating need to be more transparent. He described with data from NordPoolSpot the development in the wind energy sector in Latvia (see presentation).



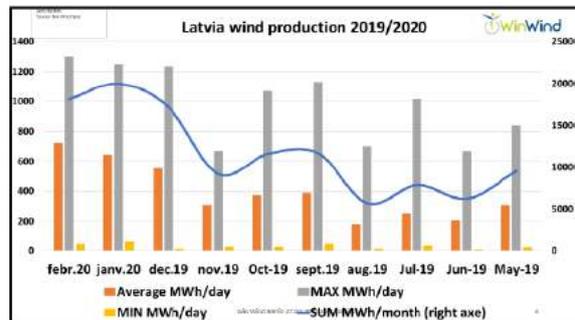
1



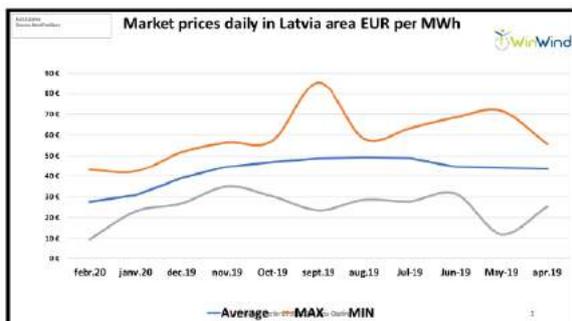
2



3



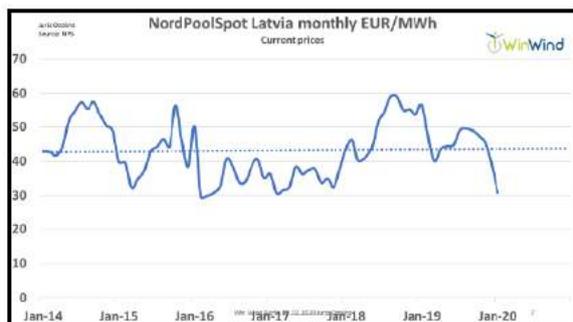
4



5

Wind park in market	
Capacity utilization 2018 h/month (average Latvia)	186 h
Average market price LV area EUR/ MWh	43 EUR
1 MW income from the market EUR/month	7 936
1 MW income per year EUR per year	95 185
Reference win park' feed – in tariff	102,2 EUR/MWh
1 MW income per year EUR per year	222 878

6



7



8



9



10

Discussion in Plenary 2

The audience asked about possible “missing ingredients” at the EU level. Ribbe pointed out that we need to answer the question about who is allowed to produce energy and make money out of the electricity system first. The way this question is answered is key for the system we would like to establish.

Giorgia Rambelli stated that people would like to be part of the transition and asked what the biggest challenge for them to really become active supporters is.

Frank Sondershaus reminded of the fact that there is no wind specific movement like Friday for Future. Incentives are needed to support the energy transition. Authorities need to convince people very early in planning process. A lack of acceptance starts growing already in the early planning stages. This is the point where information is necessary and trust needs to be built. Additionally, politicians and scientists should not claim that infrasound is harmless. Instead they should show that they take the matter seriously and say: „I take you seriously – I am listening – But you do not have to be afraid.“ It is also an issue concerning multi-level-governance, because one is faced with the issue how lower levels can be fostered to do good communication, to implement good projects and to bring together development of rural areas and wind energy.

Ozoliņš added that markets are immune to social aspects and neglect environmental issues. Therefore, small investors need incentives to take part in this market, because right now the market is only

beneficial for big businesses. Currently it is not possible for small players to become part of the system. The European legislation goes in this regard in the right direction, but it needs to increase efforts.

During the Q&A, different speakers identified barriers / challenges on the local level and asked whether it should be questioned whether there are also barriers across levels. Frank Sondershaus explained that a basic problem was not mentioned in the first plenary, namely mistrust. If residents do not want to have wind power plants in their region, but the land is owned by private persons, social conflicts can arise. More transparency is needed.

J. Ozoliņš agreed and emphasised that transparency and availability of information are necessary across levels and regulations are needed. Developers need to provide all necessary information about a project and citizens need to know more about legislation. Also a new assessment is needed on how the current electricity market is working in Europe. It is



currently not possible for small players to become part of this market. The European legislators are listening, but changes are necessary. Ribbe added that market failures still exist. The monitoring fund made an analysis about those failures and the result was that 300 billion dollars per year are spent for subsidising “dirty energy”. A rethinking of the design of the energy market and allocation of funds for investment is necessary. Renewable energy projects can make people very proud, when they are part of the development. Ozoliņš mentioned the prosumer development in Lithuania as an inspiring recent development where an excellent system has been established allowing private people to invest in a cooperatives and then make use of this energy.

Gundula Hübner added critically, that we had a strong participation in the wind energy sector in the first place, but the auction scheme spoiled that. She remarked that incentives are not the solution. Society should go one step back and fight the problem at its roots, but not by incentives.

The audience remarked that people would need more guidelines and resources. In this sense, Ribbe reiterated the importance ownership and empowerment and that the main focus for poor regions and municipalities should be on renewables. There are examples, where municipalities and mayors became really active. Such cases have to be brought to the fore to show what inspires them and what their benefits are. Frank Sondershaus underlined the importance of good practices and that the success of projects should not depend exclusively on certain individuals like highly motivated mayors with high willingness; projects for citizens should be easy to achieve for all.

Giorgia Rambelli thanked the plenary and the panelists for the discussion and concluded the second session.

PART III

Market of Opportunities

Signing of the Memoranda of Understanding

Market of Opportunities

The “Market of Opportunities” was used to give the conference participants the opportunity to learn more about single best practices analysed in the WinWind project as well as about related projects like PROSEU, UPWARDS, SMARTEES and activities of the energy agency of the German state North-Rhine Westphalia. In total, five projects introduced themselves. After a one minute introduction of each project in the plenary, the presenters hosted market tables, where their ideas were further discussed.



The 5 projects for the market of opportunities introduce themselves in a one minute statement.

PROSEU & SMARTEES – presented by Arthur Hinsch and Niklas Mischkowski (ICLEI)

The Market of Opportunities provided a great opportunity to jointly present two projects analysing the role of the consumer in the energy transition: PROSEU and SMARTEES. As increased citizens participation is a key component for achieving social acceptance, these projects fitted well in the WinWind final conference.

PROSEU is a EU-funded research project, bringing together eleven project partners from seven European countries. It aims to enable the mainstreaming of the renewable energy Prosumer phenomenon into the European Energy Union. Prosumers are active energy users who both produce and consume energy from renewable sources.

PROSEU takes an in-depth look at what incentivises prosumerism from a socio-technical perspective and lays out the necessary legal and business framework conditions. During the conference, the project’s innovative Living Lab approach was presented. The project is establishing RES Living Labs to engage with renewable energy stakeholders from government, the business sector and civil society. To

be able to co-create solutions and to innovate, PROSEU is setting up common spaces for not only discussion and collaboration, but also for exchanging visions, expectations, barriers and drivers related to RES prosumerism.

Discussions around the table focused on how many different stakeholders can be brought together to co-create a collective prosumer project which is inclusive and beneficial to all involved. Also drawing on the real-life experiences in the Living Labs PROSEU will produce important insights and recommendations on how citizens can be further enabled to become active players in the energy system. This generated interest, particularly from the European Commission, which is keen on receiving the results of the project when ready.

SMARTEES, a Horizon 2020 transdisciplinary research project, supports the energy transition by analysing and modelling five types of energy- and mobility-related social innovations. It builds locally-embedded policy scenarios that foster citizen inclusion and develops a policy sandbox tool to evaluate the effects of policy interventions and social innovation.

Besides the general project approach the presentation focused on the two Islands serving as research cases in SMARTEES, Samsø (Denmark) and El Hierro (Spain). Both cases display a story of social innovation with wind energy at the heart of activities undertaken. The participants of the Wind-Wind conference were able to exchange on the SMARTEES project's approach, enriching the debate about how to achieve a socially inclusive wind energy sector.

The discussions with Win-Win(d) participants took place either on SMARTEES modelling approach, consisting in an exchange with other researchers' work on modelling energy related aspects. Or the socio-political perspectives resulting from the experience with the research cases in SMARTEES were discussed in light of the themes at the Win-Win(d) conference. Agreement along the major lines of the conference's key speeches and panel discussions was quickly established and some concrete ideas for local action, such as energy transition brokers at the municipal level, were elaborated on.

Toolkit for Energy Transition – presented by Tomke Lisa Menger (Energieagentur NRW)

One field of work of the EnergyAgency.NRW focuses on participation approaches in the energy transition. Tomke Lisa Menger presented the "Toolkit for Energy Transition" of the energy agency in North-Rhine Westphalia. This toolkit includes currently 15 very different methods to engage citizens, from simple mediation to "future workshops". Approximately all five weeks a new method will be added to the toolkit based on literature review. The toolkit is an additional way to support municipalities but also developers towards the energy transition and to help them with instruments on how to inform and communicate about RE projects. T. Menger emphasised that depending on the situation and the actor group one can use the most fitting method. Currently, there is no feedback from companies whether they use the methods or how effective they are. But what seems to work very well is for example the local information fair ("lokale Infomesse").

UPWARDS – presented by Helena Solman (Wageningen University)

UPWARDS is a Horizon 2020 project focussing on the understanding of physics of the wind turbine and rotor dynamics through an integrated simulation framework. Although the project mainly focuses on technical aspects of wind energy, the consortium aims to consider public and stakeholder feedback in the design of the next generation of wind turbines. This ultimately contributes to the sustainability of the wind energy sector by reducing possible impacts of wind turbines on public health, landscape and biodiversity such as advancements in the acoustics of rotor blades.

Som Energia – presented by Pouyan Maleki-Dizaji (ECORYS)

Som Energia, which in Catalan translates to “we are energy”, is the first and now largest energy cooperative in Spain. It was established in 2010 by a group of students and professors in the University of Girona and now it has over 50,000 members and produces more than 50GWh per year of sustainable energy - half of which is accounted for by wind energy. The WinWind project selected som energia as best practice for enhancing social acceptance because it promotes the consumption and production of sustainable energy in Spain.

The reasons why som energia is particularly interesting are due to the fact that energy cooperatives are an innovative means of promoting social acceptance in southern Europe. The actual establishment of som energia as well as som energias active community engagement and local group and the large scale success of som energia provide interesting lessons to be learnt for other cases and for transfer particularly in southern Europe. Unlike most energy cooperatives which are concerned with the production of sustainable energy, som energia is also equally involved in the commercialisation and marketing of sustainable energy. Members of som energia simply pay 100euros and they then receive fully renewable energy to power their homes and businesses.

Discussions around the table focused on the issue what makes this energy cooperative so interesting for improving the social acceptance of wind energy and on reasons why energy cooperatives are more widespread and common in northern Europe. Questions were also asked about whether this best practice could be transferred to developing countries (e.g. Africa) and whether som energia would be willing to help establish other co-operatives.

Energy Self-Sufficient Municipality of Kisielice – presented by Piotr Nowakowski (KAPE)

KAPE presented the case of Kisielice municipality where a high social acceptance of wind energy has been successfully gained by the public authorities. The idea of introducing renewables came from the mayor, who acted as a change agent in seeking ways to stimulate the municipal economy. For the local authorities, there were three main motives for this decision:

1. To establish an energy self-sufficient municipality based on the utilisation of renewables.
2. To increase the income generation of the municipality and stimulate the local economy.

3. To improve the quality of life of the residents by giving them the opportunity to benefit from investments in renewables and better quality of local environment.

The Kisielice municipality is a great example of an innovative approach towards the local energy transition, while maintaining a high level of social acceptance. More specifically, this case study has showed how to utilise RES at a local level, whilst generating numerous benefits for the local economy and the residents. Furthermore, the municipality showed how to implement a significant capacity of wind power by overcoming local opposition, giving the residents opportunity to actively participate in the investments.

The main issues touched upon the table discussion were answered with the support of the former mayor of Kisielice Municipality. The participants put questions about the main success factors in the case of Kisielice, the role played by of the mayor, how a fair distribution of benefits has been achieved. Additionally, further questions addressed how the revenues from wind farms (property taxes) have been distributed/invested by the municipality.

The WinWind Transfer process: Signing of the Memoranda of Understanding

WinWind had a strong focus on identifying best practices to enhance social and local acceptance and transferring them into target regions. WinWind asked for the factors that made a best practice work successfully and initiated the transfer of some of these practices.

Arthur Hinsch of ICLEI moderated the signature procedure and explained the background of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Mentoring teams from a best practice cases and teams from so called learning regions came together in workshops and discussed what specific parts of the measures selected could work in the learning region context and created visions. At the conference some of these teams were called to sign an agreement to work together also beyond the completion of the WinWind project. It was reiterated that the idea behind the MoUs is to maintain impetus beyond the WinWind project, but not to aim to transfer a whole concept into a target region.

Michael Krug (FUB FFU) illustrated the background and motivation beyond the transfer of a community wind farm in Germany to Latvia and Poland (see presentation). A process has been initiated to transfer the concept of community wind farms from Schleswig-Holstein in Germany to Poland and Latvia and to encourage the uptake of similar direct and indirect financial participation of citizens, including equity, land lease pool models for land owners, community benefits via donations paid to civic associations, community foundations, or revenues for the host municipalities from local trade taxes. After a first transfer workshop in Neuenkirchen with a Latvian and Polish delegation, a follow-up workshop took place in Latvia and Poland. While the legal framework for similar benefit sharing formats is not so advanced in Latvia and Poland, the transfer visits revealed a number of elements, which can inspire similar actions.

In Poland, building on the existing format of energy clusters, local information campaigns should be conducted to emphasise the benefit of similar business models as the ones experienced in Schleswig-Holstein and focus should be given to smaller projects, which involve similar stakeholders including a trusted leader. In Latvia, which has no existing community-based wind farms, the legal framework is similarly adverse, but the transfer process has created a debate about the need to create an enabling framework at the national level to support renewable energy communities. This should include financial support instruments for setting up community-based wind energy projects, favourable loan conditions as well as a “one-stop-shop” for consultation services.



Community wind farms in Schleswig-Holstein – inspiration for Latvia and Poland?

Michael Krug
Freie Universität Berlin
Environmental Policy Research Centre

WinWind International Transfer Seminar
Rome, 16 December 2019




This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 764717. The sole responsibility for the content of this presentation lies with its author and it in no way reflects the views of the European Union.

1



Community wind farm Neuenkirchen – key facts

- Commissioned in 2015
- 12 x 3 MW Senvion turbines on 3 sites
- Total investment cost: 56.5 million EUR
- Initiators: local farmers, landowners
- Active financial participation of 145 citizens as limited partners (*Kommanditisten*)
- Land lease pool model (*Flächenpoolmodell*)
- Benefit sharing via civic association (*Bürgerverein*)
- Trade tax payments
- <http://www.buergerwindpark-neuenkirchen.de/projekt/infos/>





2



Transfer visit and Workshop in Schleswig-Holstein 26-28 August 2019

- Transfer team of Latvia (9 persons)
- Transfer team of Poland (4 persons)
- Focus: Community wind farm Neuenkirchen: Dialogue and transfer workshop with manager and mayor + site visit
- Community wind farm Suderdeich: Dialogue with management and Community Foundation „Children of the Wind“






3



Transfer Visit and Workshop in Schleswig-Holstein 26-28 August 2019

- Dialogue with experts from the (regional) Ministries of the Interior and Energy Transition
- Dialogue with the regional branch of the German Wind Energy Association in Kiel
 - German system of wind energy zoning
 - Revolving fund for community energy providing risk capital
 - Label „Fair Wind Energy Planner“ in Schleswig-Holstein





4



Follow up workshops in Poland and Latvia

Transfer Workshop in Warsaw (26 Sep 2019)

- Mentors connected via Skype
- Awareness Raising Scenario Workshop

Transfer Workshop in Riga (10 Oct 2019)

- Mentors connected via Skype
- Awareness Raising Scenario Workshop





5



Mentoring Experts (via Skype)

Reimer Schoof

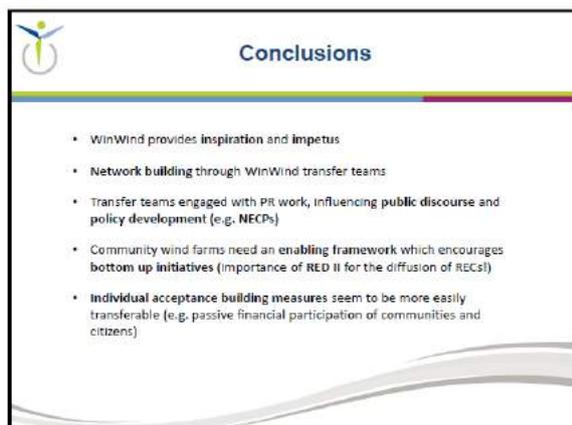
- Manager of the community wind farm in Neuenkirchen

Horst Leithoff

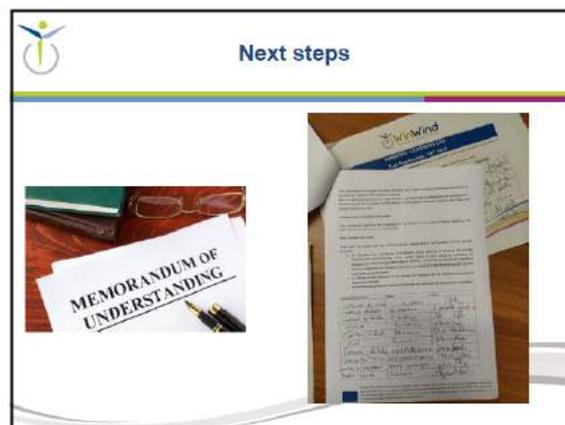
- Chairman of the regional branch of the German Wind Energy Association in Schleswig-Holstein
- Managing director of 4 community wind farms in the region of Northern Friesland




6



7



8

In total four agreements have been initiated and signed. One best practice measure was selected for transfer to two different country contexts. One measure represented an internal transfer and the agreement to cooperate was reached between two different communities in Sardinia.

Following agreement were signed at the conference: one between Latvian stakeholders also including institutional actors and the German mentoring team including the Mayor of Neuenkirchen and the managing director of the local community energy project, one between Polish stakeholders Neuenkirchen and the managing director of the local community energy project, and one between Polish stakeholders and the German mentoring team consisting of project partners and the Service Unit Wind Energy of Thuringia .

Memorandum of Understanding between Latvian and German Stakeholders

The mentoring team from Neuenkirchen and institutional actors from Latvia were not able to attend the conference, but they had signed the agreement beforehand. Aija Zucika and Ivars Kundrenickis, partners in the WinWind consortium, represented the team of the learning region in Latvia whilst Rosaria Di Nucci and Michael Krug represented the mentoring team for transferring the community energy in



Neuenkirchen best practice.

Aija Zucika explained that currently, a lot of investors already look at Latvia. For the Latvian project partners the motivation beyond the MoU is to transfer knowledge from Germany to Latvian municipalities and local people and to disseminate successful German experiences.

Memorandum of Understanding between Polish and German stakeholders

Within WinWind the mentoring team and the transfer team of the learning region chose the same best practice from Germany as the Latvian stakeholders. As in the case of the Latvian agreement, the mentoring team from Neuenkirchen and institutional actors from Latvia were not able to attend the conference, but they had signed the agreement beforehand.

The agreement was signed by the two teams. Ryszard Wnuk, Piotr Nowakowski, partners in the WinWind consortium together with Tomasz Koprowiak of the Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management



represented the team of the learning region in Poland whilst Rosaria Di Nucci and Michael Krug represented the mentoring team for transferring the community energy in Neuenkirchen best practice

The Polish signatories explained that the reasons behind the transfer concept developed by the transfer team in Poland in cooperation with the mentoring experts was that the implementation of citizens' initiatives and community owned wind energy can be embedded within the so called energy clusters. Key measures to transfer the best practice case identified during the transfer workshops are: information campaign as an initial step conducted on local level; benefit sharing business models; concentration on smaller projects with similar stakeholders with a trusted leader.

Memorandum of Understanding between the German mentoring team including ThEGA and Polish stakeholders



The last MoU was signed by the same Polish team and by the mentoring team composed of the Service Unit Windenergie of the Energy Agency of the German State of Thuringia (Dieter Sell, Ramona Rothe and Thomas Platzek) jointly with the WinWind mentoring team Di Nucci and Krug. The signatories confirmed their interest to continue supporting the WinWind transfer process as a learning region/mentor, particularly

with regard to the transfer of intermediary advisory organisations for wind energy, voluntary labels for fair wind energy, community wind farms and benefit sharing mechanisms.

In all three agreements, the representatives of the mentoring teams and of the learning regions manifested their confidence that the cooperation will continue also beyond the conclusion of the WinWind project.

Next to the MoUs, a transfer guide will provide assistance on how to transfer a measure or parts of a measure, not only for WinWind selected best practices, but also in the case of other projects. The Transfer Guide also includes concrete steps and describes the processes and the methods that could be used in order to transfer measures that was successful in another context.

PART IV

Panel 3

Concluding Panel

Plenary 3: Principles and Criteria for Fair Wind Energy

Moderator: Michael Krug (Freie Universität Berlin, Environmental Policy Research Centre)

The guiding questions of the third panel focused on the substance and the benefits of Principles and Criteria for Fair Wind Energy. The major questions addressed were:

1. Can voluntary labels for fair wind energy help to raise local acceptance?
2. Would national/European labels for fair wind energy make sense?
3. What are key principles/criteria for fair wind energy?
4. How should they be implemented/incorporated into policies?

Introduction into Principles and Criteria of WinWind

The plenary started with an introduction by Michael Krug and Ivars Kudreņickis (Institute of Energy, Latvia), who presented the principles and criteria (P&C) for socially inclusive and environmentally sound wind energy that have been developed in the WinWind project. Firstly, Michael Krug introduced the label for fair wind energy developed by the wind energy service centre in Thuringia, which was the inspiration for the P&C of WinWind. The Thuringian label is the first label of its kind in Germany and is relatively successful. WinWind aimed to develop a more general set of P&C which could be applied also in other countries or even on the EU level. Another ambition of WinWind was to develop criteria which could also serve as an orientation for policy-making. M. Krug described the internal process of developing the criteria by actively involving all project partners. The core principles developed in WinWind addressed five key issues: positive impact on the local economy, active and passive financial participation, procedural participation, impact on landscape, wildlife and biodiversity, and credibility and trustworthiness of developers (see below in detail). These principles were further broken down by help of more specific criteria. M. Krug explained similarities and differences between the Thuringian guidelines and the WinWind. The latter explicitly address nature/landscape as well as trust. The WinWind P&C also envisage the development of Public Engagement Strategy and Action Plans to involve local communities.

The WinWind P&C can be applied as a “pick and choose” approach: pick those principles and criteria which could be useful in your specific context. The set of criteria is quite flexible and is not too detailed, so it can be applied in different contexts.

Demonstrate a positive impact on the local economy through local contracting, local financing and cooperation with regional/municipal energy utility companies

Provide opportunities for active and passive financial participation of citizens

Ensure procedural participation of citizens through early and transparent communication as well as effective informal participation

Minimise the impact on landscape, wildlife and biodiversity

Ensure credibility and trustworthiness of developers by demonstrating an orientation towards the Common Good and further voluntary measures

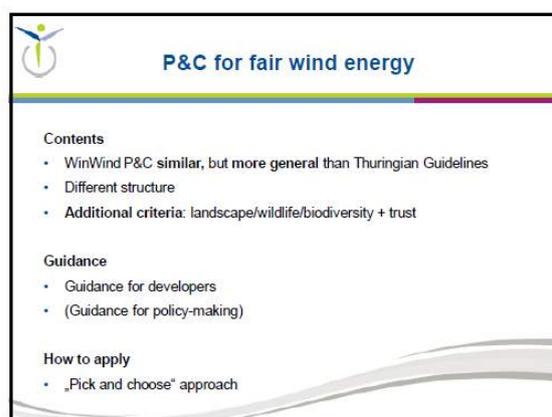
Ivars Kudreņickis focused on two principles which are not explicitly covered by the Thuringian guidelines: impact on landscape, wildlife and biodiversity and credibility and trustworthiness of developers. Both speakers pointed out that the P&C are not only addressing investors, commercial developers and operators of wind power plants but also policy makers. WinWind identified different possible fields of action on how to integrate the P&C into policy. These include renewable energy support schemes including auctions, financial support programmes, labelling schemes for fair wind energy or for green electricity, lending policies of public banks.

Q&A on Principles and Criteria for Fair Wind Energy

The audience asked whether the WinWind P&C have been already applied practically in any field or context. M. Krug explained that the P&C have not been applied yet as they have been only recently launched and not yet published. A related question was if WinWind already contacted policy makers and if those are interested in the P&C. According to M. Krug, this should be the next step. WinWind is going to prepare dedicated policy recommendations which will include a section on the P&C. Furthermore, WinWind has established contacts to WindEurope, the European wind energy association through Dorina Iuga who is member of the WinWind Advisory Board. D. Iuga revealed interest in the principle and criteria for fair wind energy as Wind Europe is planning to develop sustainability principles.



1



2

The Thuringian Guidelines for Fair Wind Energy

Principles	Criteria
1. Involvement of all interest groups in the vicinity of a planned wind park during the entire planning phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mayor/municipal council must be informed and involved before start of land securing Landowners, residents, farmers, foresters, citizens, municipal institutions etc. shall be involved
2. Transparent handling of project-related information on-site, provision of assistance and informational services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make use of property use contracts which provide for an extraordinary possibility of termination by the property owner after expiry of 5 years from the conclusion of the contract in the event that no permit (...) for the construction and operation of the WE plant(s) covered by the contract has been obtained by this time The beneficiaries may agree that they may avert the termination of the property owner up to three times and thereby extend the period by 1 year if they pay an appropriate reservation fee which in each individual case to be quantified in the property use contract Fair handling of easements and reservations Implementation of information and transparency measures on the ground. These include, e.g., (i) information events in the local vicinity of the planned projects, also events addressing municipal council or landowners, (ii) media elucidation on site, (iii) opinion surveys/voting, (iv) possibly renewed information event in case of planning changes, (v) possible insights into simulations.

3

The Thuringian Guidelines for Fair Wind Energy

3. Fair participation of all affected parties and local residents, including landowners who are not directly profiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair offer of land lease pool models (...) Registration of the office of the operating company in the host municipality and maintenance of this location during the operation of the wind plants, OR Serious efforts to conclude an agreement on the distribution of trade tax in accordance with the trade tax law according to which min. 90% of the due trade tax payments accrues to the host municipality Proposals for suitable measures to compensate or replace interventions in nature and landscape associated with the WE project on site, on the area of affected municipality
4. Involvement of regional energy supply companies and financing institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project developer/planning company offers one or more regional energy suppliers and regional credit institutions (...) to participate in the project as a marketing and/or financing partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional credit institutions should be given the opportunity, e.g. to design a saving bond model or another indirect participation model and/or to participate directly The regional energy supplier should be given the opportunity to design a local electricity tariff or a electricity price discount and/or participate directly financially
5. Creation of a direct financial participation possibility for citizens, enterprises and municipalities in Thuringia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entitled parties undertake to carry out an "expression of interest procedure" through which the citizens, companies and municipalities within a radius of 5 km of the wind park can announce their interest in a positive participation in the project company and the types of participation preferred for this purpose (fund, limited partnership models energy cooperative, saving board, crowd investment, profit sharing rights, etc.)

4

The general structure the WinWind principles and sub-principles

1. Positive impact on the local economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Local contracting b. Local financing c. Co-operation with regional/municipal energy utility companies 	
2. Financial participation of citizens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Active financial participation b. Passive financial participation 	
3. Procedural participation of citizens/stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Early and transparent communication b. Effective informal participation 	
4. Impact on landscape, wildlife, biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minimize impact on landscape b. Minimize impact on wildlife and biodiversity 	
5. Credibility and trustworthiness of developers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Orientation towards the Common Good b. Voluntary measures 	

5

Positive impact on local economy

Sub-Principles	Criteria
Local contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include <i>local businesses, workforce and material</i> in wind farm planning, construction, O&M and decommissioning
Local financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve <i>local / regional banks and financing institutions</i> (where existing)
Co-operation with regional / municipal energy utility companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve them as <i>shareholders</i> (in order to offer host municipalities and citizens electricity prices discounts and/or energy efficiency services)

6

Financial participation

Sub-Principles	Criteria
Active financial participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity of <i>(co-)ownership</i> <i>Low entry barriers (affordability to a broad spectrum of citizens)</i> <i>Liability of citizens as shareholders limited to their financial contribution</i>
Passive financial participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pool models for a fair distribution of land lease payments</i> among all landowners affected by the planned wind farm Host municipalities benefit from <i>tax payments</i> Host municipalities benefit from <i>voluntary payments</i> of special wind energy fees/levies (e.g. as percentage of the revenues/profit paid to a non-profit community foundation) <i>Special electricity price/discounts</i> for the host municipalities Other benefit sharing mechanisms, e.g., <i>compensations, in-kind benefits, infrastructure improvements</i>

7

Procedural participation

Sub-Principle	Criteria
Early and Transparent Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Inform</i> mayor/municipal council ASAP, preferably before land securing starts <i>Develop</i> a Public Engagement Strategy and Action Plan to involve local communities <i>Provide</i> regular information about the project to the host municipalities and citizens affected <i>Make use of realistic</i> simulations, visualizations and site visits to existing plants <i>Provide</i> adequate resources for communication with the host municipalities/citizens

8

Procedural participation

Sub-Principle	Criteria
Effective formal/informal participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ensure</i> early participation of citizens in planning/permitting processes <i>Organise</i> community participation throughout all project stages, from planning to decommissioning <i>Ensure</i> that local citizens can participate (e.g. via <i>Joint Working Groups of developer, municipality and local stakeholders, Consultative Boards</i> etc.) <i>Ensure</i> procedures for continuous developer/community dialogue <i>Ensure</i> meaningful participation and engagement going beyond formal stakeholder consultation, <i>enabling local communities to affect project outcomes</i>

9

Minimise the impacts on landscape, wildlife and biodiversity

Sub-Principle	Criteria
Minimise impacts on wildlife and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Involve</i> environmental NGOs as early as possible in the planning process <i>Minimize</i> impacts by sensitive wind turbine siting and design, technical and operational measures (e.g., anti-reflective coating, temporary shutdowns, etc.) <i>Respect</i> buffer zones around protected areas, <i>avoid</i> siting of wind turbines in protected areas with a less restrictive protection status <i>Reduce</i> the density of wind farms to minimise collisions with birds and bats Take measures to mitigate/compensate interference on wildlife <i>preferably on-site</i> (including financial compensations)

10

Credibility and trustworthiness of developers

Sub-Principles	Criteria
Orientation towards the Common Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take concerns and complaints from local citizens and stakeholders seriously Report publicly on community benefits, shared ownership, queries and complaints received/addressed etc.
Voluntary measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take voluntary measures going beyond legally prescribed minimum requirements, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary setbacks Voluntary EIAs Voluntary Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, etc. Where available, join voluntary labeling initiatives for developers/operators of wind farms

11

Who may apply the P&C?

- Commercial developers & operators of wind energy plants
 - Basis for voluntary self-commitment, Code of Conduct
 - Proposal: Alliance of fair wind energy developers under WindEurope?
 - Self-assessment tool, „Scorecard“ for developers/operators
- Policy makers
 - Integrate the P&C in a range of relevant policies, programmes, support schemes

12

How to integrate the P&C into policies?

Decreasing degree of public interference ↓

- Obligations for project developers to ensure active and passive financial participation of host communities
- Key support schemes for RES-based electricity (e.g. pre-qualification criteria, multi-criteria assessments in the frame of auctions)
- Other financial support programmes for RES (e.g. structural funds/cohesion funds)
- Land lease contracts referring to municipal/publicly owned land
- Lending policies for public banks
- Labelling schemes for fair wind energy
- Covenants/ voluntary agreements between public actors and the wind industry
- Voluntary self-commitments and codes of conduct of the wind industry
- Labelling schemes for green electricity

13

WinWind

Thank you for your attention

winwind-project.eu
info-winwind@PolSoz.FU-Berlin.de

[@winwind_eu](https://twitter.com/winwind_eu)
[WinWind Project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/winwind-project/)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 764717. The sole responsibility for the content of this presentation lies with its author and in no way reflects the views of the European Union.

14

Minimise the impacts on landscape, wildlife and biodiversity

Sub-Principle	Criteria
Minimise impacts on local landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take measures to mitigate/compensate interface into landscape preferably onsite (where not required by national legislation) Ensure restoration of the used land Reduce acoustic emissions of wind turbines and avoid additional traffic as far as possible Minimise impact on landscape by repowering of wind farms Use sites already exploited for wind energy (concentration principle) Use degraded areas

17

Options to include P&C for fair wind energy into auctions

- Pre-qualification requirements**
 - Bidders obliged to contribute to a special purpose fund, e.g. to finance local development (e.g. DK, IRL)
 - Bidders obliged to carry out an EIA and Social Impact Assessment
 - Bidders obliged to offer a minimum share to host communities (DK: 20%)
 - Bidders obliged to submit a community engagement/benefit sharing plan
- Multi-criteria auctions instead of price only auctions**
 - BE/City of Ghent: Multi-criteria auctions (price parameter: 60 points in the balance, "participatory financing" minimum 30% citizen participation 40 points)
- Bonus payments in the frame of the auctions**
 - DK: Bonus of 0.01 DKK/kWh to plants which display local share-ownership of at least 30%
 - FR: "Participatory bonus" that varies from 1 to 5 EUR per MWh, depending on the energy technology and the level of local involvement
 - Differentiation between crowd-funding platforms (1€/MWh) and models with local/public investments (3€/MWh)

18

Options to include P&C into auctions: community/citizen ownership

- Exemption from the general requirement to take part in auctions, eligibility for other forms of support (e.g. feed-in tariffs/premiums)
- Separate auction rounds (e.g. IRL)
- Less stringent pre-qualification requirements (e.g. concerning bid bonds, permitting, e.g. DE)
- Multi-criteria auctions
- Preferential price rules (uniform pricing instead of pay as bid rule)
- Longer realisation periods (e.g. DE)
- Community energy funds to help small actors conduct economic or technical feasibility studies for wind energy projects (e.g. DK, also Schleswig-Holstein)
- others

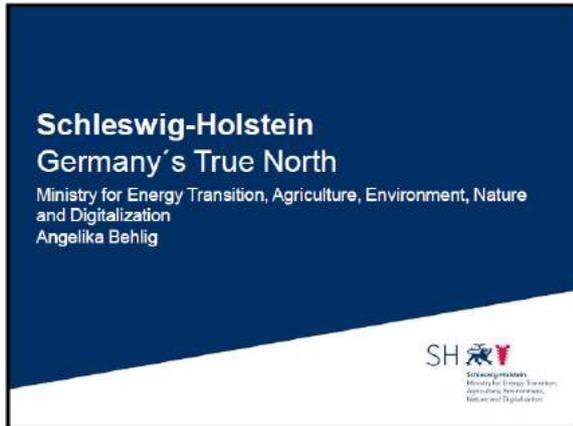
19

Angelika Behlig (Ministry of Energy Transition Schleswig-Holstein, Germany)

Angelika Behlig shortly explained the Label for Fair Wind Energy Developers that was launched in Schleswig-Holstein, one of the 16 federal states in Germany, in 2018. The label was initiated and developed in the frame of a public-private partnership. Stakeholders in Schleswig-Holstein were clearly inspired by the Thuringian label for fair wind energy which was developed earlier (see below). However, implementation of the certification scheme is market based and builds upon a voluntary self-commitment of project planners/developers complying with pre-defined quality criteria. A. Behlig said a key concern in Schleswig-Holstein was the possibility for local citizens and stakeholders to influence planning processes at an early point of time.

Regarding the question if a national or European level for wind energy is advisable, Mrs. Behlig explained that a set of certain standards and rules across borders is good and necessary. Surely, it would help to have the same understanding on how to organise information processes or how to offer financial participation. Companies would need to fulfill the same criteria in each country that could have a positive effect. Also to share transparency and show transition processes across borders. But it will be hard to implement any transnational instruments, because there are too many players in the process and probably too many differences (e.g. legislation) and interests. Already the process of implementing the label in one federal state level was challenging, because the label needs to be recognised by relevant stakeholders, you have to promote the goals of the label and advertise it, etc. If we would like to have a label on national or European level, it would be difficult to appropriately address regional specificities.

What is important, is a participation process that starts as early as possible, early and fair access to information and the possibility to influence planning. Also offers for financial participation or benefits for communities – e.g. through community wind farms are necessary. Local companies are helpful players in the process but one should especially address the big players which are often not experienced in implementing such measures.



1



2



3



4



5

Dieter Sell (Thuringian Energy and GreenTech Agency (TheGA), Germany)

Prof. Sell, Director of Thuringia's Energy and Green Tech Agency (TheGA), presented the Label for Fair Wind Energy² which is issued by TheGA and its wind energy service centre. By now, over 50 companies have successfully applied for the label. The label is issued on the basis of bilateral annual contracts concluded between companies and TheGA in which the companies commits themselves to adhere to five specific guidelines for a fair wind energy³ mainly aiming to ensure procedural and financial participation of local communities. Compliance to the guidelines is controlled every six months. TheGA asks the developers to provide regular information about their plans and activities. TheGA also takes into account feedback from municipalities and citizen.

TheGA has received a positive feedback from the developers that regularly apply for the label, because they see a high value in this label. It has become very difficult to do business in Thuringia without the label. This works as a solid basis to communicate with the companies and convince them to engage with local stakeholders and share benefits.

The success of the label is closely related to the work of wind energy service centre under the TheGA which plays a key role in supporting developers, landowners, municipalities and citizens by pro-actively providing advice and assistance. Often, local decision-makers interested in pursuing wind energy projects, are poorly informed about the decision-making procedures and processes, but also regarding potential opportunities and socio-economic benefits of wind energy. The service centre is an intermediary, neutral player and mediator which is trusted by many municipalities and citizens, as funding is provided by the state government. It helps to facilitate a dialogue between developers, municipalities, local stakeholders and citizens.

The German Wind Energy Association has recently suggested to introduce such a label in all federal states taking into account the experience of Thuringia and Schleswig-Holstein. Referring to the option of having a European label, Prof. Sell shared the view that there is certainly a value in having some common general rules and standards, but the authorities need to be aware of the very different regional contexts.

The audience raised the question if also large companies and developers obtain the label. Prof. Sell answered that most of the developers hold the label, but some of the big players thought a long time they would not need it. Today they show more interest in the label, but often they fail to comply with the guidelines. He pointed out that the advantage of the label is local, because it helps to ensure acceptance and projects can go faster ahead. Another question which arose was how TheGA is monitoring compliance and how, in particular, the developers' land securing practices are being monitored with regards to fairness principles. Sell pointed out that twice a year the companies have to participate in a survey and to provide a statement on their activities. In addition, TheGA is cross-checking with the

² For more information in German language see <https://www.thega.de/themen/erneuerbare-energien/servicestelle-windenergie/service-fuer-unternehmen>

³ An English translation of the Guidelines can be found in the WinWind Report on Principles and Criteria for Socially Inclusive and Environmentally Sound Wind Energy available from <https://winwind-project.eu/resources/outputs/>

municipalities and citizens whether the companies made true statements. Furthermore, ThEGA organises regular conferences inviting label partners and municipalities.



1



2



3



4

Wojciech Cetnarski (Management Board of the Polish Wind Energy Association)

Generally, Mr Cetnarski found it interesting to see how similar the challenges for wind energy developers are in different countries. At the same time, it should be recognised that there are also significant cultural, institutional and legal differences which make it complicated to develop a set of universal criteria. In 2019, PWEA has published a Code of Good Practice⁴ for its members. He acknowledged that the WinWind P&C can generally serve as an orientation for the development of such codes. The problem in Poland is not so much the lack of public acceptance, but rather the lack of political resp. governmental acceptance. It is difficult to draw the attention of the government and public authorities towards the wind energy sector. The energy sector is still dominated by state owned companies and there has been a

⁴ See: <http://psew.pl/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/09/Code-of-Good-Practice.pdf>

strong and persistent narrative that coal is the future. This makes it very difficult to develop wind energy projects. W. Cetnarski proposed to change legislation. One of the main obstacles for wind energy is the so called “distance law” which envisages a general setback distance between turbines and buildings of 10 times the turbine height. This excludes 95% of the Polish territory for wind energy projects. But this law is expected to be changed by the end of the year. PWEA is engaged in a dialogue with the government on further amendments to legislation.

Nevertheless, PWEA focused in its Good Practice Code on procedural fairness, because the Polish construction and building law, as well as the planning law are generally well designed ensuring formal public participation, but the legal provisions are not effectively implemented in practice. The activities taken by developers and authorities often do not comply with the legal requirements. So, the Good Practice Code shall help to enable meaningful participation within the existing framework. Voluntary measures going beyond the statutory, legally defined provisions were not included in the code, because it would be difficult to convince developers to do more while facing currently a very difficult situation.

Mr. Cetnarski also observed that there is little interest of local communities to develop community energy projects. This is because of the poor socio-economic situation of rural communities. Income levels of citizens are rather low. Because of that, there is not much interest in community ownership like in Schleswig-Holstein. For the households, electricity price discounts would be more attractive. Also, taxation will likely not work in Poland because people do not think that taxes flow back to the local community. To raise local acceptance, the most effective tool is probably to reduce electricity prices for local communities.

Mr. Cetnarski also pointed to the difference between public acceptance and local acceptance. He considers the Good Practice Code an important tool and first reactions from local communities were very positive. Everything which creates trust and which is to a certain extent “institutionalised” helps local communities to overcome their fears. It took PWEA much time and efforts to introduce the good practice code, because among its member there are big international players/companies which often are not interested to cooperate and comply with the code. Therefore, the next step could be to introduce a label as in Thuringia.

**PWEA Good Practices Code
For Fair Wind Energy in Poland**

Wojciech Cetnarski – PWEA Vice President
February 28, Berlin

POLSKIE STOWARZYSZENIE
ENERGII WYWIATROWEJ

1

Introduction

- PWEA recognizes the problem of public acceptance of new wind projects as a significant barrier in further development of this sector in Poland.
- The main source of this problem is lack of political support for RES in Poland, where RES, and wind in particular, is perceived as disruptive technology for state owned, coal based, energy production monopoly.
- It resulted in number of political actions aimed directly at halting the development of new wind energy capacity after 2015, such as:
 - “distance law”;
 - real estate tax 4x increase
 - lack of CfD auction rounds aimed at wind projects.
- No Polish government, up to date, undertook any educational actions / programs explaining and promoting benefits resulting from RES development, but often supported the initiatives and demonstrated attitude of distrust toward the RES technologies, wind in particular (noise, health impact).
- As PWEA recognized it didn't paid enough attention in the past, to the public acceptance issues arising from growing penetration of the wind projects, it decided to introduce in 2019 **Good Practices Code** addressing all of the real problems raised by the opponents of further development of the wind energy in Poland.

2

Improving Framework Conditions

- Introduction in 2016 to the Polish legal system of so called “distance law” (minimum distance between dwelling houses and wind turbine > 20 x tip height) made impossible a rational discussion about the wind energy development framework, as it excluded over 95% of national territory from locations of contemporary wind turbines.
- If Poland would like to join the European Green Deal, it is necessary to remove any “fixed distance” restriction and return to planning procedures for wind energy based on their actual impact on environment and people (impact studies, monitoring).
- Existing regional planning procedures and processes need update to reflect new role and potential of wind energy and other RES.
- PWEA actively participated in establishing in 2015 of new frameworks, like landscape protection law, and earlier the Good Practices for Birds and Bats Monitoring, recognizing importance of this kind of environmental impact of wind energy.
- Other existing frameworks, like environmental law and spatial planning law, although not perfect, are formally offering to all the parties involved good degree of participation and information.

3

Procedural Fairness

- Good Practices Code developed by PWEA covers entire life cycle of the wind project, filling the gap between minimum legal requirements and what is perceived as fair by local communities and individuals.
- It sets the standards for early, open and accurate communication between the investor/developer and local communities and promotes standards of investors involvement and support of local communities.
- Polish environmental and spatial planning laws require already the local community/individual participation in planning and environmental decision processes, but they are not precise enough to always guarantee such participation is effective.

4

Distributional Fairness and Community Ownership

- Polish tax systems provide local communities (commune level) with significant income from the real estate tax, calculated as 2% p.a. of the wind project fixed assets (wind turbine generator excluded).
- PWEA is in discussion with the government about potential additional benefits local communities should be granted from the RES projects located in the given areas – its not easy (retroactions, mandatory nature)
- Community ownership is also difficult, as the wind projects are usually too expensive for local communities to pay for a reasonable level of ownership.
- There is no possibility to directly implement in this respect several of the existing solutions from other EU countries – there are significant cultural and economic barriers, so the solutions have to be country-tailored.

5

Trust in Actors, Institutions and Procedures

- PWEA believes the Good Practices Code is an important tool helping in winning the public trust and support for wind energy projects and investors/developers community to follow the procedures and act fair toward the local communities.
- Although over 73% of Polish population supports the development of wind energy as a significant energy generation technology in Poland, trust and acceptance for this technology cannot be built while different government bodies and parliament majority is actively involved in discreditation of RES and wind energy in particular.
- Education is the the best way to introduce a new narrative about the RES in Poland and build trust around these technologies, but it has to be supported.
- Not all laws (16) and procedures (17) concerning wind energy in Poland are sufficiently effective to assure wide public acceptance and trust in procedures and institutions. It is PSEW's role and responsibility to work with the governments and public institution to improve the situation, whenever possible and necessary.
- It was not easy and immediate for PSEW to win the support of its several international members to accept, that in Poland they also need to follow the Good Practices Code, as they do in other markets, but good examples of few such players helped.

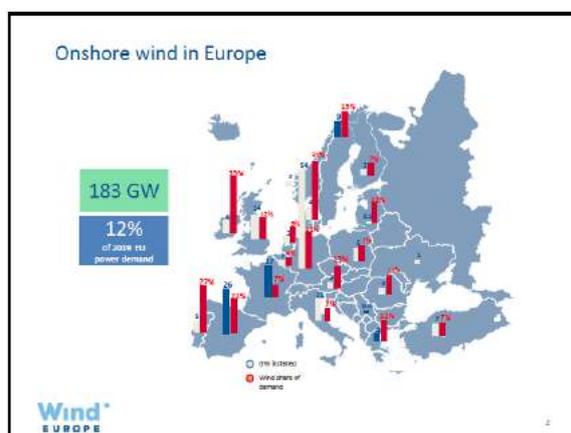
6

Dorina Iuga (WindEurope)

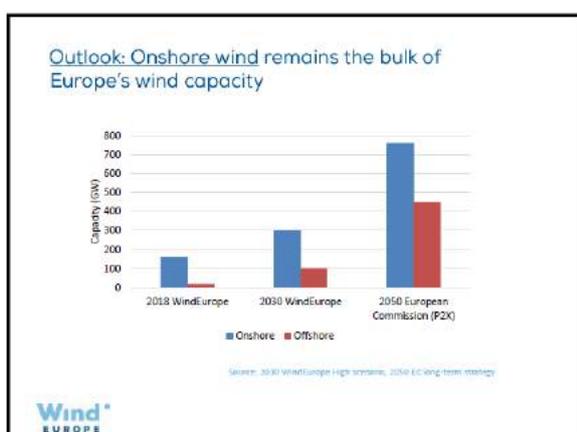
Dorina Iuga, senior project manager in WindEurope, the European association of the wind industry, also shared the opinion that it is better to have labels like those in Thuringia or Schleswig-Holstein on the regional or national level, but not on the European level. Ms Iuga mentioned that local acceptance is comparatively high among those citizens living close to wind turbines. Furthermore, she pointed out that there is already a broad variety of instruments being employed (see presentation). She referred to the Sustainability Principles developed by WindEurope, the Good Practice Compendium⁵, various Code of Practices like in Finland, the Best Practice Guidelines for the Wind Energy Industry in Ireland or Good Practice Principles for Shared Ownership Models in Scotland. She noted that Scotland has reached already 1 Gigawatt of wind farms in community ownership. Thus, there exist already many measures which translate fairness principles and criteria into practice. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvements. There are mainly three levels of action: information, public engagement and financial participation. She stressed that it is very important to listen to local communities and their concerns.



1



2

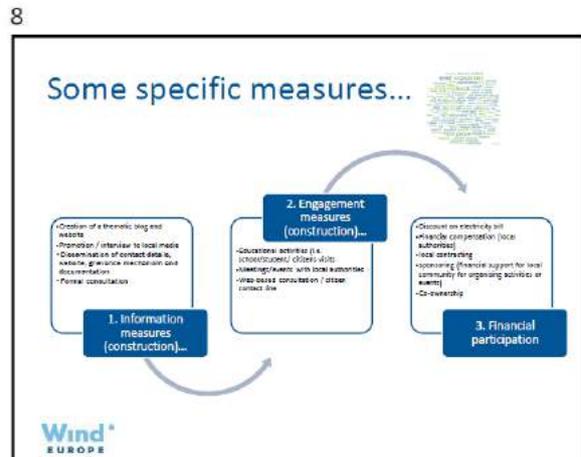
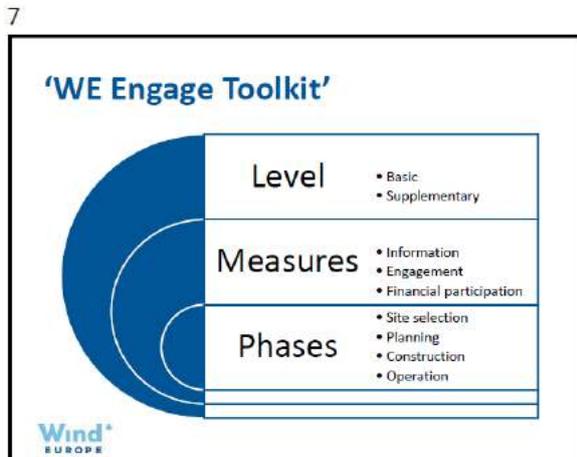
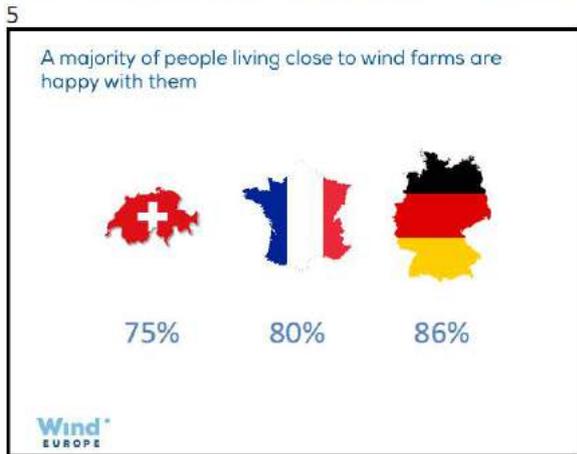
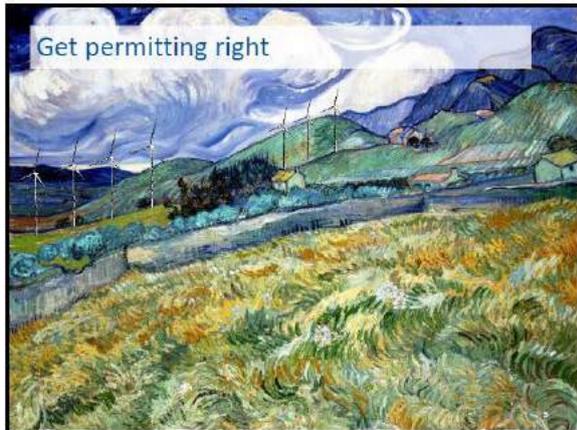


3



4

⁵ See: <https://windeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/files/about-wind/campaigns/lgl/wind-energy-success-stories-compendium.pdf>



Discussion in Plenary 3

At the beginning of the discussion, the idea of a European label was discussed. A. Behlig reiterated that it would be difficult to implement a European label, because of the differences between the countries. Also, she was of the opinion that a top-down approach might lead to conflicts. A first step for her would be to have national labels or national guidelines to produce a common understanding within one country. W. Cetnarski shared the view that a top-down approach will not work and that a label is a highly local approach. Prof. Sell added that even a national label would be difficult, considering the specific interest of each of the federal states which already show a lot of differences. D. Iuga advocated to push the European Commission to become aware of the local needs, but a label introduced at European level did not appear useful to her either. Activities should start on the local level, also because instruments implemented in a top-down manner face acceptance problems. W. Cetnarski suggested to pay careful attention on how any new framework will influence competition and the market. Each new piece of legislation should reflect certain P&C as developed in projects like WinWind.

Referring to this point, the moderator M. Krug asked the panelists to what extent the WinWind P&C could serve as a guidance for policy making and could be integrated in policy frameworks, e.g. in the auction systems or other funding systems for wind energy? To what extent more fairness criteria are needed in auctions or also in support/funding systems? D. Iuga argued that in her view it not the best way to link P&C with auctions. The companies still need to be competitive. If additional fairness criteria would be integrated into the auctions, this would cause a step back. Prof. Sell pointed to another option.



In Thuringia, the Thuringian Energy and GreenTech Agency and the Wind Energy Service Centre award the prize "Together and fair is more". With this award, the agency honors companies that implement the "Guidelines for Fair Wind Energy in Thuringia" in an exemplary way. The award is rather attractive for the companies. A. Behlig, in turn, referred to the case of Schleswig-Holstein

where the Ministry of Energy Transition seeks to encourage developers to provide information at an early stage of the project planning. Developers need to prove that they have implemented a public engagement process. But she argued in favour of a national regulation: in her view, the federal government should link corresponding requirements with the construction permit.

D. Ohlhorst, Technical University of Munich and member of the WinWind Advisory Board, asked whether the Thuringian label is also required for those developers that have turbines already in place. She also pointed out that Thuringia is known for the rather strong influence of populist parties and movements. At the same time, in Thuringia, the number of community wind farms is very low. Are those parties not right if they argue that people are left behind? She also asked whether a label as a policy instrument is

not too soft. Prof. Sell explained that the label can only be applied for future projects, not for projects that were already implemented in the past. Referring to the second question, he replied that people are increasingly asking for community energy models and want to know more about how these works in practice. Thus, more good examples are needed. A. Behlig added that in Schleswig-Holstein there are many community wind farms (German: *Bürgerwindparks*) owned by farmers, landowners and local citizens and stakeholders. The Ministry supports the argument of many community wind farm operators in Schleswig-Holstein that would like to be awarded the label ex post because they already fulfilled the label's criteria long before the label was introduced.

One participant mentioned that it seems that politicians in the parliaments are not aware of the fact that social acceptance of wind energy is generally very high. For them, the conclusion is that local citizens are the problem. Additionally, there is the paradigm of the auction system in combination with a centralised energy system that is neglecting regional specificities. He further asked the panel members representing federal states whether we need different requirements for permits.

A. Behlig emphasised that in Schleswig-Holstein many actors are not happy with the auction system. Many question the system because prices are rising instead of decreasing. But at the same time, this issue is not very attractive for political parties. The best lever are big industrial companies like car manufacturing companies that aim to become carbon neutral and are interested in expanding the use of renewable energy. D. Iuga referred to the European Green Deal that could trigger change in favour of renewable energy. She also argued that having multiple labels in parallel is probably confusing consumers. An overarching body like in Switzerland that coordinates and overlooks minimum criteria seems advisable.

The project coordinator R. Di Nucci asked whether it could be advisable to integrate more fairness and social inclusion criteria in the frame of the European Fund for Regional Development and the Cohesion Fund. Furthermore, these funds could be used to steer the development in the sense of community energy projects. She also argued that it is up to the regional governments to put pressure on national governments. W. Cetnarski shared his impression that municipalities and local communities do not expect much from the European Union, they only expect goodwill and certain concessions on the side of the investors. But several financial investors are interested in having certain standards, such as an ISO standard, which means a company gets audited by an external body. Also some politicians would certainly like if they could argue that they designed their system in line with European standards. From that point of view, some minimum criteria even on the European level would be recommendable. G. Rambelli, ICLEI Europe, mentioned that taking into account the provisions of the new Renewable Energy Directive, mechanism to promote community ownership of renewable energy projects should be implemented on the national level.

After this discussion Michael Krug closed the plenary and thanked the speakers and the audience for the constructive discussion and proposals.

Closing Plenary

Moderator: Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien

Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien stated that the closing plenary had the aim to highlight the main points and conclusions emerged during the 1.5 days of the WinWind conference. At first, she confronted the panel with question whether community energy can be considered the solution for a just transition and whether it can it provide a winwin situation.

Dörte Ohlhorst stated that 99% of wind turbines are not owned by citizens. For this reason, people feel left behind. This is also reflected by the gain of populist parties leading the protest against wind power. Additionally, it is interesting to take a closer look at who runs the turbines and who gets involved in citizen energy projects: they are mostly mainly men above average age and average income. At the same time, also opponents are mostly older men. If we really want an inclusive energy transition one should find ways to include women and younger people and bring them into the game. We should enable people to invest in their own futures and empower them to change something locally. It is important to share benefits to gain acceptance, but right now citizen energy is not really inclusive.

Geraint Ellis elaborated on these points and reminded why social acceptance for wind is important. Wind is the cheapest form of energy and a more or less trusted technology. In addition, it is a socio-technical system. Only half of the energy system is infrastructure. The other half is the social system. We cannot fix the problems of our energy system without addressing social problems. In terms of planning it has to be considered that there necessarily needs to be the option that in the end there will be no wind project. This is real participation. Otherwise, the goal is already given and there is no real participation that includes also power for the citizens.

Ms Sonntag-O'Brien formulated the thesis that politicians do not argue against the opponents, because maybe they have not the courage or maybe not even the knowledge to argue against fake news. So is there a lack of information especially for politicians or a lack of confidence? Rosaria Di Nucci pointed out that technical disciplines are often perceived as neutral and technical statements often are accepted without checking the facts behind them, which provides a fertile ground for fake news, such as the alleged increase in the rate of suicides in locations near wind parks. By contrast social scientists are often perceived as a "community" aiming at creating acceptance, especially if these scientists work on a contested technology. Also WinWind had to face such criticisms. As a clarifying statement, Di Nucci drew attention to the fact that the WinWind consortium analysed the framework conditions to improve acceptability and was not involved in enhancing measures to increase acceptance. WinWind is a so-called coordination and support action and not basic research. The primary aim was not to generate new knowledge, but especially "chewing" on what was known already and to disseminate and transfer this knowledge.

Regarding the comment of a participant that there are so many fake news in which people believe in, Geraint Ellis replied that fake news are a dangerous narrative in this subject. However, it is wrong to blame people to have wrong information. People, who are engaged against wind projects, do it honestly

and mostly for an important reason, e.g. place attachment. There is no single truth, there are lot of views and values and this is a fact that needs to be respected. For a real and open debate it is also dangerous to designate any disapproval of wind projects as NIMBY (not in my backyard) and stigmatise opponents.

Following the question by Virginia Sonntag O'Brien about which focus future projects should have, Dörte Ohlhorst explained that the focus should still be on transfer of best practices. As it was pointed out several times during the conference, every region is different, so diverse best practices should be identified and disseminated. With a view on the thoughts of Ellis regarding the fake news narrative and the NIMBY problem, she stated that the perspective of politicians needs to be reshaped. In addition, one focus should be on how to communicate the aim of the energy transition of decarbonizing the energy system in different areas of society. How to tell good stories and how to come up with good news is a key question. What is necessary are regional and local approaches, but also guidelines at the national level.

R. Di Nucci reflected on why WinWind did not consider factors like annoyance, although they are rather central to understand oppositional actions. With view on the presentation of Prof. Hübner, Di Nucci made clear how difficult it would be to measure annoyance and draw on an objective and evident causality and that there are no benchmarks for this. She pointed out that one should be cautious in what research can do and which answers can be provided, and needs to be communicated. If we want to have the energy transition and if the basis of this transition is decentralisation then it is necessary to start with the concept of justice or fairness of processes. This is subjective, but to a certain level also objective and measurable, as more favourable socio-economic solutions can be recorded.

V. Sonntag-O'Brien observed that people criticise the wind energy branch on how financial profit and benefits out of wind energy projects are allocated. Is it a bad thing for people to make money out of RES, just because people have the intrinsic idea that renewables are supposed to be a common good? How can we make people aware that profit is not bad per se and that communities can profit, too?



Geraint Ellis pointed to the linkage between profits and the time horizon. We want to raise sustainable energy in a market system, and the question is how to design this system. Therefore, it is necessary to ask much more basic questions like: who owns the wind, who owns the land? In the long-term those are important questions and are linked to

the debate of which groups are profiting in which way. Although we need to work on the low hanging fruits now, in the future the ownership issue is an important one. Decision makers seem to stick to a

world made by the old system and incumbent actors as well as conservative ideas. Thus, the question is rather how to anchor new ideas in the energy system. Dörte Ohlhorst agreed that future research should ask more systemic questions and how the socio-technical system can be anchored in society and policy.

Finally, Geraint Ellis reiterated the wickedness of the problem acceptance. The discussion at the conference was partly about participation and what planning instruments today do not work and why. He identified major constraints in our current systems regarding participation. The simple assumption for him is that we need a much simpler and basic participation design, which could be the basis for consensus. This is hard to reach, but powerful. Another powerful instrument is the citizen assembly which is based on a random sample of people that get engaged with experts in a moderated discussion (e.g. Ireland). People need to talk to other people they would have never talked to.

Discussion during the Closing Plenary

Dörte Ohlhorst explained what for her is necessary for research on acceptance. Acceptance needs to be framed as an opportunity. If we look at a SWOT-Analysis of regional development concepts, acceptance is itemized in the risk part. But it should be part of the opportunities and needs another framing. Therefore, stories about success and co-benefits (e.g. boosting regional competitiveness; increasing living standards; ensuring healthy environment; promoting social justice, contribution to the common good; mitigating climate change; etc.) should be told.

From the audience criticism was made about those positive framings and a participant mentioned that he is working on case studies in regions where 95% of turbines are run by foreign investors. Against this background positive narratives about big companies would be counterproductive and people would feel fooled.

Eva Eichenauer also reminded that we need to think about the structural constraints to fair development. The biggest constraints to community energy is land. If you have no land, than you cannot participate. The focus of future research should be on this structural constraint, the problems on this level and how to overcome those structural unfairness of property and access to resources/capital (land, money, time, etc.). In the current system there are far too many barriers for small projects and municipal projects.

Another conference participant saw the necessity to find ways on how knowledge gained at the local and regional level can be transferred to the national level and responsible authorities, like for example installing a service unit for wind energy on the national level. Mayors play an important role in bringing renewable energy projects forward, but in the end they are blocked at the federal state level.

Tomke Lisa Menger agreed with Ellis on the current planning culture. It is totally out of the hand of municipalities. They have to assess really technical planning concepts of the planning authorities, but because of a natural lack of competences they have a weak voice on such issues, because you need valid arguments for changing planning. This leads to a lot of frustration, when people spend lot of time and money in planning and then there are law suits and the process must start again. Also, in this case, it is hard to establish a positive narrative.

A participant addressed lobbying or the power of certain actors and how to overcome or reflect on those power structures, which is an area not discussed during the conference. Jan Hildebrand pointed out the limits of a discussion on enhancing acceptance. It would be a misunderstanding if we expect, that we could gain 100% acceptance. There will always be conflicts and this is also part of a democracy and important. A researcher of acceptance has not the aim to produce all necessary instruments to raise acceptance. He/she defines his/her role not as developer of positive narrative, but as one that aims to describe; explain; provide knowledge on how the reality and the system are shaped. Researchers should not have an agenda. He also remarked critically that an uninvolved actor could indeed get the impression that this conference deals with the subject of improving acceptance for wind energy projects, although the consortium denied that.

Ellis remarked that researchers also have a responsibility. The world is facing an existential challenge with the climate change. Value based research will be necessary at certain points. With view on this vision of 100% renewables, D. Ohlhorst stressed that this is also connected to concepts of lifestyle, production and welfare. Also, mayors and strong personalities on the local level play a fundamental role for a successful energy transition. In contrast, Swantje Vondran made aware of mayors (e.g. Treuenbrietzen, in Germany) who fought many years for RES project in the community and got refused at the ministerial level. Trustworthy persons are important, but they also need to work in a system that is supporting them. Sondershaus added that if a municipality does not own land, it does not have much influence.

As a final statement Di Nucci clarified that to state the importance of wind energy as a building block of the energy transition cannot be considered tantamount to create acceptance to such a technology. The two days discussion showed that the matter of ownership and how it is defined plays an important role for the acceptance at community level. Surely in the past mistakes have been made in planning and authorising wind energy projects, which alimented opposition. However, it has to be considered that these cases do not render per se wind energy a “contested” technology. There are too many positive examples showing that social and local control of such a technology bring win wind effects for many. Beside that, one should not forget global developments in which big players start to invest again in nuclear energy based on climate concern grounds.

Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien wrapped up the panel and thanked everybody for the lively final discussion.