

FACTSHEET #3

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Transfer of Socially Inclusive Wind Energy Measures

WinWind has shown that there are many effective measures for achieving socially-inclusive wind energy development. Consequently, other regions can learn from these approaches.

Given the diversity of contexts across Europe, transferring innovative and effective measures, in their entirety, from one area to another is a challenging task. Identified measures need to be able to respond to the framework conditions in the areas wishing to learn from their peers.

Because of this, the WinWind project considers the transfer process a catalyst for future action as well as idea generation; a process that analyses the parts of an innovative and effective measure that fit within another context.

Transfer seeks to provide learnings on specific methods and measures, which enable socially-inclusive wind energy projects. The process offers practical

knowledge, encourages the sharing of expertise and stimulates action in the learning region based on a long-term vision.

The transfer processes within WinWind were organised through dedicated transfer visits and transfer workshops. Partners involved in these activities were invited to consider how effective implementation of (parts of) the transfer measures would affect the overall policy framework in the long run. To do so, stakeholders started from a shared assumption:

"We are in 2030, thanks to the adoption of this transfer measure, the level of social acceptability towards wind energy has grown. We succeeded in achieving this success thanks to the strategies and measures implemented."

This resulted in ideas for concrete steps to achieve the vision above.

What is transferability?

Transfer is an enticing concept as it implies that a certain measure, or approach can be taken from one particular context and can be reproduced, or at least influence implementation of a project in another context. This is especially valid if the measure in question has shown to have a certain degree of universal application and thus a high transfer potential.

⇒ Transferability considers the extent to which and under which conditions a measure can be transferred as a whole, or in part, to other conditions.

The determination of what type of measure could be most effectively transferred into a target area needs to consider contextual factors present in the recipient location, be this national, regional or local.



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With one exception, the WinWind approach pairs regions, which possess many similar starting conditions (policy frameworks). It appeared that doing so would increase the likeliness, although not guarantee, the success of a measure in driving social acceptance. Specifically, measures from "mentoring regions" served as examples for "learning regions" to be inspired by.

What makes a wind energy project socially-inclusive is highly context-dependent and each project faces its own set of challenges, which need to be met with context-specific solutions. Nevertheless, there are a few universal drivers, which can, largely explain the success of a particular project.

These **drivers** are also the main reason why **transferring** certain innovative approaches from one context to another makes sense. They act as common denominators when "matching" areas with different backgrounds in which the successes, and failures, of wind energy projects are subject to their own set of contextual factors.

How to assess transferability of a measure?

In order to make any claims about the general transferability of a particular measure, it is recommended to evaluate measures on the basis of the following considerations:

- **Does the measure effectively contribute to enhancing social acceptance?**

Establishing the effectiveness of a certain measure to overcome social acceptance barriers can be a subjective task as criteria may differ between contexts and the perception on what is considered "effective" can deviate.

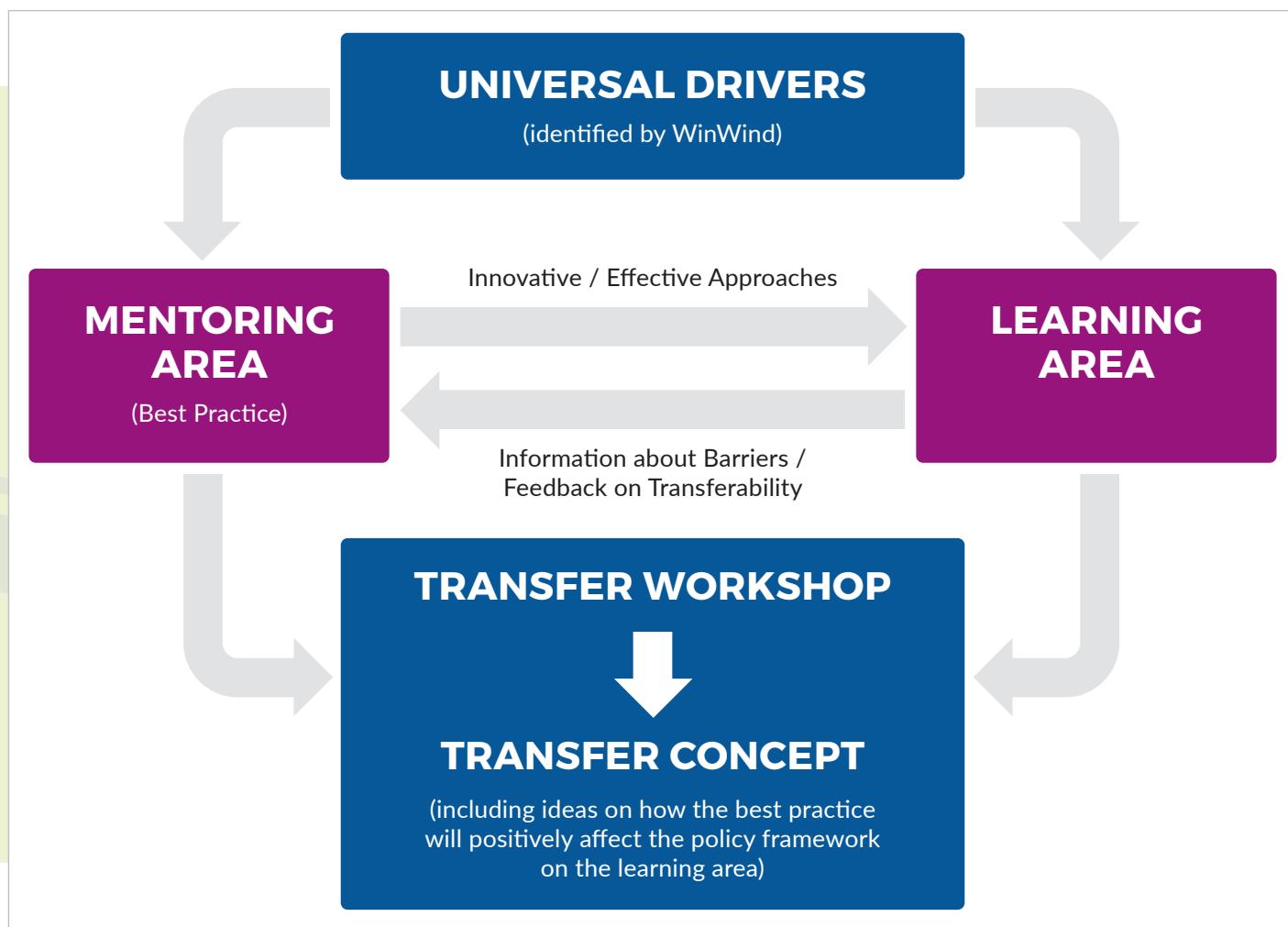
- **Is the measure innovative or does it trigger innovative practices?**

What makes a measure innovative in one context does not necessarily have to be innovative in another setting. Still, having a distinct feature in place

which distinguishes the measure from others, and would therefore highlight its transferability, is recommended.

- **Can the measure be implemented in a smooth and cost-effective way?**

An effective and innovative measure often profits from a regulatory framework which enables and favours its smooth implementation, by removing or reducing administrative, regulatory or financial burdens. In addition, the measure could represent a win-win both for the local economy and the implementation of local policy such as energy and climate plans without adding additional economic burden on the community. This could go hand-in-hand with the local government already being on board.



How to carry out a transfer?

Building transfer teams

In order to facilitate a well-planned transfer process, it is recommended to set up transfer teams, consisting of at least 3-4 persons, which should involve both stakeholders from the “mentoring” area as well as the “learning” area. Involved stakeholders should be committed to adopting/implementing parts of the transfer measure. Depending on the characteristics of the measure, these could include project developers/investors, municipal/regional governments, energy agencies as well as spatial planning authorities. Selection should also consider representatives of the civil society and local communities (e.g. citizen/community energy initiatives, NGOs, local business organisations, chambers of commerce and trade, ethnic minorities).

Encouraging long-term cooperation

In order to give the transfer process a more formal character and to ensure long-term

cooperation, it is recommended to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or Letter of Intent between the representatives of both the “mentoring” region and the “learning” region.

These are agreements shared among the participants of the transfer process and outline the measures to be exchanged and actions to be performed to continue the transfer in the long run.

⇒ In order to facilitate a long-term exchange between twinning partners a MoU or Letter of Intent should be signed to capture the commitment and to define clear roles and responsibilities.

Press can also accompany the signing of the document.

Setting up a transfer management plan

To ensure a solid framework for the transfer process is given, persons from the learning region and mentoring experts

should be made responsible to draw up a **transfer management plan**, which lays out the following:

- The main barriers existing in the “learning area”
- A general overview of the transfer measure and the drivers which govern it as well as the key enabling factor
- The purpose and objectives of the transfer process
- Concrete activities and steps of the transfer process (including transfer visits and workshops)
- A provisional time schedule
- (At the end) the results and outcomes of the transfer process

The transfer management plan should be a living document, which can be revisited and expanded with additional information.

Establishing transfer concepts

Every good transfer process should include real life meetings and mutual feedback in order to enable real understanding of the measure as well as its context. Considerable time is dedicated to discussing how the best practice, or innovative parts of it, can contribute to favourable changes in the regional enabling framework. Within the scope of WinWind, workshops were carried out to arrive at dedicated transfer concepts, which include the proposed measures to be implemented in the learning region. Any transfer concepts should consider:

- What should be implemented?
- How should it be implemented?
- Who is responsible for implementation?

⇒ The result is a shared agreement of all participants on the concrete actions/measures considered and the most relevant and urgent to be implemented in the near future.

Nr.	Learning Region	Transfer Measure
1.	Abruzzo, Italy	Som Energia Cooperative, Spain
2.	Latvia	Community Wind Farms, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
3.	Poland	Community Wind Farms, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
4.	Balearic Islands, Spain	Wind Farm Repowering, Abruzzo, Italy
5.	Sardinia, Italy	Tax Cuts and Landscape Commitments, Sardinia, Italy (region-internal transfer)

Figure 1: List of transfer measures chosen within the WinWind project. The allocation of which best practice would be suitable to which learning region was done with the support of mentors and was part of discussions during the national stakeholder desks.

Established Transfer Concepts

Based on the “pairing” of regions, and following the transfer workshops the WinWind project has established transfer concepts, which lay down the ideas generated in the transfer process.

Transfer of renewable energy cooperatives from Catalonia (Spain) to Abruzzo (Italy)

The **Abruzzo region's** landscape, nature and tourism are some of the main critical issues connected to social acceptance of wind energy.

→ By initiating a transfer of approaches taken by the **Spanish Som Energia Cooperative**, solutions were proposed to optimise the relationship between local value generation and culture. This included recommendations for the municipalities to establish criteria for wind developers willing to allow for citizens' participation. The region of Abruzzo could also set up guidelines to ease the process for citizens willing to invest in wind energy.

Transfer of community wind farms from Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) to Latvia and Poland

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.

→ While the legal framework for similar benefit sharing formats is not as advanced in **Poland**, the transfer visits have revealed a number of elements, which can inspire similar action. Building on the existing format of energy clusters, local information campaigns should be conducted to emphasize 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.

Wind farm repowering from the Abruzzo Region (Italy) to the Balearic Islands (Spain)

The regional government of the Balearic islands is actively looking into the repowering

of the old wind farm in **Menorca**, but is facing increased national environmental regulations. A transfer process has facilitated the sharing of experiences from repowering activities in Abruzzo specifically regarding the creation of local jobs and a reduced impact on the environment.

→ During the transfer visit, it was suggested that, similarly to **Abruzzo**, fees from repowered wind energy plants paid to local governments could be largely invested in measures to combat climate change and recorded in framework agreements between the region, local governments and wind developers.

Tax cuts and landscape commitments within the region of Sardinia (Italy)

Transfer does not necessarily take place internationally. The example of the Sa Turrina Manna wind farm in Tula (Italy) was chosen as a best practice with high transferability potential within the same region. The transfer process has revealed that certain individual elements seem to be transferable. These are the distribution of local financial benefits from the wind park, tax cuts as well as the active involvement of the local community in the early stages of the decision making process).

In order to adequately follow Tula's example, it occurred that it would be necessary to harmonize and simplify legislation as well as to increase the general awareness of the (community) benefits associated with wind parks.



Image: Unsplash / Annie Spratt

Lessons for transferability

The transfer processes conducted by the WinWind project have demonstrated that transfer of best practices can indeed inspire policy changes and an adaptation of measures to different contexts. It should, however, be reiterated that that “transfer” does not equal “replication”. While the project has indeed analysed ten best practices as a coherent whole, it does not follow that these cannot be copied to one-on-one due to differences in contexts.

⇒ As an alternative, it is most effective to consider best practices for their high general transferability potential

and to then match them with regions, which face similar “starting conditions” and drivers.

- ⇒ Despite the fact that it is mostly not possible to fully transfer a best practice, it is often possible to find specific aspects, which can be implemented in the short, medium or long-term.
- ⇒ In many cases, transferring certain innovative aspects calls for a change in national, regional, or local enabling frameworks. In these cases, the transfer process, and especially exchanges during visits, serve as

perfect opportunities to generate ideas on what should be done, how it should be done and who should do it.

- ⇒ Transfers can be encouraged by national and European legislation. The revised Renewable Energy Directive (2001/2018/EU), for instance, requires Member States to develop enabling frameworks for renewable energy communities. This might stimulate policy learning and transfer processes and also provide further impetus to those transfer activities initiated in the frame of WinWind which are related to community energy (i.e. in Latvia, Poland and Italy).



Image: Unsplash / Thomas Richter

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