

# BIOWIND

INCREASING SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE FOR WIND ENERGY  
IN EU REGIONS THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
COMMUNITY BASED PLANNING

News & updates from the project

## PROJECT OVERVIEW



The Interreg Europe project, BIOWIND, involves 11 partners from 8 EU countries, and aims to revolutionize wind energy planning by addressing the intricate interplay between climate, biodiversity, and public opinion. Through joint policy learning and exchanges of experiences, BIOWIND seeks to enhance social acceptance and ensure the sustainable expansion of wind energy.

The project will successfully implement 9 enhanced policy instruments that will result in significant benefits for managing authorities and stakeholders. These improvements will lead to a notable increase in the capacity of 176 public administrations to effectively implement environmentally sound and socially inclusive wind energy policies.

Furthermore, the project aims to mobilize over 30 million euros to support various initiatives, including wind site demarcation, energy cooperatives, biodiversity conservation, and community support structures. This financial support is instrumental in advancing projects that contribute to sustainable wind energy practices.

In addition to tangible outcomes, the project will play a crucial role in fostering increased awareness and consensus building. This collaborative effort involves civil society groups, environmental agencies, public administrations, and wind stakeholders in BIOWIND areas.

By promoting dialogue and cooperation, the project has contributed to building a shared understanding and commitment to sustainable wind energy practices among diverse stakeholders.

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# ***KICK-OFF MEETING***

25 & 26 APRIL 2023

The kick off meeting for of the BLOWIND project was hosted by the University of Patras in Rio, Greece, on the 25th and 26th of April 2023, with the participation of all project partners. The meeting was organised in sessions, during which participants delivered presentations addressing all aspects of the activities foreseen by the BLOWIND Application Form. The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding of each partner's expected work and contribution throughout the project.



# ***WORKSHOP IN SLIGO***

19 & 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

The first inter-regional workshop of the BLOWIND project was organized by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) on 19 and 20 of September 2023 in Sligo, Ireland. The "Interregional workshop on developing measures to promote civic participation and engagement" aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences and discussions on the challenges and policy gaps hindering community engagement throughout various stages of wind energy projects. Participants also focused on sharing ideas for policies that could enhance civic participation, evaluating the potential transferability of successful approaches to different geographical areas and actively contributing to policy development while considering regional nuances in wind farm deployment.



# COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

- PROMEA, the advisory partner to the project, provided a comprehensive methodology to support and guide collection of data on environmental and socioeconomic drivers of public opposition to wind power projects, in order to improve the understanding of territorial sources of local opposition to wind energy developments and to enhance the capacity of project partners to develop place-based responses.
- Project partner, FAEN, provided methodological guidelines for the collection and evaluation of good practices, aiming to enhance social acceptance and consensus in wind farm projects.
- PROMEA developed guidelines to assist partners conduct their Regional Stakeholder Meetings (RSMs). Regional Stakeholder Meetings play a crucial role in achieving the project's objectives for territorial stakeholders and apply engagement techniques to foster their efficient involvement in the meetings, as well as in other project-related activities.



1st Regional Stakeholder Meeting - Region of Western Greece



1st Regional Stakeholder - Świętokrzyskie Region

## WHAT IS NEXT?

- **Activity A1.1: Report with the findings of the survey conducted in BIOWIND's Partners territories.**
- **Activity A1.3: Evaluation of the identified practices and how they will improve social acceptance for wind at the local level, based on partners' appraisal of effectiveness and transferability potential.**
- **Activity A1.4: Methodology to assist Partners mapping territorial authorities' management capacities and needs for effective wind energy policy implementation**

## CONTACT US



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## THE PARTNERSHIP



REGION  
OF WESTERN  
GREECE  
*Full of contrast!*



Northern & Western  
Regional Assembly



CENTRAL DANUBE  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
NONPROFIT LTD.



REGIONAL COUNCIL OF  
South Ostrobothnia



UNIVERSITY OF  
PATRAS  
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ



ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE  
VOIVODESHIP



FAEN  
Fundación Asturiana  
de la Energía



ZEMGALE  
PLANNING  
REGION



VLAAMS-  
BRABANT



PROMEA