

# BIOWIND

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

News & Updates from the project

## BIOWIND 3rd NEWSLETTER

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to present the 3rd edition of our newsletter. In this edition, we will explore the progress of our project's completed activities, offering you a comprehensive insight into our operational methods.

This edition highlights the regional events that occurred in the 3rd semester and offers a glimpse into our interregional workshops on Sustainable Approaches to Wind Turbine Decommissioning in Leuven, Belgium and on Identifying organisational needs and capacities of public administration regarding wind power in BIOWIND territories, in Kauhajoki, Finland. Furthermore, it briefly introduces the methodological frameworks developed since our previous publication.

## IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The BIOWIND project implementation will lead to the following outcomes:

- Enhancement of 9 policy instruments, benefiting public authorities and stakeholders.
- Strengthened capabilities of 176 public administrations to efficiently execute environmentally friendly and socially inclusive wind energy policies.
- Unlocking over 30 million euros to back projects related to wind energy spatial planning, energy cooperatives, biodiversity conservation, and community support schemes.
- Heightened awareness and consensus building among civil society groups, environmental agencies, public administrations, and wind stakeholders in BIOWIND regions.

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# REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

During the 3rd semester, partners of the BLOWIND project, organised their respective 3rd stakeholder meetings. The meeting agendas featured inspiring presentations, aimed at discussing the performed activities, building on civic participation and support on wind projects as well as the concept of the online platform, combined with a designed consultation mechanism. Further, productive conversations with consultants were included and integrated with field guided tours to wind farms.



Stakeholder meeting in Spain (Murcia)



Stakeholder meeting in Hungary



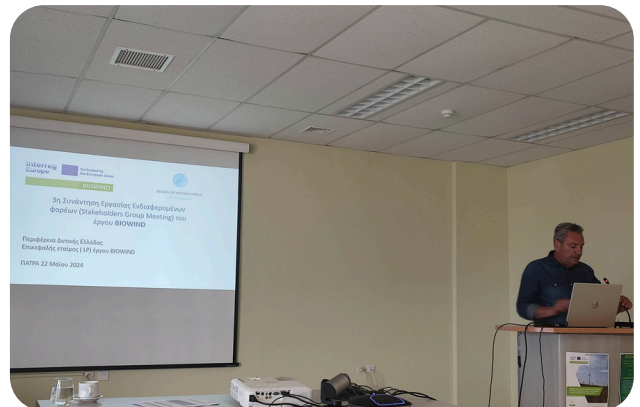
Stakeholder meeting in Latvia



Stakeholder meeting in Hungary



Stakeholder meeting in Belgium



Stakeholder meeting in Greece



# ENERGY COMMUNITY CLUSTER MEETING

On April 9, 2024, a virtual "Energy Community Cluster meeting" was hosted by the Policy Learning Platform, bringing together five Interreg Europe Projects: [REC4EU](#), [Leeway](#), [SlreENERGY](#), [ShareRES](#), and [BIOWIND](#).

The primary objective of this gathering was to allow each project to introduce itself, outline its partnerships, emphasise key focus areas, and identify potential synergies for collaborative initiatives to drive progress. Following the presentations by project coordinators, discussions unfolded, revealing common grounds for collaboration among the projects. These areas included streamlining application processes, securing financing, fostering equitable energy systems, enhancing citizen engagement, promoting social acceptance, ensuring inclusivity, facilitating information exchange, and refining legal frameworks.

The collaborative opportunities identified during the discussions will shape the thematic priorities for forthcoming events. This meeting marked the beginning of a promising collaboration among energy projects, promising significant mutual benefits and advancements in their respective undertakings. Stay updated for more developments on this collaborative front!

## IRELAND HOSTS LATVIAN DELEGATION FOR WIND ENERGY EXCHANGE

On 11-12 June 2024 the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) hosted a visit of planners and elected, regional representatives from the Zemgale Planning Region. The two-day visit comprised of informative presentations on wind farm planning and local enterprise, a tour of Sligo city, site visits to wind farm projects and local sites. NWRA representatives provided a detailed overview of the current wind energy policy landscape as well as the legislative and policy context regarding public consultation for large developments. The Latvian delegation was further presented with good planning examples of windfarms and of visually sensitive areas accommodated in developments.



# INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP IN LEUVEN, BELGIUM

The Province of Flemish Brabant (PFB) organised the Interregional Workshop on Sustainable Approaches to Wind Turbine Decommissioning in Leuven, Belgium, on June 19, 2024. The primary objective of this workshop was to foster the exchange of insights and dialogues concerning sustainable methods for wind turbine decommissioning.

The workshop emphasised several key aspects, including wind turbine end-of-life considerations, market description metrics, concession conclusions for European wind farms, recyclability of wind turbine components, and carbon emissions associated with wind power. Moreover, the event delved into the Belgian decommissioning strategy.





# INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP IN KAUAJOKI, FINLAND

The Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (RCSO) organised a 2-day study visit in Kauhajoki, Finland to the "Suokolangas" wind farm along with a dedicated workshop, which took place October 1st and 2nd, 2024. The primary objective of this workshop was to share with partners the regional planning approach to design wind farms and select sites. Additionally, focus was set on analyzing the main milestones of wind energy process in Finland and providing detailed information concerning the Suokolangas wind farm. Partners were asked to exchange insights into the process and delve into dialogues concerning the situation in their own countries.



## COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

Region of Western Greece (RWG) created a comprehensive methodological framework to assess partners' energy policies, identify gaps in permits, environmental management, and community engagement, evaluate alignment with existing policies, and facilitate knowledge sharing for improved project implementation. PROMEA compiled the collected data in **report** to identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in land planning, permits, community engagement, conflict resolution, environmental management, and grid integration, and provide recommendations for PI improvements.

The Region of South Ostrobothnia (RCSO) performed an analysis on data collected by partners and developed a **report** paper regarding the design and implementation of wind energy policies and projects. Significant barriers were highlighted in order to overcome current challenges, while the survey focused on stakeholder engagement as well as capacity building.

The Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia (CARM) delivered a final **study** elaborating on policy recommendations of wind energy communities in project territories. The document presented and analysed the collected territorial data as well as the critical factors which can influence the roll out of wind energy communities at project and local level. Further, an evaluation and analysis of good practices was performed per category, discussing main findings and finally producing policy recommendations for the partners' territories.

Finally, the Province of Flemish Brabant (PFB) organised an interregional workshop in the city of Leuven, regarding sustainable approaches to wind turbines decommissioning and delivered a **report** on the lessons learnt from this activity. The workshop included a background study regarding the different aspects of decommissioning while the participants' input was presented combined with policy recommendations and conclusions gathered throughout the activity.

## OUR CONSORTIUM EXPANDED

We are excited to share that during summertime, our consortium was expanded by one additional Project Partner. In the context of allowing new Partner States in European projects, the JS requested from the lead partner (Region of Western Greece) to include **ACTIVE ALLIANCE FOR ALBANIA (Triple A)** as a Discovery Partner, in the BIOWIND Project. The objective of the restricted call was to give the possibility to all approved projects to work with organisations from the new Partner States through the extension of their partnership (**more info here**). Triple A joined our consortium and will have the opportunity to be involved in the exchange of experience activities and build its staff capacity.

## NEXT STEPS

- All partners will organize the 4th regional stakeholder meetings to exchange the project results.
- Province of Flemish Brabant will summarise insights as policy briefs and engaging in policy learning platforms.
- Peer-review for policy changes & recommendations for further improvements .
- Region of Western Greece and Zemgale Planning Region will put in place the roadmap for pilot implementation.
- The 4th Steering Group Meeting will be held in Hungary on the 11th of February 2025.



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BIOWIND

## CONTACT US



REGION  
OF WESTERN  
GREECE  
*full of contrast!*



Northern & Western  
Regional Assembly



CENTRAL DANUBE  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
NONPROFIT LTD.

 PROMEA



REGIONAL COUNCIL OF  
South Ostrobothnia



UNIVERSITY OF  
PATRAS  
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ



ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE  
VOIVODESHIP

  
TRIPLE A



ZEMGALE  
PLANNING  
REGION



VLAAMS-  
BRABANT

Región de Murcia



FAEN  
Fundación Asturiana  
de la Energía