BIOWIND A1.4

Identifying organisational needs and capacities of public administration regarding wind power in BIOWIND territories

Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia

Table of Contents

Executive summary

This document is the second deliverable to the BIOWIND **Project Activity A1.4: Mapping territorial authorities' management capacities and needs for effective wind energy policy implementation.** This paper will analyse the results of the wide questionnaire delivered to and answered by all BIOWIND project partners regarding the implementation of wind power policies and projects.

The document will start with a brief introduction of the BIOWIND project and Project Activity A1.4. after which we will go through the methodology used for information gathering and then provide in detail the information that was found. At the end, we will summarise the findings.

1. Introduction

Wind energy is expected to become the leading power generation source in the EU by 2027, playing a vital role in fulfilling the EU's renewable energy goals. Compared to other renewable sources, wind energy stands out due to its sustainability, scalability, job creation potential, and lower operational costs. To scale up the deployment of wind farms, it is essential to effectively communicate these benefits to local communities, businesses, and the economy, and to provide clear, accessible information and dispel misconceptions. Additionally, identifying and implementing best practices that foster social acceptance and consensus for wind farm projects are key for effectively addressing public concerns and reservations.

1.1. The BIOWIND project

The BIOWIND project's core objective is to develop an integrated wind planning approach, addressing local opposition and complex permitting processes linked to biodiversity and social cohesion concerns. It focuses on enhancing social acceptance, securing sustainable wind energy development, and promoting collaboration between the wind energy sector and biodiversity policies. Additionally, BIOWIND aims to promote the convergence of wind energy and biodiversity policies and the enhancement of public participation, by facilitating the establishment of dialogue mechanisms with civil society and the introduction of financial participation and benefit sharing schemes. The project aims to empower public administrations in implementing environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive wind energy policies, and to facilitate awareness and consensus among civil society, environmental agencies, and wind energy stakeholders in the targeted regions. The BIOWIND project's consortium consists of 12 partners from 9 European countries, collaborating through joint policy learning and exchanges of experiences. The following Figure 1 presents the consortium members involved in the implementation of the project.

No.	Project partner	Acronym	Country
PP1 (LP)	Region of Western Greece	RWG	Greece
PP2	Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia	RCSO	Finland
PP3	Zemgale Planning Region	ZPR	Latvia
PP4	Northern and Western Regional Assembly	NWRA	Ireland
PP5	University of Patras	UPAT	Greece
PP6	Province of Flemish Brabant	PFB	Belgium
PP7	Central Danube Development Agency	CDDA	Hungary
PP8	Marshal Office of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship	KIELCE	Poland
PP9	Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia - General Directorate of the Natural Environment	CARM	Spain
PP10	Asturias Energy Foundation	FAEN	Spain
AP11	The Hellenic Society for the Promotion of Research and Development Methodologies	PROMEA	Greece
DP12	ACTIVE ALLIANCE FOR ALBANIA	TRIPLE A	Albania

Figure 1. BIOWIND project partners

1.2. Activity A1.4

The BIOWIND project has produced several documents to gain more knowledge from different aspects of wind energy processes and successful means to develop more wind energy in the EU.

The aim of Activity A1.4 is mapping territorial authorities' management capacities and needs for effective wind energy policy implementation. In this paper, we will analyse the data collected by partners to develop a needs analysis report pertaining to the **design and implementation of wind energy policies, to secure social acceptance and preserve biodiversity**. This will **enable public authorities to build their capacities to address the operational challenges** (e.g., multi-level governance, intradepartmental collaboration) and **organisational limitations** (e.g., staffing, financial resources) associated with the implementation of an integrated wind planning approach that

essentially covers the interrelated environmental, economic and social aspects of the "Climate-Biodiversity-Public opinion" nexus.

Before this second part of A1.4, the University of Patras delivered the first part of the A1.4 with Research Methodology and Data Collection Forms including a Thematic Background Study. In this, organisational needs and capacities are distinguished in six categories. The first three of them refer to different functions of the regional administration, whereas the three other categories have a broader character and refer to all or most administrative processes and functions.

These categories of organisational needs and capacities are:

1. Complexity, transparency and duration of administrative procedures
2. Strategic planning
3. Enforcement, monitoring and evaluation
4. Public and stakeholders' engagement
5. Resource availability
6. Sufficiency of personnel and workforce skills

2. Methodology, survey design, data collection

The design of the survey aimed to assist partners in identifying their organisational needs, and their administrative capacity regarding the design, implementation and governance of wind energy strategies and projects. The designed questionnaire involved both closed and open questions, which were organised according to the categorisation of the identified needs. With the purpose of obtaining a comprehensive understanding of partners' needs and capacity gaps, the number of questions was large. Most of the questions were in closed form, and filling out of some depended on the answer given to a previous question. All in all, the survey consisted of 55 questions.

The answers to the questionnaire were submitted online by the employees of the BIOWIND partners that are in a position to answer questions related to wind energy strategies and projects. The answers were gathered until February 15th 2024.

The total number of answers to the questionnaire was nine. This covers all the BIOWIND project partners, who submitted their responses to the survey. The Discovery partner TRIPLE A has joined the project partnership after the data collection was made.

3. Survey data and results

3.1. Complexity, transparency and duration of administrative procedures

Complexity, transparency and duration of administrative procedures are significant barriers for the development of renewable energy sources. Administrative procedures with wind energy are considered to include all stages of the development of wind farms and these procedures need not only be confined to the permitting process. Issues related to the clarity of roles and the coordination among the administrative bodies involved (e.g. regional and national authorities) are part of organisational needs.

(1.)* The BIOWIND partner organisations are involved in various administrative and permitting procedures relevant for developing a wind project. The level of involvement can vary, but the partner organisations listed that they are at least moderately involved in:

- Environmental impact assessment approval (50% of partner organisations),
- Construction / installation permit (30% of partner organisations) and
- Operation license (20% of partner organisations).

*(*Refers to question No.1 in the survey)*

However, none of the partners are active in the steps of the Project feasibility approval or Grid connection offer, which were included as options in the survey. In addition to the preselected choices, partners mentioned to be involved in 'participating in policy discussion', 'the processing of electricity production files in accordance' and 'managing authority of EU funds'.

3.1.1. Number and duration of administrative procedures

Concerning the development of wind energy projects, the number and duration of administrative procedures can be considered as a major barrier leading to excessively long periods between initial steps of projects and underutilisation of wind production capacity. The procedures could also discourage public and private initiatives, when changes during the process may alter the whole trajectory of the project and make it economically nonviable, technologically obsolete or socially or politically undesirable.

(2.) In the survey, the majority of respondents, 78%, consider the number of administrative processes required for wind power project development in their territory to be appropriate. A smaller group, 11%, believe that the number of processes is relatively low, while at the same time another 11% find the number of processes unnecessarily high. This indicates somewhat a general consensus that the administrative requirements are balanced and manageable.

(3.) Another question was raised about the length of the administrative procedure for implementing a wind energy project and whether it is considered excessively lengthy. The majority of respondents, 56%, consider the administrative procedure to be excessively lengthy, while 44% do not share this view. The length was considered to be problematic in the partner countries Finland, Belgium and Ireland.

(4.) Regional and / or national administrations could have already adopted measures to simplify and streamline the administrative procedures. 78% of the respondents indicate that this has already been done at some level. Meanwhile, 22% report that no such measures have been adopted. This reflects a strong trend towards reducing administrative complexity in the sector. A positive development was found in the responses of partners in Finland, Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Latvia and Spain.

The respondents who stated that their regional and / or national administrations have already simplified and streamlined the processes, were asked to choose from different options on how they have done this so far. The answers are shown in Figure 2. Most common measure is stated to be the creation of an online application system. 50% said that this has been done in their country or region. Another common measure was to use a "One-stop shop" or a similar measure, this was said to have taken place in 25% of the cases. The reduction in the number of permits (13%) as well as a joined application process on some permits (12%) were also mentioned. In addition to the preselection, it was also mentioned that 'reducing the number of appeals', 'amended legislation' and 'responsible ministry working on initiative' were measures taken.

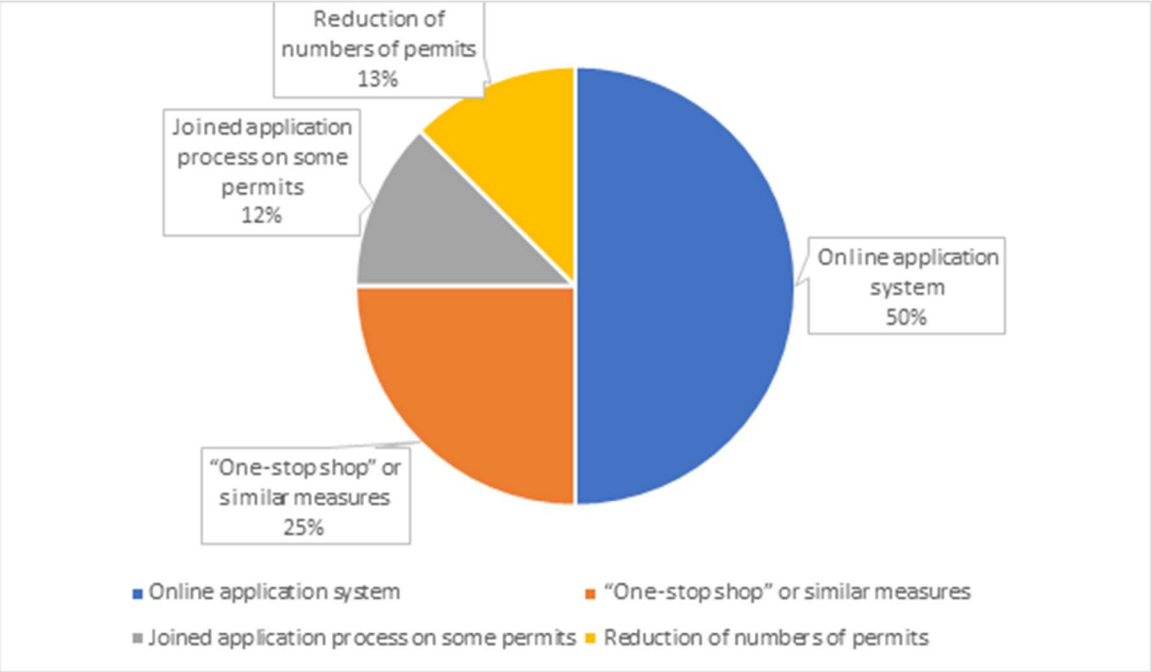

Figure 2. Measures conducted by regional and national authorities to simplify and streamline administrative procedures

The respondents were also asked whether they think that these measures have been effective in shortening the time required of administrative measures. The answers showed that this has been the case, 100% of the respondents shared this view.

(5.) When evaluating how significant improvements in the number and duration of administrative procedures for the development of wind power projects in their territory are, the responses were

more varied. The responses indicate that improvements in the number and duration of administrative procedures are considered important. A combined 45% of respondents rate these improvements as either "rather significant" or "greatly significant," while 34% find them "slightly significant." Only one respondent, FAEN, sees these improvements as "not significant" and another, PFB, are neutral.

The survey reveals that while there are significant barriers due to the complexity and duration of administrative procedures for wind energy projects, ongoing efforts to streamline these processes are recognized as important and effective by the majority of the respondents. This trend towards simplification and better coordination is crucial for facilitating the growth of wind energy in the EU.

3.1.2. Transparency of administrative procedures

Transparent administrative procedures should include clearly defined and manageable requirements in terms of number of permits, intermediate steps and time limits for permit decisions.

(6.) Also unlimited access to relevant information concerning the development of wind energy projects should be available as well as detailed criteria for their selection. When the BIOWIND project partners were asked whether all requirements and steps of the administrative procedures regarding wind energy project were clearly defined, the majority (89%) stated that they are clearly defined. One respondent, CDDA (representing 11%), said that the requirements (e.g. character and number of permits) were not clearly defined. The results indicate that luckily, in most areas, the administrative framework for wind energy projects is clear.

(7.) When looking at the selection process of submitted proposals for wind farms, 67% of the respondents say that there is a concrete list of selection criteria visible to all prospective investors and other stakeholders. 33% said that no concrete selection criteria is visible. The partners who answered “no” to this question are Finland, Belgium and Spain (CARM).

(8.) Concerning the availability of relevant information regarding the administrative procedure online, the majority, 67%, stated that all relevant information is available online, including descriptions of steps, required documents, and FAQ sections. However, 33% indicated that this

information is not fully accessible online, suggesting room for improvement in digital transparency. These regions were located in Greece, Hungary and Spain (CARM).

Another step to reduce the lack of transparency of administrative procedures would be an online application system for wind power projects. When asked, BIOWIND partners shared the information that in 33% of the regions this has already happened, when in 67% of the regions this was not yet the reality. This suggests a significant gap in the digital facilitation of the application process for wind power projects. The regions that are the frontrunners in this matter, are Hungary, and both Spanish regions represented in the project (CARM and FAEN).

(9.) The answers for transparency of procedures, rules and criteria for the development of wind power projects in the territories indicate that these are highly important. A combined 78% of respondents rate transparency as either "rather important" (11%) or "greatly important" (67%), while 22% consider it "slightly important." No respondents viewed transparency as unimportant, highlighting its perceived critical role in project development.

While majority of the administrative procedures for wind energy projects are perceived as transparent and well-defined, there are still areas for improvement, particularly regarding the visibility of selection criteria and the availability of information online. The emphasis on transparency is widely acknowledged as essential for building a supportive environment for wind energy development.

3.1.3. Coordination and clarity of roles

(10.) Coordination refers to procedures and bodies that aim at ensuring effective cooperation between authorities and departments with complementary responsibilities. So-called horisontal coordination mechanisms refer to processes among authorities on subnational level, e.g. different departments at the intermediate / regional level but also municipal or other authorities that have meaningful responsibilities regarding wind power projects. In the case of BIOWIND's scope, coordination between vertical authorities involves regional and central government bodies, and national independent authorities. Clarity of roles, well-defined responsibilities, is considered to avert

or mitigate the complexity of administrative procedures, enhance the performance of organisations and the management of collaborative efforts.

In all the BIOWIND project regions, it was considered that the definition of roles and responsibilities on all levels of government administrative units - national, regional, local - is clear. No respondents indicated any lack of clarity or overlapping responsibilities, which means that the administrative framework is well-organised and transparent. In the question of organisational charts, the results were a bit more varied. 67% confirmed that there are organizational charts in place that clearly define interrelated and complementary responsibilities among the involved units and authorities. 33% indicated that such charts are not available, although regardless of this, the roles were clear also in these regions.

When looking at the time limits for concluding administrative procedures in wind power projects, 67% of the respondents said there are time limits set for most procedures in their countries. 22% indicated that such deadlines apply to only a few procedures, while 11% stated that there is no maximum time limit. One could say that there is a somewhat structured approach to procedural timelines, existing in many cases, though not everywhere.

(11.) Going deeper into the coordination theme, it was also asked whether coordination problems among the various administrative units at all levels of government exist. 78% of the partners did not consider that there are significant coordination problems, 22% saw coordination issues rising. The ones who saw that there were coordination issues (two partners), said that these issues greatly slow down the deployment rate of wind farms in their territory. When asked in more, detail, these partners described their problems as follows:

- For the energy sector as a whole, it is true that, for example, the licensing process and the organisations responsible for mobilising financial resources are not the same. Furthermore, the expertise (public awareness, information for the local community) is provided by researchers and expert NGOs.
- Legal instability
- Shortage or lack of highly qualified staff

- No information between different responsible units (administrative) or information not within a certain time window
- Lagging procedures, number of units involved and long time for obtaining approvals to start an investment
- Problems with grid management

There were also questions concerning specifically coordination among different **departments or divisions of regional / local administration** and if there are formal procedures of a specifically mandated body that ensures coordination. 33% of the answers stated yes, 67% no.

RCSO, NWRA and FAEN answered "yes" to the question. RCSO noted that national legislation sets the rules for the formal procedures which gives frames for the process. In Finland, Regional Councils also are responsible on some part of the process along with Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and municipalities, taking their own part of the process. NWRA's answer includes government's part on issuing guidelines which incorporate the appropriate planning and environmental requirements. FAEN mentions that energy department, which distributes submission to the necessary involved departments, is part of formal procedures.

(12.) When asked about coordination **between regional administration and authorities from other levels** of government regarding the implementation of wind energy policies and projects, the answers showed that in 56% of the partner regions there are formal procedures or a specifically mandated body that ensure(s) coordination.

(13.) Authorities involved as a coordinating body in Finland and Latvia were Ministry of Energy and Climate. In Belgium there is a regulatory framework; The Flemish Government handles environmental permits by stating which bodies can give advice at what time and how such advice should be handled. The Flemish Government also has a decree on the role: permit applications for wind turbines of 1500 kw or more are handled by them. In Ireland, all local authorities must produce a Wind Energy Strategy. For example, regional body such as NWRA produce the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). It "recognises that wind energy has the potential to revitalise the NWRA economy as a clean form of energy production". According to FAEN, in Spain, "Each responsibility

and competitive are well defined by national and regional laws and procedures without any particular coordinator body."

(14.) Informal or ad hoc coordination mechanisms among authorities from various government levels (local, regional, national) happen in 22% of the regions questioned, 78% say such mechanisms do not exist. RCSO answered with "yes" and noted that national legislation sets the rules for the formal procedures, and the responsible administrator depends on the part of the process. Also, regional councils, Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and municipalities are responsible on some parts of the process. NWRA answered that levels of administration they involve are the government issues guidelines which incorporate the appropriate planning and environmental requirements. FAEN answered that the level of administration is on the level of energy department, which distributes submission to the necessary involved departments.

(15.) Concerning regulatory coordination, the partners were asked to select one of the following replies which would apply the best in their case. These two options were chosen by the partners:

- National laws primarily regulate wind energy issues and, in general, address them adequately (67% of responses)
- Regions also enact regulations related to wind energy in a way that complements effectively national laws (33% of responses)

These two options were not chosen by any of the partners:

- National laws primarily regulate wind energy issues and, in general, create barriers for effective implementation of related policies and the development of wind power projects in your territory. (0%)
- Regions enact regulations related to wind energy, but considerable problems of synchronization and tuning with national laws persist. (0%)

This suggests a largely effective regulatory framework with good alignment between national and regional levels.

When the partners were asked if there is consultation between national and regional authorities during the drafting of laws and/or regulations relevant to RES and wind energy in particular, the significant majority of 78% confirm that there is consultation, when 22% says that such consultation

does not occur in their region / country. Luckily, this suggests that there is a strong practice of collaboration in the legislative process related to wind energy.

(16.) When generally talking about coordination and clarity of roles of administrative units, most respondents (56%) see this to be "greatly important" for the development of wind power projects in their territory. Additionally, 33% view these issues as "rather important," while 11% see them as "neither important nor unimportant." No respondents rated these issues as "not important" or "slightly important," highlighting a strong consensus on their significance.

The findings highlight that while coordination and clarity of roles are largely effective within the administrative framework for wind energy development, some challenges remain. Most BIOWIND project partners recognise the importance of these factors for facilitating wind energy projects, emphasizing the need for ongoing efforts to enhance cooperation and communication among different levels of government.

3.1.4. General assessment questions

(17.) To conclude the whole part with the assessment of complexity, transparency and duration of administrative procedures, there were two open, general assessment questions for the partners. The first one was to find out whether the partners identify other organisational needs, issues or problems that influence the capacity of their regional or local authority regarding the administrative procedures of wind power policies and projects.

Some factors were identified and stated. These responses share a concern about how various stakeholders, such as experts, municipalities, and local communities, are considered in decision-making and administrative processes related to wind power projects. The responses highlight the importance of public hearings, leveraging expertise, the need for resources and funding in decision-making, taking municipal voices into account, and addressing issues of legal uncertainty and lack of local trust in public administration. Common to all is the need to improve interaction, resources, and trust to ensure that wind power projects progress smoothly and acceptably.

(18.) The partners were also asked to indicate possible instruments or processes other than the ones mentioned that they think could contribute to addressing the problems (complexity, duration, lack

of transparency) and render more efficient administrative procedures in their territory in relation to wind power policies and projects.

All the responses shared a common goal of enhancing and streamlining administrative processes related to the development of wind power policies and projects. The partners suggest focussing on simplifying procedures, accelerating the processing of designated areas, developing digital tools, keeping guidelines up to date, clarifying legislation, and strengthening decision-making at the local level. All these measures aim to make administrative processes faster, more predictable, and less complex.

There is a consensus among partners on the need for improved stakeholder engagement, transparency, and efficiency in administrative procedures related to wind power projects. The suggested measures focus on simplifying and accelerating processes, enhancing communication, and leveraging digital tools to support local decision-making. All of this intends to facilitate a smoother and more effective development of wind energy initiatives.

3.2. Strategic planning

Strategic planning refers to processes of policy and regulatory design that adopt a long-term-view of policies. Strategic planning consists of mid- and long-term goals which are set in action in more short-term objectives. Dimensions of strategic planning regarding wind power include setting targets for energy production from wind energy, spatial planning (zoning, land uses), the particular content of financial incentives (e.g. feed-in tariffs), as well as the national regulatory framework on wind energy and renewable energy sources.

3.2.1. Involvement and responsibilities

(19.) The partners were asked what the role of their regional or local administration is in **determining aspects of spatial planning** (such as zoning, land uses) that are related to the deployment of wind power (or RES in general) in their territory. Majority of respondents (45%) view the role of their regional or local administration "important/central" in this matter. Additionally, 33% see the role as

"moderate," while 22% consider it "minimal/none." This indicates that regional and local administrations generally play a significant role in spatial planning for wind energy projects. The main responsibilities were described as:

- Regional land use plan with public hearing
- Advisory role including preliminary research into optimal locations for wind energy and draw up zoning plans with zoning in connection with wind energy
- Development of general rules indicating location restrictions and prohibitions in the regional spatial development plan
- Competence of the regional government in the territorial planning, drafting sectoral guidelines for the use of the wind power

(20.) When asked about the role of their regional or local administration in **determining targets on wind energy production**, 45% perceive the role of their regional or local administration in determining targets for wind energy production (or renewable energy sources in general) as "important/central." Another 33% consider this role to be "moderate," while 22% view it as "minimal/none." This suggests that regional and local administrations generally have a significant influence on setting renewable energy targets in their territories. The roles of the regional and local administrations were described as:

- The regional strategy which is created by the Regional Council, sets the guidelines and targets for wind energy development in the region.
- Drafting plans for targets on energy production.
- Developing regional development strategy which includes promotion of the RES.

(21.) We also wanted to know how the role of the regional and local administration in **implementing financial incentives** for the development of wind power (e.g. feed-in tariffs, price premiums, tax breaks) was seen. 78% of partners consider the role of their regional or local administration in

implementing financial incentives for wind power development to be "minimal/none." Only 11% view this role as "moderate," and another 11% see it as "important/central." This indicates that regional and local administrations generally have a limited role in providing financial incentives for wind power projects.

However, some measures or initiatives have been adopted in this area. Three partners were able to give examples of what has been done. These were:

- Financial community schemes offered over the lifetime of wind energy farms.
- Wind farms are totally commercial by private companies, and they do not receive any financial incentives from local, regional or national administration.
- Develop strategies, in which strategic goals related to RES are defined.

(22.) Further questions tried to find out if partners' regional / local administration is involved in any other area(s) of strategic planning. 56% of respondents indicate that their regional or local administration is involved in other areas of strategic planning, while 44% report no involvement in such activities. This suggests that over half of the administrations engage in strategic planning beyond the specific context of wind power or renewable energy.

Partners were asked to name or describe this strategic planning area. RCSO replied that regional administration, regional development, land use and transportation and internationalisation are part of strategic planning area. CARM answered that planning of the electricity transmission network and approval of the investment plans of the distribution companies in the Region. Additionally, environmental planning, rural development planning and urbanism planning. (FAEN).

When asked what the degree of involvement in this strategic planning area is, the data indicates that majority of respondents (80%) consider their involvement in strategic planning for wind energy to be important or central, reflecting a strong engagement in the planning process. Only 20% report a moderate level of involvement, and none report minimal or no involvement. This suggests that most stakeholders play a significant role in shaping wind energy strategies, highlighting the importance of active participation in decision-making processes related to renewable energy development.

Partners were asked to describe the role of their administration in this strategic planning area. NWRA replied that they provide a high-level development framework for the Northern and Western Region that supports the implementation of the National Planning Framework and the relevant economic policies and objectives of government. In addition, ZPR is responsible for the development programme implementation. Lastly FAEN added that the regional Government has managerial and planning competence in every area of development of the region. The targets are always aligned with national targets, set up by the national Government in every area.

(23.) Partners were also asked if their regional / local authority does participate in determining any strategic goal regarding RES and wind power, is there a specific strategic planning unit or informal group within your administration that deals with such issues. 56% indicates that their regional or local authority has a specific strategic planning unit or informal group within the administration that deals with issues related to RES and wind power. Conversely, 44% report that no such unit or group exists. This suggests that more than half of the administrations have dedicated resources for strategic planning in renewable energy.

For those who answered “No”, a follow-up question found out how necessary would partners consider the existence of such a strategic planning unit / group in their territory. 50% find it rather necessary, and 25% view it as greatly necessary, indicating that the majority see this as important for effective planning and coordination. Only 25% consider it slightly necessary, and no one believes it to be unnecessary. This reflects broad recognition of the value of a dedicated unit for overseeing strategic planning in wind energy projects.

The findings indicate a strong recognition of the significant roles that regional and local administrations play in the strategic planning of wind power initiatives. While many perceive a limited role in the implementation of financial incentives, there is a clear commitment to spatial planning and setting production targets. Also, the existence of dedicated strategic planning units is viewed as beneficial, with many partners acknowledging the need for such resources to enhance planning and coordination efforts in renewable energy development. In summary, these findings highlight a joint and proactive effort to navigate the challenges involved in developing wind power projects.

3.2.2. Planning instruments and practices

(24.) When asked does partner's regional / local authority employ a standardised process for the development of strategic plans for wind energy in your territory, 56% of respondents reported that their regional or local authority does not employ a standardised process for developing strategic plans for wind energy. On the other hand, 44% confirmed that they do have such a process in place.

For those who answered "Yes", they were asked to describe the process. RCSO replied that the process of wind energy strategic planning in regional authorities includes the Regional Council setting the Regional Land Use Plan, which goes through multiple stages and is continuously revised and updated. However, NWRA answered that guidelines are provided to assist planning authorities in the development of plans and handling applications for wind energy projects. ZPR added that the process includes the implementation of development programs with concrete actions focused on renewable energy sources (RES). Additionally, national and regional policies are integrated into local strategies and spatial or general development plans (MOSV).

(25.) Tools, like SWOT and PESTEL, help in understanding internal and external factors influencing wind energy projects. Planning tools enable authorities to anticipate future challenges and develop adaptable strategies. These tools enhance informed, proactive decision-making in RES planning. When asked if partners regional / local authority does utilize some type of premilitary assessment tools (e.g. SWOT or PESTEL analysis) or planning tools (e.g. forecasting scenarios) in designing a wind energy strategy, answers were evenly distributed. A minority of respondents, 44%, indicate that their regional or local authority utilises preliminary assessment tools or planning tools in designing a wind energy strategy. The majority, 56%, do not use such tools, suggesting that there is room for broader adoption of these strategic planning methodologies.

For those who answered "Yes", a follow-up question pleased to specify which tools have been used. Tools that have been used among partners are: Viewshed analysis, modelling tools on bird collisions, power grid analysis and habitat modelling (RCSO). Other tools that partners mentioned were SWOT analyses (ZPR) and forecasting scenarios (FAEN).

When asked how useful tools have been for developing a regional / local wind energy strategy or other related strategy documents, the results indicated that 75% of respondents found preliminary assessment tools (such as SWOT or PESTEL) to be useful in developing wind energy strategies at the

regional/local level. Specifically, 50% rated these tools as “very helpful”, and 25% found them “rather helpful”. Meanwhile, 25% expressed a neutral opinion, stating the tools were “neither helpful nor unhelpful”. Importantly, no respondents considered these tools to be unhelpful, suggesting that such methodologies are generally seen as beneficial for strategic planning in wind energy.

For those who answered “No”, a follow-up question found out how necessary partners consider such tools to be for the development of wind energy strategies. The results suggest that most respondents see preliminary assessment tools as necessary for developing wind energy strategies. 40% consider them “rather necessary”, and 20% (PFB) view them as greatly necessary. However, 20% are neutral, indicating that they find such tools “neither necessary nor unnecessary”. Only a small portion (20%) finds them “slightly necessary”, and no one considers them completely unnecessary. Overall, the data indicates a general recognition of the importance of these tools in strategic planning for wind energy.

(26.) When asked if partners regional / local authority conducted an assessment about the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts in your territory related to the implementation of the wind energy strategies and the development of wind energy projects, answers were evenly distributed. Most respondents, 56%, report that their regional or local authority has assessed the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts related to the implementation of wind energy strategies and the development of wind energy projects. Conversely, 44% indicate that no such assessment has been conducted. This reflects that while many authorities are considering the broader impacts of wind energy, a significant portion have yet to do so.

For those who answered “Yes”, were asked to describe briefly the process and the tools that were employed (e.g. biodiversity sensitive maps). RCSO replied that “the same regional land use planning process”, while NWRA answered “Environmental Impact Assessment”. ZPR also responded “data is taken from the previous planning documents and taken into consideration”. Partners were asked how useful the assessment has been, where 60% replied “very helpful” and other 40% answered “rather helpful”.

For those who answered “No” were asked how necessary you would consider such an impact assessment to be for the implementation of a regional / local wind energy strategy. 45% of

respondents replied consider it to be “rather necessary” while other 45% thought it to be “absolutely necessary”. The last 10% answered it to be “neither necessary nor unnecessary”.

The findings indicate a varied landscape in terms of standardised processes and the utilisation of planning tools for wind energy development. While a significant portion of regional and local authorities do not have standardised planning processes, there is a notable acknowledgment of the importance of employing tools like SWOT and PESTEL analyses.

The majority also recognize the necessity of conducting environmental and socio-economic impact assessments to ensure the sustainable development of wind energy projects. Overall, there appears to be a growing awareness of the need for effective planning instruments and practices to enhance the implementation and acceptance of wind energy initiatives.

3.2.3. General assessment questions

(27.) When asked if partners regional / local administration has prepared a coherent strategic plan that facilitates the development of wind energy projects in the following year, a slight majority of 56% replied “No” while 44% answered "Yes”.

For those who answered “No”, were asked how necessary do partners consider aforementioned elements of strategic planning (such as a dedicated administrative unit, specific targets for energy from RES, impact assessment) for the development of a wind energy strategy in territory. 40% of partners believe these elements are rather necessary, while 20% find them greatly necessary. Another 20% are neutral, seeing them as neither necessary nor unnecessary, and 20% think they are only slightly necessary. This indicates that, while the majority find these elements important, there is some variation in perceived necessity.

(28.) The ability of a region to effectively plan and implement strategies depends heavily on its internal organisational capacity. Organisational issues, such as lack of coordination, resource constraints, and fragmented decision-making, can significantly weaken strategic planning efforts. When asked how much of an impact do partners consider that organisational needs / issues / problems have on the territorial strategic planning capacity in the area of RES and wind energy, the majority of 45% answered “rather impactful while 22% replied “greatly impactful”. However, 22%

thought that it has “neither impactful, nor unimpactful”. Individual partner (ZPR) answered “slightly impactful”.

(29.) When asked to indicate possible instruments or processes that you think could strengthen strategic planning capabilities of partners regional / local authority in relation to wind power policies and projects in your territory, there were various different viewpoints. There were responses like “having a national / regional wind energy strategy” (PFB), “Research, stakeholder working groups and analyses” (ZPR) and “Financial instruments” (MOSV). Other answers were “Regional / local authority has no responsibility to formulate strategies and plans related to wind power policies and projects” (PFB), “Improvements in knowledge related to scientific gaps and updates in territorial studies and analysis” (FAEN) and finally RSCO replied “already in place”.

The general assessment reveals that a significant portion of regional and local administrations have yet to develop coherent strategic plans for wind energy projects, indicating a gap in planning efforts. While the necessity of strategic planning elements is acknowledged by some partners, opinions vary on their perceived importance. Additionally, organisational challenges are seen as impactful factors that can hinder effective planning, underscoring the need for improvements in coordination and resources. The recommendations for improving strategic planning capabilities highlight the diverse perspectives and potential pathways for enhancing wind energy policies and initiatives within the partners’ regions.

3.3. Enforcement, monitoring and evaluation processes

(30.) This category refers more narrowly to the issue of policy and project implementation, their oversight, documentation and assessment. Areas related to wind energy projects that typically constitute the focus of regional / local authorities include the compliance to environmental regulations and the timely completion of the permitting process.

When asked, does partners regional / local administration enforce regulation related to win power in an effective way, majority of respondents, 78%, as shown in the figure below, indicate that their

regional or local administration does not have the responsibility to enforce regulations related to wind power. Among those with this responsibility, 22% believe their administration enforces these regulations effectively. No respondents reported ineffective enforcement despite having the responsibility, suggesting that where enforcement responsibility exists, it is generally carried out effectively.

For those who answered "Yes", a follow-up question asked to mention tools and processes that are employed to ensure compliance, CARM replied "Authorisation procedures for electricity production facilities" while FAEN answered "Regional regulations related to wind power by sectorial guidelines".

For those who replied "No", they were asked to indicate the most important reason(s) for lack of enforcement. The majority of 43% replied "political considerations", 29% answered "inadequacy of legal / regulatory framework. Individual respondents (RCSO) thought that national legislation is the most important reason for lack of enforcement, while PFB replied "unauthorised". This suggests that political considerations and inadequacies in the legal or regulatory framework are the primary barriers to effective enforcement.

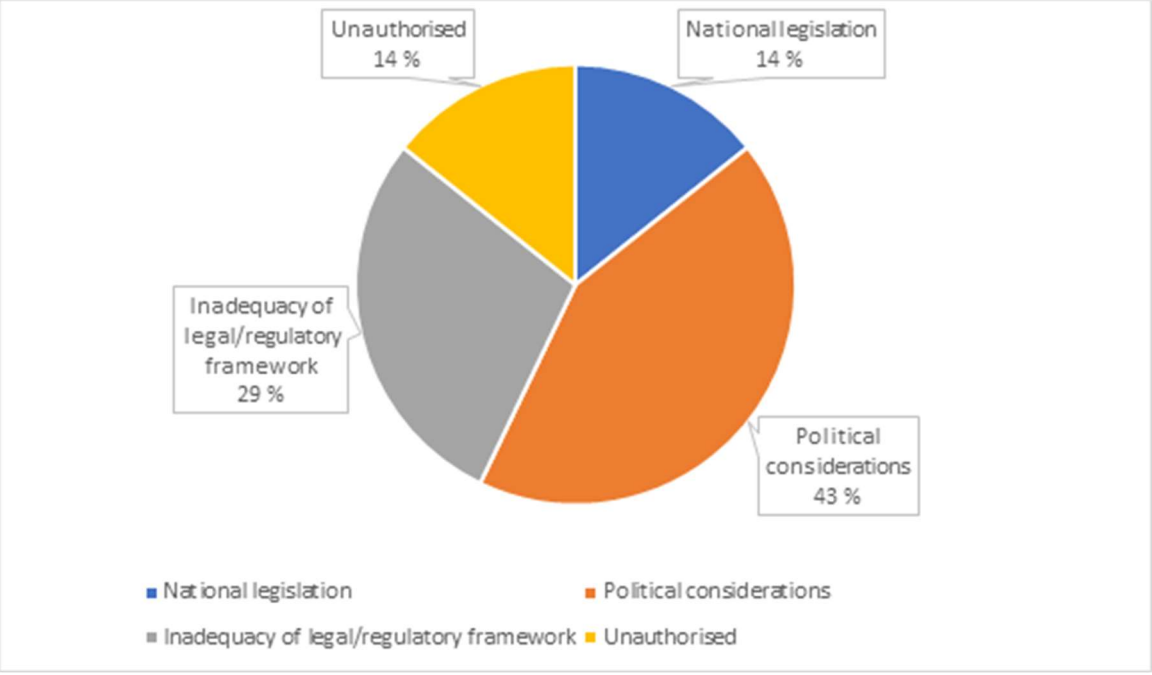

Figure 3. Does your regional / local administration enforce regulations related to wind power in an effective way?

3.3.1. Monitoring

(31.) Mechanisms within regional authorities for monitoring wind energy projects often involve establishing dedicated units or ensuring inter-departmental coordination. These mechanisms allow for structured processes that oversee policy implementation and project development. Partners were asked if regarding their regional authority, is there an established mechanism (e.g. a dedicated unit or coordination among different divisions) for monitoring the implementation of policies and the development of projects related to wind energy. The majority of 67% replied “No” while 33% answered "Yes”.

Partners that replied “Yes” were asked to answer a follow-up question related to briefly describe the mechanism and mention any related challenge (e.g. lack of sufficient data, lack of specialised personnel). FAEN replied “lack of specialised personnel” while ZPR answered “there are dedicated energy experts which are responsible for energy in general, it would be better to have wind energy experts”.

Partners were also asked to answer how effective and detailed do you think monitoring such policies in your region is responses were evenly distributed. 66% of respondents thought that monitoring such policies are either “greatly” or “rather necessary”. The last 33% thought that it is “neither necessary, nor unnecessary”.

For those who answered “No”, were asked how necessary do partners think monitoring is for the development of wind power projects and the implementation of relevant policies in territory. 33% consider monitoring to be greatly necessary, another 33% see it as rather necessary, and 33% are neutral, finding it neither necessary nor unnecessary. None of the respondents believe that monitoring is unnecessary. This suggests a broad consensus on the importance of monitoring, though some partners may see it as more critical than others.

(32.) Authorities that are monitoring spatial planning are responsible for managing land use, zoning laws, and ensuring that developments, such as wind energy projects, align with local regulations and community needs. Partners were asked regarding spatial planning (zoning, land uses) which government level has primary responsibility for monitoring. A higher portion of 45% replied regional government to be responsible for spatial planning while 33% answered central government. The last

22%, PFB and ZPR, answered that the monitoring of spatial planning is done about equally between government levels.

A follow-up question trying to find out what exactly is partners regional / local administration's role in relation to spatial monitoring. RSCO replied that the Regional Council monitors the implementation of municipal zoning / land use plans. and thus, follows how the regional land use plan is being implemented. Other answers from partners were "advisory and supervisory role to local authorities", "responsible for spatial planning and monitoring" and "The Regional Assembly operates only at the planning stage of development". The common factor in these responses is that they all pertain to the roles and responsibilities of regional administrative bodies in land use planning and implementation, but they describe varying levels of responsibility and involvement.

(33.) The responsibility for monitoring the impact and results of wind energy or renewable energy sources (RES) policies at the regional level can be on territorial (regional/local) authorities and/or central government. When asked which government levels is responsible for monitoring the impact and results of wind energy (or RES in general) policies at the regional level, the majority of 56% answered that central government is primarily responsible for monitoring, while 22% announced regional government instead to be responsible. Individual partners (11%) responded, "about equally" (ZPR) or "none / non applicable" (PFB).

Partners were asked to describe in brief what processes and tools their government uses for monitoring the implementation of wind energy targets. CDDA replied to regulation amendments to be part of processes used for monitoring, while RCSO answered that the central government monitors the overall development of wind energy. However, according to ZPR providing data from developers as well data gathered from the administration is the process of governments monitoring.

(34.) When it comes to monitoring the environmental impact of wind power policies and projects, responsibility is typically shared between territorial (regional/local) and central (national) authorities, though the primary responsibility often lies with territorial authorities. Question 34 asked about regarding the environmental impact of territorial wind power policies / projects which government level has the primary responsibility for monitoring. A higher portion of 67% replied that central government has the primary responsibility for monitoring, while 22% answered that regional

government plays a bigger part. Individual respondent (11%) indicated that there are none / non applicable.

Partners were asked to describe in brief what processes and tools their regional / local administration uses for monitoring the environmental impact of wind energy policies / projects. PFB replied “adjusting environmental impact assessments”, while CDDA answered “managing different databases”. However, RWG responded that “consultation during the process of the environmental approval” is used for monitoring the environmental impact of energy policies / projects.

(35.) Regarding permitting and administrative processes related to wind power projects, the level of government primarily responsible for monitoring can vary depending on the country's governance structure. However, in general it is divided into territorial (regional / local) authorities and central (national) authorities. When asked regarding permitting / administrative processes related to wind power projects, which government level has the primary responsibility for monitoring, the majority of 67% responded primarily central government. 22% of partners (CARM & FAEN) answered primarily regional government to be responsible for monitoring. The remaining 22% (ZPR & MOSV) replied that monitoring is done about equally between governments.

Partners were asked to describe in brief what processes and tools their regional / local administration uses for monitoring the permitting and / or administrative procedure of wind energy projects. FAEN responded “primarily regional government when power capacity is up to 50MW. However, if the projects are bigger, the responsibility is primarily central government”. In addition, CARM answered “authorization procedures for electricity production facilities”. ZPR also added that “research and monitoring data” are used as processes and tools for monitoring.

The assessment highlights that while a significant number of regional and local administrations do not have enforcement responsibilities regarding wind power regulations, those that do report effective implementation. Monitoring mechanisms appear to be lacking in many areas, raising concerns about oversight and implementation effectiveness. The necessity of monitoring for the development of wind energy projects is recognised by all parties, indicating a potential area for improvement in organisational capacity and coordination among government levels. The division of responsibilities for monitoring various aspects of wind energy policy underscores the need for

clearer frameworks and enhanced collaboration to effectively manage and oversee wind energy initiatives.

3.3.2. Evaluation

(36.) The responsibility of evaluating the implementation of territorial policies related to Renewable Energy Sources (RES) development, particularly wind power, typically depends on the governance structure of the country. However, in general, the responsibility is often shared between central and territorial (local or regional) authorities, with specific roles varying across different jurisdictions. When asked if the responsibility of evaluating the implementation of territorial policies related to RES development and particularly wind power at the territorial level primarily lie with the central or the territorial authorities, the majority of 56% responded primarily central government to be mainly responsible. 22% told regional government to be mainly responsible for evaluating the implementation of territorial policies, while the last 22% replied “about equally”.

(37.) Partners were asked regarding their regional / local administration, if there is an established mechanism (a dedicated unit or coordination among different divisions) for evaluating the implementation of territorial policies and initiatives related to wind power. A higher portion of 78% replied “No” while another group of 22% answered “Yes”. This result highlights the importance of having structured systems for evaluating wind power policies to ensure successful project implementation and alignment with broader energy and environmental goals.

For those who answered “Yes”, follow-up question asks to indicate which areas are evaluated. NWRA replied to spatial planning / land uses, while ZPR also answered spatial planning / land uses but also environmental impact and administrative processes. The focus on these three areas indicates that local/regional administrations are prioritizing key elements that ensure both the feasibility and sustainability of wind power projects.

In addition, partners who answered “Yes” were asked to describe in brief the process, tools or methodology that their regional / local administration uses in order to assess the attainment of policy objectives and their impact. NWRA replied “as part of the review of the RSES strategic and economic development within their region, NWRA will review the policy and economic impact”. On

the other hand, ZPR answered “data, planning documents and research analysis previously madden observation of the related activities and projects.

Next these partners were asked to indicate if policy evaluation includes parameters other than outcomes and impact. ZPR replied “adequacy of national policies”, while NWRA answered "economic benefit and economic drivers”. When asked overall, how effective and detailed do these partners think evaluating such policies in their region is, both replied “rather effective”.

Lastly these two partners were asked if the evaluation carried out by regional authorities (e.g. identification of barriers) led to amendments in policies or regulations regarding RES projects, responses were evenly distributed 50-50, yes and no.

All partners were asked how necessary their think policy evaluation do is for the development of wind energy in your territory. Overall, policy evaluation is important for the development of wind energy among partners territories with 38% viewing it as "greatly necessary" and 25% as "rather necessary." Additionally, 25% see it as "neither necessary, nor unnecessary," while a small portion, 12%, believe it is only "slightly necessary."

The evaluation of territorial policies related to Renewable Energy Sources, especially wind power, reveals significant insights into the governance structures and practices in various legal frameworks. While a majority recognise the central government’s primary role, there is also acknowledgment of regional responsibilities. However, the lack of established evaluation mechanisms in most regions raises concerns about the effectiveness of policy implementation and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. The evaluation processes that do exist tend to focus on critical areas such as spatial planning and environmental impact, which are essential for ensuring the sustainability of wind energy projects.

The mixed responses regarding the influence of assessments on policy changes indicate a need for more effective communication and integration of evaluation findings into policy-making. Overall, while there is a strong recognition of the importance of policy evaluation, enhancing the structures and processes surrounding it could significantly promote the development of wind energy initiatives in various territories.

3.3.3. General assessment questions

(38.) The first general assessment question was, if partners identify organisational needs / issues / problems other than those identified above that influence the capacity of partners regional / local authority to monitor and evaluate wind energy policies and projects in territory. As shown in the figure below, the majority of 75% replied that there are no needs / issues / problems identified. The 25% (CDDA & ZPR) who identified needs answered the following issues: municipalities should take a bigger role in determination of the law requirements and the practice should be developed.

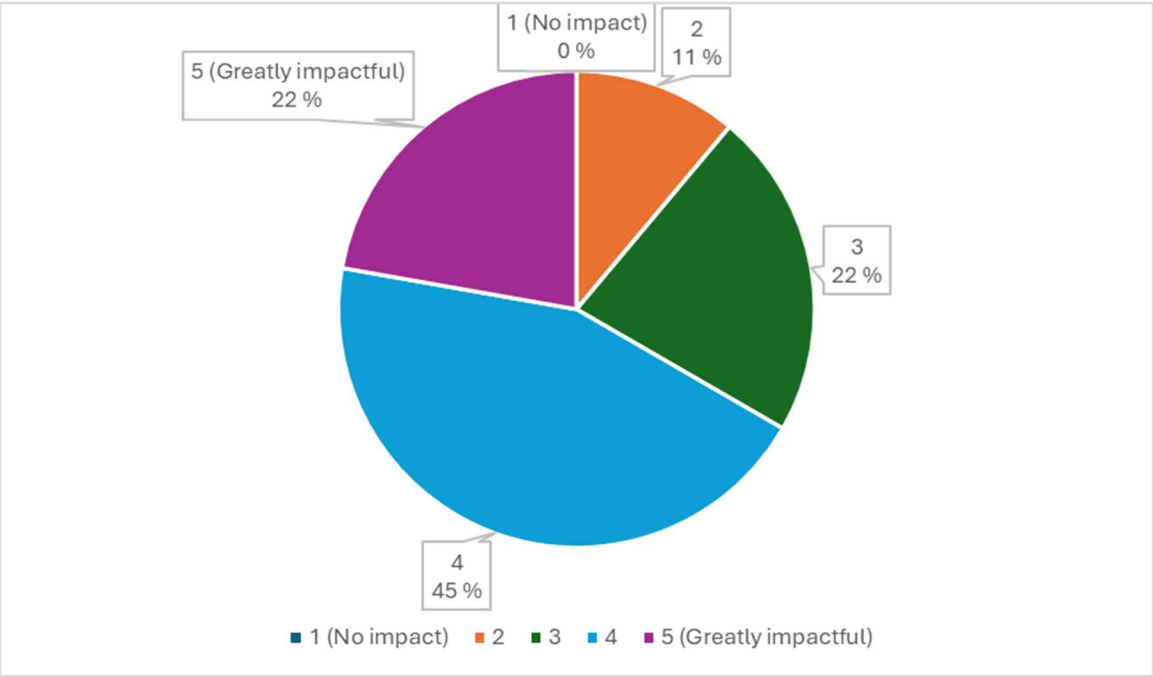

Figure 4. How much of an impact do organisational needs, issues or problems have on the successful monitoring and evaluation of policies related to wind power in your territory.

(39.) Partners were asked how much of an overall impact do the organisational need / issues / problems have on the successful monitoring and evaluation of policies related to wind power in their territory. Most of the respondents (45%) thought that they are “neither impactful nor unimpactful”. The next biggest group (33%) answered “rather impactful” and 11% greatly impactful. However, also

11% thought that needs / issues / problems are “slightly impactful” on the successful monitoring and evaluation.

(40.) When asked to indicate possible measures and instruments relevant to the implementation of wind energy policies that you think could upgrade the monitoring and evaluation capacities of regional / local authority, PFB replied to have a strategic vision on the topic. In addition, CDDA answered that wind energy should be accepted and given the opportunity to raise the necessary funds. Also, more skilled personnel (FAEN) and databases (MOSV) were mentioned as a measure and instrument. However, 3 partners answered that there are no possible measures or instruments.

The assessment of organisational needs related to the monitoring and evaluation of wind energy policies reveals a general consensus among partners that significant issues are not typical. A majority feel that organisational problems do not significantly affect their ability to monitor and evaluate policies. However, the recognition from a minority regarding the need for municipalities to play a larger role indicates areas for potential improvement.

The contrasting views of the impact of organisational issues highlight the demand for a comprehensive insight of how these factors can influence monitoring and evaluation. Furthermore, suggestions for enhancing capacities, such as developing a strategic vision, ensuring funding opportunities, improving personnel skills, and creating databases, offer valuable opportunities for strengthening the overall effectiveness of wind energy policy implementation. Addressing these areas could significantly improve the monitoring and evaluation framework for wind energy initiatives.

3.4. Stakeholders’ engagement

The deployment of consultation mechanisms and the engagement with stakeholders during the development and implementation of wind energy projects are critical for building consensus and mitigating public opposition to such projects.

(41.) Regarding wind energy projects, policy monitoring on behalf of regional administration could include areas such as the degree of attainment of RES targets, the compliance of wind power developers to environmental regulations, grid code compliance, the timely issuing of permits, the adequate enforcement of social consultation process, etc. When asked, if partners regional / local administration have in place a consultation mechanism with societal actors and groups relevant to the development wind farms, a greater proportion of 89% responded “Yes” and 11% “No”.

For those who answered “Yes”, the follow-up question clarified partners to describe how this consultation process takes place, which got various number of responses. The way this process takes place are public hearings (RCSO), meeting with involved stakeholders and strategic involving stakeholders for spatial delineation of wind energy (ZPR) and consultation with the local authorities (RWG).

The next question finds out if partners regional / local authority has employed particular public consultation processes or experts in public engagement. The majority of 75% answered “Yes” and 25% “No”. Partners whose regions haven't employed public consultation or experts in public engagement were NWRA and FAEN.

The next step was to identify in what particular stage(s) of a wind power project this public consultation takes place. Partners were pleased to select all relevant answers. Most votes were cast for zoning / land use and environmental impact assessments, where both received 36% of the votes. Both “wind energy targets” and” financial incentives” got 14% of votes (ZPR & MOSV).

When asked how important do partners think that this consultation is for the development of a wind power project, the majority of 75% answers replied, “greatly important”, while remaining 25% think it to be “rather important”.

For those who answered “No” to question 41, the follow-up question aims to find out how necessary partners think consultations with stakeholders are for the uninhibited development of wind power projects. The majority of 67% thinks that consultation with stakeholders is absolutely necessary, while individual respondents answered, “rather necessary”, “neither necessary or unnecessary” and “rather necessary”.

In addition, partners were pleased to indicate possible reasons for lack of consultation mechanism. As shown in the Figure 5, the most voted reason was lack of consultation mechanism / tools by 25% of votes, while lack of regional regulation, political will and personnel tied with 17% of the vote each. Also lack of national law / regulation received individual vote of 8%. However, 17% replied that they already have the mechanism. These responses indicate that the absence of consultation mechanisms and tools is the most cited reason, followed by a lack of personnel, political will, and regional regulation.

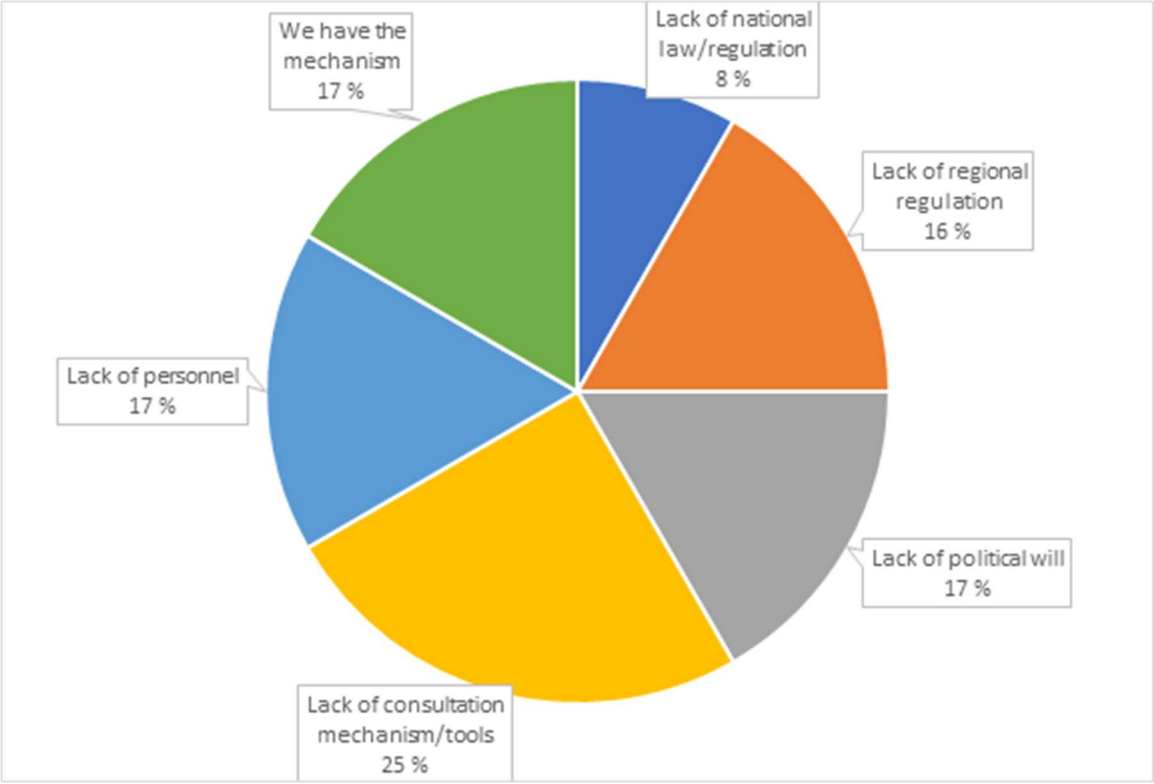

Figure 5. Possible reasons for the lack consultation mechanisms with societal actors and groups relevant to the development of wind farms.

(42.) The availability of a Regional Ombudsman, or an equivalent body, makes possible for the citizens of a region to voice their complaints on issues related to wind energy projects and the effective cooperation of the regional government with such an independent body is moreover of particular relevance and importance. When asked if it is possible for citizens of partners regions to voice their concerns on issues related to wind energy projects to a Regional Ombudsman or other

equivalent authority or established procedures, the majority of 89% answered “Yes”. This suggests that most regions have mechanisms in place for public engagement and addressing concerns related to wind energy projects.

When asked if there is regular / effective cooperation between the Regional Ombudsman (or other equivalent authority or established procedure) and the regional / local authorities on projects related to wind energy, responses were evenly distributed. The small majority of 56% answered “No” and the rest voted “Yes”. This suggests that while some regions have established effective collaborative mechanisms, many do not have regular or effective cooperation in place.

(43.) When asked how much of an impact do organisational needs / issues / problems have on stakeholders’ engagement in wind power projects in partners territory, the majority of 56% responded either greatly or rather impactful. However, 22% answered it to be neither impactful, nor unimpactful. Finally individual respondents noted it to be either slightly impactful or no impact at all.

(44.) Engaging local communities, landowners, and other stakeholders fosters transparency and trust, reducing the likelihood of public opposition, making it important to find ways to improve stakeholder engagement on projects. When asked to indicate possible tools or processes that partners think could strengthen stakeholder engagement and acceptance for wind power policies and projects in their territories, there was a wide range of good answers. PFB responded that it to be important to have a clear vision of the topic and a strategic plan, while ZPR sees transparency to be an important tool. In addition, CDDA notes joint consultation and clear communication to be part of improving stakeholder engagement. However, RCSO states that the process already engages stakeholders and increases acceptance.

The engagement of stakeholders through consultation mechanisms is largely acknowledged as a critical element in the development of wind energy projects. While most partners report having established mechanisms for public consultation, there are significant opportunities for enhancing these processes. Key areas include improving transparency, fostering effective collaboration between regional authorities and independent bodies, and addressing organisational issues that may hinder stakeholder engagement.

The positive responses regarding the presence of a Regional Ombudsman indicate that mechanisms for addressing citizen concerns are generally in place, although the effectiveness of collaboration between these bodies and local authorities can be improved. By focusing on strengthening these engagement strategies, regions can better align wind energy projects with community interests, thereby increasing public acceptance and reducing opposition.

3.5. Resource availability

The administrative capacity of territorial authorities is directly related to budgetary sufficiency. In relation to wind power projects / policies this could have a positive effect towards goals such as diminishing the duration of the administrative process, improving strategic planning and increasing the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluating.

(45.) Regional or local administrations can face several problems in managing and governing wind energy projects due to budgetary or financial difficulties. Such problems may include, for example, delayed projects implementation or limited staffing and expertise. When asked, if partners regional / local administration face considerable difficulties in the management and governance of wind energy due to budgetary / financial problems, responses were evenly distributed. 56% of answerers replied “Yes” and 44% of respondents say this does not happen in their region.

For those who answered yes, a follow-up question clarified, how important do partners think these problems are for developing wind power and implementing related policies in their territory. 100% of answers kept these budgetary / financial problems either rather or greatly important. This suggests that financial constraints are widely recognized as significant barriers to the successful advancement of wind energy initiatives in the region.

The second follow-up question asked to indicate in which particular stage / component of wind energy policies and projects this problem is most critical, where 5 respondents got to choose all the options, they were thinking are critical. Environmental impact assessment, policy monitoring / evaluation and administrative processes got all 3 votes while financial incentives and strategic

planning got 2. This indicates that financial difficulties broadly affect various key components of wind energy development, from regulatory and procedural tasks to financial and strategic elements.

(46.) The accountability and commitment of central government is measured by supporting sustainable development in the regions with financial resources. When asked if the central government of partners country ensure that task delegated to their regional authority regarding environmental policies and RES development are adequately funded, responses were evenly distributed. A slight majority of 56% answered “No” and 44% “Yes”. This suggests a slight majority perceive a funding gap, indicating potential challenges in the implementation of environmental and RES initiatives at the regional level.

(47.) Regional or local administrations can generate financial resources through self-initiated measures, such as regional taxes or dedicated green taxes, to promote the development of wind power or renewable energy sources within their territories. When asked whether this practice applies to partners regions, only 11% replied “Yes” (MOSV). MOSV specified that such a practice includes fees for economic use of the environment which affects a municipal fund for environmental protection and water management. The remaining 89% of partners replied that there is no such practice in their regions.

For those who answered “No”, they were asked to response how necessary they think such regional fund-raising instruments are for the development of wind power projects in their territory. Responses were very evenly distributed. The largest portion (37%) viewing such instruments as neither necessary nor unnecessary. However, a combined 26% consider them at least somewhat necessary (with 13% finding them "rather necessary" and 13% "greatly necessary"), while 37% lean towards the instruments being unnecessary (25% "not necessary" and 12% "slightly necessary").

(48.) Partners were questioned if their region has secured funding from EU sources in order to finance funding opportunities for promoting wind power in their territory. Answers were evenly distributed where RWG, ZPR and MOSV replayed “Yes, considerably”, RSCO, PFB and NWRA “Yes, though minimally”. Finally, CDDA, CARM and FAEN answered “No”.

When asked if partners regions have a mechanism or a dedicated unit that systematically explores funding opportunities related to wind energy / RES, most of respondents (67%) answered “No”. suggesting that most regions may not be proactively seeking or organizing funding opportunities for

renewable energy initiatives. The data indicates that only 33% of regions (including PFB, ZPR & MOSV) have a mechanism or dedicated unit that systematically explores funding opportunities related to wind energy or renewable energy sources (RES).

For those who answered “No”, a follow-up question asked whether how necessary they think that such a unit dedicated to identifying funding opportunities would be promoting wind power in partners territory. Responses were divided into three categories; 50% on “Neither necessary, nor unnecessary”, 33% in turn responded, “no necessary” and finally 17% responded "greatly necessary”. The data indicates a divided perspective on the necessity of a dedicated unit for identifying funding opportunities to promote wind power.

(49.) When asked if partners regional / local authority have in place procedures or tools for the more efficient use of available financial resources, a larger part of 89% answered “No”. This suggests that the majority of these authorities may lack strategies or mechanisms to optimize their financial management. A single answer of “Yes” by PFB included multi-annual financial planning / schedule in their region.

The answers reveal a concerning landscape for the financial management of wind energy projects among regional and local authorities. A significant number of respondents find that financial constraints hinder successful development of wind power initiatives, impacting key stages of project implementation. While there is some recognition of the need for better funding mechanisms, majority of partners do not actively pursue regional funding opportunities or possess the necessary tools for efficient financial management. Strengthening financial capacity and exploring funding avenues will be essential for advancing wind energy projects and achieving sustainability goals in the regions.

3.6. Sufficiency of personnel and workforce skills

(50.) The ability of regional authorities to hire specialised personnel and conduct training and reskilling programs in their jurisdictions is important for the improvement of their capacity to implement and manage wind energy projects. Depending on the administrative resources and the

experience and expertise of the personnel, strategic planning can involve the utilisation of various well-known tools or even more sophisticated approaches and techniques. When asked does partners regional/local administration face lack of (administrative or scientific) personnel that have expertise on renewable energy procedures and policies, majority of 78% answered “Yes”, while 22 % (RCSO & CDDA) noticed that they don’t face these challenges.

Those who answered yes, were also asked to indicate the specific areas or procedures that are impacted by the lack of personnel. As the Figure below shows, all the preselected reasons pay a role in this.

Figure 6. Specific areas or procedures that are impacted by the lack of specialised (or not) personnel.

For those who answered yes, they were also sked to rate how important do you think this is for developing wind power and implementing related policies in your territory. The majority of 76% answered it to be either “rather important” or “greatly important”, which communicates importance of personnel with expertise on renewable energy procedures and policies on developing wind power and implementing related policies. However, 14% (ZPR) answer it to be “neither important, nor unimportant”.

(51.) Budgetary sufficiency could, indicatively, have a positive effect towards the goal of diminishing the duration of the administrative process, improve the level of monitoring and evaluating processes, enable the organizing of workforce training and reskilling programs on behalf of regional authorities. When asked if there is available training, reskilling and/or "peer learning" programs on issues related to RES and wind power, the majority of 56% answered "No" and 44% "Yes". This indicates that while some regions provide these educational opportunities, there is a significant gap in training and development programs in many areas.

For those who answered no, they were asked to indicate all relevant reasons for lack of available training, reskilling and "peer learning" programs. The main reasons for deficiency were lack of experts (RWG), the strict legislation (CDDA) and limited number of wind power projects (CARM). In addition, lack of financial resources (NWRA) and work overload (FAEN) were mentioned as relevant reasons for the challenge.

(52.) Various regional and local authorities across Europe deal with "limitations in the personnel and their know-how to deal with renewable energy procedures", whereas regional labour markets face lack of sufficiently large or adequately skilled workforce of RES installers and technicians. When indicating possible measures and instruments that could address challenges related to the lack of specialized personnel skills among partners' regions, there was a wide range of suggestions. RSCO proposed that increasing wages and study possibilities with increased student intake numbers would be answer to the challenge. FAEN added that the launch of training, reskilling and/or "peer learning" programs on issues related to RES and wind power in particular for administrators, scientific personnel and technicians. Also training seminars addressed to involved personnel (RWG) and GIS tools (ZPR) were mentioned as a response to the challenge of lack of specialised personnel skills.

There is an urgent need for specialised personnel within regional and local authorities to effectively manage and implement wind energy projects. The majority of partners recognise the importance of skilled personnel but face significant challenges due to a lack of training programs and financial resources. Implementing targeted training, enhancing wage structures, and establishing educational opportunities will be crucial steps in building the workforce needed to support the growth of wind

energy in the regions. Addressing these gaps will not only improve administrative capacity but also ensure the successful development and management of renewable energy initiatives.

3.7. Concluding questions

(53.) This section includes concluding questions which summarise all the previous questions by considering the future prospects of each partner region's wind power policies and regional/ local authorities. When asked about on what degree partners think that their regional/local authority can achieve their policy objectives regarding the development and governance of wind power in their territory, majority of 45% answered “average degree” and 22% thought of “limited degree”. Individual responses were evenly distributed among the other responses; 11% (PFB) on “very low degree”, 11% (FAEN) on “considerable degree” and final 11% (RCSO) on “large degree”. This indicates a strong confidence in the regional/local authority's capacity to meet its wind power development and governance goals.

(54.) Discussed organisational needs, it is highly relevant for regional authorities when dealing with wind power policies and projects. When asked about ranking organisational needs of partners regional / local authority in relation to wind power policies and projects, strategic planning was identified as the most important quality by 45%. The next most important organisational need was considered to be administrative procedures by 22%. Small groups of 11% responded rest of need to be the most important; personnel and workforce skills (RWG), resource / budget (MOSV) and Stakeholders’ engagement (FAEN) are viewed as equally important but less critical compared to the top two categories.

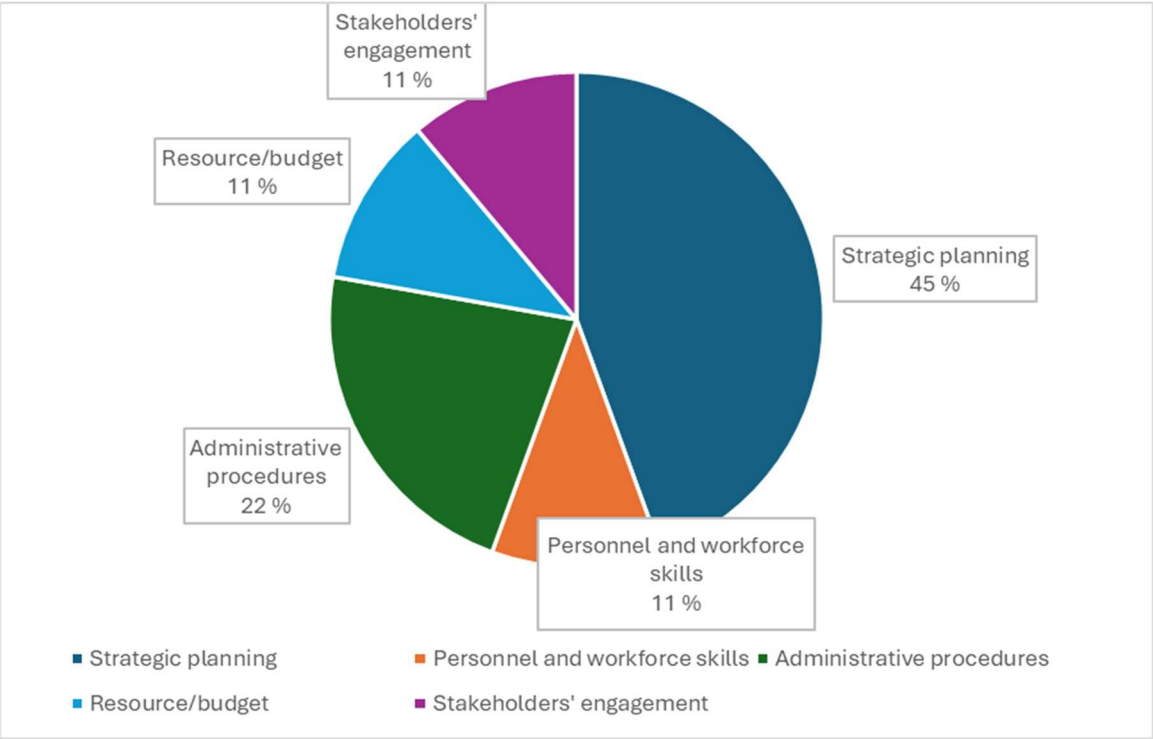

Figure 7. Organisational needs of your regional / local authority, from the most to least important.

(55.) When asked to indicate examples of good practices that not was mentioned above this survey, partners mentioned various viewpoints that are relevant for pertaining to the design, implementation and monitoring of wind strategies and plans. Answers included participative model in wind farm permitting process, regional land use plan process and studies on health impacts of wind energy which was given by RSCO. In addition, ZPR stressed the importance of stakeholders' engagement and communication as a part of good practices. Lastly MOSV noticed that commencement of research and search for ways of utilization / recycling of used turbines, as an opposing argument for social denial to the development of this technology.

The information collected from the concluding questions provides a view of the current situation and future prospects of wind power policies across partner regions. While there is confidence in regional and local authorities' capabilities to meet their wind power objectives, significant challenges remain, particularly concerning organisational needs and the development of effective practices.

Strategic planning and administrative processes have a critical importance, alongside the necessity of engaging stakeholders throughout the policy and project lifecycle. The sharing of good practices

highlights innovative approaches that can enhance the effectiveness of wind power initiatives and create broader acceptance among local communities. Addressing the organisational needs and implementing the suggested good practices will be crucial in bringing out the whole potential of wind energy in the regions.

4. Discussion of the main findings

The aim of Activity A1.4 was to map the management capacities and needs of territorial authorities for effective wind energy policy implementation. This paper analyses the data collected from a questionnaire completed by nine BIOWIND project partners.

The data highlights significant barriers to wind energy projects, including long and complex procedures, though efforts to streamline processes are underway. Territorial authorities generally demonstrate good management capacities, with clear coordination across government levels. However, challenges remain, particularly in transparency, online information availability, and the visibility of selection criteria, which are crucial for building trust.

Regional and local administrations play limited roles in financial incentives but are more involved in spatial planning and setting production targets. Dedicated planning units are considered beneficial for improving coordination. While strategic planning is acknowledged as important, organisational challenges—such as a lack of resources and coordination—hinder progress.

Stakeholder engagement was another focus of the A1.4 survey. While consultation mechanisms exist, opportunities for improvement remain, especially in fostering collaboration and addressing organisational barriers. The presence of Regional Ombudsmen helps address citizen concerns, though more active community participation, education, and conflict resolution are needed.

There is an urgent need for specialised personnel within regional and local authorities. Although partners recognise the importance of skilled personnel, training programs and financial resources are lacking, which hampers the workforce necessary for wind energy development.

In conclusion, **strategic planning, transparency, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building** are essential to overcoming current challenges and improving wind energy policy implementation. **Enhanced cooperation, communication, digital tools, and education, along with expanding the pool of specialised personnel**, are critical steps toward promoting wind energy and achieving the EU's sustainability goals.

Annex I: Questionnaire (data collection tool)

Questionnaire for BIOWIND Activity (A 1.4)

	Contact information	
	Name and surname of the person filling the questionnaire:	Click here to enter text.
	Affiliation (partner organisation):	Click here to enter text.
	Contact email:	Click here to enter text.
IDENTIFYING ORGANISATIONAL NEEDS AND CAPACITIES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REGARDIND WIND POWER IN BIOWIND TERRITORIES		
A. Complexity, transparency and duration of administrative procedures		
1.	**Among the various administrative/permitting procedures relevant for developing a wind project, in which ones is your organisation involved, at least to a moderate level? Please <u>select all relevant answers</u>.**	
	Project feasibility approval	☐
	Environmental impact assessment approval	☐
	Grid connection offer	☐
	Construction/installation permit	☐
	Operation license	☐
	Other (please specify)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Number and duration of administrative procedures		
2	**Do you consider the number of administrative processes or steps required for the development of wind power projects in your territory to be:**	
	Relatively low	☐
	Appropriate	☐
	Unnecessarily high	☐

3	**Do you consider the administrative procedure for the implementation of a wind energy project to be excessively lengthy?**	
	YES ☐ NO ☐	
4	**Has your regional or national administration adopted measures in order to simplify/streamline the administrative procedures?**	
	YES ☐ NO ☐	
a	**If YES, please indicate (select all relevant answers).**	
	"One-stop shop" or similar measures	☐
	Online application system	☐
	Reduction of number of permits	☐
	Other (please specify)	Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If YES, have these measures been overall effective in shortening the time required of administrative procedures?**	
	YES ☐ NO ☐	
c.	**If NO, how necessary do you think the adoption of similar measures is?** ***(Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'Slightly' and 5 is 'Greatly')***	
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	
5	**Overall, how significant are improvements in the number and duration of administrative procedures for the development of wind power projects in your territory?**	
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	
Transparency of administrative procedures		
6	**Are all requirements (e.g. character & number of permits) and steps of the administrative procedures regarding wind energy projects clearly defined?**	
	YES ☐ NO ☐	
7	**Regarding the selection process of submitted proposals for wind farms, is there a concrete list of selection criteria visible to all prospective investors and other stakeholders?**	
	YES ☐ NO ☐	
8	**Is all relevant information regarding the administrative procedure available online (e.g. description of steps, list of required documents, FAQ section)?**	

	YES ☐ NO ☐	
a	**Is there an online application system for wind power projects?**	
	YES ☐ NO ☐	
9	**Overall, how important do you think the transparency of procedures, rules and criteria is for the development of wind power projects in your territory?**	
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	
Coordination and clarity of roles		
10	**Regarding the administrative units from all levels of government (national, regional, local) that are involved in administrative procedures relevant for developing a wind project, do you consider that they:**	
	Have clearly defined roles and responsibilities	☐
	Do not have clear roles/ there is a significant number of overlapping responsibilities	☐
a	**Are there in place organisational charts that clearly define interrelated and complementary responsibilities among involved units and authorities?**	
	YES ☐ NO ☐	
b	**Is there a maximum time limit within which these administrative units have to conclude the procedures (i.e. the legal and formal deadline that cannot be exceeded)?**	
	Yes, in most procedures	☐
	Yes, in a few procedures	☐
	No	☐
c	**Please name processes or instruments that exist in your territory other than those suggested in (a) and (b) aimed at clarifying and demarcating the roles among various administrative units.**	
	Click or tap here to enter text.	
c1	**In case such processes exist, how effective do you consider them to be in clarifying administrative roles regarding wind power policies and instruments?**	
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	

d	**If NO to (a), (b) or (c), how necessary do you think that such processes are for the implementation of wind power policies and projects in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
11	**Overall, do you consider that there exist coordination problems among the various involved administrative units (at all levels of government) regarding the development of wind power projects in your region?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, could you provide some examples?**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If YES, how important do you consider these issues to be in terms of slowing down the deployment rate of wind farms in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
12	**Are there in place formal procedures or a specifically mandated body that ensure(s) coordination among different departments or divisions of your regional/local administration?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please describe in brief what this body or procedure entails (e.g. who are involved, what does it do, etc).**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If YES, please indicate how effective do you think it is/they are?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
c	**If NO, how necessary do you think such procedures/bodies are for the implementation of wind energy strategies and the development of wind energy projects?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
13	**Are there in place formal procedures or a specifically mandated body that ensure(s) coordination between your regional administration and authorities from other levels of government (e.g. ministries, the Audit Office, other national authorities, municipalities, other regions), regarding the implementation of wind energy policies and projects?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please specify the authority/authorities involved in this coordinating body/procedure and provide some details on the body/procedure.**

	Click or tap here to enter text.				
b	**If YES, please indicate how effective do you think it is/they are?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
c	**If NO, how necessary do you think it is/they are?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
14	**Are there in place informal or *ad hoc* coordinating mechanisms among authorities from various government levels (local, regional, national)?**				
	YES ☐			NO ☐	
a	**If YES, please specify which levels of administration they involve.**				
	Click or tap here to enter text.				
b	**If YES, please indicate how effective do you think they are overall?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
c	**If NO, how necessary do you think such mechanisms are?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
15	**Regarding regulatory coordination, <u>select the one reply that applies best to your case:</u>**				
	National laws primarily regulate wind energy issues and, in general, address them adequately.			☐	
	National laws primarily regulate wind energy issues and, in general, create barriers for effective implementation of related policies and the development of wind power projects in your territory.			☐	
	Regions also enact regulations related to wind energy in a way that complements effectively national laws.			☐	
	Regions also enact regulations related to wind energy, but considerable problems of synchronization and tuning with national laws persist.			☐	
a	**Is there a consultation between national and regional authorities during the drafting of laws and/or regulations relevant to RES and wind energy in particular?**				
	YES ☐			NO ☐	
b	**If YES, how effectively does this consultation promote regulatory coordination?**				

	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
c	**If NO, how necessary do you consider that to be for the implementation of wind energy policies and the development of wind power projects in your territory?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
16	**Overall, how important do you think that issues related to the coordination and clarity of roles of administrative units are for the development of wind power projects in your territory?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
General assessment questions					
17	**Do you identify <u>other organisational needs/issues/problems</u> that influence the capacity of your regional/local authority regarding the administrative procedures of wind power policies and projects? If yes, please specify:**				
	Click or tap here to enter text.				
18	**Please indicate possible instruments or processes other than the ones mentioned that you think could contribute in addressing the aforementioned problems (complexity, duration, lack of transparency) and render more efficient the administrative procedures in your territory in relation to wind power policies and projects.**				
	Click or tap here to enter text.				
B. Strategic planning					
Involvement and responsibilities					
19	**What is the role of your regional/local administration in determining aspects of <u>spatial planning</u> (such as zoning, land uses) that are related to the deployment of wind power (or RES in general) projects in your territory?**				
	Minimal/none ☐		Moderate ☐		Important/central ☐
a	**Please describe in brief what are the main responsibilities in this area (if applicable)**				
	Click or tap here to enter text.				
20	**What is the role of your regional/local administration in <u>determining targets on wind energy production</u> (or RES in general) in your territory (e.g. what percentage of energy consumed in your region should come from wind power in 2025 or 2030)?**				
	Minimal/none ☐		Moderate ☐		Important/central ☐

a	**Please describe in brief what is your regional/local administration's role regarding this issue (if applicable)**		
	Click or tap here to enter text.		
21	**What is the role of your regional/local administration in implementing financial incentives for the development of wind power in your territory (e.g. feed-in tariffs, price premiums, tax breaks)?**		
	Minimal/none ☐	Moderate ☐	Important/central ☐
a	**Please describe in brief what measures/initiatives have been adopted in this area in your territory (if applicable)**		
	Click or tap here to enter text.		
22	**Please indicate if your regional/local administration is involved in any other area(s) of strategic planning and, if so, describe in what role.**		
	Strategic planning area: Click or tap here to enter text.		
	Degree of involvement Minimal/none ☐ Moderate ☐ Important/central ☐ Brief description of the role: Click or tap here to enter text.		
23	**If your regional/local authority does participate in determining any strategic goal regarding RES and wind power, is there a specific strategic planning unit or informal group within your administration that deals with such issues?**		
	YES ☐	NO ☐	
a	**If NO, how necessary would you consider the existence of such a strategic planning unit/group in your territory?**		
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5		
Planning instruments & practices			
24	**Does your regional/local authority employ a standardised process for the development of strategic plans for wind energy in your territory?**		
	YES ☐	NO ☐	
a	**If YES, please briefly describe the process**		

	Click or tap here to enter text.
25	**Does your regional/local authority utilise some type of preliminary assessment tools (e.g. SWOT or PESTEL analysis) or planning tools (e.g. forecasting scenarios) in designing a wind energy strategy?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
	If YES, please specify which tools have been used.
	Click or tap here to enter text.
a	**If YES, how useful have they been for developing a regional/local wind energy strategy or other related strategic documents?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
b	**If NO, how necessary do you consider such tools to be for the development of wind energy strategies?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
26	**Has your regional/local authority conducted an assessment about the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts in your territory related to the implementation of the wind energy strategies and the development of wind energy projects?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please describe briefly the process and the tools that were employed (e.g., biodiversity sensitive maps).**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If YES, how useful has the assessment been?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
c	**If NO, how necessary would you consider such an impact assessment to be for the implementation of a regional/local wind energy strategy?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
General assessment questions	
27	**Overall, has your regional/local administration prepared a coherent strategic plan that facilitates the development of wind energy projects in the following years?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐

a	**If NO, how necessary do you consider aforementioned elements of strategic planning (such as a dedicated administrative unit, specific targets for energy from RES, impact assessment) for the development of a wind energy strategy in your territory?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
b	**If NO, do you identify some <u>other organisational needs/issues/problems</u> that may influence the capacity of your regional/local authority to formulate strategies and plans related to wind power policies and projects? Please specify:**				
	Click or tap here to enter text.				
28	**Overall, how much of an impact do you consider that organisational needs/issues/problems have on the territorial strategic planning capacity in the area of RES and wind energy?**				
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
29	**Please indicate possible instruments or processes that you think could strengthen strategic planning capacities of your regional/ local authority in relation to wind power policies and projects in your territory.**				
	Click or tap here to enter text.				

C. Enforcement, monitoring and evaluation processes			
30	**Does your regional/local administration enforce regulations related to wind power in an effective way?**		
	YES ☐	No, it does <u>not</u> have such responsibility ☐	No, although <u>it has</u> such responsibility ☐
a	**If YES, please briefly mention tools and processes that are employed to ensure compliance**		
	Click or tap here to enter text.		
b	**If NO, please indicate the most important reason(s) (<u>select all relevant answers</u>):**		
	Political considerations ☐ Inadequacy of legal/regulatory framework ☐ Other (please specify) ☐ Click or tap here to enter text.		
Monitoring			

31	**Regarding your regional authority, is there an established mechanism (e.g. a dedicated unit or coordination among different divisions) for monitoring the implementation of policies and the development of projects related to wind energy?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please briefly describe the mechanism and mention any related challenges (e.g. lack of sufficient data, lack of specialised personnel)**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If YES, how effective and detailed do you think monitoring such policies in your region is?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
c	**If NO, how necessary do you think monitoring is for the development of wind power projects and the implementation of relevant policies in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
32	**Regarding spatial planning (zoning, land uses) which government level has primary the responsibility for monitoring?**
	Primarily central government ☐ Primarily regional government ☐ About equally ☐ None/ non applicable ☐
a	**Please describe in brief what exactly is your regional/local administration's role in relation to spatial planning monitoring (if applicable).**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
33	**Which government level is responsible for monitoring the impact and results of wind energy (or RES in general) policies at the regional level?**
	Primarily central government ☐ Primarily regional government ☐ About equally ☐ None/ non applicable ☐
a	**Please describe in brief what processes and tools does your government use for monitoring the implementation of wind energy targets (if applicable).**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
34	**Regarding the environmental impact of territorial wind power policies/projects which government level has the primary responsibility for monitoring?**
	Primarily central government ☐ Primarily regional government ☐ About equally ☐ None/ non applicable ☐

a	**Please describe in brief what processes and tools does your regional/local administration use for monitoring the environmental impact of wind energy policies/projects (if applicable).**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
35	**Regarding permitting/administrative processes related to wind power projects, which government level has the primary responsibility for monitoring?**
	Primarily central government ☐ Primarily regional government ☐ About equally ☐ None/ non applicable ☐
a	**Please describe in brief what processes and tools does your regional/local administration use for monitoring the permitting and/or administrative procedure of wind energy projects (if applicable).**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
Evaluation	
36	**Does the responsibility of evaluating the implementation of territorial policies related to RES development and particularly wind power at the territorial level primarily lie with the central or the territorial authorities?**
	Primarily central government ☐ Primarily regional government ☐ About equally ☐ None/non applicable ☐
37	**Regarding your regional/local administration, is there an established mechanism (a dedicated unit or coordination among different divisions) for evaluating the implementation of territorial policies and initiatives related to wind power?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please indicate which areas are evaluated. Please select all relevant answers.**
	Spatial planning/land uses ☐ Wind energy targets ☐ Environmental impact ☐ Administrative processes ☐ Other (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If YES, please describe in brief the process, tools or methodology that your regional/local administration uses in order to assess the attainment of policy objectives and their impact.**
	Click or tap here to enter text.

c	**If YES, please indicate if policy evaluation includes parameters other than outcomes and impact. Please select all relevant answers.**
	Quality of the administrative process ☐ Adequacy of national policies ☐ Cost/benefit analysis ☐ Other (please specify) ☐ Click or tap here to enter text.
d	**If YES, overall how effective and detailed do you think evaluating such policies in your region is?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
e	**If YES, has the evaluation carried out by regional authorities (e.g. identification of barriers) led to amendments in policies or regulations regarding RES projects?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
f	**If NO, how necessary do you think policy evaluation is for the development of wind energy in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
General assessment questions	
38	**Do you identify organisational needs/issues/problems other than the ones identified above that influence the capacity of your regional/local authority to monitor and evaluate wind energy policies and projects in your territory? Please specify.**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
39	**Overall, how much of an impact do the organisational needs/issues/problems have on the successful monitoring and evaluation of policies related to wind power in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
40	**Please indicate possible measures and instruments relevant to the implementation of wind energy policies that you think could upgrade the monitoring and evaluation capacities of your regional/local authority**
	Click or tap here to enter text.

D. Stakeholders' engagement

41	**Does your regional/local administration have in place a consultation mechanism with societal actors and groups relevant to the development wind farms (e.g. local communities, residents, environmental groups, private sector actors, etc)?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please describe briefly how this consultation process takes place (e.g. who participate, through what procedure).**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If YES, has your regional/local authority employed particular public consultation processes or experts in public engagement?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
c	**If YES, please indicate in what particular stage(s) of a wind power project this public consultation takes place. Please select all relevant answers.**
	Zoning/land use ☐ Environmental impact assessment ☐ Wind energy targets ☐ Financial incentives ☐ Other (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.
d	**If YES, overall how important do you think that this consultation is for the development of a wind power project?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
e	**If NO, how necessary do you think consultations with stakeholders are for the uninhibited development of wind power projects?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
f	**If NO, please indicate possible reasons for this lack of such a mechanism. Please select all relevant answers.**
	Lack of national law/regulation ☐ Lack of regional regulation ☐ Lack of political will ☐ Lack of consultation mechanisms/tools ☐

	Lack of personnel ☐ Other (please specify) ☐ Click or tap here to enter text.
42	**Is it possible for the citizens of your region to voice their concerns on issues related to wind energy projects to a Regional Ombudsman (or other equivalent authority or established procedures)?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**Is there regular/effective cooperation between the Regional Ombudsman (or other equivalent authority or established procedure) and the regional/local authorities on projects related to wind energy?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
43	**Overall, how much of an impact do organisational needs/issues/problems have on stakeholders' engagement in wind power projects in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
44	**Please indicate possible tools or processes that you think could strengthen stakeholders' engagement and acceptance for wind power policies and projects in your territory.**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
E.	Resource availability
45	**Does your regional/local administration face considerable difficulties in the management and governance of wind energy due to budgetary/financial problems?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, how important do you think these problems are for developing wind power and implementing related policies in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
b	**If YES, please indicate in which particular stage/component of wind energy policies and projects this problem is most critical (indicate all relevant answers).**
	Environmental impact assessment ☐ Policy monitoring/evaluation ☐ Strategic planning ☐

	Administrative processes ☐ Financial incentives ☐ Other (please specify) ☐ Click or tap here to enter text.
46	**Does the central government of your country ensure that tasks delegated to your regional authority regarding environmental policies and RES development are adequately funded?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
47	**Does your regional/local administration raise funds through its own initiative and means (e.g. a regional tax, a dedicated green tax) for promoting the development of wind power (or RES in general) in your territory?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please provide some examples.**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
b	**If NO, how necessary do you think that such regional fund-raising instruments (e.g. taxes) are for the development of wind power projects in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
48	**Has your region secured funding from EU sources in order to finance policies and actions related to wind energy?**
	Yes, considerably ☐ / Yes, though minimally ☐ / No ☐
a	**Does your region have a mechanism or a dedicated unit that systematically explores funding opportunities related to wind energy/RES?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
b	**If NO, how necessary do you think that such a unit dedicated to identifying funding opportunities would be for promoting wind power in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
49	**Does your regional/local authority have in place procedures or tools for the more efficient use of available financial resources?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please describe briefly how these procedures/tools work.**

	Click or tap here to enter text.
F.	Sufficiency of personnel and workforce skills
50	**Does your regional/local administration face lack of (administrative or scientific) personnel that have expertise on renewable energy procedures and policies?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If YES, please indicate the specific areas or procedures that are impacted by the lack of specialised (or not) personnel. Please indicate all relevant answers.**
	Permitting procedures ☐ Day-to-day administration ☐ Monitoring and evaluation ☐ Strategic planning ☐ Community engagement ☐ Specialised tool utilisation ☐ Other (please specify Click or tap here to enter text.)
b	**If YES, how important do you think this is for developing wind power and implementing related policies in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
51	**Are there available training, reskilling and/or "peer learning" programs on issues related to RES and wind power in particular for administrators, scientific personnel and technicians in your territory?**
	YES ☐ NO ☐
a	**If NO, please indicate all relevant reasons:**
	Lack of experts☐ Lack of financial resources ☐ Limited number of wind power projects ☐ Lack of interest from potential beneficiaries ☐ Other (please specify Click or tap here to enter text.)

52	**Please indicate any possible measures and instruments that could address challenges related to the lack of specialised personnel skills.**
	Click or tap here to enter text.
G. Concluding questions	
53	**Based on your knowledge and all your previous answers, to what extent do you think that your regional/local authority can achieve its policy objectives regarding the development and governance of wind power in your territory?**
	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
54	**Please list the following categories of organisational needs of your regional/local authority, in relation to wind power policies and projects, from the most to the least important.** • Administrative procedures (complexity, duration, transparence) • Strategic planning • Monitoring and evaluation • Stakeholders' engagement • Resources/ budget • Personnel and workforce skills
	1. 2) 3) 4) 5) 6)
55	**Please indicate and briefly describe examples of good practices from your country and/or region that were not mentioned above, related to the design, implementation and monitoring of wind energy strategies and plans.**