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BIOWIND

# Guidelines

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ

## Activity A 4.2

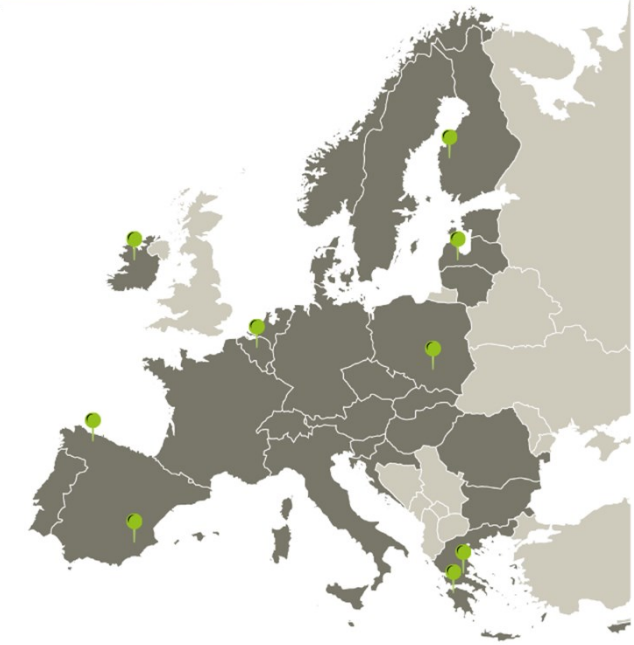
Resources and guidelines for the formation of regional “Wind Energy Proliferation Centres”

2025

Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

# BIOWIND



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# Executive Summary

The “Resources and guidelines for the formation of regional “Wind Energy Proliferation Centres”” document provides a comprehensive roadmap for establishing and operating Wind Energy Proliferation Centres. These centres aim to provide advisory services to public administrations and regional stakeholders on how to best use the lessons learnt from interregional activities and pilot actions of BIOWIND project, to improve policy instrument implementation and guide synergies with other territorial funds and policies to maximise the impact and efficiency of public funding.

The document consists of the following:

- **Introduction**: Presents the rationale and objectives of the BIOWIND project, emphasising the need for Wind Energy Proliferation Centres to support sustainable wind energy development.
- **Mission and strategic objectives**: Outlines the centres' goals to enhance policy implementation, stakeholder capacity, and regional collaboration in wind energy initiatives.
- **Legal status and funding sources**: Explains the operational frameworks and diverse funding mechanisms that ensure the centres' sustainability.
- **Composition and participation arrangements**: Describes the core team structure and stakeholder involvement in the centres' activities.
- **Governance and management structure**: Details the governance model, including strategic oversight and performance monitoring processes.
- **Target groups**: Identifies the primary beneficiaries, including public administrations, wind energy companies, and community organisations.
- **Resources**: Highlights the key tools and frameworks developed under the BIOWIND project to support the centres' advisory services.
- **Provided services**: Summarises the range of services, such as seminars, consultations, and workshops, tailored to stakeholder needs.
- **Step-by-step guide for the establishment of the centres**: Provides a structured approach for setting up the centres, adapted to regional contexts.

Finally, an Annex presents the template for the digital brochure of the centres.

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# Introduction

The growing demand for renewable energy sources and the pressing need to combat climate change and a range of environmental problems has placed wind energy at the forefront of sustainable development strategies across the EU. However, despite its potential, the widespread adoption of wind energy faces several challenges, including regulatory hurdles, public opposition, and the need for efficient policy implementation. Addressing these challenges requires innovative, collaborative approaches that can align regional, national, and European-level efforts.

Europe has set ambitious targets for renewable energy deployment as part of its European Green Deal[1] and Fit for 55[2] initiatives. Wind energy, being one of the most mature and cost-effective renewable technologies, is expected to play a pivotal role in achieving these goals. However, the development of wind energy projects often encounters barriers, such as complex permitting processes[3], fragmented regulatory frameworks[4], and public opposition[5] due to perceived or real environmental and social impacts.

The BIOWIND project aims to tackle these barriers by establishing territorial "Wind Energy Proliferation Centres". These centres are designed to serve as focal points for advisory support to public administrations and regional stakeholders, ensuring that regional actors are equipped to navigate the complexities of wind energy development.

## BIOWIND project overview

The BIOWIND project's overall goal is to advance the deployment of wind energy by addressing societal, regulatory, and technical challenges across participating regions. The consortium includes 10 partners from 8 EU countries (GR, FI, LV, IE, BE, HU, PL, ES). It comprises regional public authorities, specialised agencies, and one academic institution, ensuring a diverse mix of expertise and perspectives. This partnership structure fosters robust collaboration and knowledge exchange, leveraging regional insights to achieve the project's ambitious objectives. Together, these partners contribute critical resources and innovative solutions, enabling a broad exchange of ideas and best practices across the EU.

The project's main objectives are the following:

- Fostering collaboration among stakeholders and leveraging interregional knowledge to promote wind energy as a cornerstone of sustainable energy transitions.
- Enhancing public acceptance of wind energy through targeted awareness campaigns and educational initiatives.

[1] EU Green Deal
[2] Fit for 55 package
[3] https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/europes-race-for-wind-and-solar/
[4] Bartoszewicz-Burczy, Studia Ecologiae et Bioethicae 20 (2022), 67-77
[5] https://www.thetimes.com/world/europe/article/locals-fight-back-as-monstrous-wind-turbines-threaten-italys-medieval-charm-0tk9d6zms

- Streamlining administrative procedures to simplify the development and deployment of wind energy projects.
- Integrating biodiversity considerations into planning processes to ensure environmentally responsible wind energy development.

## Overview of Activity A4.2

Activity A4.2, titled "Resources and guidelines for the formation of regional ‘Wind Energy Proliferation Centres”, supports the creation of regional hubs to facilitate the societal and regulatory conditions necessary for wind power development. These centres will act as catalysts for local and regional authorities, providing targeted services and resources to enhance wind energy policy implementation.

The main objectives of this activity are:

- Developing a management plan and statutory provisions to support societal acceptance and regulatory adaptation.
- Leveraging interregional learning and pilot activities to improve policy implementation.
- Creating synergies with territorial policies and funding mechanisms to maximize public investment impact.

## Mission and strategic objectives

The Wind Energy Proliferation Centres are founded on a clear mission: to facilitate the equitable and efficient expansion of wind energy across partnership territories. These centres aim to support public administrations and regional stakeholders by leveraging interregional expertise, promoting policy cohesion, and fostering the societal acceptance necessary for sustainable wind energy deployment.

The strategic objectives of the centres are as follows:

- **Enhancing policy instrument implementation:** One of the primary objectives is to improve the practical application of policy instruments related to wind energy. The centres will offer advisory services that help public administrations and stakeholders translate policy frameworks into actionable steps. For instance, they will guide local authorities in streamlining permitting processes, ensuring compliance with national and EU regulations, and integrating renewable energy targets into regional development plans. Success in this area will be measured by the reduction in permitting times and the increased alignment of regional policies with EU objectives.
- **Promoting synergies between territorial funds and policies:** The centres will actively seek opportunities to align various funding mechanisms and policies to maximise their impact. These centres will collaborate with stakeholders to identify overlapping objectives and streamline efforts to reduce redundancy. For instance, they may assist regions in combining EU structural funds with local initiatives to finance wind energy projects effectively. This approach aims to ensure the efficient allocation of resources, evidenced by the successful execution of joint funding programs.
- **Facilitating stakeholder engagement and societal acceptance:** Recognising the critical role of public perception in wind energy development, the centres will focus on transparent and inclusive stakeholder engagement. They will organise workshops, public consultations, and awareness campaigns tailored to address community concerns and build trust. Specific activities might include disseminating factual information about environmental and economic risks and benefits or creating forums for dialogue to address misconceptions about wind energy. For example, a community-focused campaign could involve presenting case studies from regions where wind energy has delivered tangible benefits, thus fostering greater societal acceptance.
- **Building capacity for sustainable wind energy development:** The centres will provide capacity building support to regional stakeholders and public administrations by using resources developed through the BIOWIND project. These resources include the BIOWIND environmental risk management framework and documented case studies from interregional workshops, among others. The centres will focus on empowering stakeholders with practical insights into policy implementation, environmental considerations, and effective stakeholder engagement strategies. Metrics for success

could include the number of stakeholders trained and their subsequent ability to implement informed strategies in their respective regions.

- **Encouraging cross-sector collaboration:** Wind energy development requires input and cooperation from various sectors, including government, private industry, and civil society. The centres will facilitate cross-sector partnerships by serving as a neutral platform for collaboration. They will organise matchmaking events and foster joint ventures that align with regional wind energy objectives. For example, partnerships between municipal governments and private wind energy firms could be initiated to co-develop projects that align with regional energy strategies.
- **Addressing regional challenges:** The centres will adapt their objectives to regional contexts, recognising that challenges such as public opposition or administrative complexity vary across territories. For example, regions with high public opposition may prioritise stakeholder engagement strategies, while those with fragmented administrative structures might focus on policy instrument harmonisation. This adaptive approach ensures that the centres remain relevant and effective in addressing the unique needs of each region.

# Legal status and funding sources

## Legal status

The legal status of the Wind Energy Proliferation Centres will be designed to align with regional governance frameworks while ensuring operational flexibility. These centres are expected to function under adaptable models that can integrate seamlessly into existing administrative and institutional structures.

**Governance frameworks**

The centres will function either as semi-autonomous public bodies or as independent advisory entities, as depicted in OECD frameworks[6].

- **Semi-autonomous units:** The centres could operate as dedicated units within regional development agencies or environmental departments, retaining a degree of independence in decision-making. For instance, they might report to a regional council but have authority over day-to-day operations such as stakeholder consultations and resource dissemination. This model provides direct integration with policymaking bodies while maintaining operational autonomy, ensuring responsiveness to both regional and local priorities.
- **Independent advisory entities:** Centres could also function as independent advisory entities, collaborating closely with public administrations but operating with a distinct legal identity. This model would enable the centres to establish formal agreements with regional governments and external stakeholders, fostering partnerships that drive wind energy initiatives.

**Legal mandate**

A clear legal mandate will empower the centres to act as facilitators of wind energy development, establishing their legal authority to support and advance wind energy policy. This mandate allows the centres to provide targeted advisory and capacity building services, ensuring operational transparency, public accountability, and alignment with national and regional energy goals.

**Institutional stability and compliance**

The centres will adopt well-defined legal frameworks to ensure institutional stability and regulatory compliance. These frameworks will establish clear governance rules, define operational boundaries, and align with EU directives, regional regulations, and national governance requirements. Prioritising legal compliance ensures that the centres maintain transparency and accountability in their processes. Institutional stability will result from strict adherence to legal mandates while maintaining the flexibility to address evolving regulatory and societal challenges.

[6] Organisation of public administration: agency governance, autonomy and accountability, 2021

## Funding sources

Funding will be sourced from multiple streams to ensure long-term sustainability and operational capacity:

- **Regional Operational Programmes (ROP 2021-2027)**: Funding will be secured through close collaboration with local and regional authorities to align the centres' objectives with territorial energy priorities.
- **EU funding mechanisms**: Programmes such as Horizon Europe[7] and LIFE[8] will provide additional resources for innovative projects, pilot actions, and policy studies.
- **Private sector contributions**: The centres will leverage partnerships with energy companies, wind farm developers, and other private entities to support technical studies and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Revenue-generating activities**: Services such as technical advisory support, training programs, and public consultation facilitation will generate revenue to support operational costs.
- **National and local public budgets**: Regional and national authorities may allocate funds to support specific projects or administrative needs of the centres.

Therefore, the centres will remain financially sustainable while effectively fulfilling their role as facilitators of wind energy development in the project's respective regions.

[7] Horizon Europe
[8] LIFE Programme

# Composition and participation arrangements

The centres will be organised around a core team structure specifically designed to provide high-quality advisory services to public administrations and regional stakeholders. This core team will be the operational foundation of the centres, leading the coordination, decision-making, and execution of all centre's activities, ensuring a consistent and efficient approach tailored to regional needs.

## Core team

Each centre will rely on a flexible model of 1-3 professionals - with 3 being the ideal number for more well-rounded decisions and reduced risk of deadlock - depending on the resources and capacities of each project partner. Their primary responsibilities include improving policy instrument implementation and fostering synergies with other territorial funds and policies to maximise the impact and efficiency of public funding. The suggested core team model includes:

- **Policy and strategy advisor**: This individual will offer strategic guidance on effectively applying interregional knowledge to enhance policy implementation. Their role includes using the BIOWIND environmental risk management framework and aligning regional objectives with EU directives and related territorial policies.
- **Communication specialist**: Focused on trust-building and transparency, this specialist will manage public consultation processes, lead awareness campaigns, and directly engage with stakeholders to address community concerns. This specialist's role ensures the integration of community feedback into actionable strategies, fostering acceptance and collaboration for wind energy initiatives.
- **Administrative and financial support specialist**: This individual will focus on simplifying administrative procedures and developing financial support schemes for wind cooperatives. Their role will ensure efficient processes that align with public administration needs, while also providing input on financial planning and compliance with funding requirements. By collaborating with the Policy and Strategy Advisor, they will integrate administrative simplification into the broader strategic framework of the centres.

This model emphasises adaptability, allowing centres with limited resources to combine roles while enabling larger teams to assign specialists to specific functions. This flexible structure ensures that the centres deliver targeted and effective advisory services aligned with their strategic goals. The exact composition will depend on the needs and capacities of the project partners.

## Regional participation

The centres will engage with regional stakeholders, including local authorities, energy cooperatives, and environmental organisations, to provide advisory services aimed at improving policy instrument implementation. Their purpose is to guide stakeholders on how to best use the lessons learned from interregional activities and pilot actions, enhancing the efficiency and impact of public funding.

Participation arrangements will include structured engagement mechanisms such as semi-annual stakeholder meetings and targeted consultations. These mechanisms will ensure that regional priorities are integrated into advisory outputs, focusing on simplifying administrative procedures and creating synergies with other territorial funds and policies. The ultimate goal is to align regional actions with broader strategic objectives for wind energy development, ensuring maximum effectiveness and stakeholder satisfaction.

# Governance and management structure

The governance and management structure of the Wind Energy Proliferation Centres will ensure operational efficiency, accountability, and alignment with their strategic objectives. This structure will integrate clear decision-making processes, defined roles, and mechanisms for monitoring performance.

## Governance model

The governance model of the Wind Energy Proliferation Centres will integrate the principles of agency theory[9], emphasising the relationship between regional authorities and the core team. To implement this model successfully, key components and roles will be established to mitigate conflicts of interest and maintain alignment with strategic objectives:

- **Centre's coordinator**: A designated member of the core team, such as the policy and strategy advisor, will serve as the centre's coordinator. This individual will ensure alignment with broader policy objectives and act as a direct link between the core team and the governance framework, overseeing strategic integration and compliance.
- **Delegation of responsibilities**: Strategic oversight will remain distinct from daily operational duties, with project partners or their designated representatives ensuring long-term planning and policy alignment while delegating implementation tasks to the operational team.
- **Feedback**: Regional stakeholders will refer to the centres for information and updates on wind energy policies relevant to their region. The centres will also gather feedback from stakeholders during consultations and workshops to refine their advisory services. This feedback process collection ensures that the centres' activities remain aligned with regional priorities and adapt to evolving needs.

## Management processes

The management processes will be structured to facilitate efficient decision-making, resource allocation, and communication among stakeholders. These processes will ensure that the centres' strategic objectives are met effectively and sustainably.

- **Strategic planning**: Annual work plans will be developed by the centres based on regional priorities and interregional insights. These plans will undergo review and approval by the designated oversight role to ensure alignment with long-term objectives and policy goals.
- **Performance monitoring**: Regular reviews will measure the centres' effectiveness in delivering advisory services and achieving their goals. Evaluation metrics will include

[9] Sunnatilla et al., TSUE 2024, DOI:10.13140/RG.2.2.31634.06085

stakeholder satisfaction, improvements in policy instrument implementation, and successful alignment with funding objectives.

- **Financial management**: Financial management will focus on transparency and sustainability. This includes budgeting, financial reporting, and ensuring efficient use of resources. Additionally, the centres will generate revenue through activities such as hosting training sessions, workshops, and public consultations. Revenue from these activities will support the centres' operational costs and enable the expansion of their advisory services. The Administrative and Financial Coordinator will oversee these financial processes to maintain accountability and compliance with funding requirements.

## Accountability framework

The centres will ensure accountability through two primary mechanisms:

- **Regular reporting:** The centres will produce quarterly and annual summaries of activities, outcomes, and financial performance. These reports, reviewed by the centre's coordinator, will provide stakeholders with insights into the centres' progress and compliance with regional and funding requirements.
- **Independent performance audits:** Periodic independent evaluations will assess the centres' performance, focusing on their ability to support regional stakeholders in implementing wind energy policies, evaluate the use of available resources, and determine the overall impact of advisory services. These evaluations will be conducted by an external consultant or an independent auditor contracted by each project partner. These evaluations will provide actionable recommendations designed to enhance the centres' operations and improve the delivery of their services, ensuring alignment with both regional priorities and long-term strategic objectives. Additionally, these audits will integrate structured feedback sessions with regional stakeholders, ensuring that stakeholder perspectives are incorporated into evaluations and enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of the centres' activities.

## Target groups

The Wind Energy Proliferation Centres are designed to serve a broad range of regional stakeholders, ensuring their advisory services address the specific needs of all involved parties in the wind energy sector. These stakeholders include:

- **Public administrations**: Local and regional governmental bodies responsible for planning, policy making, and regulatory oversight in the energy sector, including those responsible for nature and landscape conservation. These administrations often face challenges in streamlining administrative procedures, implementing complex policy instruments, and leveraging funding opportunities. The centres will provide tailored guidance on aligning the wind energy strategies of local governments with national and EU objectives.

  *Illustrative scenario*: A regional planning office struggles with lengthy permitting processes for wind energy projects. The centre provides a detailed roadmap, offering strategies to simplify approvals and ensure compliance with EU directives.

- **Wind energy companies and cooperatives**: This group includes wind energy developers, consultants, private companies, and energy cooperatives actively involved in wind energy initiatives. Their expectations revolve around accessing actionable insights, environmental risk management tools, and financial support mechanisms. The centres will provide tailored advisory services by sharing insights from interregional activities to enhance operational efficiency and environmental compliance. Additionally, they will provide support in accessing financial schemes.

  *Illustrative scenario*: A wind energy cooperative seeks guidance on accessing financial schemes to expand its operations. The centre offers step-by-step assistance in applying for regional funding programs and integrating financial support into their strategic plans.

- **Community organisations and civil society**: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), advocacy groups, and local community representatives who influence societal acceptance of wind energy. These groups expect transparent communication and opportunities to voice their concerns. The centres will assist this group by organising public consultations and awareness campaigns, to educate communities about the benefits of wind energy while addressing misconceptions.

  *Illustrative scenario*: A local advocacy group opposes a proposed wind farm due to environmental concerns. The centre facilitates a public consultation event, presenting evidence-based mitigation strategies and fostering dialogue between stakeholders.

- **Research institutions**: Universities and research centres involved in renewable energy studies. These institutions expect access to practical insights and opportunities for collaboration. The centres will collaborate with these institutions to disseminate innovative practices and contribute to capacity building initiatives.

*Illustrative scenario*: A university collaborates with the centre to develop a training module on biodiversity monitoring for wind energy sites, which is later disseminated to regional stakeholders.

The Wind Energy Proliferation Centres will consolidate these regional stakeholders under one umbrella, establishing themselves as essential hubs for regional wind energy initiatives. This unified approach will foster innovation, collaboration, and sustainable development across all levels of the wind energy value chain.

# Resources

The Wind Energy Proliferation Centres will rely on a well-defined set of resources developed through the BIOWIND project to provide effective advisory services. These resources have been carefully designed and validated through interregional workshops, site visits, and collaborative activities. The following subsections detail these key resources and their contributions to the operational goals of the centres.

## Environmental risk management framework

A cornerstone of the BIOWIND project is the “environmental risk management framework” (Activity A4.1), a resource designed to systematically assess and mitigate environmental risks associated with wind energy projects. This framework encompasses a suite of environmental indicators tailored to evaluate biodiversity sensitivity and environmental threats. These indicators include species conservation status, habitat fragility, ecosystem services, water quality, and ground stability. Assigning quantified sensitivity scores allows the framework to function as an evidence-based tool, guiding site selection, permit procedures, and the monitoring of mitigation measures’ effectiveness across all stages of wind energy deployment.

The methodology underlying the framework equips regional stakeholders with actionable tools to incorporate environmental considerations into every stage of wind energy planning. Overall, this framework ensures compliance with environmental standards while building public trust, enabling wind energy projects to align with sustainability goals.

## Stakeholder engagement and communication guidelines

Effective stakeholder engagement is critical for the successful implementation of wind energy initiatives. The BIOWIND project provides key resources derived from the “interregional workshop on developing measures to promote civic participation and engagement in wind energy planning” (Activity A3.1). This workshop highlighted best practices for fostering transparent communication, addressing societal concerns, and cultivating public trust in renewable energy projects.

Key insights from this workshop include strategies for proactively engaging communities early in the planning process and maintaining open dialogue throughout the project lifecycle. Stakeholders are equipped with approaches to address opposition constructively and ensure diverse perspectives are considered. The findings emphasize transparent communication methods and inclusive public consultations, enabling stakeholders to effectively foster collaboration and long-term acceptance of wind energy projects.

## Best practices documentation

The BIOWIND project provides detailed documentation of successful cases and methodologies in wind energy development. These examples are based on findings from the “workshop on sustainable approaches to wind turbine decommissioning” (Activity A3.3.) and observations from site visits to facilities such as the Dundanga wind farm in Latvia (Activity A3.2) and the Vöyrinkangas wind farm in Finland (Activity A3.4). These documented insights demonstrate practical solutions for addressing challenges and implementing effective strategies.

Each example provides in-depth descriptions of implementation processes, including stakeholder engagement techniques, innovative technical solutions, and navigation of regulatory frameworks. Challenges such as integrating wind farms into environmentally degraded brownfield sites or addressing community concerns are detailed alongside the steps taken to resolve these issues. These examples serve as a reference for stakeholders to adapt proven practices to their regional contexts, promoting both operational efficiency and environmental sustainability.

## Support for administrative and financial procedures

Navigating administrative and financial complexities is a significant hurdle in wind energy development. Insights from the BIOWIND project, particularly the “workshop on developing measures to promote civic participation and engagement in wind energy planning” (Activity A3.1), offer practical pathways for simplifying administrative procedures and achieving financial sustainability. This workshop explored innovative approaches such as creating standardized documentation templates, introducing centralized points of contact for permit approvals, and streamlining communication between agencies to enhance coordination and efficiency.

Further actionable strategies were drawn from the “workshop on sustainable approaches to wind turbine decommissioning” (Activity A3.3), which emphasised the importance of financial planning for wind energy projects. Key recommendations included performing detailed lifecycle cost assessments and establishing contingency funds to manage unforeseen expenses. These workshops collectively equip stakeholders with tools to effectively evaluate project feasibility, secure necessary funding, and manage operational costs, particularly for initiatives driven by community participation, such as wind cooperatives.

## Guidelines for monitoring and environmental compliance requirements

Monitoring and evaluation are essential for assessing the effectiveness of wind energy projects and ensuring alignment with policy objectives. Resources derived from the "workshop on elements of a comprehensive environmental plan and effective systems for biodiversity monitoring" (Activity A3.2) provide a structured approach to designing and

implementing monitoring frameworks. These guidelines focus on tracking environmental impacts, evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and adapting strategies based on real-time data.

By offering actionable recommendations for monitoring biodiversity impacts and integrating adaptive management practices, these guidelines enable stakeholders to maintain compliance with environmental regulations and uphold sustainability standards. The recommendations include the use of advanced monitoring technologies and data-sharing platforms to enhance collaboration and transparency.

# Provided services

The Wind Energy Proliferation Centres are designed to offer practical support to regional stakeholders involved in wind energy development. These centres will provide tailored advisory support aimed at addressing the specific needs of public administrations and regional stakeholders. It should be noted that all the services outlined in this chapter are optional and represent suggestions; individual partners will choose which services to provide based on their capacity and priorities. Furthermore, all services will be delivered in the local language to ensure accessibility and effectiveness.

## Advisory seminars

One of the core services offered by the centres will involve structured advisory seminars and training sessions. These sessions will target public officials, policymakers, and wind energy sector representatives. The seminars aim to provide targeted advisory support, focusing on how stakeholders can effectively apply lessons learned from interregional activities and pilot actions. This support will help improve policy instrument implementation and foster synergies with other territorial funds and policies to maximise public funding efficiency and impact.

**Step-by-step execution process:**

1. **Planning:** Identify the target audience and specific regional challenges through stakeholder consultations. Develop seminar agendas tailored to these needs, drawing on specific relevant resources.
2. **Content development:** Design interactive presentation materials, including case studies and scenario-based exercises to encourage active participation, which should address local and regional challenges and priorities.
3. **Execution:** Host seminars in accessible venues or online platforms, ensuring inclusive participation.
4. **Evaluation:** Distribute feedback forms to participants and assess the effectiveness of the sessions. Use this feedback to refine future seminars.

*Illustrative scenario*: A seminar conducted in a coastal region focuses on addressing the specific challenges of wind farm integration in sensitive ecosystems. Feedback from participants highlights the need for additional guidance on biodiversity impact mitigation. The next seminar incorporates updated materials and guest speakers with expertise in environmental management.

## One-on-one consultations

The centres will provide one-on-one consultations to help stakeholders apply lessons from interregional activities and pilot actions, improving policy instrument implementation. These

personalised sessions will allow stakeholders to discuss their unique needs and receive tailored advice. Topics may include simplifying permitting and regulatory processes, identifying funding opportunities and creating financial plans, monitoring the application and effectiveness of policy instruments, and guiding regional stakeholders and public administrations on fostering synergies with territorial funds and policies.

**Step-by-step execution process:**

1. **Initial contact:** Stakeholders submit a request for consultation via the centre's online platform or direct communication channels.
2. **Needs assessment:** Conduct a preliminary assessment to identify the specific issues or objectives of the stakeholder. Assign the most appropriate core team member (e.g., Policy and strategy advisor or Communication specialist) to the consultation.
3. **Session planning:** Develop a customised agenda for the consultation, incorporating relevant case studies, tools, and resources.
4. **Consultation delivery:** Conduct the consultation, either in-person or virtually, ensuring active engagement and addressing all key concerns.
5. **Follow-up:** Provide stakeholders with a summary of the consultation, including recommendations and next steps. Offer additional support as needed.

*Illustrative scenario*: A regional municipality seeks guidance on streamlining its permitting process for wind energy projects. The Policy and strategy advisor provides an overview of standardised documentation templates and proposes a centralised permitting office, which the municipality later adopts with significant efficiency improvements.

## Stakeholder workshops

The centres will organise stakeholder workshops as matchmaking events to foster idea exchange, networking, and collaboration among diverse regional actors. These workshops will focus on creating opportunities for stakeholders to share lessons from interregional activities and pilot projects, address policy challenges, and explore potential solutions collaboratively. They will also aim to align regional goals with national and EU wind energy strategies while promoting partnerships across sectors to advance wind energy initiatives. Facilitation techniques will be used to ensure inclusive participation, enabling stakeholders to build meaningful connections and collaborate effectively. The outcomes of these workshops will directly shape the centres' advisory services and contribute to ongoing policy development.

**Step-by-step execution process:**

1. **Workshop design:** Identify key themes and objectives based on regional needs and stakeholder feedback. Invite a diverse group of participants, ensuring representation from public, private, and community sectors.

2. **Pre-workshop preparation:** Distribute the workshop agenda to participants. Arrange for facilitators to guide discussions.
3. **Execution:** Conduct the workshop in a structured format, starting with expert presentations followed by breakout sessions for collaborative problem-solving.
4. **Outcome integration:** Document key insights and action items from the workshop. Share findings with all participants and incorporate them into the centres' advisory strategies.

*Illustrative scenario*: A workshop brings together wind energy developers and community leaders to address public opposition to a new wind farm. Breakout sessions result in actionable recommendations, including the establishment of a local community liaison and a detailed plan for public awareness campaigns.

## Follow-up support

To ensure the long-term success of their advisory services, the centres will provide follow-up support tailored to the needs of specific stakeholders. For example, follow-up support might involve monitoring how effectively a wind energy company applies a provided policy instrument or offering consultation services to another region seeking guidance on implementing the same instrument.

**Step-by-step execution process:**

1. **Stakeholder check-ins:** Schedule periodic follow-ups with stakeholders to review progress and address new challenges.
2. **Monitoring and reporting:** Assess the implementation of recommendations and gather data on outcomes. Provide detailed feedback in the form of reports to stakeholders.
3. **Problem resolution:** Offer additional consultations or resources to address unresolved issues.
4. **Continuous improvement:** Use insights from follow-up activities to refine the centres' services and resources.

*Illustrative scenario*: A regional wind energy company, which is receiving follow-up support, improves its compliance with policy instruments through enhanced monitoring practices suggested by the centre. The company’s success story is shared in future seminars as a case study, benefiting other stakeholders.

# Step-by-step guide for the establishment of the centres in partnership territories

The establishment of the Wind Energy Proliferation Centres involves a structured approach to ensure their operational readiness and accessibility for all regional stakeholders. These centres will be hosted at each partner's facilities, with clear contact details provided to stakeholders to facilitate engagement. Below is a detailed step-by-step guide to establishing these centres:

1. **Initial planning**

   Partners will begin by conducting a thorough assessment of their internal capacities. This includes evaluating available human resources, such as staff expertise and time allocation, financial resources, and physical infrastructure like office space and IT equipment. For example, a partner with limited office space might consider a hybrid operational model combining physical presence with online services.

   Partners must define the specific scope of the services their centre will provide. For instance, a centre in a region with high community resistance to wind energy projects might prioritise public engagement services, while another in a region with complex regulations or newly developed and not yet fully applied policy instruments could focus on policy implementation and streamlining administrative processes.

   Key team members, such as a Policy advisor and a Communication specialist, should be identified early. For example, a partner with limited personnel might combine roles to optimise resources. The planning phase also involves drafting a comprehensive operational plan, detailing expected outcomes, required resources, and a realistic timeline for the centre's launch. For instance, partners should specify deadlines for setting up office infrastructure, developing communication materials, and hosting inaugural events.

   *Hypothetical challenge*: A partner might face difficulty recruiting qualified personnel due to regional skill shortages. In such cases, they could explore collaborations with local universities or training institutions to build capacity.

2. **Operational setup**

   The operational setup involves preparing the physical and administrative infrastructure for the centre. This includes equipping office spaces with essential tools such as telecommunication systems, computer hardware, and software for stakeholder management.

   A dedicated section on each partner's website should host resources such as the BIOWIND environmental risk management framework and guides for administrative simplification. For example, an online repository of documents and templates could simplify access to these resources.

Partners must also establish clear communication channels, such as a dedicated email address or phone line, to facilitate inquiries. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) should be developed to ensure consistency in service delivery across all centres. For instance, an SOP might outline steps for scheduling stakeholder consultations, including timelines, required documents, and feedback protocols.

*Hypothetical challenge*: A partner might struggle with limited IT infrastructure. To mitigate this, the centre could collaborate with local IT firms or use cloud-based solutions to minimise upfront costs.

3. **Stakeholder mapping**

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise is critical to identify all relevant stakeholders within the region. Partners will use existing regional databases, local networks, and previous project findings to compile a detailed list of stakeholders. This list should include public administrations, wind energy companies, local community organisations, educational and research institutions, and private sector representatives.

The mapping process should categorise stakeholders based on their influence, interest, and specific needs. For example, high-influence stakeholders like regional policymakers could be prioritised for direct consultations, while local NGOs might benefit more from workshops and public consultations.

A centralised database should be created to track stakeholders, their roles, and their interactions with the centre. This database should be regularly updated to ensure its relevance and accuracy.

*Hypothetical challenge*: Partners might encounter discrepancies in stakeholder information due to inconsistent data sources or missing details. To address this, the centres could establish standardised data collection templates and verify information through direct engagement with key stakeholders.

4. **Outreach**

After stakeholder mapping, partners must design an outreach strategy tailored to the identified stakeholders. This involves creating digital brochures, online advertisements, and social media content to inform stakeholders about the centres and their services. A template of a digital brochure is presented in the Annex.

As mentioned in a previous step, each partner's website should feature a dedicated section for the centre, providing easy access to contact details, upcoming events, and downloadable resources. This digital presence will ensure continuous visibility and engagement with stakeholders, even beyond the initial outreach phase.

*Hypothetical challenge*: Limited digital literacy among some stakeholder groups could hinder engagement. In such cases, the centre could supplement digital outreach with printed materials and in-person meetings.

5. **Service launch**

   The service launch marks the official opening of the centre's operations. Partners should organise a high-profile launch event, inviting key stakeholders to participate in an introductory seminar or workshop. A launch event could include a panel discussion with regional policymakers and industry experts to showcase the centre's relevance.

   Feedback mechanisms should be introduced at this stage to capture stakeholder input on the services offered. For instance, partners might distribute surveys or host focus groups to gather suggestions for improvement. Templates for surveys could include sections on service accessibility, relevance, and stakeholder satisfaction.

   *Hypothetical challenge*: Low attendance at the launch event could reduce initial visibility. To counter this, the centre could leverage social media campaigns and personal invitations to key stakeholders to boost participation.

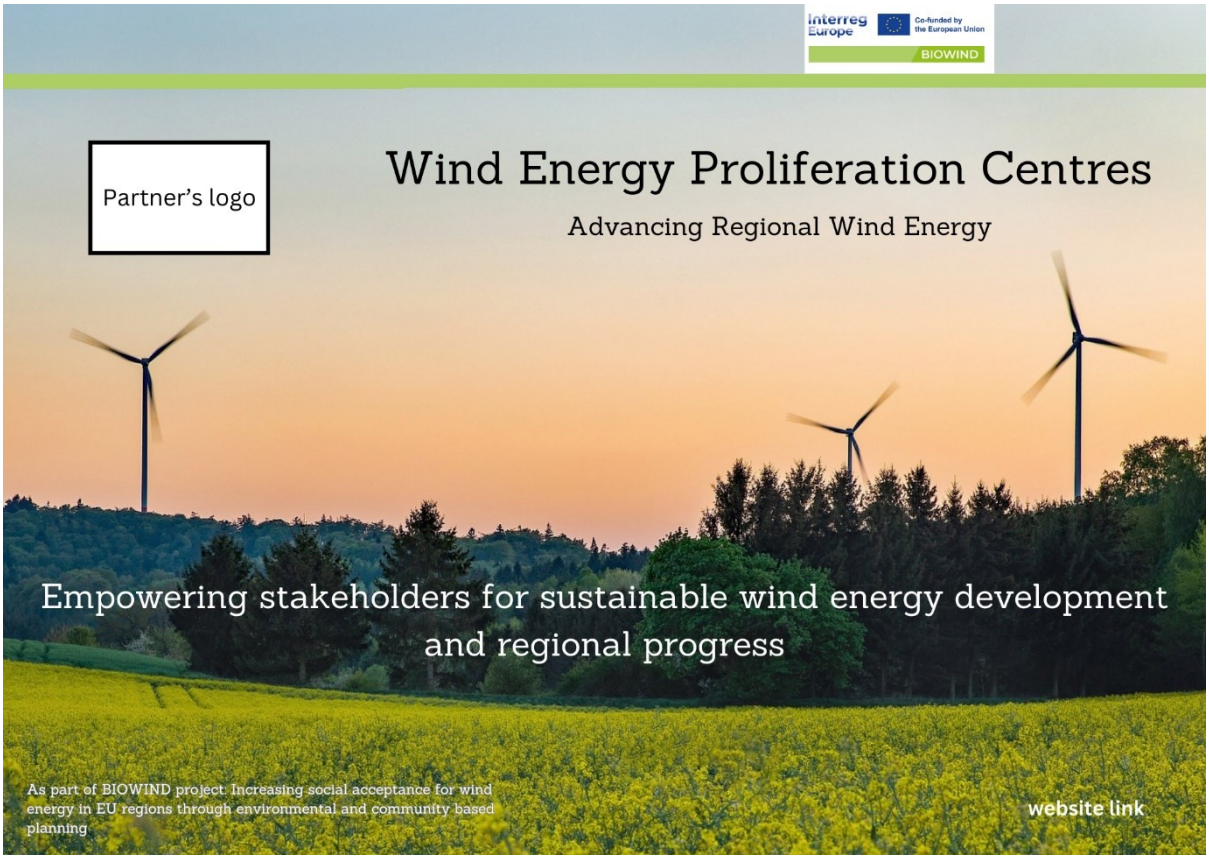
6. **Ongoing monitoring**

   To maintain the centres' relevance and effectiveness, partners will implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems. Key performance indicators, such as service provision rates, stakeholder satisfaction levels, and the impact of advisory services, should be tracked regularly. Reviews should be conducted by a designated member of the core team, such as the Policy advisor, to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.

   Feedback loops will ensure continuous dialogue with stakeholders, allowing the centres to adapt their services based on real-world needs. For example, if stakeholders indicate a need for additional training on environmental impact assessments, the centre can adjust its seminar offerings accordingly.

   *Hypothetical challenge*: A partner might face difficulties in measuring impact due to limited data availability. To address this, the centre could implement simple tracking tools, such as stakeholder feedback forms and service logs, to gather actionable insights.

# Annex: Digital brochure template




## INTRODUCTION

***What Are Wind Energy Proliferation Centres?***

These centres are regional hubs established to support stakeholders in improving wind energy practices through tailored advisory services.

## SERVICES OFFERED

***Our services***

- **Advisory seminars**: Tailored sessions for policymakers and stakeholders to enhance wind energy policy implementation.
- **One-on-one consultations**: Personalized guidance on leveraging lessons from interregional activities to optimize policy instruments.
- **Stakeholder workshops**: Matchmaking events fostering collaboration and exchanging innovative ideas.
- **Follow-up support**: Continuous advisory services to monitor progress and address challenges effectively.

## TRANSFORMING REGIONAL WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

- **Innovative solutions**: The centres leverage cutting-edge resources, including the BIOWIND environmental risk management framework, to guide decision-making and promote sustainability.
- **Tailored support**: Services are customised to address regional challenges, ensuring stakeholders receive actionable, relevant guidance.
- **Fostering collaboration**: The centres act as a bridge between public administrations, private companies, and community organisations, facilitating cohesive and effective partnerships.
- **Driving impact**: Through these services, the centres enable stakeholders to unlock funding, enhance public trust, and streamline administrative processes for wind energy projects.

## CONTACT US

***Get in touch***

For more information about the Wind Energy Proliferation Centres or to participate in upcoming events, contact us:

- **Website:**
- **Email:**