

BIOWIND

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

News & Updates from the project

BIOWIND 6th NEWSLETTER

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the 6th edition of our newsletter. In this issue, we provide an overview of the progress achieved across the project, highlighting key activities and developments.

You will get a glimpse of our latest Project Meeting in Oviedo, Spain, along with updates on the progress of policy improvements.

The implementation of the Pilot Action has further advanced, while the state of play of the peer review process on policy changes was presented and discussed among partners

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The BIOWIND project implementation will lead to the following outcomes:

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

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6TH PROJECT MEETING

During the 6th semester, the 6th project meeting was held in Oviedo, Spain, organised by the **Asturias Energy Foundation (FAEN)** with the participation of all BLOWIND project partners. As the core phase of the project is approaching its conclusion, partners discussed the remaining activities and tasks, as well as the financial status of the project. Special attention was given to the good practices identified so far and to the additional actions required to further enrich the collection. With the end of the core phase, partners are expected to present their policy improvements along with the corresponding action plans outlining the steps towards their implementation. In addition, dedicated peer review meetings were organised during Semester 6, generating valuable policy recommendations.



Project Meeting in Oviedo, Spain

HIGHLIGHTING GOOD PRACTICES

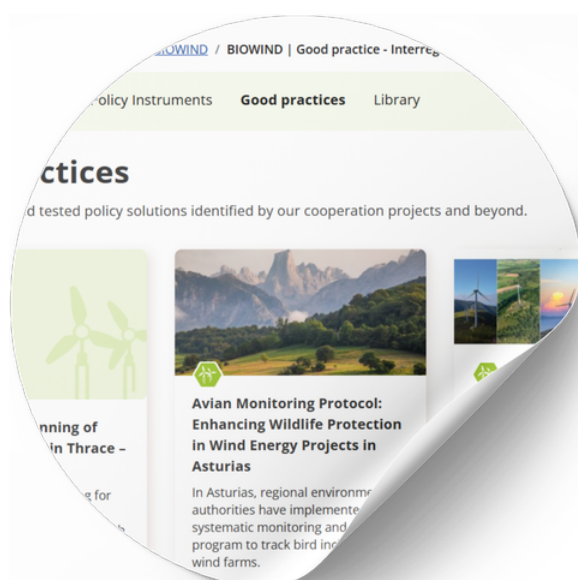
During the implementation of the BLOWIND project, partners have been systematically identifying and documenting good practices related to the improvement of social acceptance and sustainable planning of wind energy projects. Through interregional exchange activities, bilateral discussions, and stakeholder engagement at regional level, each partner region mapped existing practices that have proven effective in:

- Strengthening community engagement mechanisms
- Improving transparency and participatory planning processes
- Safeguarding biodiversity and environmental monitoring around wind farms
- Introducing compensation schemes and community benefit models
- Addressing misinformation through targeted communication initiatives
- Improving regulatory and permitting frameworks

The identified good practices include, among others, participatory permitting approaches, biodiversity monitoring protocols, community benefit schemes, awareness-raising campaigns, and innovative governance models that enhance trust between public authorities, developers, and local communities. This structured identification process allows partners not only to exchange experience but also to assess the transferability potential of each practice within their regional policy instruments.

The research and documentation process will continue until the end of Semester 6, ensuring that the partnership consolidates a comprehensive portfolio of high-quality practices that will directly support the development of policy improvements and action plans in each region.

We invite you to explore the BLOWIND good practices and learn more about the approaches that are shaping more inclusive and sustainable wind energy governance across Europe.



Discover the full collection of good practices [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

On 4 September 2025, the Hungarian partner organised the 6th national Stakeholder Meeting of the BLOWIND project in Tamási, bringing together regional stakeholders, experts, and representatives of local organisations. The invited expert, Dr. Béla Munkácsy (ELTE), provided a comprehensive overview of how renewable energy developments influence ecosystems and local communities. Particular attention was given to the relationship between wind energy deployment, biodiversity protection, and evidence-based environmental planning. Within the framework of BLOWIND, discussions highlighted: i) The environmental impacts of wind energy installations, ii) the importance of biodiversity-sensitive planning, iii) Community engagement mechanisms supporting social acceptance and iv) the role of transparent communication in reducing misinformation. In addition, the Hungarian partner presented the results of the recent regional questionnaire survey examining public perceptions of wind energy. The findings provided valuable insights into local attitudes, concerns, and expectations, contributing to the ongoing identification of policy improvement opportunities.



CDDA - 6th Stakeholder Meeting



PFB - 6th Stakeholder Meeting

On February 23rd, the **Province of Flemish Brabant** held its 6th Regional Stakeholders Meeting with a visit to the Luminus wind turbine at the Barry Callebaut site in Halle, combined with the presentations from experts, offered valuable insights into the state of wind energy development in Flanders. The discussions highlighted the importance of public and political support, the financial and social benefits of municipal participation, and international best practices for strengthening local engagement in renewable energy projects.

The 7th Stakeholder Meeting of BLOWIND in **South Ostrobothnia** (Finland) gathered regional authorities, municipalities, renewable energy associations, and private sector representatives to discuss the current status of wind and solar energy development. Discussions highlighted the rapid growth of renewable energy production in the region, which already exceeds local electricity consumption, while also addressing ongoing challenges related to permitting procedures, biodiversity considerations, grid capacity, and legislative changes.

The 6th Regional Stakeholder Meeting in Asturias, organised by **FAEN**, focused on discussing proposed improvements to the regional policy instrument within the BLOWIND framework. The meeting provided an update on the project's latest progress and presented a biodiversity risk assessment tool designed to support environmentally responsible wind energy planning. Particular attention was given to future policy improvement proposals, aiming to strengthen social acceptance and enhance the integration of biodiversity considerations into regional decision-making. The session concluded with an open discussion, allowing stakeholders to provide input to further refine the proposed measures in support of sustainable wind energy development in the region.

PILOT ACTION IN GREECE AND LATVIA

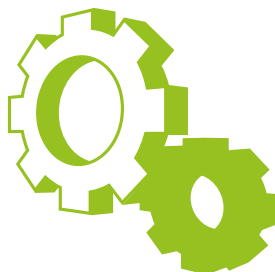
The Zemgale Planning Region implemented a pilot action within BLOWIND to test a structured two-phase public engagement model designed to improve social acceptance and integrate biodiversity considerations into wind energy planning. Five wind park proposals across different municipalities were selected, and the Wind4Bio digital platform was developed to centralise Environmental Impact Assessment materials, mapped territories, discussion topics, and evaluation questionnaires.

The pilot combined an online consultation phase with in-person meetings held in Jelgava, Dobeles, Aizkraukle, and Koknese. While the digital tool facilitated access to information and structured materials, participation remained limited and highlighted usability challenges, including registration barriers and limited localisation. In contrast, in-person consultations generated stronger engagement, enabled clarification of complex biodiversity and planning issues, and helped transform tensions into more constructive dialogue.

The pilot also revealed key structural challenges, including limited local outreach, timing of communication, and low trust in decision-making processes where residents perceived projects as already predetermined. As a result, recommendations include introducing an early public engagement pre-assessment phase before specific projects are formally announced, strengthening municipal communication channels, improving transparency on how public input influences decisions, and upgrading digital tools to better support inclusive participation.



The Region of Western Greece has focused on the wind energy project located in the Municipality of Nafaktia (Regional Unit of Aitolioakarnania) and is utilising the Wind4Bio consultation mechanism to examine biodiversity-related and spatial planning aspects of the respective park. Through this structured engagement process, particular attention is given to environmental sensitivities, land-use compatibility, and the integration of project-specific parameters. A dedicated stakeholder meeting was organised at the end of February to discuss the specific characteristics of each qualified option, including capacity factors and biodiversity sensitivity, with the aim of bringing different perspectives into open public dialogue and addressing potential conflicts. The overall objective was to reach consensual and environmentally sound wind energy solutions that reflect local communities' needs and territorial specificities, ensuring broad social acceptance and facilitating timely implementation.



FRAMEWORK FOR THE CREATION OF REGIONAL WIND ENERGY PROLIFERATION CENTRES

These Centres are designed to act as coordination and advisory hubs, supporting public administrations and regional stakeholders in translating the lessons learned from BLOWIND's interregional exchanges and pilot actions into practical policy improvements. Their role is to strengthen institutional capacity, improve the implementation of policy instruments, and ensure that biodiversity, spatial planning, and community engagement considerations are systematically integrated into decision-making processes. In addition, the Centres promote synergies between regional, national, and European funding instruments, helping authorities align wind energy strategies with broader territorial development objectives. By facilitating knowledge transfer, structured dialogue, and evidence-based planning, they contribute to more coherent, efficient, and impactful use of public resources. Overall, the initiative aims to reinforce regional governance mechanisms, enhance policy coordination, and support environmentally responsible and socially accepted wind energy deployment.



NEXT STEPS

- The 7th Steering Group Meeting will be held online, hosted by the University of Patras
- Partners will work the next three months to demonstrate the policy improvements that have derived from projects results.
- All partners will organize briefings with local public authorities to share policy advancements, discuss implementation challenges, and streamline administration on the municipal level.
- Partners will document and evaluate territorial policy changes, and exchange implementation lessons learned and good practices in order to improve ongoing and future policy-making

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