

WENDY aims to unravel the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis at three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## Consenting process and community development schemes

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Deliverable 4.4: Consenting process and community development schemes

WP 4, Task 4.4.



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## Executive summary

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WENDY aims to understand the drivers of social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis in three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and engineering technology.

This paper focuses on the detailed analysis of the current regulatory framework conditions for the consenting process in different geographical areas, at regional, national and European Union (EU) level for both onshore and offshore wind projects.

On the other hand, it is also the purpose of this document to analyse the community development schemes that have been implemented to the present day and those plans that contribute to favouring the social acceptance of wind energy by citizens.

Understanding the current European Directives in this area and analysing the degree of transposition in the different regions is key, therefore, for a better understanding of the transposition of these directives, a detailed study of the 10 wind energy projects spread over 4 countries is carried out. These use cases have been selected considering geography (northern versus southern Europe), maturity phase (feasibility phase/planning phase / short-term operation phase / long-term operation phase); type of wind energy (onshore/offshore - floating, fixed-); and coexistence with other activities (agriculture, fisheries, energy communities).

Furthermore, various scenarios of the Community development plans in these four countries Greece (GR), Italy (IT), Norway (NO), and Spain (ES) (coinciding with the regions with use cases) as well as in the recommendations and directives proposed by the EU have been analysed to identify similarities and discrepancies.

The European Union (EU) has made significant legislative efforts to deploy renewables more effectively, adopting concrete measures to generate legislation and various schemes and establishing guidelines for Member States. It should be noted that the analysed countries Greece, Italy, and Spain, which are EU Member States, have transposed the EU Directives by adapting them to each region. It should be noted that the fourth country analysed is Norway, which is not a member state of the European Union, is not obliged to follow the EU guidelines in this area, although the EU directives are being taken as a reference for the development of the country's legislative framework.

In terms of community development plans, the EU has a history of initiatives to encourage public participation through various directives, programmes, and recommendations. None of the countries analysed have established specific and comprehensive legislation on how to



implement community development in wind projects. However, all countries have included guidelines and defined the importance of community participation in various programmes, national plans, etc. and in the (still incipient) development of energy communities. In addition, wind energy companies in the use case countries are implementing various procedures or programmes to involve the community and increase social acceptance of the projects.



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## Abbreviations and acronyms

Acronym	Description
AEE	– es. Asociación Empresarial Eólica; Wind Business Association
AAC	– es. Autorización Administrativa de Construcción; Administrative Construction Authorisation
AAP	– es. Autorización Administrativa Previa; Preliminary Administrative Authorisation
AU	– it. Autorizzazione Unica; Single Authorisation
CEC	Citizen Energy Community
CreSS	– it. Direzione Generale Per la Cresita Sostenibile e la Qualità Dello Sviluppo; General Directorate for Sustainable Growth and Development Quality
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
DILA	– it. Dichiarazione Inizio LAVORI; Work Start Declaration
AE	– es. Autorización de Explotación; Exploitation Authorisation
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment – es. Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental; Environmental Impact Assessment
ETA	Environmental Terms Approval
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information System
HEREMA	Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company
HORIZON	Horizon Europe Framework Programme
IPTO	Independent Power Transmission Operator
KBN	Kommunalbanken Norway
kW	kilo-Watt
MTA	– no. Miljø-, transport og anleggsplan; Environment, transport and facility plan – es. Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico; Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge
MITECO	
MSP	Maritime Spatial Plan
MW	Mega-watt
NECPs	National Energy and Climate Plans
NVE	– no. Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet; Norwegian Directorate of Water Resources and Energy
OED	– no. Olje- og energidepartementet; Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
PAS	– it. Procedura Abilitativa Semplificata; Simplified Enabling Procedure
PERTE	– es. Proyectos Estratégicos para la Recuperación y Transformación Económica; Strategic Projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation
POEM	– es. Plan de Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo; Maritime Spatial Plan
PNIEC	– es. Plan Nacional Integrado de Energía y Clima; Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan



	– it. Piano Nazionale Integrato energia e Clima; Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan
PRTR	– es. Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia; Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan
RAE	Regulation Authority of Energy
REC	Renewable Energy Community
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
REE	– es. Red Eléctrica Española; Spanish Electricity Grid
RTN	– it. Rete di Trasmissione elettrica Nazionale; National Electricity Transmission grid
SIA	Strategic Impact Assessment
SIM	Social Impact Management



# 1. Introduction

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To contribute to the holistic assessment of the impact of wind energy installations on the environment and local communities, this report focuses on two relevant points to consider. On one side it investigates and explores the consent processes currently in place for onshore and offshore wind farm developments and on the other side, it studies and identifies the community schemes that contribute to the acceptance of wind energy.

In the attempt to obtain a diverse sample, the 4 use case regions covering 10 different types of wind farms have been considered, as well as a detailed study of the European Union (EU) Directives and recommendations in this field.

The aim of this study is to develop a document with the information provided by these regions: Greece, Italy, Norway, and Spain with their respective use cases and to make a contrast with the European recommendations and directives. Through this report similarities and discrepancies between the analysed regions are described and identified and based on these contributions, a comparative analysis with the European directives is made.

Furthermore, the analysis of community development schemes that support the acceptance of wind energy is also the subject of this document, which aims to identify models of community schemes or community plans that promote the acceptance of wind energy in local communities. Therefore, it is the purpose of this study to collect information on actual development schemes and examples to help identify current progress, gaps, and next steps.



## 2. Methodology

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The consenting and authorisation processes have been identified, for both onshore and offshore wind projects at European and regional levels. Also, community development schemes in the regions with use cases were identified and evaluated. The recognition of these community plans provides knowledge of the status of citizen involvement and social acceptance.

As background, conclusions, and results of Deliverable D2.2 were highly valuable and represented the basis for the development of this deliverable. The framework of regulatory conditions throughout the different project phases (planning, licensing, and development) and mapping of social acceptance served as a starting point to carry out this investigation.

To address the aforementioned objectives of this report, the following methodology was proposed to understand the authorisation procedures currently in place in the countries analysed, as well as the relations and actions established with the community:

- Part 1: An investigation of European legislation, recommendations, and guidelines.
- Part 2: Research the regional legislation of the countries participating in the use cases.
- Part 3: Research about Community development schemes carried out in each country.

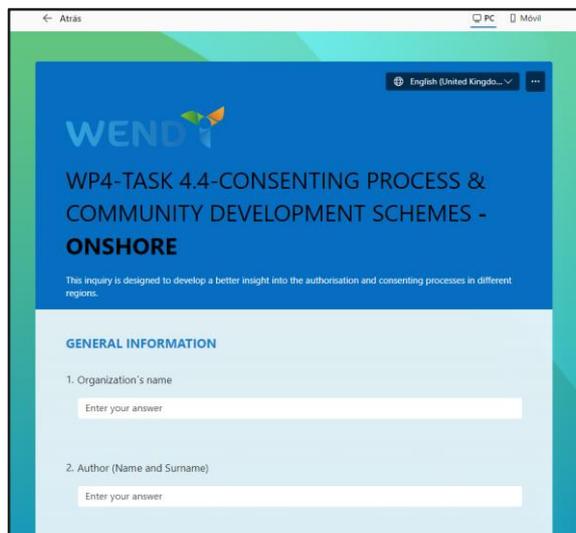
In order to gain knowledge and understand the extent and scope of the two issues to be analysed, two questionnaires (one for onshore wind farms and one for offshore wind farms) were prepared, covering the permitting process and the path to be followed from the planning phase of a project to the operational phase, as well as several questions on community development plans and how this type of plan is implemented in the regional economy (see Annex I. Guidelines and templates).

To ensure the uniformity of the study and the answers, the questionnaires were designed in the Microsoft Forms application and consisted of 10 sections and 72 questions in the onshore case and 11 sections and 78 questions in the offshore case (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Together with the questionnaire sent to the partners who participated in this task, a summary of the questionnaire was provided in a separate document to give an overview of the general content and the sections to be filled in (see Annex I. Guidelines and templates).

Every section (see detailed content in Annex I. Guidelines and templates) was designed to cover a specific aspect or stage in the consenting process, from the initial authorisation request to the exploitation authorisation and development phase. It is important to note that the last section was focused on community development schemes and social acceptance factors. Also, additional sections were included centred on knowing whether the European



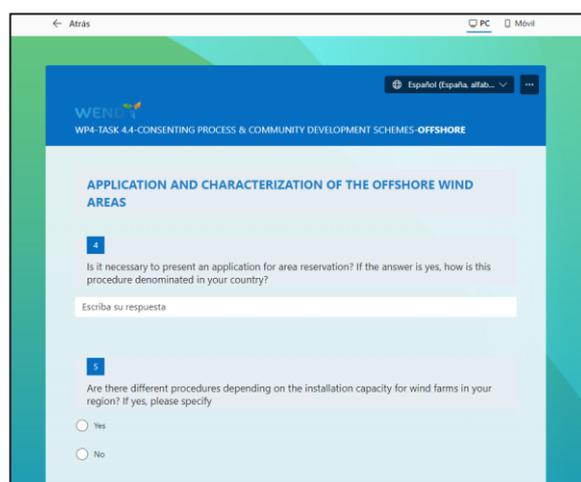
legislation, recommendations and guidelines established in several directives and regulations are being followed in each region.



The screenshot shows a mobile form titled "WP4-TASK 4.4- CONSENTING PROCESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES - ONSHORE". The form includes a header with the WENDY logo and a language selector set to "English (United Kingdom)". Below the title, there is a brief description: "This inquiry is designed to develop a better insight into the authorisation and consenting processes in different regions." The main section is titled "GENERAL INFORMATION" and contains two numbered questions:

1. Organization's name  
Enter your answer
2. Author (Name and Surname)  
Enter your answer

Figure 1. Screenshot of onshore questionnaire. Source: Microsoft forms.



The screenshot shows a mobile form titled "WP4-TASK 4.4- CONSENTING PROCESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES - OFFSHORE". The form includes a header with the WENDY logo and a language selector set to "Español (España, alfabetación)". Below the title, there is a section titled "APPLICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE OFFSHORE WIND AREAS". It contains two numbered questions:

4. Is it necessary to present an application for area reservation? If the answer is yes, how is this procedure denominated in your country?  
Escriba su respuesta
5. Are there different procedures depending on the installation capacity for wind farms in your region? If yes, please specify  
 Yes  
 No

Figure 2. Screenshot of offshore questionnaire. Source: Microsoft forms.

The answers were collected through Microsoft Forms (Figure 3) and a detailed analysis of each one of them was carried out (complete responses from each one of the regions can be found in Annex II. Results of the questionnaires). When necessary, a meeting was conducted with the corresponding person to clarify or deepen answers on specific topics.

The consenting process for each region was elaborated in detail and similarities and discrepancies between the different processes in each region were identified. The same analysis was carried out between each region and the legislation of the EU previously identified. The analysis of community development programmes at the European and regional levels followed the same steps.



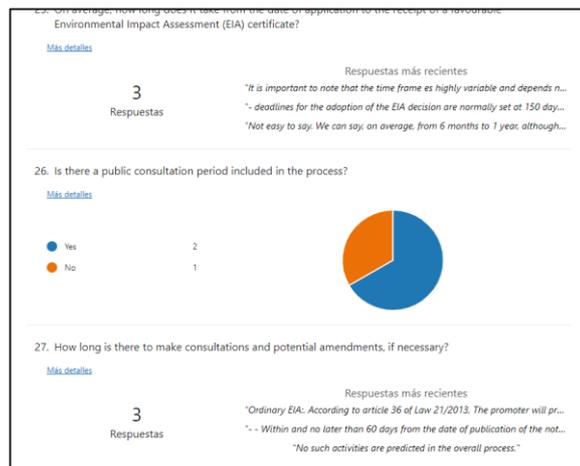
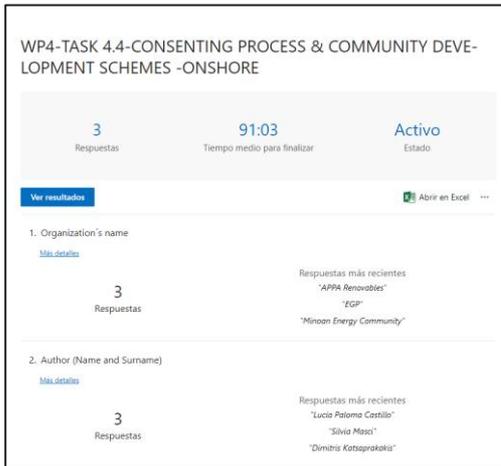


Figure 3. Screenshot of some of the answers collected. Source: Microsoft Forms.



## 3. Desk research

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### 3.1. EU level

Over the last decades, Europe has been a pioneer not only in renewable energy but also in wind energy. In recent years, the European Union has made significant legislative efforts to better integrate renewable energy sources into the European energy system and to improve community involvement in the energy transition and development of renewable energy projects.

#### 3.1.1. Consenting process

Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources [1] is one of the implementation bases and recommendations used by EU Member States. This directive sets the framework for the development and expansion of renewable energy sources.

This directive includes recommendations and guidelines on various issues, all with a strong social component, in which the citizen plays a key role in the development of the renewable energy sector. It also sets out the procedural approach to renewables and allows concepts and mechanisms to be extracted. The aim of this directive is to be transposed and adapted by each member country.

These guidelines focus on promoting "The procedure used for the authorisation, certification and licensing of renewable energy plants should be objective, transparent, non-discriminatory, and proportionate when applying the rules to specific projects. Additionally, as established in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [1], consideration 43, "It is appropriate to avoid any unnecessary burden that could arise by classifying renewable energy projects under installations which represent a high risk to health".

It should be noted that the Directive grants Member States the autonomy to create tendering procedures for renewable installations, as long as they are proportionate and necessary technologies and contribute to the implementation of the energy efficiency first principle (Article 15). It also defines the establishment of contact points, a procedural manual, and indicative deadlines for certain capacities (Article 16), the Simple-notification procedure for grid connections (Article 17).

Therefore, in essence, this directive defines the procedural basis that a renewable energy installation must follow, allowing the member states to elaborate their own legislation according to their particular needs and circumstances.



It is important to refer to Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 [2] amending Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment [3]. These directives define the basis for environmental assessment. Throughout its articles, it is stated, among others:

- Scope of application.
- Mandatory nature of the EIA.
- Content of the assessment report.
- Public consultation and public participation.
- Information accessible to the public.
- Indicative deadlines for assessment.
- Assessment of transboundary projects.
- Preventive and corrective measures.
- Cumulative effects assessment.
- Assignment of clear responsibilities to competent authorities.

Due to the international context, urgent measures have been launched from Europe, including the acceleration of renewable energies. Under this pretext, Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 of 22 December 2022 establishing a framework for accelerating the deployment of renewable energies stands out [4]. Its articles include measures to accelerate the permitting process for renewable energy projects, as well as measures to further streamline the permitting process applicable to the repackaging of renewable energy projects.

Europe promotes the benefits of repowering, which is a powerful option for quickly increasing the production of renewable energy with the least impact on the grid infrastructure and the environment, especially in technologies such as wind power with long authorisation processes. That is why Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 [4] also includes the simplification of the authorisation framework for the repowering of renewable installations in Article 5.

Europe recognises the significant value of offshore wind energy and is at the frontline of its expansion and development. In the communication "An EU strategy for harnessing the potential of offshore renewables for a climate-neutral future" [5] sets out the progress to date and the way forward for the further development and deployment of offshore wind energy, among others, highlighting this indispensable resource in the energy transition. It also proposes concrete ways forward to support the long-term sustainable development of this sector.

In addition, mention should be made of Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning [6]. It establishes the framework for maritime spatial planning based on the different activities and uses that can be developed (Maritime Spatial Plans). It promotes cooperation and spatial management to achieve a balance between human activities and the protection of the marine environment. It is also worth mentioning the Directive 2008/56/EC (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), which was established by the European Parliament and Council on the 17th of June 2008, outlining a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy [7], which establishes that Member States shall adopt the necessary



measures to achieve or maintain the Good Environmental Status of the marine environment by 2020. This Directive was later amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2017/845 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the indicative lists of elements to be taken into account for the preparation of marine strategies [8].

The National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) were introduced by the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the governance of the energy union and climate action [9] agreed as part of the Clean Energy for all Europeans Package. These plans are the framework for Member States to outline their climate and energy targets, policies, and measures from 2021 to 2030. NECPs are a key instrument to give visibility to the renewable sector, supporting European know-how, goods, and services.

The recent adoption this September 2023 of the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources [1] is a further step towards a legislative framework that promotes the deployment of renewable energies. Other specific Directives to be taken into account are; Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings [10] and Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 [11] on energy efficiency, Article 15 of which sets out zoning specifications [12]. It stipulates that Member States must define the land and sea areas necessary for the installation of renewable energies. These areas must be proportional to the estimated capacities foreseen in the national energy and climate plans, considering renewable resources, energy demand and infrastructure capacity.

It further adds that, within these zones, "renewable-friendly zones" should be designated. These zones should minimise environmental impacts, give priority to artificial areas and exclude protected natural areas. States will have to establish standards and mitigation measures in these zones.

In line with this, the European Commission has launched the Energy and Industry Geography Lab, a geographic data tool related to energy, industry, and infrastructure. The tool enables users to find and filter energy-related data and create and share maps that display this information.

### 3.1.2. Community Development Schemes

Beyond their contribution to renewable energy, wind energy projects in Europe have the potential to bring significant benefits to the communities in which they operate. Wind farms have played a pivotal role in fostering community development, demonstrating their impact at different stages of their existence. They also have consistently contributed positively to community development and the overall acceptance of wind energy projects. Community



development is associated with, among other things, the involvement of local communities, the provision of economic benefits and the promotion of sustainable practices (Figure 4).

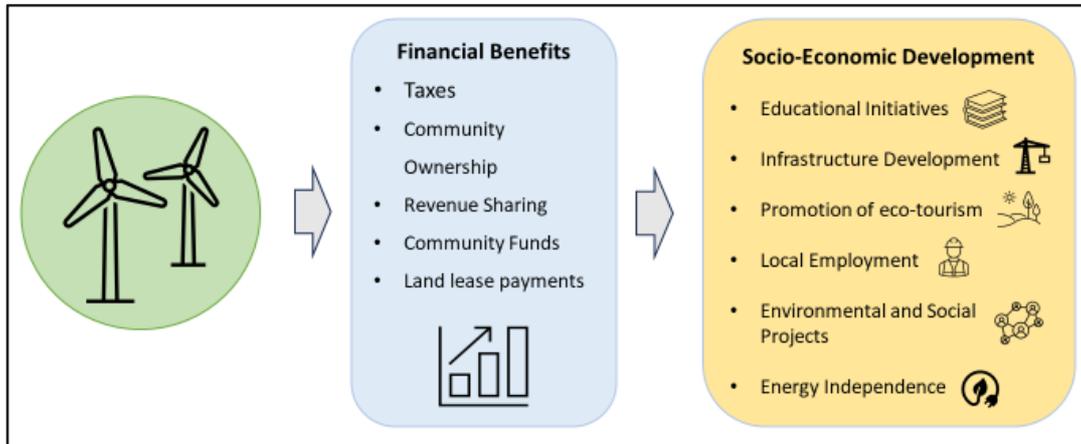


Figure 4. Understanding the positive impacts of Wind Farms on the development of Local Communities. Source: Diagram created by Q-PLAN.

The benefits of implementing a structured community benefit scheme can extend to economic aspects, creating new jobs, stimulating local businesses, and contributing to the tax base. Moreover, wind farms can enhance the infrastructure and public services of the areas they are located in, leading to an overall improvement in the quality of life for residents. Additionally, they can offer educational opportunities and engage with the community in various ways, fostering a sense of involvement and ownership. In both social and economic terms, wind farms can be a driving force for the sustainable development of local communities.

The EU has historically carried out different initiatives promoting public participation and involvement in the community. One example worth mentioning is the Aarhus Convention transposed by Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 [10], it establishes three fundamental pillars for access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.

The Clean energy for all Europeans package, adopted in the EU in 2019, included several pieces of legislation aimed at further adapting EU market rules to the new market realities. Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [1] is one of the most important pieces of EU legislation in terms of community development. It aims to strengthen the role of renewable self-consumers along with an increase in public participation and social acceptance. Also, it introduces the concept of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). The progress in transposing and implementing the provisions on RECs varies between countries, with some countries not having fully implemented them yet [11].

According to the findings presented in Deliverable 2.2 of WENDY project [12], the following articles and recommendations are worth noting.



Among the first considerations are:

- (17) Small-scale installations can boost public acceptance and ensure the development of renewable energy projects but may require specific conditions, such as feed-in tariffs.
- (26) Member States should ensure that renewable energy communities can participate in available support schemes on an equal footing with large participants. To that end, Member States should be allowed to take measures, such as providing technical and financial support, reducing administrative requirements, or allowing renewable energy communities to be remunerated through direct support where they comply with the requirements of small installations.
- (27) Infrastructure planning for renewable electricity production must consider policies regarding the participation of the local population.
- (67) (70) (71) The involvement of renewable energy communities can provide opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce it. Empowering jointly acting renewables self-consumers helps fight energy poverty, increase local acceptance, and generate local investment. Member States should allow any form of entity for renewable energy communities, as long as they can exercise rights and be subject to obligations acting on their behalf.
- (125) This Directive should be by the provisions of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 28 January 2003 [13], as they are applicable.

Several Articles highlight important aspects regarding community development and public participation:

- Article 2.16 states the definition of a renewable energy community as a legal entity that is based on open and voluntary participation, is autonomous, and is effectively controlled by shareholders or members that are in the proximity of the renewable energy projects.
- Article 4 highlights the importance of allowing non-discriminatory participation of small players and local authorities (4.8.d), and of ensuring local acceptance (4.8.f).
- Article 18.6 establishes that Member States must provide information and training programs to inform citizens about the use of renewable energies and their rights as active consumers, as well as involve local and regional authorities in this process.



- Article 22. Details the regulatory framework for REC. In particular, 4.f mentions that participation in renewable energy communities must be accessible to all consumers.

Included in the Clean Energy for all Europeans package, one worth mentioning is The Directive (EU) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity [14], which places the consumer more at the centre of the clean energy transition and enable the active participation of the community, while establishing a strong framework for their protection.

Directive (EU) 2019/944 [14] focuses on improving the uptake of energy communities and making it easier for citizens to integrate efficiently in the electricity system, as active participants. It is important to note this Directive defines the concept of Citizen Energy Communities (CECs). Considerations 44, 45, 46 and 47 of the mentioned Directive determine the legal definition, rights, and obligations of CEC while Article 16 specifically details the regulatory framework. It should be noted that Article 19 establishes that authorities should monitor the removal of obstacles and restrictions on the development of CEC. According to the European Commission's projections, by 2030, energy cooperatives may contribute approximately 17 % of the installed wind capacity and 21 % of the installed solar capacity within the EU [15]. It is important to note that the definitions of CEC and REC can differ among various countries and regions.

It is worth mentioning that despite RECs and CECs being both types of energy communities, there are some important differences between each other [16]:

- RECs can generally be seen as a subset, or type, of CEC [17]. The scope of RECs is specifically focused on the production, consumption, and sale of renewable energy.
- In a REC, it is mandatory that local citizens hold a majority stake in potential investments, beyond that of local businesses. In the case of a CEC, on the other hand, non-regional companies are also allowed to invest in the energy community.

It should be noted that, following the guidelines and recommendations established by the above-mentioned Directives, each Member State has the autonomy to develop its own legislation, strategies and programmes aimed at improving community involvement and social acceptance of renewable energy projects.

In Europe, the concept of community ownership and financing of wind energy projects has long been common practice [18]. As a more recent example of an EU initiative promoting public involvement, The EU 2020 Guidance Document on Wind Energy Projects, and Nature Protection Legislation [19] states that extending stakeholder consultation and participation processes in the planning phase positively influences the development of a project. A 2020 Wind Europe report on the Wind Industry Commitments on Community Engagement [20] provides numerous examples of European wind projects (Greece, Norway, Sweden, Germany,



France, Poland, and the UK) that demonstrate effective models for communicating with local communities and good practices for engaging key local actors and activating the local economy.

There are several funding programs destined to support the development of CEC and REC. For instance, the EU's LIFE programme provides funding for projects contributing to the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, which includes projects developed by energy communities [21]. More recently, in 2022 and 2023, with the objective of reinforcing the importance of community involvement, the European Parliament has provided funding for 3 different projects. These projects aim to contribute to the dissemination of best practices and provide technical assistance for the development of concrete energy community initiatives across the EU: the Energy Communities Repository, the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub, and the support service for Citizen-Led Renovation [22].

Specifically with offshore projects, community benefit schemes are unlikely to be realised in precisely the same manner [23]. It is important to note that offshore projects involve a more diverse and complex range of stakeholders with whom to negotiate agreements. This report shows some examples of potential stakeholders involved in the implementation of an offshore project (Figure 5). Many of these stakeholders may be also present in onshore project development.

Local Stakeholder Groups	Examples
<b>Residential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal and port communities</li> <li>• Resident cooperatives and associations</li> <li>• Community societies</li> <li>• Neighbourhood security, community watch</li> </ul>
<b>Community Influencers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local opinion leaders</li> <li>• Large employers</li> <li>• Elected public representatives</li> <li>• Local, municipal, regional, state, and national broadcast and print media</li> <li>• Social media interests</li> <li>• Celebrities</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local retail</li> <li>• Chambers of commerce</li> <li>• Service and manufacturing businesses</li> <li>• Commercial fisherman</li> <li>• Shipping companies</li> <li>• Employment unions</li> <li>• Telecommunications companies</li> <li>• Tourism industry providers</li> <li>• Hospitality and accommodation providers</li> </ul>

<b>Authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military and defence ministry</li> <li>• Airport authorities</li> <li>• Aviation companies</li> <li>• Air rescue</li> <li>• Marine management services</li> <li>• Catchment management authorities</li> <li>• Local government</li> <li>• Local networks e.g., public participation networks, community fora</li> <li>• Tourism agencies</li> <li>• Indigenous People and their representatives</li> </ul>
<b>Other Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious groups</li> <li>• Sport clubs</li> <li>• Leisure boating clubs, boating and yachting associations</li> <li>• Sea scouts</li> <li>• Environmental, nature and conservation groups</li> <li>• Bird watching groups</li> <li>• Walking and hiking clubs</li> <li>• Special interest groups (e.g., Bathymetry)</li> </ul>

Figure 5. Categories of Local Stakeholder Groups. Source: Offshore wind farm projects. Stakeholder Engagement & Community Benefits. A Practical Guide (G. Keegan y A. Torres, 2021).

### 3.2. Regional level: Greece

Greece is actively working towards renewable energies and is aligned with the EU, transposing all the recommendations and directives into its legislation.

According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001 [1], 2010/31/EU [24], 2012/27/EU [25] and Regulation 2022/2577 [4] on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency. However, Greek legislation has not yet transposed the guidelines on repowering or process acceleration on a generalised scale included in this European package.

Another important thing to consider is that Greece, according to the European recommendations, has its own Geographical information system or GIS used to identify suitable locations of potential wind farms and energy projects (<https://geo.rae.gr/>). This tool helps foster transparency and inform the community about spatial planning in energy projects. Nevertheless, there is no specific legislation that states how community development in energy projects should be carried out.

“The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) is a balanced mix of ambitious and rational national energy policy, aiming primarily to ensure the attainment of the EU’s Energy Union goals by 2030” [26]. This plan has recently been updated and continues to highlight the essential role of wind energy in achieving European goals.

Regarding offshore wind energy, it is worth mentioning that Greece has not yet adopted a Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) [27], as established in Directive 2014/89/EU [6]. Nevertheless, MSP-related issues are addressed in “Special Frameworks for Spatial Planning”

(terrestrial spatial plans - TS Plans) covering specific economic sectors. The EU MSP Directive is transposed into national legislation through Law 4546/2018 of 12 June 2018 [28] and Law 4759/2020 (GG 245/A/9-12-2020) amending the previous one through Chapter 2 [29]

### 3.2.1. Consenting process

#### A) ONSHORE

##### Energy Production Certificate

In Greece, the first step for the authorisation of projects to produce electricity from renewable energy sources, including onshore wind farms, is the issuance of the Energy Production Certificate (former Power Production Permit).

For this permit, the owner or the developer of the project should submit a relevant application to the Regulation Authority of Energy (RAE), during the three submission periods [30].

For the submission of the application in RAE for the issuance of the power production certificate, a bank guarantee is required (Energy communities are fully exempted from this obligation). It is denominated as “bank guarantee for the issuance of the power production certificate”. The amount of the guarantee is € 35 per kW, and it is valid for 36 months from the issuance of the energy production certificate [31].

The applicant must submit to the Operator the application for the supply of the binding offers for the connection of the project to the local grid. However, there are some exceptions for projects located within NATURA regions and for so-called specific projects (not wind farms within them). Thus, only in the case of projects located in NATURA 2000 regions, the period of the bank guarantee can be extended, due to the more complicated licensing period. In case the applicant fails to complete the project within 36 months, the amount of the bank guarantee must be paid to the bank [32].

The application is submitted only electronically, via the online submission system of RAE [31]. Theoretically, the Power Production Certificate is issued at the latest 20 days after the expiration of the period for the submission of any potential objections from anybody who may have a legitimate interest against the issuance of the Power Production Certificate. This period, in total, can be a maximum of 20 days after the submission of the application. The process for the submission of the application and the issuance of the Power Production Certificate is defined and described in clause 11 of Law 4685/2020 [32].

The application should be developed according to the defined content in the Power Production Certificates Regulation:

- Wind potential evaluation
- Description of the installation site.



- Exact geographical coordinates of the turbine's installation positions and the wind park's installation site borders.
- Description of the access roads to the site.
- Calculation of the annual electricity production.
- Exact description with technical specifications of the wind turbine selected model.
- Economic evaluation.
- Justification of the capacity of the project's owner to fund the project.

### **Issuance of the Environmental Terms Approval (ETA)**

In general, all projects and activities are classified into two main groups, A and B, according to Ministerial Decision 1958/2012 [33] and its amendments:

- Group A: those with potential significant impacts on the environment.
  - Subgroup A1: very significant potential impacts on the environment.
  - Subgroup A2: potentially significant impacts on the environment.
- Group B: Those with minor potential local impacts, which can be addressed by general measures and actions.

Greek legislation transposes Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 [2] through Law 4014/2011 [34]. This law describes the process for the submission of the application and its assessment for the issuance of the ETA. However, it does not establish the obligation to hold a public consultation within this process.

The issuance of the ETA is implemented by a decision of its Secretary General. As regards wind farm projects, according to the Ministerial Decision YPEN/DIPA/74463/4562 [35] [36], they are classified into:

- A1: nominal power > 60 MW or > 45 MW in a NATURA 2000 region or if the length of the grid connection > 20 km.
- A2: nominal power >10 MW or < 60 MW and the length of the grid connection < 20 km.
- B: nominal power > 0,02 MW and ≤ 10 MW.
- B: nominal power ≤ 0,02 MW in a NATURA 2000 region or in a coastal area less than 100 m from the coast.

The environmental licence is required for all new projects in group A, as well as for the change of location of existing projects in this group. For all projects that are subject to environmental licensing, relevant prior approval by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is required. With this approval, the antiquities authority investigates whether the project is in an area of archaeological interest. This approval is not required for projects located in predefined areas of productive activities. In case it is located within forested or reforested areas, or woodlands and parks, a pertinent statement from the competent forestry authority is also needed.



The content of the application, to be submitted to the authority responsible for issuing the ETA, for projects categorised in group A is defined in oik. nº 170225 [37]. It usually consists of a technical report, plans, prior approval of the authorities involved, etc.

For projects located within the boundaries of NATURA 2000 regions, a special supplement to the general application is required, which is called "Special Ecological Assessment". This study includes on-site investigation and observation to conclude and predict any potentially significant impacts of the project on local flora and fauna and ecological balance.

The authority in charge of the submission of the application and the issuance of the ETA is: for projects of the sub-group A1, the Ministry of Environment and Energy, and for project of the sub-group A2, the local Decentralized Management Authority.

The content of the application for the issuance of the ETA for group B projects is described in Annex II of Law 4014/2011 [34]. However, practically no environmental licence is required.

The ETA has a nominal duration of 10 years. After the expiry of this period, it must be updated in time, or the validity of the ETA is terminated. This updating process is described in clause 5 of Law 4014/2011 [34]. For very specific cases, this duration can be shortened, as well as extended from 2 to 4 years according to environmental exceptions.

### **Issuance of the Installation Permit**

The Installation Permit for electricity production plants from Renewable Energy Sources (RES) is issued by the Governor of the responsible Regional Authority, following a relevant application of the project's owner or developer. In case the plant is sited inside the boundaries of a NATURA 2000, Ramsar region, or National Parks, the Installation Permit is issued with a common Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Development and the Minister of Environment and Energy. Through this process, all technical reports (calculations, topographic maps, etc.) and all the prior licenses (Power Production Certificate, Environmental Terms Approval, etc) should be submitted.

The first step is for the Operator to receive a binding offer from the project owner for connection to the local grid. The request follows the specific guidelines mentioned in clause 4(2) of Ministerial Decision D6/F1/oik.13310 [38]. After acceptance, the owner represents the project connection to the local grid on a topographical diagram (scale 1:5.000 and 1:50.000) which must be approved by the Operator. The process is detailed in chapter B (clauses 4-6) of the same Decision. The binding offer is valid for 3 years, extendable according to paragraph 4 of clause 3 of Law 3468/2006 [39].

The second step is to obtain the Installation Permit, defined in Chapter C (clauses 7-11) of the Ministerial Decision D6/F1/oik.13310 [38]. The project owner or the developer applies to the Regional Authority, including the details of clause 8 (1) of the Decision. The installation permit is valid for 2 years, extendable under clause 10 of the Decision. Once issued, the project owner can proceed with installation and construction.



After the issuance of the Installation Permit, the project's owner – developer applies to the Operator for the synapse of the connection contract of the plant with the grid. The process and the attachments of this application are described in clause 9 of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision [38].

### **Operation Permit**

There are public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period.

Regarding an economic guarantee, the process is undertaken by the Regulatory Authority for Energy. The price is guaranteed for a 10-year period. No private entities are involved in the organisation of these public auctions.

## ***B) OFFSHORE***

### **Previous studies of the area and access to the electrical grid**

The potential areas for the development of offshore wind farms in Greece will be defined centrally by the State, with the approval of several involved Ministries and Authorities, such as the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment and Energy, etc [40]. In this way, all the potential sites for offshore wind park installations will be very specific and clearly predefined. Once these zones have been defined, potential offshore wind farms can only be installed in these zones after an open competitive process. Recently, Greece published Law 4964/2022 concerning provisions for the simplification of environmental licensing, establishing a framework for the development of Offshore Wind Farms, dealing with the energy crisis, environmental protection, and other provisions [40]. It establishes a framework for the licensing and operation of offshore wind farms, and it represents a step in the application of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy.

The Authority in charge of the definition of these areas, the management of the open calls and the licensing of the new projects is the Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company (HEREMA) [41].

The process is implemented in two stages. In the first stage, the interested party applies for a license to implement the required investigation – research in a specific area for the installation of the offshore wind park (wind potential, bathymetry etc.). In this application, the applicant should prove a former experience in the development or the operation of offshore wind farms. This can be also proved with the so-called “borrowed experience”, which is a third-party experience supplied for the applicant. Additionally, there is a list of administrative documents regarding the form and the structure of the legal entity, as well as certain documents which can prove the funding capacity of the applicant to implement the project. Finally, there is also a bank guarantee of € 10 per kW. In the second stage, which is the open call from the HEREMA



for the licensing of the projects, this application, and its results, together with the same bank guarantee, should be submitted again.

For the permit to implement the conditions in a specific area for the installation of offshore wind farms, the Authority in charge is the HEREMA. For the open call process, the evaluation of the submitted applications and the final selection of the approved investors, the Authority in charge is the Regulatory Authority of Energy [42]. Regarding this procedure, currently, there are not any time periods or deadlines clearly defined in the overall process.

Regarding obtaining the right to gain access to the grid, initially, the Independent Power Transmission Operator (IPTO), responsible for the mainland grid, must act based on predetermined areas and power capacities designated by HEREMA for offshore wind farm installations. This involves improving the local transmission grid to accommodate the generated power from these farms. Subsequently, potential investors need to submit a connection request to the IPTO, including a full study of the required connection works and environmental terms approval.

The license for the preliminary studies of a specific site has a maximum duration of 3 years. The power production certificate, which is issued by the Regulatory Authority of Energy once the interested party has been selected in the frame of the open call from the HEREMA, has a duration of 36 months, within this period from the issuance of the power production certificate the applicant should submit in the Operator the application for the supply of the binding bid for the connection of the project with the local grid.

For the submission of the application to RAE for the issuance of the energy production certificate a bank guarantee, called a "bank guarantee for the issuance of the energy production certificate", is required. The amount of this second bank guarantee is € 35 per kW.

Given the zones for the installation of offshore wind farms have not been yet defined by HEREMA, there is no public registry of them. However, once this is done, there will be a public database or registry with relevant information such as the available and reserved zones, licenses issued, etc.

For the licensing of the project full environmental impact studies are required. The content of these studies, for projects or activities categorized in group A, is defined in number oik. 170225 [37]. For the group B, practically no environmental licensing is required.

Once the investor has been selected for a specific site, the process follows the same steps as for onshore wind farms: issuance of the power production certificate, issuance of the environmental permit, issuance of the installation permit and, finally, issuance of the operating permit.



### 3.2.2. Community Development Schemes

In 2019, Greece developed its own National Plan for Energy and Climate [26], which was reviewed in 2023. The plan was agreed upon as part of the “Clean Energy for all Europeans” package and introduced in RE (EU) 2018/1999 [9]. In section 3.4.5, the mentioned plan introduces several policies and measures to promote the role of local energy communities and consumers, stating that active involvement of stakeholders at local and regional levels will be ensured.

There are several initiatives taken by different stakeholders (local communities, project owners, etc.) to improve community development and involvement around wind energy projects. Sifnos (Energy Community of Sifnos) and Minoan Energy Community (in Crete), in cooperation with the local regional authorities and municipalities, are good cases examples of active community involvement. Also, many projects carry out community development strategies like local job generation or infrastructure improvement during normal commercial operations. For instance, negotiations between the project owner and the local community may include the construction of facilities for the benefit of the local community (e.g., a new road). Also, during the normal commercial operation of the project, 3 % of the revenues are given to the local Municipality (1,7 %) and as discounts on the electricity bills of the residents of the nearby settlements (1,3 %). As an example of activating the local economy and jobs, the Wind industry commitments on community engagement of 2020 report [20] presents a case study of wind farms in South Evia (totalling 218,7 MW). The projects contributed € 3,9 million per year locally to the economy and society. This amount includes development activities, sponsorships, supplies to the local market, support for local actions such as firefighters in the municipalities of Taminaio and Stira, and the special tax (3 %) for the benefit of the municipalities and citizens. In 2017, at least 62 direct permanent jobs were created for local people in the operation and maintenance of the wind turbines.

As mentioned in Deliverable D2.2 [12], in Greece, local communities are highly valued, supported and promoted by various entities and institutions. In 2018, Law 4513/2018 [43] introduced the concept of energy communities and established their regulation, rights, and obligations. The primary objective of these Energy Communities is to encourage and advance the use of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and Combined Heat and Power (CHP), while also promoting energy efficiency and sustainable transportation, as outlined in Article 4 of Law No. 4513/2018 [43]. It is important to note that Greece had no previous experience with such entities, and for the first time, a comprehensive framework regulating the establishment and operation of energy communities was introduced [44]. This legislation incorporates a lot of the elements included in the EU definitions, such as open and voluntary membership, democratic governance and effective control, and the requirement of proximity, among many others. Although this is a good piece of legislation, the definition of energy communities was



broad enough to allow energy communities to be developed by private investors and not citizens, to take advantage of the incentives provided for them [45].

Law 5037/2023 [46], adopted by the Greek government in March 2023, introduces special provisions for RES projects and significant amendments regarding energy related practices. It also provides a new regulatory framework in line with the European Directive 2018/2001 [1] and 2019/944 [14], as a replacement of the previous Law 4513/2018 [43]. It is important to note that this law modifies the definition of energy communities, which are now transformed into RECs or CECs. It also provides several benefits, such as including priority in the licensing procedure. It is worth mentioning that, in some cases, the introduction of new terms for energy communities, while the already existing energy communities are still in force can be confusing. The differences between some types of energy communities are not well established [47]. Even if it is not a wind CEC, the Kozani Energy Community is a great example of a CEC that has received EU funding to develop a solar power plant that provides electricity to the local grid and has plans to develop additional renewable energy projects [48].

### 3.3. Regional level: Italy

To implement the recommendations and guidelines that the EU has implemented through various directives, Italy has carried out the transposition of these directives and the development of various plans and programmes. In accordance with the "Clean Energy for all Europeans", Italy developed the Piano Nazionale Integrato Energia e Clima (PNIEC) in December 2019 [49], which establishes the commitment to decarbonise the economy and intends to promote a Green New Deal, understood as a green pact with businesses and citizens, which considers the environment as the country's economic engine. It is worth mentioning that the PNIEC has recently been updated in 2023, including the recommendations established in the RePowerEU Plan [50]. Italy also participates in the RepowerEU Plan, aiming at the fulfilment of the accorded targets of increasing the Renewable energy sources capacity and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

It is important to note that, in line with the package of recommendations promoted by the EU following the war in Ukraine, Italy has developed measures aimed at speeding up approval procedures and public administration response times to achieve the expected energy self-sufficiency targets. Also, Italy implemented the concept encouraged by the EU of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" in the official portal of the Ministry for wind farms with a capacity greater than 50 MW.

Additionally, Italy has several GIS tools designed to evaluate the wind potential of a specific site. Most of them were developed by regional authorities, such as S.I.T.R - Sistema Informativo Territoriale Regionale from Sicilia [51] and Wind-Gis in the Tuscany region [52]. Nevertheless, the AEOLIAN GIS tool, renewed in 2022, named Italian Wind Energy Atlas [53] has been developed to provide information on the general distribution of wind resources in



the whole Italian territory and marine areas with the goal of supporting the operators in planning the future wind generation. Regarding the offshore wind energy, and the development of a Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP), Italy has designed a draft that was shared for public consultation in Autumn 2022 and is in the process of being finalized by the Technical Committee based on the responses received [54]. It is important to note that the EU MSP Directive [6] was transposed into Italy's national legislation through Legislative Decree n° 201 of 17 October 2016 [55]. Additionally, Italy has several GIS tools designed to evaluate the wind potential of a specific site. Most of them were developed by regional authorities, such as S.I.T.R - Sistema Informativo Territoriale Regionale from Sicilia [51] and Wind-Gis in the Tuscany region [52]. Nevertheless, the AEOLIAN GIS tool, renewed in 2022, named Italian Wind Energy Atlas [53] has been developed to provide information on the general distribution of wind resources in the whole Italian territory and marine areas with the goal of supporting the operators in planning the future wind generation. Regarding the offshore wind energy, and the development of a Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP), Italy has designed a draft that was shared for public consultation in Autumn 2022 and is in the process of being finalized by the Technical Committee based on the responses received [54]. It is important to note that the EU MSP Directive [6] was transposed into Italy's national legislation through Legislative Decree n° 201 of 17 October 2016 [55].

### 3.3.1. Consenting process

#### A) ONSHORE

##### **Application and connection to National Electricity Transmission Grid**

The access to the electrical grid is the first step in the consenting process and it is denominated as Connection to Rete di Trasmissione elettrica Nazionale (RTN). The connection procedures are established in the Codice di Rete (The Grid Code), applied since 1 November 2005, and prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Italian Prime Ministerial Decree of 11 May 2004 [56]. Depending on the power to be installed, the request for connection will be submitted to Terna Spa (Terna Driving Energy) when the power capacity is greater than 10 MW or to the competent distribution company in the territorial area if the requested input power is less than 10 MW. In general terms, the application must include a project report, the plan to be developed, technical information and data about the connection scheme to the National Transmission Grid. It is important to mention that, according to Article 5 of Ministerial Decree of 17 October 2007 of uniform minimum criteria for the definition of conservation measures relating to special areas of conservation and special protection areas [57], it is not permitted to locate wind turbines in areas constituting the European Ecological Network - Natura 2000.

A financial guarantee is also required for requesting access to the electrical grid. The conditions for the financial guarantees are established in Article 12 of Legislative Decree n°



387/2003 of 29 December 2003 [58]. The applicant shall provide a bank guarantee amounting to 30 % of the value of the grid system constructed by the applicant, in favour of the grid operator, as insurance for the reimbursement of the costs incurred for the elimination of any defects and malfunctions in the constructed grid. This guarantee shall be valid for a period of three years.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

According to the Environmental Code [59], renewable energy projects must undergo an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to ensure that they do not have a negative impact on the environment. This evaluation is carried out through either a screening or an EIA process. Screening is presented as an initial and simplified process in which the authorities assess whether the project may have a negative impact on the environment and local ecosystems. If the authority deems it appropriate, the process may continue with the development of a complete EIA procedure, which provides a more detailed approach to these impacts identified and evaluates the mitigation measures to be put in place. These procedures are only required for wind farms with a capacity greater than one MW.

According to the findings established in D2.2 [12], an ad hoc EIA committee at the Ministry of Ecological Transition is now responsible for conducting the EIA procedure for offshore plants, and onshore wind plants beyond 30 MW [59]. If a project interferes with protected areas, the VINCA procedure, as regulated under Presidential Decree n° 345/1997 [60] is conducted within the EIA [59].

At a regional level, the EIA process is regulated by Legislative Decree n° 152/2006 of 3 April 2006 [61]. Nevertheless, in 2017, Legislative Decree 104/2017 of 16 June 2017 [62] implemented the recommendations of Directive 2014/52/EU [2], mending several provisions of Part II of Legislative Decree 152/2006 [61]. Other significant amendments were introduced by Law Decree 76/2020 of 16 July 2020 [63], Law Decree 77/2021 of 31 May 2021 [64], Law Decree 17/2022 of 1 March 2022 [65] and Law Decree 50/2022 of 17 May 2022 [66]. It is important to note that EIA process is also regulated by local legislation depending on the location of the project.

The authority responsible for the procedure (national or local) may change depending on the type of project. In the case of the national authority, the process falls under the Ministry for Ecological Transition - Direzione Generale Per la Crescita Sostenibile e la Qualità Dello Sviluppo (CreSS). On the other hand, in the case of the Region/Autonomous Province, it is the administration responsible for the protection, conservation and improvement of the environment, as defined by the regional law. In the case of a project that falls partly within the competence of the State and partly within the competence of the Region/Autonomous Province, the applicant shall send a notification to both authorities specifying the project type and its characteristics. The authorities must express their opinion within 30 and determine the final competent authority.



The documentation required along the EIA process and to obtain a favourable certificate of environmental impact is extensive, but among the main information is the following:

- The technical and economic feasibility project.
- The environmental impact studies.
- Information on any transboundary impacts of the project.
- The public notice.
- The results of any public debate procedure carried out (Article 22 of Legislative Decree 50/2016) [67].

In terms of timeframe, the deadline for the competent authority to issue a decision on the environmental impact of the project is normally set at 150 days from the submission of the application and can be extended to 330 days in special circumstances. This period includes a public consultation period, during which any interested party may submit its comments in accordance with the modalities indicated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Portal, within 60 days of the date of publication of the notice, at the latest. The proponent may also submit, within thirty days of the end of the public consultation period, its rebuttal to the comments and opinions received. The competent authority may then request additions to the documentation originally submitted. It is important to note that if the authority considers that the changes or additions to the dossier are substantial and relevant to the public, it will require the applicant to undertake further public consultation.

### **Authorisations process for implementation/development**

The authorisation procedure, which includes the application and connection to the National grid, changes according to the characteristics of the wind farm project, such as the power to be installed, for instance:

- Dichiarazione Inizio LAVORI (DILA) for wind farms up to 1 MW.
- Procedura Abilitativa Semplificata (PAS) for wind farms with a capacity between 1 MW and 10 MW.
- Autorizzazione Unica (AU) for wind projects above 10 MW.

These mentioned processes are regulated by several legislations. Decree-law n° 387/2003 of 12/29/2003 [58] and Decree-law n° 13 of 02/24/2023 [68] regulates the AU process. DILA and PAS procedures are regulated in Decree-Law n° 387/2003 [58] and Decree-Law n° 28/2011 of 3/3/2011 [69].

The competent authority is also different for each procedure. The DILA and PAS processes fall under the municipal/local jurisdiction, while for the AU, according to Article 12 of Decree-Law n° 387/2003 of 12/29/2003 [58], the competent authority is the regional one. However, the regions may in turn delegate the functions of the single authorisation to the provinces. It is worth noting that, according to the aforementioned decree, offshore wind farm installations



would fall under the jurisdiction of the State. On average, the time from submission to administrative approval can vary from 1 to 1,5 years.

It is important to note that, according to Article 12 of Legislative Decree n° 387/03 [58] and subsequent amendments, a second bank guarantee of € 50 per kW is required for the construction and operation of a plant to produce electrical energy from renewable sources. This financial guarantee has a duration of five years from the date of its issue and may be renewed for a further period of five years until the end of the life of the wind farm.

The documentation requirements for the application are numerous, but among the most significant are the following: Presentation of a technical preliminary project, basic environmental studies, specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, etc.) and the mentioned bank guarantee or liability insurance.

## ***B) OFFSHORE***

### **Previous studies of the area and access to the electrical grid**

The offshore consenting process has some similarities to the onshore permitting process, but it differs in several ways. It is worth mentioning that contrary to the onshore consenting process, there are not different procedures depending on the installation capacity for wind farms and always falls under the procedure of AU. The responsible authorities for this process are the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport in concert with the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Land and Sea. The single authorisation process includes several steps. The first step lies in the reservation of the area denominated Request for State Maritime Concession, which must be submitted to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility and the Port Authority. This process is regulated in Decree Law 387/2003 of 12/29/2003 [58] and Decree Law n° 28/2011 of 3/3/2011 [69]. Also, after the reservation of the area, the procedure is very similar to the onshore process.

The Italian government has developed a programme of protected maritime areas [70] which, following an extensive process of technical investigation, divides the areas into three different zones subject to different environmental protection regimes, considering the environmental characteristics and socio-economic situation. This programme states that it is necessary to have an updated framework of knowledge of the natural environment of interest, in addition to data relating to the social and economic events taking place in each area.

Several administrative and technical documentation shall be submitted along with the reservation area request, such as:

- Cartographic sketch of the territorial framework indicating the area of interest.
- Planimetry on an appropriate scale of the stretch of water requested under the concession.



- Technical-illustrative report of the activity that is to be carried out in the stretch of water.
- In the case of the construction of facilities, detailed graphic drawings on an appropriate scale of the works to be carried out: planimetric view, perspective views and construction details.

According to the Decree of 23/06/2016 of Incentives for electricity produced from renewable sources other than photovoltaics [71], a public concurrency process is carried out to define the reservation of the area. Also, during this procedure, a determination is taken when two or more interested entities request the reservation of a certain area. The connection and application to the National grid is included in the reservation area procedure and will be finally granted with the issuance of the AU.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

In both the onshore and offshore processes, the EIA is an integral and necessary condition for the completion of the AU process. In both cases the process is similar and they are regulated by the same legislation mentioned in the previous section corresponding to the EIA process of onshore wind farms: Decree No. 152/2006 [61] amended by several decrees such as Legislative Decree of 16 June 2017 n° 104 [62], Law decree from 16 July 2020 n° 76 [63], Law decree from 31 May 2021, n° 77 [64], Law Decree from 1 March 2022, n° 17 [65] and Law Decree of 17/05/2022 n° 50 [66].

More detailed information about the process can be found in the previous section on the Onshore wind farm process. However, there are some differences. In the offshore case, there is no simplified procedure, and this process falls under national jurisdiction, with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security as the competent authority, in consultation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility, and in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy for aspects related to marine fisheries.

### **Authorisations for implementation/development/procedures**

As mentioned before, the authorisation procedure does not change according to the characteristics of the project, falling always under the AU and under the national jurisdiction.

The documentation requirements for the application are numerous, but the most important one is the presentation of a preliminary technical project, basic environmental studies, specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (culture, heritage, archaeology, army, etc.) and technical documentation related to the installation to be connected. Like the onshore process, for the AU, it shall be necessary to submit a bank guarantee for an amount of not less than € 50 per kW of electrical power generated. It is important to note that, apart from the process of EIA, the AU process does not include a public consultation.



### 3.3.2. Community Development Schemes

Despite that there is a regulation that includes some guidelines or recommendations about Community development, CEC and REC, there is no specific legislation of Community Development Plans related to the establishment of wind farms or renewable energy projects.

As introduced by Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 [9] and agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans", Italy developed the PNIEC in December 2019 [49]. Among many other recommendations, this plan sets the objective of studying and implementing methodologies for the development of energy communities and the definition of enabling technologies to promote energy efficiency through awareness of consumption. It also promotes the active participation of consumers in the energy market. Considering the findings observed in the Deliverable 2.2 of Task 2.2 [12], Italy does not have any specific provision for public engagement, apart from the public participation requirements within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which comprises the only formal possibility for citizens to be engaged [72] in the stage of the licensing a wind farm by the competent authorities.

It is worth mentioning that, in transposing Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [1], Italy developed the Legislative Decree no. 199/2021 [73], which defines, among many other topics, areas considered eligible for energy projects: Area with a high potential to host the installation of electrical production plants from renewable sources, also in case of certain technical-localization conditions ". In terms of community development and in accordance with the legislation, shall be considered as suitable areas:

- Areas of sites are subject to reclamation pursuant to the Environmental Code (Legislative Decree 152/2006 [61].
- Areas not encumbered by landscape constraints and not falling within a buffer strip from areas subject to archaeological protection pursuant to Article 136 of Legislative Decree 42/2004 [74], including areas encumbered by civic uses pursuant to Article 142, paragraph 1, letter h) of the same decree.

According to the Clean Energy Islands, 2021 [44], Italy has a regulatory framework for energy communities, but it is not yet fully implemented. However, Italy has transposed the REC European definition with Legislative Decree 199/08 of November 8, 2021 [73] and the CEC definition with the Legislative Decree 210/08 November 8, 2021, [75], establishing the mentioned regulatory framework rights and obligations of these communities. The RECs definition refers to most of the criteria contained in the RED II definition [1], including autonomy and effective control, which were not modified in previous legislation [76]. The CEC definition touches upon the open and voluntary membership and effective control and the different activities that they can undertake, while the law states that CECs can take any legal



form. Both REC and CEC provisions explicitly promote inclusiveness by mentioning the need to ensure participation is open to low-income or vulnerable households [76].

Several regions have introduced RECs as a means of encouraging active financial participation [72]. According to the Legambiente report *Comunità Rinnovabili* [77], there were, at least until 2021, around 20 RECs already active or in the process of being activated in the entire region. As an example, the Rete Civica di Energia cooperative is a REC that has received EU funding. The cooperative has developed several renewable energy projects, including solar power plants and biogas plants, and has plans to develop additional projects [48].

Although there is no regional legislation that specifies how community development or community compensation schemes should be carried out through the implementation of a wind farm project, the companies that carry out wind projects may (at their discretion) develop benefits and more promising opportunities for CEC or crowdfunding. In addition, the companies involved in the projects can promote local employment (direct or indirect), which can be maintained after the construction phase of the wind farm due to maintenance needs. Although it is not formally established in any legislation, the authorities often require local employment plans to be declared in the documentation of the authorisation process in order to be able to approve the project.

Many trade associations and national research organisations have carried out, both at the local and national level, several studies that assess the macroeconomic impact and employment generation of wind projects. Some worth mentioning are the National Wind Energy Association (ANEV) 2022 report [78] and *The Economic and employment repercussions of electricity production scenarios to 2020 in Italy* [79], which compares several energy sources, including wind power. Some important evaluations can be also found at the regional level. As an example, the socio-economic evaluation of the renewable scenario for Sardinia presents an evaluation of renewable energy evolution in the island of Sardinia [80].

### 3.4. Regional level: Norway

Norway has demonstrated a strong commitment to the transition to renewable energy, and this approach has been reflected in its commitment to technologies such as onshore and offshore wind. Norway has considerably expanded its wind power generation capacity in recent decades, taking advantage of its extensive terrain.

Norway has been a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) since 1994, which guarantees the EU Single Market's four freedoms, as well as non-discrimination and equal rules of competition throughout the EEA. The EEA agreement also covers cooperation in areas such as research and development, education, social policy, the environment, consumer protection, tourism, and culture. However, unlike European Union countries, Norway is not obliged to automatically incorporate EU directives and regulations into its legislation. This



flexibility allows Norway to tailor its energy policy to its national needs and objectives, but also complicates the cross-checking of certain information.

In practice, Norway is aligned with European efforts to encourage the adoption of clean energy. For example, NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced as part of the "Clean Energy for All Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019. Norway joined this European initiative through the Norwegian Climate Action Plan 2021 – 2030 [81].

Another European proposal is based on facilitating the identification of potential wind farm sites. In Norway there are some tools (such as <https://kartkatalog.nve.no/#kart>) and public repositories of reference maps, however, there is no official GIS system for wind energy scoping. Although a national framework for onshore wind energy was proposed, it had to be withdrawn due to several factors.

Accelerating the overall response times of the public administration is one of Europe's concerns. However, in Norway, over the last two decades, licensing times have generally become longer and longer due to the culmination of social and environmental conflicts. Some projects have had permitting processes of up to 15 or 20 years (Hitra and Haramsøy). Because of these conflicts, a moratorium on onshore wind energy development was put in place in 2019. Since then, the regulatory process has been adjusted. Specifically, this includes required regulation of the municipal area of proposed projects prior to application to improve local acceptance (previously this was opposed when licences overrode municipal area regulations) and stricter requirements for environmental monitoring and mitigation.

Another tool to facilitate permitting processes proposed by Europe is the concept of the "one-stop administrative shop". This concept is applied in Norway, where the Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet (NVE) is the authority in charge of carrying out the necessary applications and procedures for the permitting and authorisation processes.

### 3.4.1. Consenting process

#### **A) ONSHORE**

The consenting process for an onshore wind farm is determined by the following regulation:

- Planning and Building Act (PBA) (2008, updated 2023) [82]
- Energy Act of 1990 [83]
- Biodiversity Act [84]

The consenting process for an onshore wind farm depends on its capacity, so there are different procedures:

- Wind projects with five or fewer turbines with an installed capacity of <1 MW will be exempt from the licensing requirement.



- Wind farms with a capacity of 1-10MW may be subject to a simplified licensing process (starts with the application; no EIA required, but potential impacts must be described in the application).
- Wind farms with more than 10 MW will have to go through the complete licensing process.

### **Application and access to the electrical grid**

In order to access and connect to the electricity transmission grid, there must be free production or consumption capacity at all levels of the electricity grid. This should be clarified with the local grid company. In all cases of increased electricity exchange affecting the transmission grid, the connection must be cleared with the owner of the central electricity transmission grid, Statnett.

Most new online customers will be connected through a local or regional grid company. Only in the case of larger electricity exchanges, in the order of 300 MW and above, it may be appropriate to consider a direct connection to the central electricity transmission grid. Generally, direct dialogue with Statnett is only relevant for a small number of industrial customers with particularly large power requirements or large power producers. For all other customers, the dialogue will be with the local grid company [85]. In summary, the administrative authority for obtaining access to the grid will be:

- The national grid owner Statnett: > 300 MW
- The local or regional energy company: < 300 MW

In general, the documentation to be submitted to the authority for this procedure consists of a description of the project, the expected energy production (in MW) and a description of where in the grid the project is to be integrated (grid-level description).

### **Bank guarantee**

In Norway, there is a set of procedures for the handling of financial security conditions for onshore wind turbines [86]. The deadline for submitting proposals for a financial guarantee varies according to the terms of the construction concession. A concessionaire with a wind power construction concession must, in the financial guarantee proposal, use six percent of the investment cost as the basis for calculating the decommissioning costs of onshore wind power plants. However, the NVE may consider other calculations for the size of the guarantee, but there must be clear reasons for a higher or lower guarantee deposit.

The concessionaire is obliged to submit a proposal for a guarantee within the twelfth year of operation. There are no legal restrictions for the concessionaire to submit a proposal before this deadline, but it cannot be required by NVE.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**



The licensing process is the responsibility of the NVE. All wind power projects where the installed output will exceed 10 MW must be notified in accordance with regulations on impact assessments under the Planning and Building Act. After hearing the report, NVE determines an impact assessment program. The EIA programme describes which themes the initiative holder must investigate in more detail.

In order to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate is required:

- Impact assessment regulations - planning according to the Planning and Building Law [87].
- Guidance documents.

Once the notification of the project is done, the relevant municipalities, landowners and neighbours, the Regional County Council, the County Governor, and various NGOs usually submit contributions to such hearings and public meetings in the host municipalities where the project is presented and discussed with members of the local community. The time available for consultation and possible amendments, if necessary, is a minimum of six weeks [88].

### **Authorisations for implementation/development/procedures**

#### **Initial Authorisation**

The wind energy licensing process includes municipal zoning regulation requirements in accordance with the Planning and Building Act for onshore wind installations subject to the licensing obligation, according to which the Norwegian Directorate of Water Resources and Energy (NVE) cannot grant a licence to onshore wind installations before the municipality has clarified the measure in accordance with the Planning and Building Act (i.e. a planning decision has been taken, mainly in the form of zoning regulation).

First, the announcement by the project developer to the NVE takes place:

- Notification: First official announcement: Project description
- Environmental impact assessment (EIA) mapping programme.

In addition to the text of the application, the application must include the results of the EIA and a detailed plan considering the results of the EIA and the mediation round.

Regarding the administration responsible for submitting this process, according to the Norwegian Energy Act of 1990, all wind energy projects with more than 5 turbines and a total installed capacity of more than 1 MW need a licence from the NVE, a directorate under the Olje- og energidepartementet (OED).

The required application documents are:

- Submission of a technical preliminary draft



- EIA mapping plan

### **Authorisation for Construction**

Prior to the construction concession the NVE makes a licensing decision, that is, a clarification of the land use in which all relevant considerations are weighed up [88].

The construction concession for the wind power plant grants permission to build the wind power plant within a defined planning area. It also specifies a maximum total installed capacity limit for such a power plant. Permitted modifications and detailed plans are processed by the licensing department, while Miljø-, transport og anleggsplan (MTA) are processed by the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet).

As in the processing of licence applications, NVE forwards the consultation statements received to the licence holder for comments and assesses the need for additional information or further investigations. When NVE considers that the matter is sufficiently informed, it determines whether the plans can be approved.

In addition to a licence in accordance with the Energy Act and an approved detailed plan and MTA, the holder of the measure must also ensure that the necessary permits are obtained in accordance with other legislation, e.g., the Cultural Heritage Act, the Pollution Act, the Roads Act, the Ports and Waters Act, etc., in relation to the establishment of the wind power plant. In summary, the necessary general information to be provided is as follows: concession application; EIA; detailed plan; MTA plan.

### **Authorisation For Exploitation and Energy Commercialisation**

In addition to an approved license in accordance with the Energy Act and approved detailed plan and MTA, the developer must also make sure to obtain the necessary permits in accordance with other legislation, for example the Cultural Heritage Act, the Pollution Act, the Road Act, the Harbor and Water Act etc., in connection with the establishment of the wind power plant.

## ***B) OFFSHORE***

### **Previous studies of the area and access to the electrical grid**

The whole authorisation process of offshore wind farms is regulated under two main Energy acts: The Offshore Energy Act of 2010 [89] and Norway's Energy Act of 1990 [83]. It is important to mention that while both specify requirements and guidelines, the Offshore Energy Act covers the areas outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone, while Norway's Energy Act covers the areas within the Norwegian low-tidal zone. Also, the authorisation process does not change depending on the installation capacity for wind farms. The NVE developed a public registry that contains information on the reserved areas [90]. In addition, Norway has taken concrete steps to develop offshore wind energy with the Strategic Environmental Assessment,



which updated the designated project areas for offshore wind energy and the overall target of 30 GW of offshore wind energy by 2040.

The permitting process in Norway starts in a similar way to the other countries analysed. The authority responsible for carrying out the process is the OED, aided by the NVE. As a first step, the authority publicly announces the opening of one or more project areas for offshore wind energy, including all requirements for registration. It is important to mention that according to section 2-2 of Offshore Energy Act Regulations Section 2 [89], before the opening of a specific area, a Strategic Impact Assessment (SIA) must be carried out. These studies include environmental and social conditions, including effects on other commercial interests. All pre-opening studies must be carried out under the auspices of the State, as opposed to project-specific impact studies that are carried out after the area has been allocated to a developer.

From this announcement, initiative holders can participate in a competitive process for the exclusive right to develop a specific project in an open area. This process begins with the opening of a pre-qualification process. Applicants must pre-qualify and meet all the necessary requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Offshore Energy Act Section 3-5 and the Offshore Energy Act Regulations Section 2 [89] in order to participate in the competition by submitting the necessary documentation (General description of the project, planned facilities, among many others). After the pre-qualification process, the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy will allocate the bidding area by means of a competition, which is generally conducted as an auction. However, in special cases, the authority may choose to conduct a qualitative competition instead of an auction, such as for project areas for floating offshore wind energy due to its immature stage. In an auction procedure, which includes a public consultation period, the players bid on the announced areas. The company that wins the area will have a time-limited exclusive right to carry out a specific project impact assessment and to apply for a wind farm licence in the allocated area.

Regarding the access to the grid, Statnett (the national grid) has the responsibility of granting the connection to the central electricity transmission grid. According to Statnett, within six months of the award, the bidders must order network capacity in one of the connection points. If necessary, the operator can apply for an extension of the deadline of six months to order capacity.

Financial guarantees are, according to the terms of the construction concession, obligatory to be submitted within the twelfth year of operation. It is important to note that there are no legal restrictions for the concessionaire to submit a proposal before this time, but it cannot be required by NVE. The amount of the financial guarantee is 6 % of the investment cost and is considered as insurance for the decommissioning of wind power farms. The financial security should primarily be a fund allocation in a blocked account.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**



The EIA is the analysis of the significant effects that a project has or may have on the environment, and it presents itself as a critical part of the authorisation process. During this, an EIA should be carried out by the promoter and submitted to the NVE. This EIA is additional to the one aforementioned SIA and must be submitted with the license/authorisation application. It is worth mentioning that there is not a simplified version EIA for certain project characteristics and that a public consultation period is included in the process. The EIA process is articulated in the previously mentioned regulations.

### **Authorisations for implementation/development/procedures**

After the OED has declared the competition process closed and an entity has been awarded a project area, the promoter must submit a notification with a project-specific proposal study programme no later than 6 weeks after the award. This proposal will be subject to a public consultation period of at least 6 weeks. It includes several pieces of documentation, the most relevant is the following: description of the energy system with network solution, current development solutions, costs, description of the project area, possible effects on other industries, the environment and society, based on available data and knowledge, information about the applicant's business.

After the public consultation period, the promoter has a period of 2 years to submit a licence application to the OED. However, it is possible to apply for an extension. As mentioned above, the specific EIA must be submitted with the application. The OED will also open a public consultation period of at least 6 weeks on the licence application. The Ministry foresees a processing time for the licence application of approximately 1 year, but it may take longer if additional studies are required.

An application for approval of a detailed plan must be submitted to the NVE within two years of the licence decision. The NVE will publish the application for a public consultation period of at least 6 weeks (expected processing time is approximately 1 year). Following a decision on an approved detailed plan, the plant must be commissioned within three years. An application for approval of a detailed plan must be sent to the NVE within two years of the decision on the license. The operation of the project will be able to begin after the license to operate is granted.



### 3.4.2. Community Development Schemes

As an example of direct engagement with local key actors, the Wind industry commitments on community engagement report of 2020 [20] presents a case study of Falck renewables in Norway and Sweden. This company organised the Contractors' Day, where procurement needs are first presented to the local business community. This allows local businesses to understand the opportunities and standards they offer in the procurement of goods and services. For the community, this approach translates into commercial, industrial and skills development.

In Norway, Kommunalbanken Norway (KBN) operates as a funding agency or bond bank exclusively owned by the Royal Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, representing the Kingdom of Norway. KBN is authorized to offer loans to companies, but only when these companies possess a guarantee from a municipality or county authority. This enables clubs, associations (including energy communities) to receive cheaper loans [91].

Regarding the energy communities and based on the report of the Nordic Energy Research [92], energy communities have not yet been actually implemented. The energy system in Norway and the low energy prices do not allow the interest or need for energy communities to grow. nevertheless, although there are some active Energy Communities the implementation remains at an early stage.

### 3.5. Regional level: Spain

In recent years, with the aim of developing renewable energies, Spain has developed several programmes, plans and regulations in line with European directives and recommendations. In 2020, the Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (MITECO), developed an environmental sensitivity zoning tool for renewable energies in accordance with the recommendations of current approved proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the promotion of renewable energies [93]. This tool makes it possible to identify the areas of the national territory that identify the greatest environmental conditioning factors for the implementation of big wind and photovoltaic projects, by means of a territorial model that groups together the main environmental factors.

El Plan Nacional Integrado de Energía y Clima (PNIEC) developed in 2021, which follows the guidelines established in RE 2018/1999 [9], includes energy measures and objectives for the period 2021-2030. This plan presents, among others, key aspects related to wind energy regarding installed capacity, new installations, regulatory framework, financing, and investments. It also envisages the development of a "Spanish Strategy for the development of offshore wind and marine energy", coordinated and aligned with the Marine Spatial Plans. In line with Europe's Regulation 2022/2577 [4], in 2023 MITECO formalised the first call for three



aid programmes dedicated, respectively, to wind power circular repowering projects with a joint allocation of €222,5 million of 'Next Generation EU' funds managed through the Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia (PRTR).

Regarding offshore wind farm development, it is worth mentioning that the current legal framework for the implementation of offshore wind energy is under review to adapt the legislation to the current European and regional context and to the new technologies available. In 2009, because of the procedure laid down in Law 9/2006, of 28 June, on the evaluation of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment [94], Spain carried out a Strategic Environmental Study of the Spanish Coastline. This study established a classification into suitable zones and exclusion zones for requests for zone reservation by offshore wind farm developers of more than 50 MW. In accordance with the "EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energies", in 2022, Spain developed the "Roadmap for the development of Offshore Wind and Marine Energy in Spain" [95]. The aim of this roadmap is to establish a sound national framework for the orderly deployment of offshore renewable energy and to make Spain a European reference centre for technological development and environmental innovation related to renewable energy in the marine environment. In compliance with the PNIEC, this Roadmap defines the objectives, as well as the lines of action and the most appropriate and efficient paths to achieve them. It is important to mention that, as 3.2 section of the Roadmap states, Spain has a great capacity for research and development in offshore wind in general and floating wind in particular, with important marine-maritime research centres, unique offshore wind projects, wave and current energy prototypes and cutting-edge research groups, as well as several top-level testing platforms for marine energy generation technologies supported by the Administration.

In February 2023, Spain approved, with Royal Decree 150/2023 of February 28 [96], the Maritime Spatial Plans of the five Spanish marine demarcations. These plans aim to analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. Also, they identified a set of priority-use zones for activities of general interest that require a specific occupation; and a set of high-potential zones, which include zones for the development of offshore wind farms.

### 3.5.1. Consenting process

#### A) ONSHORE

##### Application and access to the electrical grid

The authorisation process is regulated under Royal Decree 1955/2000 of 1 December 2000, which regulates the activities of transmission, distribution, commercialisation, supply and authorisation procedures for electricity installations [97] amended by Royal Decree-Law 23/2020 of 23 June, approving energy and other measures for economic recovery [98]. The



Access and Connection permit, as its name suggests, grants the right to use and connect to a point on the electricity grid under certain conditions. To request a permit to access and connect to a point on the transmission grid, the agent must apply to Red Eléctrica Española (REE) through the Customer Service Portal, as manager of the transmission grid. It is required to submit, in general terms, a project report, plans and programmes for the implementation of the project. In addition, the application must include a financial guarantee.

The conditions for the financial guarantees for access and connection permits are established in the previously mentioned Royal Decree 1183/2020 of December 29 [99]. It establishes that these guarantees must be for an amount equal to € 40 per kW installed. Installations with a capacity equal to or less than 15 kW will be exempt from presenting these bank guarantees.

As stipulated in Royal Decree 1183/2020 of December 29 [99], once the relevant procedures have been carried out, REE will emit the access and connection permit. This permit sets the timeframe for the implementation of onshore wind farms in Spain, as once granted it is valid for 5 years. It is important to clarify that this time stipulated in the regulation is not affected by reasons external to the promoter, such as delays in the analysis of information and resolutions made by the competent authorities.

For low-power installations, access can also be requested through other entities, which are governed by the principles set out in Royal Decree 1183/2020 [99].

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

The EIA is the analysis of the significant effects that a project has or may have on the environment: population, human health, flora, fauna, biodiversity, geodiversity, soil, subsoil, air, water, climate, climate change, landscape, material assets including cultural heritage, and the interaction between all the above factors.

In Spain this procedure is regulated by Law 21/2013 of December 9 [100] which transposes the guidelines of Directive 2014/52/EU [2].

This authorisation is submitted to the competent organism:

- General State Administration (installed electrical power > 50 MW; those present in two or more Autonomous Communities; and other exceptions).
- Autonomous Administration: installed electrical power < 50 MW and other exceptions.

In relation to this procedure, two routes can be identified:

- Ordinary EIA: those projects with > 30 MW, ≥ 50 wind turbines or < 2 km from another wind farm.
- Simplified EIA: those projects not subject to ordinary EIA, and exceptions.



Aligned with European initiatives to accelerate procedures, in Spain, Article 22 of Royal Decree 20/2022 of December 27 [101] modifies the environmental procedure by implementing a new, quicker, and simplified process, Determination of environmental conditions, for renewable energy projects that satisfy the requirements established.

### **Authorisations for implementation / development / procedures**

The Autorización Administrativa Previa (AAP) grants the right to carry out a specific installation under certain conditions. It enables the developer to start the preparatory works to prepare the site for the installation. This procedure requires the submission of a technical preliminary project and of the EIA.

This authorisation is submitted to the competent organism:

- General State Administration: installed electrical power > 50 MW; those present in two or more Autonomous Communities; and other exceptions.
- Autonomous Administration: installed electrical power < 50 MW and other exceptions.

The Autorización Administrativa de Construcción (AAC) allows the construction of the installation to be carried out in accordance with the applicable technical requirements. This procedure can be carried out in either of the two ways mentioned above, provided that the same conditions are met. For the application, the technical project document must be provided in general terms.

In addition, the Autorización de Explotación (AE) is required, which, as its name indicates, allows the operation and commissioning of the installations once the project has been executed. This authorisation is processed in the same way as the AAP and the AAC and must include a technical access contract with REE, or similar.

## ***B) OFFSHORE***

### **Previous studies of the area and access to the electrical grid**

It is important to note that there are some similarities between the onshore and offshore permitting processes. However, as in other regions, there are significant differences, particularly in the early stages of the authorisation process.

The current regulatory framework for the consenting process of offshore wind energy facilities is Royal Decree 1028/2007, of 20 July, which establishes the administrative procedure for the processing of applications for authorization of electricity generation facilities in the territorial sea [102]. Also, Law 9/2006, of June 28, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment [94] presents an Strategic Environmental Study of the Spanish Coastline for the installation of offshore wind farms, defining several areas that have favourable conditions for the installation of offshore wind farms from an environmental



perspective (classified as suitable, suitable with environmental constraints, and exclusion zones).

The first step in the consenting process lies in the request for the reservation of the area for the preliminary technical studies. The application must be accompanied by several documents, such as the preliminary design of the offshore wind farm, a summary report detailing the area for which the project is being applied for, the preliminary studies to be carried out with an indication of the estimated time needed to complete them, and many others. The application starts the process of characterisation of the area, which consists of a compilation, carried out by the competent authority, of all the reports issued by the institutions concerned on the foreseeable effects that the installation of a potential offshore wind farm could have on the surrounding environment. Also, it shall contain the estimation of the maximum amount of energy evacuable through the electrical transmission grids.

The final characterisation is published in the Official Gazette and is valid for a period of 5 years. Also, it will be reviewed each time a reservation application is received. Once the characterisation has been published, the authority carries out a 3-month concurrency process, during which any interested promoter can present a project for the installation of an offshore wind farm in the designated area. It is important to mention that the presentation of the project in the concurrency procedure includes the submission of a bank guarantee amounting to 1 % of the total budget of the project and a premium request or offer, which will be expressed in € per kWh produced, of a value not exceeding that established in Article 38.1 of Royal Decree 661/2007, of May 25 [103], and which will be applied throughout the useful life of the installation.

A multi-institutional evaluation committee will assess the applications for authorisation to select the most suitable project. The committee may, if it deems appropriate, organise a public consultation phase for interested parties. The decision of the concurrency procedure will grant the selected applicant(s) a right of access to the transmission system for the capacity allocated to them in the published decision. The reservation of the area, after obtaining the corresponding title of occupation of the Maritime-Terrestrial Public Domain, would authorise the successful bidder to carry out, on an exclusive basis, wind resource exploration and research activities in the corresponding area for a period of 2 years, renewable for a further year for reasons not attributable to promoter. It is worth mentioning that an EIA must be carried out to assess the potential impacts of the research activities. The applicant who has obtained the reservation must deposit an additional guarantee of 1 % of the budget of the wind farm for which the request for reservation of the zone has been submitted.

The administrative authorisation process for offshore projects, as established in Royal Decree 1028/2007 [102] must be carried out in accordance with the procedures determined in Royal Decree 1955/2000 of December 1, which regulates the activities of transport, distribution,



commercialization, supply and authorization procedures for electrical energy installations [97], and subsequent amendments and modifications of the Royal Decree Law 23/2020 of June 23, which approves measures in the field of energy and in other areas for economic reactivation [98]. The process follows the same steps that the ones defined in the authorisation procedure of onshore wind farms, detailed in the previous section.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

As mentioned above, the EIA is the administrative process of evaluating the significant impacts that a project has or may have on the environment. This procedure is regulated by Law 21/2013 [100], which transposes the guidelines of Directive 2014/52/EU [6]. In the case of offshore wind farms, it follows the same guidelines mentioned in the previous section for onshore projects.

### **3.5.2. Community Development Schemes**

Currently, there is no regional legislation that specifies how community development or community compensation schemes should be carried out through a wind farm project implementation. However, numerous recommendations come from Europe and highlight the value of involving the public in all project phases, but especially in the early stages. For instance, this concept is reflected in the PNIEC 2021-2030 [104], which, throughout several measures, promotes a proactive role of citizens in the energy transition. It also emphasizes that knowledge and information play a crucial role in fostering increased citizen engagement in the energy sector. The proposed measures include conducting awareness-raising campaigns to enhance citizens' comprehension of their relationship with energy, alongside information and training initiatives focused on energy and climate-related matters. It is worth mentioning that, aligned with the recommendations established in the PNIEC, the MITECO has developed an environmental zoning tool to identify the most environmentally and socially suitable locations for both Eolic and photovoltaic projects [105].

Although there is no specific regulation on community development programmes, there are numerous cases where wind projects (at all stages) have been accompanied by strong social strategies to improve community involvement and development. In recent years, several companies have implemented social outreach and involvement protocols to strengthen relationships with communities and improve social acceptance of wind energy. Some of the most notable mechanisms implemented are supporting local employment, public consultations with both citizens and councils, and infrastructure improvements. An example worth mentioning is the one presented in the Wind industry commitments on community engagement report of 2020 [20] about one of the most important energy companies. Since 2015, all energy facilities developed by this company follow the procedures of the Social Impact Management (SIM) methodology, as a strategic key tool to guarantee local engagement and create added- value from the projects to society. At least until 2020, SIM



implementation has reached to 124 projects of the company, in 27 different countries, and the social contribution to the communities is valued at more than € 12,5 million for all renewable projects. The budget is used to support tailor-made infrastructure improvements, social welfare of vulnerable groups, health campaigns, community actions and educational campaigns, among many others. In Spain alone, between 2018 to 2019, the company contributed with € 21,6 million at local level and € 19,4 million at regional level for all renewable electricity projects, for a total of € 40,6 million.

In terms of legislation, community development in Spain is highly focused on the creation and improvement of energy communities. The Law 24/2013 of 26 December, on the Electricity Sector incorporates [106] a regulatory framework for RECs and CECs. Articles 12bis and 12ter establish the rights and obligations of these 2 juridic entities. In addition, to encourage the participation of citizens and local authorities in renewable energy projects, Royal Decree-Law 23/2020, of June 23 [107], incorporates the definition of REC, as provided for in Directive 2018/2001/EU [1]. This Royal Decree-Law lays the groundwork for the promotion of citizen participation in the renewable energy sector to enable increased local acceptance and greater citizen participation in the energy transition.

Legislation specific to energy efficiency helps to promote citizen involvement and the creation of energy communities. Royal Decree 390/2021 of June 1 [108] establishes a basic procedure for the certification of the energy efficiency of buildings, while Royal Decree-Law 14/2022, of August 1 [109], in the context of Spain's "Energy security plan (+SE)", facilitates compliance with European commitments derived from the conflict in Ukraine and promotes storage and self-consumption. It is worth mentioning that more recently, the Royal Decree 36/2023 of 24 January determined a system of Energy Saving Certificates [110].

The new EU Next Generation EU funding instruments provide an extraordinary opportunity to deploy the PRTR [111]. This plan has a threefold objective, to support short-term, medium-term structural transformation and long-term sustainable and resilient economic, financial, social, territorial, and environmental development and is fully aligned with the PNIEC 2021-2030 [104]. It is defined as a series of investments and reforms aimed at moving towards a green, digital, inclusive Spain, with greater social and territorial cohesion, and without gender gaps [111]. Within this plan articulated through 10 Lever policies, specifically Lever 3 - Component 7 (Deployment and integration of renewable energies) and reform 3 (C7.R3) aims to promote, through an investment of € 100.000.000, citizen participation in the energy transition, but particularly RECs and citizen energy communities. As a part of the execution of the mentioned plan, there has been launched several programmes and projects that point to underpin the areas related to energy transition. One worth mentioning is The Strategic Project for the Recovery and Economic Transformation of Renewable Energies, Renewable Hydrogen and Storage launched in December 2021 [112], which has numerous specific funding lines



promoting energy communities' projects. As an example, the Som Energia cooperative is a REC that has received EU funding and has developed several renewable energy projects, including wind farms and solar power plants [48].

In 2023 and continuing with the objectives established in the RTRP, Spain has developed a proposal for a Royal Decree [113] that fully develops the figures of REC and CEC. This Royal Decree aims to incorporate these entities' regulatory principles into the national legal system and establish an appropriate framework that provides legal certainty, foresees the identification and elimination of obstacles, and considers the necessary measures for their development.

### **Other important information to consider**

According to the latest wind annually from the Asociación Empresarial Eólica (AEE) in 2023, the wind industry has directly or indirectly created more than 300.000 jobs across Europe. [114]. Also, the AEE states that there are currently more than 32.000 people working in the sector in the Spanish region and predicts that this number will double by 2030. The latest macroeconomic study of the wind energy sector in 2021 (published in December 2022) shows the evolution of employment in the wind energy sector from 2005 to 2021.

A recent study developed around the Socioeconomic Information Database of Wind Energy in Galicia has evaluated the direct local economic impacts of wind power activity in the rural municipalities of the region. The identified local sources of income include: The taxation of wind farms (through conventional taxes and the Environmental Compensation Fund- ECF), the municipal ownership of wind farms, the leasing of municipal land to wind farm promoters, the collaboration agreements drawn up between companies and municipalities. The most important category of local income was that of taxes (92,7 %), followed by the municipal ownership of wind farms (7,0 %).

It is important to note that, although there is no legislation establishing a specific monitoring mechanism for job creation in local communities linked to wind farm projects, many companies choose to monitor the impact of the measures implemented in their own projects and community development protocols.



## 4. Findings

The role of Europe in relation to the expansion and development of renewable energies has experienced a significant transformation in recent years, thanks to various regulations and directives that have supported their development. The EU has always demonstrated a strong commitment to renewable energies, but it was in recent years that a significant regulatory change was made, adapting the European regulatory framework to further promote wind energy and other clean sources.

Therefore, Europe has updated guidelines and recommendations related to renewable energy and environmental issues. It also addresses aspects of citizen inclusion through community development plans designed to encourage social participation.

A careful analysis within the last 20 years has identified 13 directives and 2 regulations that have set the standard for EU member states in these areas (see Figure 6). Among the most prominent directives are Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 [9], Directive 2010/31/EU [24], Directive 2012/27/EU [25], and Directive 2018/2001/EU [1], all of which have contributed to the definition of standards and targets in the field of renewable energy. In addition, Directive 2011/92/EU [3] and Directive 2014/52/EU [2] have influenced project authorisation procedures.

Europe has also demonstrated its commitment to wind energy and citizen inclusion through Directive 2003/35/EC [10], Directive 2003/4/EC [13] and Directive 2014/89/EU [6]. In addition to these directives, Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 [4] and Directive 2019/944 [14] represent the latest developments in European renewable energy regulation.

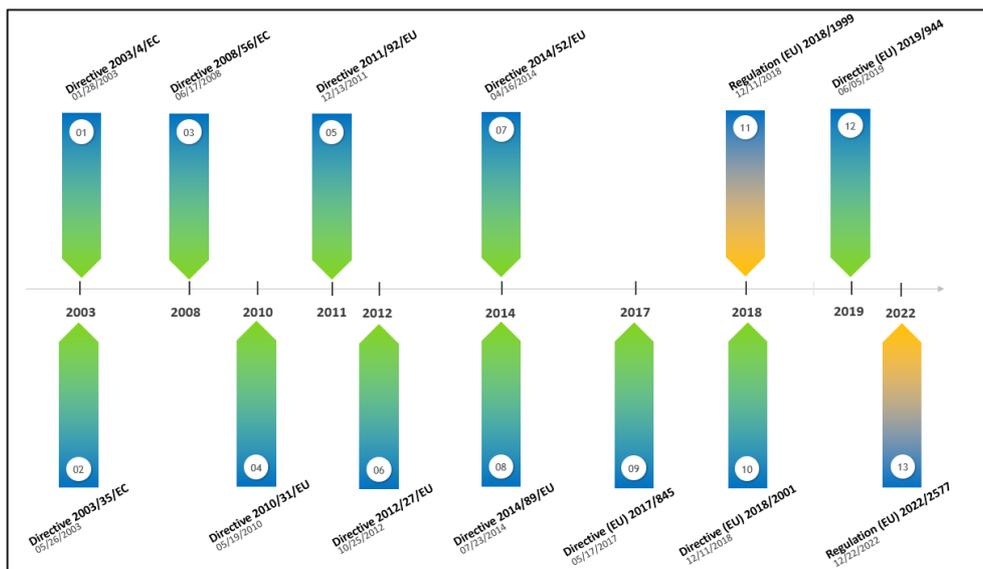


Figure 6. European legislation timeline. Source: own elaboration - APPA Renovables.



## A) CONSENTING PROCESS

Once the regulatory conditions related to the implementation of onshore and offshore wind projects have been compiled, some key topics have been identified that allow similarities and procedural discrepancies to be identified between the countries analysed.

The key aspects identified in the different procedural phases of the installation of an onshore and offshore wind farm are shown below. In Table 1 and Table 2, can be seen in the left column the topics identified, and in the right columns, whether these topics are met in the different territorial areas: Greece, Italy, Norway and Spain. If there is a cross, it means that this issue has been identified in the research region.

It should be highlighted that in all the countries analysed there is an Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (PNEC) that serves as a guide and lever for the deployment of renewable energies, as well as a zoning system to identify areas for the implementation of an onshore and offshore wind farms.

### Onshore

As Table 1 shows, the main European milestones that mark the consenting phases of an onshore wind farm are points of similarity between the countries analysed, although each one has adapted the procedures and authorisations to its own requirements. Nevertheless, there are some differences that are worth mentioning.

Table 1. Onshore comparative table. Source: own elaboration. *Note: x: yes, N/A: not available*

<b>General topics</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>IT</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ES</b>
A repowering plan is in progress or under development.		x		x
A geographical information system has been developed to facilitate the identification of installation areas.	x	x	x	x
There is a NECP.	x	x	x	x
There is a single administrative touchpoint.		x	x	
Measures are being implemented to simplify processes.		x		x
<b>Connection and access to the grid</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>IT</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ES</b>
A bank guarantee is needed.	x	x	N/A	x
There are public auctions for energy pricing.	x	x	N/A	x
<b>EIA procedure</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>IT</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ES</b>
There are different processes depending on the installed capacity of the projects and other specifications.	x	x	x	x



There are specifications for projects in NATURA 2000 areas.	x	x	N/A	x
The deadlines set in the administrative procedures are aligned with real timescales.		N/A	N/A	
There is a public consultation period.		x	x	x
<b>Authorization for the implementation and development</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>IT</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ES</b>
There are changes in the authorisation process depending on the installed capacity of the projects and other specifications.		x	x	x
There are particular specifications for projects in NATURA 2000 areas.	x	x	N/A	x
The deadlines set in the administrative procedures are aligned with real timescales.	x	N/A	N/A	
Bank guarantee is needed.	N/A	x	x	N/A

As for the specific procedures of the consenting process, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a common point among the four countries analysed. Other similarities lie in the fact that the capacity to be installed is the reference that identifies one or the other procedure to be followed to obtain the appropriate licences.

Europe is promoting simplified procedures to stimulate and increase installed renewable capacity. Regions such as Spain and Italy have implemented these simplified procedures.

### Offshore

Table 2. Offshore comparative table. Source: own elaboration. *Note: x: yes, N/A: not available.*

<b>General topics</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>IT</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ES</b>
Official development plan or Laws in accordance with the "EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energies".	x	x	N/A	x
Offshore legislation framework completely developed.				
Offshore wind farms already installed.		x	x	
Maritime Spatial Plan implemented.			x	x
Reservation of the area is needed.	x	x	x	x
A concurrency processes done to evaluate applications and grant access to the requested area.	x	x	x	x
Bank guarantee is needed.	x	x	x	x



There is a NECP.

x

x

x

x

A comparative table of offshore consenting procedures is presented in Table 2. The main conclusion is that the regulatory framework for offshore wind is still under development in all the regions analysed. In addition, Spain and Greece currently do not have offshore wind projects already operative. Norway counts with offshore wind farms, and, in the case of Italy, there is only one offshore operative wind farm in Taranto developed by Renexia [115].

Considering the consenting process in Spain, Italy and Greece, the overall procedure is similar, as it is necessary to apply to reserve an area to carry out studies to assess the wind resource. This procedure also includes a concurrency process to formally and legally define the entity granted with the area reservation. The application for reservation of the area requires the submission of a bank guarantee, which must be submitted twice in the case of Greece and Spain.

## B) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Once the regulatory conditions related to community development plans in relation to wind projects have been compiled, some key topics have been identified that allow similarities and discrepancies to be identified between the countries analysed.

The key aspects identified in terms of community development schemes for onshore and offshore wind farms are shown below. In Table 3, it can be seen, in the left column the topics identified, and in the right columns, whether these topics are met in the different territorial areas: Greece, Italy and Spain. If there is a cross, it means that this issue has been identified in the research region.

There is no public repository on how Norway involves the local community in the process of implementing a wind farm. Part of the information obtained comes from examples and one-off actions related to private initiatives for community participation. Given the size of the sample collected, no generalities can be drawn.

In addition to the fact that Norway is not part of the EU it has been considered appropriate not to include it in this comparison with the rest of the regions.



Table 3. Community development schemes comparative table. Source: own elaboration.

General topics	GR	IT	ES
National community development plan for wind/renewable energy projects.			
Other national plans or programmes that include community development considerations.	X	X	X
Regulation including RECs and CECs considerations.	X	X	X
Funding programs promoting energy communities' projects.	X	X	X
Companies carry out community development strategies even if they are not legally binding.	X	X	X
Some companies destine (voluntarily) a specific amount of the budget or revenue of the project to local communities.	X	X	X
The legislation includes any kind of public participation during wind farm development (any stage).		X	X
Research studies (public or private) on the employment and macro-economic impact of wind energy.	X	X	X

Table 3 shows the comparison of the three regions about community development topics. It is important to note that the situation in the three regions is broadly similar. The countries analysed do not have a fully developed framework for the implementation of community development strategies, as there is no regulation that sets out clear and concise rules or guidelines for the implementation of community development strategies. However, some guidance on these issues can be found in other national plans or programmes, such as the National Energy and Climate Plans.

Also, it has been found that companies responsible for wind projects often have strategies in place to involve the community and generate benefits from the success of the projects in the vicinity (job generation, infrastructure upgrade, among others). In addition, it was identified that all regions have developed regulations that include definitions and considerations of RECs and CECs, making them a very strong element to carry out community participation in energy projects.



## 5. Conclusions

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In recent years, the EU has made significant legislative efforts to integrate renewable energy sources more effectively and to improve community participation in the energy transition. One of the key elements of this development is Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and Council, which establishes a framework for the promotion of renewable energies. This directive not only defines the procedural framework for renewable energy installations, but also underlines the importance of public participation in the development of the renewable energy sector.

To support these efforts, the EU has introduced NECPs, which provide a framework for Member States to define their targets, policies, and measures in the renewable energy sector. In addition, Europe has pushed for the simplification of the authorisation and repowering processes for renewable energy projects through Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 [4].

In the context of wind energy, Europe has taken concrete steps to identify areas suitable for the installation of wind farms and has promoted the creation of "renewable energy-friendly zones" that minimise environmental impact and promote land-use efficiency. Guidelines addressing maritime spatial planning and the protection of the marine environment have also been established, underlining Europe's commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources. In particular, the EU has also developed the Energy and Industrial Geography Laboratory [116], a geographic data platform related to energy, industry, and infrastructure, which facilitates the search and analysis of energy data and the creation of interactive maps to share relevant information.

Recalling that Norway plays a crucial role in the advancement of renewable energy, especially in the wind sector, taking advantage of its natural resources and its unique position on the European scene. Despite not being part of the EU, its collaboration with the EEA and its commitment to sustainability continue to drive the development of onshore and offshore wind energy in the region, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change.



## 5.1. Consenting process for onshore wind farms

Table 4. Summary of the main similarities between the analysed countries in terms of onshore wind farms. Source: own elaboration.

	Onshore - Similarities -
Authorisation and grid connection process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The authorisation of wind farm projects starts with the application for a grid connection and energy production permit.</li> <li>▪ A bank guarantee is required for the issuance of the first permits, the duration of which may be varied.</li> <li>▪ Electronic application process.</li> </ul>
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is an EIA process to assess the environmental impact of wind farm projects.</li> <li>▪ There are different categories of projects, and the obligation to conduct an EIA varies according to the energy capacity of the project and its location.</li> <li>▪ The length of the EIA process can be significant and varies depending on the specific circumstances of the project.</li> </ul>
Implementation / development authorisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ They have procedures for the authorisation of implementation and development of wind projects, including the submission of technical documentation and obtaining specific permits for the construction and operation of facilities.</li> </ul>

Member countries have mostly transposed all European guidelines in terms of environmental impact assessment, setting energy and climate targets for 2030, spatial zoning, administrative streamlining, public consultation in some of the procedures, and classification of projects to define administrative procedures, among others.

The main differences between member states reside in the adaptation of these guidelines to the characteristics and needs of each country. In addition, different strategies can be seen in those topics that are not defined by the EU. However, all member states are following a common line of development and progress towards an expansion of onshore wind energy.



Table 5. Summary of the main differences between the analysed countries in terms of onshore wind farms. Source: own elaboration.

Onshore - Differences -	
Financial guarantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amounts and conditions of bank guarantees for grid connection depend on the country. <i>For example, in Greece, a guarantee of € 35 per kW is required, while in Italy, the amount is 30 % of the value of the grid system built by the applicant. In Spain, a guarantee of € 40 per kW installed is required.</i></li> </ul>
EIA procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each country has its own legal framework for the EIA of renewable energy projects. Differences include the capacity thresholds that trigger the obligation to conduct an EIA and the authorities responsible for the environmental assessment.</li> </ul>
Implementation authorisation processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They have different processes for the authorisation of the implementation and development of wind projects, with different names and requirements depending on the capacity of the project. <i>For example, in Italy, there are procedures such as DILA, PAS and AU, while Spain uses AAP, AAC, and AE.</i></li> </ul>
Duration of the process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The estimated duration of the whole process can vary significantly between countries, depending on the specific circumstances and energy capacity of the project.</li> </ul>

## 5.2. Consenting process for offshore wind farms

The EU has made significant legislative efforts to develop offshore renewable energy sources more effectively. In this context, Europe has taken concrete steps into generating diverse legislation and plans to promote its development and establish guidelines for the state members. Table 6 shows the similarities and differences of the consent process in each country and a comparison of the state of their legislation with the main EU regulation.

One of the key points to deployment of the offshore energy is focus on establishing wind energy space allocation for maritime space. Through Directive 2014/89/EU [6] Europe has set the guidelines for the development of a Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).

In this point, Spain is the only country that has already completely adopted its Plan de Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo (POEM) in February 2023 [117]. Italy has developed a MSP draft that was shared for public consultation in Autumn 2022 and is in the process of being finalized [54]. It is important to note that the EU MSP Directive [6] was transposed into Italy's national legislation through Legislative Decree nº 201 of 17 October 2016 [55]. Greece has not yet adopted a MSP [118]. The EU MSP Directive is transposed into national legislation through



Law 4546/2018 of 12 June 2018 [28] and Law 4759/2020 (GG 245/A/9-12-2020) amending the previous one through Chapter 2 [29].

The EU strategy on offshore renewable energy proposes concrete ways forward to support the long-term sustainable development of this sector. The strategy sets targets for an installed capacity of at least 60 GW of offshore wind and 1 GW of ocean energy by 2030, and 300 GW and 40 GW, respectively, by 2050 [5]. Each Member State should develop legislation, plans and programmes in line with this strategy. It is worth noting that all the countries analysed are implementing this strategy in their own way. In this context, Law 4964/2022 [40], which corresponds to the Hellenic Republic, represents a step in this direction, establishing a framework for the development of Offshore Wind Farms. Regarding Spain, in 2022, developed the “Roadmap for the development of Offshore Wind and Marine Energy in Spain” which defines the objectives, as well as the lines of action to achieve the goals set out in the EU strategy. In the case of Italy, its plans for offshore wind energy are included in the aforementioned PNIEC [49].

Table 6. Summary of the main similitudes and differences between the analysed countries in terms of offshore wind farms. Source: own elaboration.

	Offshore
Similarities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The countries analysed do not have an offshore legislation framework completely developed.</li> <li>▪ All the countries analysed are implementing the EU strategy on offshore renewable energy in their own way through different mechanisms such as legislations, programmes, roadmaps, etc.</li> <li>▪ The overall procedure is similar in all countries.</li> <li>▪ The offshore consenting process is similar to the onshore one. However, they include a first step of application and reservation of an offshore area.</li> <li>▪ The process includes a concurrency process to define the beneficiary.</li> <li>▪ Complete environmental impact studies are required.</li> <li>▪ In all countries it is mandatory to present a bank guarantee. Nevertheless, the amounts and conditions depend on the country.</li> </ul>
Differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spain is the only country that has already completely adopted POEM, established through Directive 2014/89/EU.</li> <li>▪ Italy has developed a MSP draft and Greece has not yet adopted a MSP.</li> <li>▪ In the case of Greece and Spain, two bank guarantees are required for the authorisation process.</li> </ul>

- The procedure of authorisation duration can vary between countries.
- Except for Greece, all countries have explicitly included a public consultation period in the consenting process.

### 5.3. Community development schemes for onshore and offshore wind farms

The EU has a history of initiatives to promote public participation and involvement in society. For example, the Clean Energy for All Europeans package aims to increase public participation and social acceptance. Also, the EU implements, through other directives, programs and reports, guidelines, and recommendations to promote public participation. None of the countries analysed has implemented a specific and complete regulation about how to implement community development in wind projects. However, it is important to mention that all countries have included guidelines and have defined the importance of community involvement in several programmes, national plans, funding programmes, etc such as the PNIEC, for instance. In addition, although there are no specific community development strategies or protocols laid down in any legislation, companies in the use case countries implement various procedures or programmes aimed at involving the community and increasing the social acceptance of the project.

Both RECs and CECS, established in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [1] and Directive (EU) 2019/944 [14], are concepts that all the countries have introduced in their respective regulatory frameworks with the aim of putting consumers more at the centre of the clean energy transition and enabling the active participation of society with energy communities. Also, the countries promote the development of energy communities through EU funding.

The analysis carried out in this deliverable show that community involvement is even more important for offshore wind farm projects, as these kinds of projects involve a more diverse and complex range of stakeholders. However, apart from Norway and Italy, there are no cases of offshore wind farms in Greece or Spain



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## Annexes

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Annex I. Guidelines and templates

Annex II. Results of the questionnaires

Annex III. Exploitation strategy - IPR



# Annex I

## *Guidelines and templates*

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WENDY aims to unravel the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis of three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY GUIDE

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The aim of these questionnaires is to gain a better understanding of **the authorisation processes** and **Community development plans**, both, at the regional level in use case countries and, at the European level. Each of the questionnaires contains 10-11 sections (each section covers a different topic or phase of the consenting and licensing process) and about 78 questions that can be answered in 1-2 hours.

Despite the effort to collect as much information as possible on consent processes, both in European and regional legislation, there may be issues that are not covered in the questionnaire. To address this, **there are specific fields in each section to include additional information that may not be covered in the questionnaire.**

Links to both questionnaires: Onshore and Offshore

**Onshore questionnaire** has 10 sections and 72 questions:

**Section 1- General Information** (organization name, date, etc).

**Section 2- Application and access to the electrical grid.**

**Section 3- Bank guarantee and liability insurance.** Financial requirements for the initial authorisation.

**Section 4- Environmental impact assessment (EIA):** The objective is to understand how this essential process is conducted in each region and which documentation is required.



**Section 5 - Application for administrative authorisation (initial authorisation).** This section covers the administrative process in which the competent authorities grant an initial authorisation following the submission of various documentation (bank guarantee, technical information, environmental studies, etc.).

**Section 6 - Administrative authorisation for construction.** Process of authorising the beginning of the construction activities.

**Section 7 - Authorisation for exploitation and energy commercialisation.** This section specifically asks about how the commercialisation of energy is carried out and if the economic right for exploitation (electricity prices, etc) is guaranteed in any way.

**Section 8 - Other topics to be considered based on European Commission directives and recommendations.** This section covers how some of the European recommendations and guidelines are applied in each country.

**Section 9 - Community development schemes: social impact.** Understanding the degree of progress in each country on the topics related to Community Development plans and schemes.

**Section 10- Additional information:** Comments about any topic that remains uncovered through the questionnaire.



**Offshore questionnaire** has 11 sections and 78 questions:

**Section 1- General Information** (organization name, date, etc)

**Section 2 - Application and characterization of the offshore wind areas.** In Spain, it is needed to present an application to reserve the maritime areas for further analysis.

**Section 3 - Obtaining the right of access to the grid, concurrency process and bank guarantee.** This section covers the process when two or more applicants request the same maritime zone, how this conflict is resolved and how the right of access to the grid is granted.

**Section 4 - Zone reservation and investigation of the Eolic resource.** This section goes through a stage in the process in which the applicant carries out investigation activities in the reserved area.

**Section 5 - Environmental impact assessment (EIA):** The objective is to understand how this essential process is conducted in each region and which documentation is required.

**Section 6 - Application for administrative authorisation (initial authorisation).** This section covers the administrative process in which the competent authorities grant an initial authorisation following the submission of various documentation (bank guarantee, technical information, environmental studies, etc.).

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**Section 11 - Additional information:** Comments about any topic that remains uncovered through the questionnaire.



WENDY aims to unravel the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis of three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## **D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 ONSHORE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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### **SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Organization's name
2. Author (Name and Surname)
3. Date (MM/DD/YY)

### **SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND ACCESS TO THE ELECTRICAL GRID**

4. How is this procedure denominated in your country?
5. To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted?
6. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, and proximity to the node or electrical substation (among others)?
7. Documentation to be submitted to the authority. Please, list and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.  
Please mention other relevant comments about this section.
8. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.
9. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).



### SECTION 3. BANK GUARANTEE AND LIABILITY INSURANCE

In some regions, submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the authorisation process.

**10.**How is this procedure denominated in your country?

**11.**List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided for obtaining the Bank Guarantee

**12.**Once obtained, to which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

**13.**How long the bank guarantee is valid?

**14.**If necessary, can it be extended? What is the extension period?

**15.**Does the amount of the bank guarantee depend on the total MW (Megawatt) to be installed?

Yes  No

**16.**Specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation.  
Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW.

**17.**Are there any exceptions/modifications in the amount of capital to be guaranteed for Citizen Energy Communities (CEC)?

CEC is defined as a legal entity that may engage in generation, including from renewable sources, distribution, supply, consumption, aggregation, energy storage, energy efficiency services or charging services for electric vehicles or provide other energy services to its members or shareholders (Directive UE 2019 / 944).

**18.**Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

**19.**Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### SECTION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues: Population and human health. Biodiversity, Soil, water, air, and climate Assets material. Cultural and landscape heritage.

**20.**How is this procedure denominated in your country?

**21.**To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

**22.**Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?



**23.** Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area?

Please specify those parameters for your region.

**24.** Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

**25.** On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?

**26.** Is there a public consultation period included in the process?

Yes  No

**27.** How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?

**28.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary?

If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

**29.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

**30.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### SECTION 5. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)

**31.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

**32.** To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

**33.** Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

**34.** Please indicate the period (specified in the regulations and the one observed in practice) from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.

**35.** Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application

Presentation of a technical preliminary project

Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section)



Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).

Bank guarantee, liability insurance, etc

**36.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

**37.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

**38.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

**39.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

**40.** Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

**41.** List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

**42.** Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?

**43.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

**44.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### SECTION 7. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION

**45.** What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation?

Please, list and describe them briefly.

**46.** Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

**47.** In case the economic right wasn't granted by a public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved in making an agreement?

**48.** Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

**49.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.



50. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### SECTION 8. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

51. Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)? If the answer is yes, please specify its name.

NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

52. If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

53. Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)?

The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

54. According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

55. Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

56. Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

57. To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)".

Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

58. Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering.

Is there a plan in your country for the renovation of renewable installations and administrative processes to be carried out?



59. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

60. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### SECTION 9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

**61. Resource assessment:** Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region? If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?

**62. Community participation:** Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)? If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

**63. Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level? If yes, please provide examples.

**64. Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country? If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

**65. Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples.

Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizens.

**66. Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects?

Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.



**67.**Monitoring plans: Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented?

Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

**68.**Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed?

If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.

**69.**Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms? If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

**70.**Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

**71.**Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### **SECTION 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**72.**If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.



WENDY aims to unraveling the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis at three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 OFFSHORE QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organization's name
2. Author (Name and Surname)
3. Date (MM/DD/YY)

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE OFFSHORE WIND AREAS

4. Is it necessary to present an application for area reservation? If the answer is yes, how is this procedure denominated in your country?

5. Are there different procedures depending on the installation capacity for wind farms in your region?

If yes, please specify.

Yes  No

6. To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted? If there are several authorities involved, please list them and indicate if the authority responsible changes according to different parameters (power to be installed, number of turbines, etc).

7. Which documentation should be submitted along with the application (Power capacity, studies to be carried out, basic technical information, location, etc)?

Please, list it briefly.

8. An eolic marine characterisation refers to an official analysis of the marine area (fauna,



flora, geomorphology, navigation, among many others). Is there an official public eolic marine area characterisation in your region?

9. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

10. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### **SECTION 3. OBTAINING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE GRID, CONCURRENCY PROCESS AND BANK GUARANTEE**

In some regions, when the marine area has two or more reservation requests (overlapping areas, for example), a concurrency process is carried out to define the most suitable project. The decision shall grant the selected applicant(s) the right of access to the grid.

Also, the submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the process.

11. Which authority is in charge of carrying out this process?

12. How long does this process take?

13. Is there a concurrency process in your region? How is this procedure denominated?

14. Is it mandatory to carry out a public consultation in this process?

Yes  No

15. During this process, is it necessary to present a bank guarantee?

If yes, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation and briefly explain the procedure. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW

16. Please, briefly explain the process of obtaining the right of access to the grid.

17. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### **SECTION 4. ZONE RESERVATION AND INVESTIGATION OF THE EOLIC RESOURCE**

18. How long is the zone reservation title valid? Can it be extended? If extensions are allowed, how much longer can the title be extended?

19. Is it required to present a second bank guarantee?

If so, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 E/MW

20. Is there a public database or registry that contains the information on the reserved areas?

21. Is it necessary to carry out environmental studies to assess the impact of the research



activities?

If yes, what type of basic studies must be carried out?

**22.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section

### SECTION 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues:

- Population and human health.
- Biodiversity
- Soil, water, air, and climate
- Assets material.
- Cultural and landscape heritage.

**23.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

**24.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

**25.** Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?

**26.** Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area?

Please specify those parameters for your region

**27.** Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

**28.** On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?

**29.** Is there a public consultation period included in the process?

Yes  No

**30.** How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?

**31.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary?

If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

**32.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.



**33.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### **SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)**

**34.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

**35.** To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

**36.** Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

**37.** Please indicate the period from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.

**38.** Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application:

- Presentation of a technical preliminary project
- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section)
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, among other financial assurances

**39.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

**40.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### **SECTION 7. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**41.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

**42.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

**43.** Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

**44.** List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

**45.** Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?



46. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

47. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

**SECTION 8. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION**

48. What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation?

Please, list and describe them briefly.

49. Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

50. In case the economic right wasn't granted by a Public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved to make an agreement?

51. Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

52. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

53. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

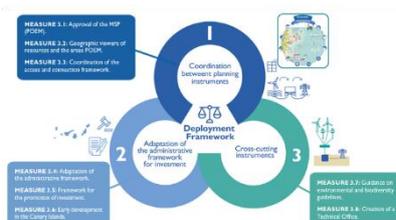
**SECTION 9. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EURO- PEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

54. Does your country have a maritime spatial plan that aligns with the recommendations established in Directive 2014/89/EU?

Yes  No

55. Does your country have a development plan for offshore wind energy following the guidelines and recommendations of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy?

56. The following image shows several measures towards a clear and predictable framework for the deployment of offshore renewable generation in Spain.



Is your country currently involved in one of the displayed measures?

**57.** Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)?

If the answer is yes, please specify its name and briefly provide information about the goals for offshore wind. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

**58.** If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

**59.** Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)? The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

**60.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency. Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment?

If yes, please briefly explain.

**61.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

**62.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

**63.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

**64.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering. Is there a plan in your country for the renovation of renewable installations and administrative processes to be carried out?

**65.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section

**66.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

## **SECTION 10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT**

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies



in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

Note: If you have already answered these questions in the onshore questionnaire, there is no need for you to answer them again.

**67. Resource assessment:** Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region?

If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?

**68. Community participation:** Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)?

If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

**69. Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level?

If yes, please provide examples.

**70. Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community.

Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country?

If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

**71. Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples.

Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizens.

**72. Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects?

Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

**73. Monitoring plans:** Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented?

Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.



**74.** Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed?

If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.

**75.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms?

If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

**76.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

**77.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

### SECTION 11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**78.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.



# Annex II-A

## *Onshore questionnaires*

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WENDY aims to unravel the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis of three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 SPAIN QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

**1. Organization's name**

APPA Renovables

**2. Author (Name and Surname)**

Lucía Paloma Castillo

**3. Date (MM/DD/YY)**

08/22/2023

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND ACCESS TO THE ELECTRICAL GRID

**4. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

To obtain access to the grid, an Access and Connection Permit (A&C) must be requested.

**5. To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted?**

The A&C is requested from Red Eléctrica Española (REE), which is the Spanish electricity system operator (220-240 KW). For low-voltage connections, it is also possible to apply to smaller distributors (0-145 KW).



**6.** Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, number of turbines, and proximity to the node or electrical substation (among others)?

The authority changes depending on the power capacity to be installed. The permit will be granted by REE if the power is between 220 and 240 kW. If the power is between 0 and 145 kW, it will be granted by smaller distributors.

**7.** Documentation to be submitted to the authority. Please, list and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

(i) Bank guarantee: The required bank guarantee for €40,000/MW. It must be approved by other institutions prior to submission. (ii) Technical report: A generic report must include (as a minimum) sections such as: general description, objective, owner of the installation, location, generic description of the installations, applicable legislation, expected power, maximum admissible power, the solution adopted, energy and economic aspects, environmental aspects, maintenance, equipment guarantees, final cleaning, among others.

**8.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

The A&C is valid for a period of five years from the concession.

**9.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 1955/2000, Royal Decree 1183/2020, Royal Decree - Law 23/2020 and Law 24/2013.

### **SECTION 3. BANK GUARANTEE AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

In some regions, submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the authorisation process.

**10.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

In Spain, as mentioned above, a bank guarantee is required to obtain permission for access and connection to the grid.

**11.** List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided for obtaining the Bank Guarantee

Bank Guarantee: The documentation depends on the institution that grants the bank guarantee.



**12. Once obtained, to which public administration/authority must it be submitted?**

The authority to grant the installation authorisation (according to Royal Decree 1183/2020). The applicant, before making the request for access and connection to the transmission network, or, where appropriate, to the distribution network, must present, before the competent body to grant the authorization of the installation, the receipt proving that they have deposited, After the entry into force of Royal Decree 1183/2020, of December 29, an economic guarantee for an amount equivalent to €40 per kW installed.

**13. How long the bank guarantee is valid?**

Depends on the type of bank guarantee and the specifications of the administration.

**14. If necessary, can it be extended? What is the extension period?**

Depends on the type of bank guarantee and the specifications of the administration.

**15. Does the amount of the bank guarantee depend on the total MW (Megawatt) to be installed?**

Yes  No

**16. Specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW**

€ 40.000 per MW.

**17. Are there any exceptions/modifications in the amount of capital to be guaranteed for Citizen Energy Communities (CEC)? CEC is defined as a legal entity that may engage in generation, including from renewable sources, distribution, supply, consumption, aggregation, energy storage, energy efficiency services or charging services for electric vehicles or provide other energy services to its members or shareholders (Directive UE 2019 / 944).**

There are some exceptions focused on self-consumption.

**18. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

NA (Non-answer).

**19. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

Royal Decree 1183/2020.

## SECTION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues: Population and human health. Biodiversity, Soil, water, air and climate Assets material. Cultural and landscape heritage.

### 20. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in Spanish, Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental (EIA).

### 21. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

This authorization is submitted to the competent organism: (i) General State Administration (installed electrical power > 50 MW; those present in two or more Autonomous Regions; and other exceptions). (ii) Autonomous Administration: installed electrical power < 50 MW and other exceptions. However, the documentation is processed and evaluated by the competent environmental organism (in accordance with the requirements mentioned above): a) General State Administration b) Autonomous Administration

### 22. Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?

Yes, as described in the previous question.

### 23. Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area?

Please specify those parameters for your region.

Yes, there are two types of procedures: (i) Ordinary EIA: those projects with > 30 MW, ≥ 50 wind turbines or < 2km from another wind farm. (ii) Simplified EIA: those projects not subject to ordinary EIA, and exceptions. In addition, article 22 of RD 20/2022 modifies the procedure specifically for renewable energy, creating a new more quick and simplified process named Determination of environmental condition for projects of renewable energy.

### 24. Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate? Please, list them and describe them briefly.

Request for ordinary environmental impact assessment: (i) Technical document of the project (ii) Environmental Impact Assessment (iii)  Allegations and reports received in the public information procedure and consultations with the affected public administrations and interested parties. Request for simplified environmental impact assessment: (i) Environmental

document. (ii) Other documentation required by sectoral legislation.

**25. On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?**

It is important to note that the time frame is highly variable and depends not only on the authorities and public administrations but also on the developer of the project.

Ordinary EIA: According to article 33-4 of Law 21/2013, The technical analysis of the environmental impact file and the formulation of the environmental impact statement will be carried out within four months, counted from the complete receipt of the environmental impact file. In addition, the timeframe of public consultation must be taken into account (around 1 month).

Simplified EIA: according to article 47-1 of Law 21/2013, The environmental institution will formulate the environmental impact report within three months from the receipt of the start request and the documents that must accompany it. After that, it will be published in the official bulletin and needs to be authorised by the corresponding organism. Determination of environmental conditions (article 22 of RD 20/2022) After the substantive body sends the documentation to the environmental body within a period of 10 days, The environmental body will formulate the report determining the environmental condition within a maximum period of two months from the receipt of the documentation.

**26. Is there a public consultation period included in the process?**

Yes  No

**27. How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?**

Ordinary EIA: According to article 36 of Law 21/2013, The promoter will present the project and the environmental impact study before the substantive body, which will submit them to public information for a period of not less than thirty business days, prior announcement in the "Official State Gazette" or official newspaper that corresponds and in its electronic office. According to what is established in article 37-2, with respect to public administrations, the affected Public Administrations and the interested persons will have a maximum period of thirty working days from the receipt of the notification to issue the reports and formulate the allegations they deem appropriate.

Simplified EIA: According to article 46 of Law 13/2013, The environmental authorisation will consult the affected public administrations and interested persons, making the environmental document of the project referred to in the previous article available to them. 2. The public administrations affected, and the interested parties consulted must make a decision within a maximum period of twenty days from the receipt of the report request.

**28.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary? If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

The simplified procedures will be applied according to the characteristics of the project and the kind of activity that is going to be carried out. That information is established in Law 21/2013 and will be decided by the corresponding authorities.

**29.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**30.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Law 21/2013, as amended by Royal Decree-Law 20/2022 (Article 22).

### **SECTION 5. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)**

**31.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Preliminary Administrative Authorisation (PAA), in Spanish: Autorización administrativa previa (AAP).

**32.** To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

This authorization is submitted to the competent organism: (i) General State Administration: installed electrical power > 50 MW; those present in two or more Autonomous Regions; and other exceptions. (ii) Autonomous Administration: installed electrical power < 50 MW and other exceptions.

**33.** Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

Yes, as described in the previous question.

**34.** Please indicate the period (specified in the regulations and the one observed in practice) from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.

The regulations allow a period of 34 months.

**35.** Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application

Presentation of a technical preliminary project



- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section)
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, etc

**36.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**37.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 1955/2000; Royal Decree- Law 23/2020.

## SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

**38.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Administrative Authorisation for Construction (AAC), in Spanish: Autorización administrativa de construcción (AAC).

**39.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

This authorization is submitted to the competent organism: (i) General State Administration: installed electrical power > 50 MW; those present in two or more Autonomous Regions; and other exceptions. (ii) Autonomous Administration: installed electrical power < 50 MW and other exceptions.

**40.** Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

Yes, as described in the previous question.

**41.** List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

Technical project document and requested documentation by authorities.

**42.** Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?



The regulations allow a period of 37 months for the authorisation to be obtained. Recently, the Real Decree law 5/2023 (Article 185) has extended the time frame for obtaining the AAC.

**43.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non-answer).

**44.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 1955/2000; Royal Decree- Law 23/2020; Royal Decree - Law 5/2023.

### SECTION 7. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION

**45.** What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation? Please, list and describe them briefly.

The authorisation is called Operating Authorisation (AE), in Spanish: Autorización de Explotación (AE). Once the project has been executed, it allows the installations to be put into operation.

**46.** Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

**47.** In case the economic right wasn't granted by a public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved in making an agreement?

Private companies involved in energy commercialisation.

**48.** Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

Yes, through auctions or private agreements.

**49.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non-answer).

**50.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 1955/2000; Royal Decree - Law 23/2020.

## SECTION 8. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**51.** Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)? If the answer is yes, please specify its name. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Yes, the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, in Spanish Plan Nacional Integrado de Energía y Clima (PNIEC).

**52.** If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

Yes, it has recently been revised. Specifically, the amendments were published on 28 June 2023.

**53.** Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)? The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

Yes. <https://siq.mapama.gob.es/geoportal/>

**54.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency. Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

Royal Decree Law 20/2022 establishes in Article 23 simplified procedures for authorisation of energy projects renewable.

**55.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

Not as much as we know.

**56.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

Not as much as we know.

**57.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single



administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

No.

**58.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering. Is there a plan in your country for the renovation of renewable installations and administrative processes to be carried out?

In 2023, some Circular Repowering Programmes have been developed in Spain (EU funding) with the goal of replacement of wind turbines, hydroelectric modernisation and turbine blades recycling.

**59.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer)

**60.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree - Law 20/2022.

## SECTION 9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

**61.** Resource assessment: Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region? If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?

In accordance with what is established in the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIE, in Spanish), an environmental zoning tool for renewable energy (wind and photovoltaic) has been developed in Spain. This tool shows the value of the existing environmental sensitivity index at each point on the map, and the environmental indicators associated with that location. These layers are available in the Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDE, in Spanish) of the Ministry for



the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

[https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/evaluacion-ambiental/zonificacion\\_ambiental\\_energias\\_renovables.html](https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/evaluacion-ambiental/zonificacion_ambiental_energias_renovables.html)

**62. Community participation:** Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)? If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

Yes, especially in the environmental authorisation process, there are public consultations about the project and potential impacts.

**63. Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level? If yes, please provide examples.

Yes, there is specific legislation related to energy efficiency. (i) Royal Decree 390/2021 (basic procedure for the certification of the energy efficiency of buildings) (ii) Royal Decree-Law 14/2022, of August 1, on economic sustainability measures in the field of transport, in terms of scholarships and study aid, as well as saving measures, energy efficiency and reduction of energy dependence. of natural gas. In the context of the Spanish “Plan Más Seguridad Energética (+SE)”, It facilitates compliance with European commitments derived from the conflict in Ukraine, it also promotes the electrification of the economy, by speeding up the procedures for networks and infrastructures and promoting storage and self-consumption. • Real Decreto 36/2023, de 24 de enero, por el que se establece un sistema de Certificados de Ahorro Energético. (iii) Royal Decree 36/2023 of 24 January establishing a system of Energy Saving Certificates.

**64. Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country? If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

Law 24/2013- establishes the rights and obligations of renewable energy communities and citizen energy communities. (i) Article 12 ter - Citizen energy communities. In English CEC (Citizen energy communities). (ii) Article 12a - Renewable energy communities. Aligned with the objectives and targets of the PNIEC, in 2021 Spain launched the "Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR)" which involves the articulation of a series of investments and reforms aimed at increasing productivity and potential growth, moving towards a green, digital, inclusive Spain, with greater social and territorial cohesion, and without gender gaps. Lever 3 - Component 7 (Deployment and integration of renewable energies) and reform 3 (C7.R3) aims to promote citizen participation in the energy transition, but in particular



renewable energy communities and citizen energy communities.

**65. Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples. Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizen.

In Spain, there are both national and local financial aid programs for wind energy. Every autonomous community can establish different financial programs. As an example, at a national level, Spain has launched, in the context of Plan de Recovery, transformation and Resilience (PRTR), an incentive program for pilot projects of Energetic communities (CE IMPLEMENTA- Diciembre 2022). Also, in July 2022 there has been launched the Eolcan aid for investment in wind technology in the Canary Islands. In 2023 The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge has formalized the first call for three aid programs dedicated, respectively, to wind circular repowering projects with a joint endowment of 222.5 million euros of 'Next Generation EU' funds managed through the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.

**66. Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects? Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

The latest report from the AEE (Asociación empresarial eólica) analyses the employment impact of wind energy in Spain. This report states that there are currently 32,000 people working in the eolic sector in Spain. It also predicts that this number will double by 2030.

**67. Monitoring plans:** Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented? Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

There is no legislation establishing a particular tracking mechanism. Nevertheless, many companies involved in the implementation of wind farms can track the impact of the measures implemented in their own projects.

**68. Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.**



Not as far as we know.

**69.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms? If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

There is certain legislation destined for CECs (Law 24/2013, Art 12 y 13). Also, there is a proposal of a RD which It intends to incorporate the regulatory principles of these energy communities into the national legal system, thus partially complying with the transposition mandate established in the aforementioned community provisions, and introducing an adequate framework that provides legal certainty, provides for the identification and elimination of barriers and contemplates the necessary measures for its development.

**70.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

There are numerous consultants, universities and associations that have conducted studies to evaluate the impact of wind energy in Span, both at a regional and autonomic level. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning the reports published by AEE (in association with other entities): Eolic Annuary 2023, Macroeconomic Study of the Impact of the Wind Sector in Spain (2022) and White Paper on the Offshore Wind Industry in Spain. In addition, APPA (Association de Energías Renovables, in Spanish) has been publishing macroeconomic studies since 2007, being the most recent one in 2020.

**71.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 390/2021 Royal Decree-Law 14/2022; Royal Decree 390/2021 (basic procedure for the certification of the energy efficiency of buildings); Royal Decree-Law 14/2022, of 1 August, on economic sustainability measures in the field of transport, grants and study aid, as well as measures for energy saving, energy efficiency and reduction of energy dependence.

### SECTION 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**72.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

NA (Non-answer).





WENDY aims to unraveling the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis at three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 GREECE QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. Organization's name

Minoan Energy Community

#### 2. Author (Name and Surname)

Dimitris Katsaprakakis

#### 3. Date (MM/DD/YY)

31/07/2023

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND ACCESS TO THE ELECTRICAL GRID

#### 4. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

The issuance of the Power Production Certificate (former Power Production Permit) is the first step for the licensing of electricity production projects from RES, including onshore wind parks.

#### 5. To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted?

The owner or the developer of the project should submit a relevant application in the Regulation Authority of Energy (RAE), during the three submission periods, which are defined from the 1st to the 10th day of February, June and October.



**6. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, number of turbines, and proximity to the node or electrical substation (among others)?**

No

**7. Documentation to be submitted to the authority. Please, list and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.**

The application should be developed according to the defined content in the Power Production Certificates Regulation. It contains wind potential evaluation, description of the installation site, exact geographical coordinates of the turbine's installation positions and the wind park's installation site borders, description of the access roads to the site, calculation of the annual electricity production, exact description with technical specifications of the wind turbine selected model, economic evaluation, justification of the capacity of the project's owner to fund the project etc.

**8. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

The application is submitted only electronically, via the online submission system of RAE. Theoretically, the Power Production Certificate is issued at latest 20 days after the expiration of the period for the submission of any potential objections from anybody who may have legitimate interest against issuance of the Power Production Certificate. This period, in total can be at maximum 20 days after the submission of the application. The process for the submission of the application and the issuance of the Power Production Certificate is defined and described in the clause 11 of the law 4685/2020.

**9. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

The process for the issuance of the Power Production Certificate is given in the following legislation framework:

-Law 3468/2006, Official Governmental Gazette 129A' / 27-6-2006: Electricity production from Renewable Energy Sources and Combined Heat and Power of high efficiency and other clauses

-Law 3851/2010, Official Governmental Gazette 85A' / 4-6-2010: Acceleration for the development of Renewable Energy Sources and the treatment of the climate change and other clauses on topics under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change

-Law 4203/2013, Official Governmental Gazette 235A' / 1-11-2013: Regulations on Renewable Energy Sources topics and other clauses



-The Power Production Certificates Regulation, No. YPEN/DAPEEK/114746/4230, Official Governmental Gazette 5291B' / 1-12-2020: Power Production Certificates Regulation from RES and CHP and Certificates for Electricity Production from Special RES Projects and Combined Heat and Power production projects

-Law 4254/2014, Official Governmental Gazette 85A' / 7-4-2014: Supporting measures of the Greek economy in the frame of the application of the law 4046/2012 and other clauses

-Management Code of non-interconnected Islands: Official Governmental Gazette 304B' / 11-2-2014: Management Code of non-interconnected Islands

-Law 4513/2018, Official Governmental Gazette 9A' / 23-1-2018: Energy Communities and other clauses

-Law 4685/2020, Official Governmental Gazette 92A' / 7-5-2020: Update of the environmental legislation, embody in the Greek legislation of the European directives 2018/844 and 2019/692 of the European Parliament and Council and other clauses

-Law 4964/2022, Official Governmental Gazette 150A' / 30-7-2022: Clauses for the simplification of the environmental licensing of offshore wind parks, the treatment of energy crisis, the environmental protection and other clauses.

### **SECTION 3. BANK GUARANTEE AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

In some regions, submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the authorisation process.

#### **10. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

For the submission of the application in RAE for the issuance of the power production certificate a bank guarantee is required. It is denominated as “bank guarantee for the issuance of the power production certificate”.

#### **11. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided for obtaining the Bank Guarantee**

This is not clearly described in the legislation or in any site. Only an application is mentioned. Maybe the documentation very depending on the specific bank.

#### **12. Once obtained, to which public administration/authority must it be submitted?**

In the Regulatory Authority of Energy, as an obligatory element of the overall application for the issuance of the power production certificate.

#### **13. How long the bank guarantee is valid?**

36-month period.



**14. If necessary, can it be extended? What is the extension period?**

In 36 months from the issuance of the power production certificate the applicant should submit in the Operator the application for the supply of the binding bid for the connection of the project with the local grid. However, there are some exceptions for projects sited inside NATURA regions and for the so-called specific projects (not wind parks within them). So, only for project inside NATURA 2000 regions, the period of the bank guarantee can be extended, due to the more complicated licensing period.

**15. Does the amount of the bank guarantee depend on the total MW (Megawatt) to be installed?**

Yes  No

**16. Specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW**

€ 35.000 per MW

**17. Are there any exceptions/modifications in the amount of capital to be guaranteed for Citizen Energy Communities (CEC)?**

Energy communities are totally exempted from this obligation.

**18. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

In case the applicant does not succeed to complete the project in 36 months, the amount of the bank guarantee should be paid to the Bank.

**19. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

-Law 4685/2020, Official Governmental Gazette 92A' / 7-5-2020: Update of the environmental legislation, embody in the Greek legislation of the European directives 2018/844 and 2019/692 of the European Parliament and Council and other clauses.

-Law 4964/2022, Official Governmental Gazette 150A' / 30-7-2022: Clauses for the simplification of the environmental licensing of offshore wind parks, the treatment of energy crisis, the environmental protection and other clauses.

#### **SECTION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues: Population and human



health. Biodiversity, Soil, water, air and climate Assets material. Cultural and landscape heritage.

**20. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

Issuance of the Environmental Terms Approval.

**21. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?**

The authority in charge for the submission of the application and the issuance of the ETA is:

- For projects or activities of the sub-group A1, the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The issuance of the ETA is implemented with a Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Environment and Energy.
- For project or activities of the sub-group A2, the local Decentralized Management Authority. The issuance of the ETA is implemented with a decision of its General Secretary. Particularly regarding wind park projects, according to the Ministerial Decision YPEN/DIPA/74463/4562 (Official Governmental Gazette: 3291B / 6- 8-2020), the wind parks are categorized in the following groups or sub-groups:
  - A1: if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 60 MW or if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 45 MW and it is sited inside a NATURA 2000 region or if the length of the wind park's connection grid with the local electrical network is higher than 20 km
  - A2: if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 10 MW and lower than 60 MW and the length of the wind park's connection grid with the local electrical network is lower than 20 km
  - B: if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 0.02 MW and lower than or equal to 10 MW
  - B: if the wind park's nominal power is lower than or equal to 0.02 MW and it is sited inside a NATURA 2000 region or in a coastal area in a distance lower than 100 m from the shore.

**22. Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?**

This question has been answered above, if we are not mistaken.

**23. Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area? Please specify those parameters for your region.**

Yes, there is. The projects are divided according to their size and installation site in groups A1, A2 and B. The application content, which should be submitted in the authority in charge for the issuance of the ETA, for projects or activities categorized in the group A is defined in number oik. 170225. For the group B, practically no environmental licensing is required.

**24. Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate? Please, list them and describe them briefly.**

The application content, which should be submitted in the authority in charge for the issuance of the ETA, for projects or activities categorized in the group A is defined in number oik. 170225. It normally consists of a technical report, drawings, prior approval from the involved authorities etc.

**25. On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?**

Not easy to say. We can say, on average, from 6 months to 1 year, although there can be cases with much longer licensing periods.

**26. Is there a public consultation period included in the process?**

Yes  No

**27. How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?**

No such activities are predicted in the overall process.

**28. Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary? If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.**

No public consultations are officially applied for any project and for any stage of licensing in Greece.

**29. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

In general, all projects and activities are categorized in two main groups, the group A and the group B, according to the Ministerial Decision 1958/2012 and its amendments. The projects or the activities with potential significant impacts on the environment are categorized in the group A. Group A is divided in two sub-groups, the sub-groups A1 and A2. The projects or activities with potential very important impacts in the environment are categorized in the sub-group A1, while the projects or activities with potential important impacts on the environment are categorized in the sub-group A2. Finally, projects or activities with minor potential local impacts, which can be treated with general measures and actions, not necessarily particularly designed for the specific projects or activities, are categorized in group B.

The environmental licensing is required for all new projects or activities of the group A, as well as for the change of the location of existing projects or activities of the group A. For all projects that fall into the obligation of the environmental licensing, a relevant approval is required in advance by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. With this approval, the antiquities authority in charge investigates whether the proposed project or activity is located in an area of archaeological interest. This approval is not required for any projects or activities that are sited



within predefined areas of productive activities (for example within an industrial area, mining areas, ports etc). Additionally, in case the project or the activity is sited inside forest or reforested areas, or groves and parks, a relevant opinion is also required by the forest authority in charge.

The ETA has a nominal duration of 10 years. After the expiration of this period, the ETA should be updated. If the update procedure is not initiated and completed on time, then the validity of the ETA is terminated. The process for the update of the ETA is described in the clause 5 of the law 4014/2011. For very specific cases, this duration can be shortened. It can be also expanded for 4 additional years for projects or activities that apply the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) as their environmental management system, or for 2 more years for projects or activities that undertake the ISO 14001:2015 standard as their environmental management system.

The process for the submission of the application and its evaluation for the issuance of the ETA is described in law 4014/2011 and particularly in the clause 3 for the A1 group's projects or activities, in the clause 4 for the A2 group's projects or activities and in the clause 8 for the B group's projects or activities.

The content of the application for the issuance of the ETA for projects or activities of the group A is described in number oik. 170225. Particularly for projects or activities which are sited inside the boundaries of NATURA 2000 regions, a special addition is required for the overall application, which is entitled as "Special Ecological Evaluation". This study includes on-site investigation and observation to conclude to and predict any potentially important impacts of the project or the activity on the local flora and fauna and the ecological balance. The content of the application for the issuance of the ETA for projects or activities of the group B is described in the Annex II of the law 4014/2011.

**30. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

Particularly for the environmental licensing of electricity production projects from RES, the following laws and regulations are applied:

- Law 4014/2011, Official Governmental Gazette 209A' / 21-11-2011: Environmental licensing of projects and activities, regulation of illegal buildings with regard to the introduction of environmental balance and other clauses on topics under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
- Ministerial Decision 1958/2012. Official Governmental Gazette 21B / 13-1-2012: Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09-2011



- Number DIPA/oik. 37674. Official Governmental Gazette 2471B / 10-8-2016: Amendments and codification of the Ministerial Decision 1958/2012 - Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09- 2011, as it has been modified and is valid.
- -Number oik. 2307. Official Governmental Gazette: 439B / 14-2-2018. Amendment of the DIPA/oik 37674/27-7-2016 decision of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change “Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09-2011”, with regard to the categorization of specific projects and activities of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th groups.
- Number YPEN/DIPA/74463/4562. Official Governmental Gazette: 3291B / 6-8-2020. Amendment of the DIPA/oik. 37674/27-7-2016 (B’2471) decision of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change “Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09-2011”, with regard to the categorization of specific projects and activities of the 10th group.
- Number oik. 170225. Official Governmental Gazette: 135B / 27-1-2014. Particularization of the application content for the environmental licensing of projects and activities of the category A of the Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change with no. 1958/2012, as it is valid, according to the clause 11 of the law 4014/2011 (A’ 209), as well as any other relevant detail.

The whole process of the environmental licensing aims at the final issuance of the so-called Environmental Terms Approval (ETA). The whole process can be analysed in the following steps:

- The overall process for the issuance of the ETA is defined in the law 4014/2011
- The new project or activity is categorized, obviously with regard to its type and size, according to the defined in the Ministerial Decisions presented previously: Ministerial Decision 1958/2012, number DIPA/oik. 37674, number oik. 2307 and number YPEN/DIPA/74463/4562
- The application content, which should be submitted in the authority in charge for the issuance of the ETA, for projects or activities categorized in the group A is defined in number oik. 170225.

## SECTION 5. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)

### 31. How is this procedure denominated in your country?



We are not sure if there is such a discrete process in Greece. We think that this process coincides with the issuance of the Power Production Permit, described in the answers given for the questions 4-9.

**32. To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?**

Regulatory Authority of Energy.

**33. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?**

No.

**34. Please indicate the period (specified in the regulations and the one observed in practice) from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.**

Since 2020, the required period described in the regulations and also applied in practice is no longer than 4 months.

**35. Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application**

- Presentation of a technical preliminary project
- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment) process section
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, etc

**36. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

Everything has been mentioned in our answer for the similar question.

**37. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

The process for the issuance of the Power Production Certificate is given in the following legislation framework:

- Law 3468/2006, Official Governmental Gazette 129A' / 27-6-2006: Electricity production from Renewable Energy Sources and Combined Heat and Power of high efficiency and other clauses
- Law 3851/2010, Official Governmental Gazette 85A' / 4-6-2010: Acceleration for the

development of Renewable Energy Sources and the treatment of the climate change and other clauses on topics under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change

- Law 4203/2013, Official Governmental Gazette 235A' / 1-11-2013: Regulations on Renewable Energy Sources topics and other clauses
- The Power Production Certificates Regulation, No. YPEN/DAPEEK/114746/4230, Official Governmental Gazette 5291B' / 1-12-2020: Power Production Certificates Regulation from RES and CHP and Certificates for Electricity Production from Special RES Projects and Combined Heat and Power production projects
- Law 4254/2014, Official Governmental Gazette 85A' / 7-4-2014: Supporting measures of the Greek economy in the frame of the application of the law 4046/2012 and other clauses
- Management Code of non-interconnected Islands: Official Governmental Gazette 304B' / 11-2-2014: Management Code of non-interconnected Islands
- Law 4513/2018, Official Governmental Gazette 9A' / 23-1-2018: Energy Communities and other clauses
- Law 4685/2020, Official Governmental Gazette 92A' / 7-5-2020: Update of the environmental legislation, embody in the Greek legislation of the European directives 2018/844 and 2019/692 of the European Parliament and Council and other clauses.
- Law 4964/2022, Official Governmental Gazette 150A' / 30-7-2022: Clauses for the simplification of the environmental licensing of offshore wind parks, the treatment of energy crisis, the environmental protection and other clauses.

## SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

### 38. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Issuance of the Installation Permit.

### 39. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

The Installation Permit of electricity production plants from RES are issued by the Governor of the responsible Regional Authority, following a relevant application of the project's owner or developer. In case the plant is sited inside the boundaries of a NATURA 2000 or Ramsar region or National Parks, the Installation Permit is issued with a common Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Development and the Minister of Environment and Energy.

### 40. Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

Yes, there is and this question has been answered with the previous answer.



**41. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.**

Please see our answer for the question 43 for a detailed description of the whole process. Through this process, all technical reports, calculations, topographic maps etc should be submitted and, of course, all the prior licenses (Power Production Certificate, Environmental Terms Approval etc).

**42. Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?**

Normally within a period from 6 months to one year the whole process must have been fully completed. More or less, similar time intervals are also given in the legal framework.

**43. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

The first step in the overall process is the definition from the Operator of the binding bid for the connection of the project with the local grid. To this end, the project's owner – developer submits to the Operator a relevant application. The content of this application is defined in the paragraph 2 of the clause 4 of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision. Once the project's developer or owner accepts the binding bid, the proposed by the Operator connection of the project with the local grid is depicted by the project's developer – owner in a topographical diagram, with a 1:5,000 and 1:50,000 scale. In this diagram, the exact location of the plant and the proposed connection with the local grid are shown. The Operator approves the submitted topographical diagram. The whole process for the application and the definition of the binding bid for the plant's connection is defined in chapter B (clauses 4 – 6) of the D6/F1/oik.

13310 Ministerial Decision. The binding bid has a duration of 3 years and can be expanded by the Operator, according to the paragraph 4 of the clause 3 of the law 3468/2006.

The second step in the process is the issuance of the Installation Permit. This process is defined in the chapter C (clauses 7 – 11) of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision. For the issuance of the Installation Permit, the project's owner – developer submits to the responsible department of the Regional Authority in charge a relevant application with the content described in the paragraph 1 of the clause 8 of the aforementioned Ministerial Decision. The Installation Permit has a duration of 2 years and can be expanded according to the clause 10 of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision. With the issuance of the Installation Permit, the project's owner – developer can proceed to the installation and the construction of the project.

After the issuance of the Installation Permit, the project's owner – developer submits an application to the Operator for the synapse of the connection contract of the plant with the



grid. The process and the attachments of this application are described in clause 9 of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision.

**44.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

The Installation Permit is the last required permit which will approve the construction - installation of the project. The process for the issuance of the Installation Permit is defined in the following Ministerial Decision:

-Number D6/F1/oik. 13310, Official Governmental Gazette 1153B' / 10-7-2007: Procedure for the issuance of the Installation Permit and the Operation Permit for electricity production plants with the use of renewable energy sources.

**SECTION 7. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION**

**45.** What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation? Please, list and describe them briefly.

Operation Permit.

**46.** Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

As above.

**47.** In case the economic right wasn't granted by a public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved to make an agreement?

The process is undertaken by the Regulatory Authority for Energy. The price is guaranteed for a 10-year period. No private entities are involved in the organisation of these public auctions.

**48.** Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

As far as we are aware no.

**49.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

No other relevant comments.

**50.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

NA (Non answer)



## SECTION 8. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**51.** Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)? If the answer is yes, please specify its name. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Yes, there is, the National Plan for Energy and Climate.

**52.** If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

Yes, it has been.

**53.** Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)? The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

Yes, there is the GIS map of RAE: <https://geo.rae.gr/>.

**54.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency. Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

As far as we are aware, no extensions have been given in the permitting deadlines.

**55.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

Not really, on the contrary, it seems that some of the involved licensing authorities, especially in environmental licensing, are slower than in the past. Only the first stage, the Power Production Certificate, has been considerably accelerated.

**56.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

As far as we are aware, no extensions have been given in the permitting deadlines.

**57.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint



(single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

Certainly not.

**58.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering.

As far as we are aware, no there isn't.

**59.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

No more comments.

**60.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

NA (Non answer).

### SECTION 9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

**61.** Resource assessment: Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region? If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?

Not officially from the State. Only through academic initiatives. Usually, these works are published in scientific articles and can be traced through international scientific libraries.

**62.** Community participation: Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)? If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

Not officially and certainly not driven or initiated by the State. Again, only in some cases through local initiatives originated from locally activated energy communities, such as in Sifnos (Energy Community of Sifnos) and in Crete (Minoan Energy Community), in collaboration with the local Regional Authorities and Municipalities.



**63. Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level? If yes, please provide examples.

We think that there are some targets set according to the European Directives. For example, public building should be upgraded to zero energy buildings until 2030 and private buildings should not be categorized at rank lower than B.

**64. Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country? If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

CeCs have been very recently introduced (last April 2023) in the Greek legislation. People certainly are not aware at all for the new regime for energy communities in Greece.

**65. Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples. Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizen.

There is only the programme “Saving” which refers to the energy performance upgrade of buildings. Apart from that, no other capacity building programme exists in Greece for the awareness raising of citizens and their stimulation to undertake action in energy transition projects.

**66. Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects? Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

Normally every wind park creates maximum 5 permanent occupation positions during normal commercial operation. During the construction phase, certainly more people are occupied.

**67. Monitoring plans:** Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented? Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

The only community development action that has been implemented in Greece regarding the development of a wind park is in the Eastern Crete from the Organisation for the Development of Sitia. Actually, no monitoring or tracking mechanisms have been set for this achievement.



**68.** Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.

Not officially. However, usually, among the negotiations between the project's owner and the local community, there are some projects which are constructed from the project's owner for the benefit of the local community (e.g. a new road). During the normal commercial operation of the project, 3% of the revenues are given to the local Municipality (1,7%) and as discounts in the electricity bills of the residents of the nearby settlements (1,3%).

**69.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms? If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

Certainly not.

**70.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

No, there is not such study implemented.

**71.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

NA (Non-answer)

### SECTION 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**72.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

Nothing more to add.



## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 ITALY QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organization's name

EGP

2. Author (Name and Surname)

Silvia Masci

3. Date (MM/DD/YY)

08/04/2023

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND ACCESS TO THE ELECTRICAL GRID

4. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Connection to Rete di trasmissione elettrica nazionale (RTN) (National Electricity Transmission Grid).

5. To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted?

Requests for new connection of power generation plants to the grid must be submitted: - to the competent distribution company in the territorial area, if the requested input power is less than 10,000 kW - to TERNA SpA, if the requested feed-in power is equal to or greater than 10,000 kW.

6. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, number of turbines, and proximity to the node or electrical substation (among others)?

Requests for new connection of power generation plants to the grid must be submitted:

- to the competent distribution company in the territorial area, if the requested input power is less than 10,000 kW
- to TERNA SpA, if the requested feed-in power is equal to or greater than 10,000 kW.r distributors.



**7. Documentation to be submitted to the authority. Please, list and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.**

Requests for connection to the National Transmission Grid, formulated by the requesting party, shall be submitted in writing to the Transmission Operator

Requests for connection shall contain the express indication. (a) the requesting party with the relevant identification data (b) the type of plant to be connected to the National Transmission Grid (c) the voltage level of the grid to be connected to the National Transmission Grid and the possible need for voltage transformations (d) a site plan of the work, if available, showing the location of the plant (e) the purpose of the new plant and any critical issues (f) the grid scheme to be connected to the National Transmission Grid with indications of any other existing connections of the same to the National Transmission Grid, interconnections with other non-Networks grids and connections to other third-party electricity grids g) the installed power or transport capacity at the connection point which is the subject of the connection request and the information relating to the relevant portion of the grid (h) the power/variation of power withdrawn or injected at full throttle and any reduction in power withdrawn at full throttle from the other primary substations located in the same portion of the network. (i) the proposal of the type of connection scheme, with reference to the Technical Rules for Connection and the clauses and conditions contained therein, referred to in Section 1B of this chapter, it being understood that the solution for the connection is in any case defined by the Operator. (j) the interconnection with the MV grid and of the re-powering of the MV grid, specifying the degree to which the plant will be counter-powered in the event of a fault on the HV grid. (k) the planned date of commissioning of the plant. (l) the unconditional and irrevocable acceptance of all the provisions of this Network Code.

**8. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

- To TERNA SpA in case the existing production and/or consumption plant is already connected to the transmission grid; - to the competent distribution company in the event the existing production and/or consumption plant is already connected to the distribution grid.

**9. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

The reference document for grid connection procedures is Codice di Rete (The Grid Code), applied since 1 November 2005, was prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Prime Minister's Decree of 11 May 2004 on the unification of grid ownership and management, and on the basis of the directives of the then Authority for Electricity and Gas (now ARERA), as set forth in Resolution no. 250/04. The Grid Code, which was positively reviewed by the Authority in Resolutions Nos. 79/05 and 49/06 and by the Ministry of Productive Activities, undergoes a



continuous updating process in accordance with the procedures set forth in the same document.

### **SECTION 3. BANK GUARANTEE AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

In some regions, submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the authorisation process.

**10. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

FIDEIUSSIONE BANCARIA O ASSICURATIVA (BANK OR INSURANCE GUARANTEE). The applicant shall present a bank guarantee in favour of the Grid Operator for the possible elimination of defects of the network installation realised by him. The bank guarantee shall be valid for a period of three years and shall amount to 30% of the value of the grid system built by the applicant.

**11. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided for obtaining the Bank Guarantee**

- Photocopy of an identity document.
- Tax code.
- Copy of tax return form, 730 or CUD.
- Chamber of Commerce certificate.
- Pay slips for the last two months of work; - personal data complete with telephone numbers.

**12. Once obtained, to which public administration/authority must it be submitted?**

- To the competent distribution company in the territorial area, if the requested feed-in power is less than 10,000 kW

- To Terna SpA if the requested feed-in power is 10,000 kW or more.

**13. How long the bank guarantee is valid?**

3 years period.

**14. If necessary, can it be extended? What is the extension period?**

NA (Non-answer).

**15. Does the amount of the bank guarantee depend on the total MW (Megawatt) to be installed?**

Yes  No

**16. Specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW**



-The bank guarantee will be in the amount of 30% of the value of the grid system realized by the applicant

**17.** Are there any exceptions/modifications in the amount of capital to be guaranteed for Citizen Energy Communities (CEC)?

There may be support funds.

**18.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**19.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Adoption of the bank or insurance surety scheme for parties authorised to construct and operate a plant for the production of energy from renewable sources, pursuant to art. 12 of legislative decree no. 387/03 and S.M.I. as amended and supplemented, as a guarantee for the decommissioning of the same.

The measure regulates the provision of the bank or insurance surety to be provided by persons authorised to construct and operate a plant for the production of energy from renewable sources, pursuant to Article 12 of Legislative Decree no. 387/03, as amended and supplemented. The annex to DD no. 5448 24 06 2013 was replaced by DD no. 6440 09 07 2013 and subsequently by DD no. 12478 of 19 December 2014.

#### **SECTION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues: Population and human health. Biodiversity, Soil, water, air and climate Assets material. Cultural and landscape heritage.

**20.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

-La Valutazione di Impatto Ambientale (VIA) – In english: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

-The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) aims to identify, describe, and assess the environmental effects of a given project. In turn, within the EIA, the key document is the Environmental Impact Study. In addition, when the plant project falls within SIC (Site of Community Importance) or ZPS (Special Protection Area) areas, the Impact Assessment intervenes.

**21.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?



The competence of the procedure can be either of the State or of the Region/Autonomous Province depending on the type of project. For the State the General Directorate of the MiTE\* is competent, for the Region/Autonomous Province it is the Administration with tasks of environmental protection, protection and enhancement identified according to the provisions of the regional law.

In the case of a project that partly falls under State competence and partly under the competence of the Region/Autonomous Province, the proposer sends a communication to the Region/Autonomous Province and to the Ministry of Ecological Transition in which he/she highlights the main project type and the other types involved. Within 30 days from receipt of the Communication, the Autonomous Region/Province expresses its evaluations and within 30 days from the regional evaluations the Ministry expresses its opinion on who is the competent Authority. If the Ministry does not express itself within the deadline, the considerations made by the Autonomous Region/Province apply.

The competent authority at state level is the Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE) - Directorate General for Sustainable Growth and Development Quality (CreSS). The Technical Commission for the Verification of the Environmental Impact - EIA and SEA - carries out the technical investigation aimed at expressing the opinion on the basis of which the EIA measure will be issued, after obtaining the agreement of the Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism.

**22. Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?**

-Projects requiring screening: State + Autonomous Region/Province.

-Projects requiring an EIA: State + Autonomous Region/Province.

-Projects necessary for the country's energy transition included in the NRP or the National Energy and Climate Plan (NIPEC): state.

**23. Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area? Please specify those parameters for your region.**

Plants that are located in areas that are vulnerable or sensitive to land and landscape transformations, such as sites included in the relevant UNESCO list; IBA areas; protected natural areas as per the aforementioned decree of 18 September 2010, then plants with a power exceeding 10 MW, are subject to EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and EIA Screening procedures.



**24. Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?**

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

- The technical and economic feasibility project (or possibly a different level of design).
- The environmental impact studies.
- The non-technical summary.
- Information on any transboundary impacts of the project.
- The public notice (using the appropriate form available in the "Technical Specifications and Forms" (Specifiche Tecniche e Modulistica) section of the Environmental Assessment Portal)
- The declaration in lieu of affidavit certifying the value of the works to be carried out and the amount of the contribution paid pursuant to art. 33 of Legislative Decree 152/2006
- A copy of the receipt of payment of the contribution for the preliminary charges
- The results of any public debate procedure carried out (Article 22 of Legislative Decree 50/2016)

For the start of the EIA procedure, it may be necessary to prepare and submit additional documentation in relation to the specifics of the project:

- Health Impact Assessment: to be prepared in accordance with the guidelines adopted by decree of the Minister of Health, for the following types of projects.
- Crude oil refineries (excluding companies producing only lubricants from crude oil).
- Gasification and liquefaction plants of at least 500 tonnes per day of coal or oil shale.
- Liquefied natural gas regasification terminals.
- Thermal power plants and other combustion installations with a thermal input exceeding 300 MW
- Plan for the Use of Excavated Soils and Rocks: to be prepared in accordance with Article 9 and Annex 5 of Presidential Decree 120/2017.

**25. On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?**

- Deadlines for the adoption of the EIA decision are normally set at 150 days from the submission of the application and may extend up to 330 days under special conditions.

**26. Is there a public consultation period included in the process?**

Yes  No

**27. How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?**

Within and no later than 60 days from the date of publication of the notice to the public, anyone with an interest may submit their comments to the DVA, according to the modalities indicated in the Environmental Assessment Portal.

**28. Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary? If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.**

Projects not subject to EIA (see authorisation process).

**29. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

-After the expiry of the public consultation phase, there are several procedural steps that may take place and are therefore to be considered eventual compared to the ordinary procedure:

-Counter-deductions. Within thirty days following the expiry of the public consultation phase, the proponent may submit to the DVA its counter-deductions to the observations and opinions received.

-Request for Additions. Within 30 days after the expiration of the public consultation phase or after the acquisition of the counter-deductions, if submitted by the proponent, on the proposal of the CTVA (Technical Commission for the Verification of Environmental Impact EIA), the DVA may request additions to the documentation submitted by the proponent. The request for amendments/supplements to the documentation may be made only once during the entire procedure, and the same must be submitted by the applicant within a period not exceeding 30 days from the date of the request by the DVA. If the proponent does not submit the supplementary documentation within the deadline established in the communication of the DVA, the EIA request is considered rejected and the DVA proceeds to file it.

-Suspension. The applicant may request the DVA, with adequate justification, to suspend the deadline for the submission of supplementary documentation for a period not exceeding 180 days. The suspension may only be requested/granted once during the entire procedure. If the proponent does not submit the supplementary documentation within the peremptory deadline established in the communication of the DVA, the EIA request is considered rejected and the DVA proceeds to file it.

-New publication and new public consultation. If the CTVA and/or the DVA deems, on the basis of adequate justification, that the modifications or integrations made to the documentation



are substantial and relevant to the public, the DVA shall request the proponent to send a new notice to the public, within 15 days from the date of receipt of the supplementary documentation. This notice will then be published on the Environmental Assessment Portal. Also following this new public consultation phase, within 30 days after the expiry of the relevant deadlines, the proponent may submit to the DVA its counterarguments to the observations and opinions received. Following the publication of the new notice to the public, the new public consultation phase for the acquisition of observations and opinions lasts 30 days and only concerns.

**30. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

Since 1985, the EIA has been regulated by numerous European directives and national regulations, the main one being Legislative Decree No. 152/2006. The implementation of the EIA is also regulated by regional regulations, based on the national dictate.

The EIA regulations were amended by the Legislative Decree of 16 June 2017 implementing Directive 2014/52/EU, which replaced and amended several provisions of Part II of Legislative Decree 152/2006. Further significant amendments were introduced by DI 16 July 2020 (DI Semplificazioni), DI 31 May 2021, No 77 (DI Semplificazioni-bis) DI 1 March 2022, No 17 (DI Energia) and DI 50/2022 (DI Aiuti).

### **SECTION 5. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)**

**31. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

Authorisation procedure DILA or PAS or AU

**32. To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?**

-Municipality.

-Regions

-The Regions, however, may delegate the functions of the AU (Autorizzazione Unica) to the provinces.

**33. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?**

-DILA (Dichiarazione Inizio Lavori) for plants up to 1 MW

-PAS (Procedura Abilitativa Semplificata) for plants with a capacity between 1 MW and 10 MW.



-AU (Autorizzazione Unica) for plants above 10 MW.

For simplified authorisation schemes (PAS and DILA) the reference body is the Municipality; for the Single Authorisation (AU) the administrative procedure is that provided for by Article 12 of Legislative Decree No. 387/2003 as amended and supplemented, which assigns the functions to the Regions for almost all types of plants (except for only offshore plants, which fall under State jurisdiction). The Regions, however, may in turn delegate the functions of the single authorisation to the provinces.

\*At present, the following areas are considered suitable - by law, according to the provisions of Article 20, para. 8 of the RED Decree, as well as pursuant to the Energy Decree:

-Sites where plants of the same source are already installed, on which non-substantial modifications are carried out

-Areas of sites subject to reclamation pursuant to the Environmental Code (Legislative Decree 152/2006).

-Quarries and mines that have been closed, not reclaimed, or abandoned, or are in an environmentally degraded condition.

-Sites in the availability of railway and motorway operators.

-Areas not encumbered by landscape constraints and not falling within a buffer strip from areas subject to archaeological protection pursuant to Article 136 of Legislative Decree 42/2004, including areas encumbered by civic uses pursuant to Article 142, paragraph 1, letter h) of the same decree. The buffer strip - thanks to recent legislative changes - has been set at 3 km in the case of wind farms.

**34. Please indicate the period (specified in the regulations and the one observed in practice) from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.**

1 to 1,5 years.

**35. Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application**

- Presentation of a technical preliminary project
- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section)
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, etc



**36.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**37.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- CAEL e DILA - D.lgs. n. 387/2003 e dal D.lgs. n. 28/2011 (cd. Decreto Romani):
- PAS –D.lgs. 28/2011, all’art. 6
- AU - DL 13/2023 all’art. 12, comma 4, del D.Lgs. 387/200
- Articolo 12 del D.lgs. 387/2003

## SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

**38.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

As in the previous paragraph the iter is the same: Autorizzazione Unica (AU) for plants above 10 MW. There isn’t additional procedure for construction.

**39.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

NA (Non-answer).

**40.** Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

NA (Non answer).

**41.** List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

Technical project document and requested documentation by authorities.

**42.** Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?

NA (Non answer).

**43.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**44.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

NA (Non answer).

## SECTION 7. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION

**45.**What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation? Please, list and describe them briefly.

The same authorization iter: AU. There is not another authorization process for this step.

**46.**Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

As above.

**47.**In case the economic right wasn't granted by a public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved to make an agreement?

See above.

**48.**Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

See above.

**49.**Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

See above.

**50.**Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

See above.

## SECTION 8. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**51.**Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)? If the answer is yes, please specify its name. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Yes, is called "Piano nazionale integrato energia e clima (PNIEC)".

**52.**If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

Yes.

**53.**Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of



a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)? The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

Yes. <https://siq.mapama.gob.es/geoportal/>

**54.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency. Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

No, on the contrary, measures have been developed to speed up the authorisation phases in order to reach the expected energy self-sufficiency targets.

**55.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

Yes.

**56.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

No.

**57.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

Yes, in the Ministry portal for single authorization (AU).

**58.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering.

NA (Non answer).

**59.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**60.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).



NA (Non answer).

## SECTION 9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

**61.Resource assessment: Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region? If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?**

Yes, eligible areas have been defined.

-At present, the following areas are considered eligible - by law, according to the provisions of Article 20, para. 8 of the RED Decree, as well as pursuant to the Energy Decree - the following areas:

-Sites where plants of the same source are already installed, on which non-substantial modifications are carried out.

-Areas of sites subject to reclamation pursuant to the Environmental Code (Legislative Decree 152/2006).

-Quarries and mines that have been closed, not reclaimed or abandoned, or are in an environmentally degraded condition.

-Sites in the availability of railway and motorway operators.

-Areas not encumbered by landscape constraints and not falling within a buffer strip from areas subject to archaeological protection pursuant to Article 136 of Legislative Decree 42/2004, including areas encumbered by civic uses pursuant to Article 142, paragraph 1, letter h) of the same decree. The buffer strip - thanks to recent legislative changes - has been set at 3 km in the case of wind farms.

**62.Community participation: Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)? If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.**



At the operator's discretion, there may be opportunities for CEC (renewable energy community) or crowdfunding (a form of financing to support the construction of renewable energy plants, in which one can participate at more advantageous economic return conditions dedicated to residents of the municipality where the plant will be built)

**63.Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level? If yes, please provide examples.

NA (Non answer).

**64.Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country? If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

The CECs are recent, but it is a much-discussed topic, so those who are interested will find the information useful.

**65.Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples. Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizen.

Yes, there are incentives for CECs, thanks to the incentive mechanisms resulting from the energy produced and used.

**66.Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects? Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

Local companies in the area are involved in all projects, especially for civil works, services and maintenance.

**67.Monitoring plans:** Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented? Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

NA (Non answer).

**68.Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be**



installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.

Yes, 3% for compensatory works such as public lighting.

**69.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms? If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

NA (non-answer).

**70.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

Yes, there are studies by trade associations and national research organisations, often done at regional as well as national level.

**71.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Thanks to the conversion into law of the Decreto Milleproroghe 162/2019, the 'Renewable Energy Communities' (or Energy Communities) envisaged by the European RED II Directive (2018/2001/EU) have also been introduced in our country.

### SECTION 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**72.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

NA (Non answer).





WENDY aims to unravel the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis of three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 NORWAY QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. Organization's name

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)

#### 2. Author (Name and Surname)

Frank Hanssen, Reto Spielhofer, Thomas Kvalnes, Roel May

#### 3. Date (MM/DD/YY)

27/09/2023

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND ACCESS TO THE ELECTRICAL GRID

#### 4. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

- Wind energy licensing: The licensing process falls under the responsibility of the Water Resources and Energy Directorate (Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet (NVE)) and consists of the following official phases:
  - Notification: All wind power projects where the installed output will exceed 10 MW must be notified in accordance with regulations on impact assessments under the Planning and Building Act.
  - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): After hearing the report, NVE determines



an impact assessment program. The EIA programme describes which themes the initiative holder must investigate in more detail.

- Application: If the initiative holder chooses to proceed with the project, the application and completed impact assessments must be sent to NVE for processing.
- Decision: On the basis of the application, impact assessments, comments received and NVE's specialist knowledge of wind power, NVE assesses the matter holistically and makes a decision. As of 01.07.2023 the decision can only be made after the municipality has regulated the area for wind energy development following the Planning and Building Act.
- Complaint processing: The decision can be appealed by anyone with a legal interest in appealing. If NVE chooses to maintain the decision after assessment of the complaints, the case is forwarded to the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (Olje- og Energidepartementet (OED)) for final processing.
- Follow-up of concession: Before the project owner can start construction, NVE must approve the environmental, transport and construction plan (MTA) and detailed plan for the project at the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet).
- Access to the electricity transmission grid: To be connected, there must be free capacity for production or consumption at all grid levels in the power system. This must be clarified with the local network company. In all cases with increased power exchange affecting the transmission network, the connection must be clarified with the central electricity transmission grid owner Statnett. Most new online customers will be connected via a local or regional network company. It is only for larger power exchanges of the order of 300 MW and above that it may be appropriate to consider direct connection to the central electricity transmission grid. As a rule, direct dialogue with Statnett is only relevant for a small number of industrial customers with particularly large power needs or large power producers. For all other customers, the dialogue will be with the local network company.

### 5.To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted?

Wind energy licensing: the Water Resources and Energy Directorate (Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet (NVE))

Access to the electricity transmission grid:

- > 300 MW: the national grid owner Statnett
- < 300 MW: local/regional energy company



6. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, number of turbines, and proximity to the node or electrical substation (among others)?

If, as the title of the section suggests, this only refers to the access to the grid connection, the national grid owner Statnett is the granting authority. When there are particularly large power needs or large power producers, Statnett is the responsible authority for granting access.

7. Documentation to be submitted to the authority. Please, list and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

- Project description
- Aimed energy production (MW)
- Description of where in the grid the project should be integrated (grid level description)

8. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer)

9. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- Planning and Building Act (PBA) (2008, updated 2023)
- Energy Act of 1990
- Energy Act regulations

### SECTION 3. BANK GUARANTEE AND LIABILITY INSURANCE

In some regions, submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the authorisation process.

10. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Procedures for processing terms about financial security for wind turbines on land

- Deadline for proposals for financial security: According to the terms of the construction concession, the concessionaire is obliged to submit a proposal for a guarantee within the twelfth year of operation. There are no legal restrictions for the concessionaire to submit a proposal before this time, but it cannot be required by NVE. It was not considered appropriate to require a financial guarantee before a license is granted.
- Six per cent of the investment cost: A concessionaire with a construction concession for wind power must, in the proposal for financial security, use six per cent of the



investment cost as a basis for calculating the costs of decommissioning wind power plants on land.

- Clear grounds for deviating from the percentage rate: NVE can consider other calculations for the size of the collateral. This will be in cases where there are clear grounds that indicate a higher or lower security deposit. A deviation from the specified percentage requires a factual basis.
- Forms of security: Financial security should primarily be a fund allocation in a blocked account. Alternatively, proposals can also be put forward for a self-debtor guarantee in the form of insurance or a demand guarantee such as a bank guarantee where the concessionaire believes this is a better arrangement. NVE, on the other hand, will not accept a demand guarantee designed as a parent company guarantee.
- Only one form of security: NVE will only accept one form of financial security per facility concession.
- Security must be provided to NVE: Financial guarantees for the closure of wind power plants on land in Norway must be provided to NVE. In the case of a fund allocation to a blocked account, NVE will be the holder of the mortgage.
- Single payment or payment over time: In principle, the financial security must be paid in or provided together. It is, however, open to the concessionaire, where there are reasons that indicate that payment should be made over time, to justify and describe this in the proposal for security. NVE states in this context that gradual payment should not extend over more than three years to ensure that there is enough time between payment and closure of the wind power plant.
- Release of security: Release of financial security will according to NVE occur after the approval of decommission and restoration. However, NVE can for each unique case consider partial release, successively as the wind power plant is decommissioned. Such an approach will be assessed by NVE on a case-by-case basis. An approval of the decommission and restoration by NVE is required before the financial security will be fully released.
- Single decision: NVE's approval of proposals for financial security in the specific case will take the form of a single decision.

### 11. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided for obtaining the Bank Guarantee

No information is available.

### 12. Once obtained, to which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

The Water Resources and Energy Directorate (Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet; NVE)

### 13. How long the bank guarantee is valid?

Within the twelfth year of operation



**14.** If necessary, can it be extended? What is the extension period?

No information is available.

**15.** Does the amount of the bank guarantee depend on the total MW (Megawatt) to be installed?

Yes  No

No information is available.

**16.** Specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW

6 % of investment costs in NOK.

**17.** Are there any exceptions/modifications in the amount of capital to be guaranteed for Citizen Energy Communities (CEC)?

No information is available.

**18.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**19.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

No information is available.

#### **SECTION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues: Population and human health. Biodiversity, Soil, water, air and climate Assets material. Cultural and landscape heritage.

**20.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Covered in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

**21.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

The Water Resources and Energy Directorate (Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet; NVE).

**22.** Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?

No, National.



**23.** Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area? Please specify those parameters for your region.

Yes, depending on installed capacity.

- Five and less turbines with an installed capacity of <1 MW: exempt from licensing obligation.
- 1-10MW: simplified licensing process (starts with the application; no EIA required but potential impacts are to be described in the application)
- Above 10MW: full licensing process

**24.** Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

- Impact assessment regulation - planning according to the Planning and Building Act
- Guidance documents

**25.** On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?

No information is available.

**26.** Is there a public consultation period included in the process?

Yes  No

Yes, after the first notification of the project relevant municipalities, landowners and neighbours, the regional County Council, the County Governor and various NGOs often submit inputs to such hearings, public meetings in host municipalities, where the project is presented and discussed with members of the local community.

**27.** How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?

Minimum six weeks.

**28.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary? If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

Five and less turbines with installed capacity of <1 MW require no consultation (are exempt from the licensing obligation)



29. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer).

30. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- Planning and Building Act (PBA) (2008, updated 2023)
- Energy Act of 1990
- Energy Act regulations

### SECTION 5. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)

31. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

- The wind energy licensing process includes requirements for municipal area regulation according to the Planning and Building Act for onshore wind power plants subject to a license requirement that the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) cannot grant a license to wind power plants on land before the municipality has clarified the measure in accordance with the Planning and Building Act (i.e. a planning decision has been made, primarily in the form of an area regulation).
- Installations consisting of up to five wind turbines and with a total installed capacity of less than 1 MW are exempt from the licensing obligation.
- 1MW -10MW: simplified process (starts with the application)
- >10MW: full licensing process

First announcement of project developer to NVE:

- Notification: First official announcement ☐ Project description
- Mapping programme for environmental impact assessment (EIA)

Application:

- EIA results
- Application text

Detailed plan considering EIA and mediation round results

32. To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

As per Norway's Energy Act of 1990, all wind energy projects that have more than 5 turbines and a total installed capacity larger than 1MW require a licence from the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), a directorate under the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (OED).



**33.** Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change according to different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

No.

**34.** Please indicate the period (specified in the regulations and the one observed in practice) from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.

No information available.

**35.** Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application

- Presentation of a technical preliminary project
- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section)
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, etc
  - Presentation of a technical preliminary project.
  - EIA mapping plan

**36.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

NA (Non answer).

**37.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- Planning and Building Act (PBA) (2008, updated 2023)
- Energy Act of 1990
- Energy Act regulations

## SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

**38.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

When NVE believes that the matter is sufficiently informed, NVE makes a licensing decision. A license decision is a clarification of land use, where all relevant considerations are weighed. § 7 of the Biodiversity Act requires that the principles in §§ 8–12 of the Act be based on the exercise of authority, i.e. that, among other things, an assessment is made of the knowledge base and overall load on ecosystems. The awarding of licenses according to the Energy Act

must take place on the basis of objective, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria. It follows from the Energy Act that the production of energy must take place on a socially rational way, including that public and private interests must be taken into account interests that are affected. In practice, this means that in order for a license to be granted, the benefits must be greater than damage and inconvenience to public and private interests. The benefits that are emphasized in wind power cases are typically linked to new, renewable power production, increased security of supply and/or local value creation. The disadvantages often apply to many topics, too for example neighbouring effects, outdoor life, natural diversity, cultural heritage and reindeer husbandry. The Water Resources and Energy Directorate (Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet (NVE)) weighs up all relevant effects of the measure and decides whether a license should be granted. The decision-making basis consists of the application, impact assessments, additional information/- studies, consultation input and meeting minutes/protocols from any consultations, in addition to own specialist knowledge of wind power and the effects of wind power development. Based on a comprehensive assessment of the case, NVE decides whether or not the owner of the initiative should receive a licence, and on what terms a license may be granted. NVE determines both standard conditions that are included in all concessions, and special conditions that are necessary in the individual case. NVE's assessments are made visible in a background document for the decision. Everyone who has submitted a written consultation statement to the license application, is informed about NVE's decision and the possibility of appeal. NVE's licensing decision can be appealed to the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (OED). The appeal deadline is three weeks after the decision. If NVE receives one or more complaints, NVE first assesses the complainant has a legal appeal interest. NVE then assess whether the complaint(s) contain new information that provides a basis for changing or revoking the decision. If NVE chooses to uphold the decision, or objections have been raised in the case that is not withdrawn, NVE send the complaint(s) and our assessments to the OED. OED's decision in the appeal case is final. If the OED grants a licence, but makes changes to the permit or associated conditions, NVE creates an updated license document. A construction concession for a wind power plant gives the concessionaire permission to build a wind power plant within a defined planning area. A map of the planning area with a preliminary development solution follows with the license document, and it is specified in the license that the facility will essentially carry out as shown on the attached map. This means that, among other things, the access road must follow its recorded route up to the planning area.

The construction concession further specifies an upper limit for the total installed capacity for the power plant. The voltage level, length and route of the associated power line are also specified, either in the same license or in a separate license document. Voltage level and possible location for transformer stations, switchgear and earth cables are also normally specified. In addition, a number of conditions have been laid down for the implementation of



the development in the license document. There is no regulation in the Energy Act with regulations on how long the deadline is which can be given to complete the construction of the wind power plant or the number of times the deadline for commissioning can be postponed. NVE's practice is to give a five-year deadline from when the final license is granted the facility must be put into operation. The concessionaire can apply for a postponement of this deadline. By processing of applications for a postponed deadline, NVE makes a concrete assessment on a case-by-case basis. The final design of the wind power plant, including the number, type and location of wind turbines, shall according to standard conditions in the concession be described in a detailed plan. The detailed plan must also contain a description and analysis of any changed effects on the environment and community interests, compared to the effects of the development solution that was outlined in the license application. This may, for example, include updated noise calculations and visualizations. The concessionaire must also create an environmental, transport and facilities plan (miljø-, transport- og anleggsplan (MTA)) that describes how environmental considerations must be taken care of in the construction of the wind power plant. In the same way as for the detailed plan this was set as a condition in the construction concession and does not appear in the Energy Act with regulations. Both the detailed plan and the MTA must be approved by NVE before construction begins. NVE has developed guidelines and recommend that both plans should be made in the same document. Changes subject to licensing and detailed plans are processed by the licensing department, while MTA plans are processed by the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet). NVE often receives applications for license-required changes ahead of the detailed plan and MTA. This is connected to the fact that the concessionaire wants to know whether they will be allowed to e.g. change the installed capacity, before they create a detailed plan for the desired one the development solution. In 2019, NVE introduced start-up meetings with concessionaires before applications and plans are processed. Applications that only deal with changed installed capacity are normally processed with a limited amount scope of consultation parties. In a number of cases, NVE has found it unthinkable not to consult, with reference to the EIA regulations. NVE have justified this by the fact that the installed capacity itself has changed does not result in altered effects for environmental or societal interests, and that there is therefore little the application on which it is relevant for parties to the consultation to comment. An important exception is the grid companies. For most others, it is the changed effects in the detailed plan that are relevant.

Applications for license-required changes that may have effects on the environment and societal interests, e.g. relocation of a substation or route for an access road, are sent for consultation to those who may be affected by the change. After quality control at NVE, the MTA and detailed plan are sent for consultation before NVE consider whether, and on what terms, if any, they can be approved. The hearing normally includes the municipality, County Council, County Governor, other affected local/regional/national authorities, NGO's,



landowners, local communities and other stakeholders. If the municipality wishes this, NVE will arrange one information meeting/consultation meeting with the concessionaire and the municipality ahead of or during the consultation period.

In the same way as when processing license applications, NVE forward received consultation statements to the licensee for a statement and assesses the need for additional information or additional investigations. When NVE believe that the matter is sufficiently informed, NVE decide whether the plans can be approved or not. Central to the assessment of whether the plans can be approved is whether the plans are in line with the concession, and if possible changed effects affect the trade-offs that were the basis for them the licensing issue. In some cases, NVE has received MTA and detailed plans for parts of the wind power plant, for example one access road, and processed this before NVE have received the MTA and detailed plan for the rest of the the project. In addition, adjustments to the MTA and detailed plan are sought in many cases after this is approved. The main reason for this is that the road presentation that looked like the best on paper when the contractor designed the roads, may not always be the best when you get out into the terrain. Projects that are under construction often have a tight schedule, and to ensure that the wind power plants that are built are best adapted to the terrain and landscape, NVE tries to process such minor adjustments quickly. NVE's decision on changes subject to licensing and on approval of detailed plans and MTA can appealed to the OED. If NVE receives one or more complaints, NVE assess whether the complaint(s) contain new information that provides a basis for changing or revoking the decision/plan approval. If NVE chooses to uphold the decision/plan approval, NVE will send the complaint(s) to Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (Olje- og energidepartementet (OED)). OED's decision in the matter is final. The development phase can only start after NVE has approved the detailed plan and MTA. NVE supervises the development and also approves any changes to the detailed plan/MTA.

In addition to a license in accordance with the Energy Act and an approved detailed plan and MTA, the owner of the measure must also make sure to obtain the necessary permits in accordance with other legislation, for example, the Cultural Heritage Act, the Pollution Act, the Road Act, the Harbor and Water Act etc., in connection with the establishment of the wind power plant. NVE normally carries out several inspections during the development phase. The starting point has been that an inspection must be carried out shortly after construction has started, an inspection halfway through the construction period and an inspection when the construction is in the final phase. In addition, more can be carried out supervision if necessary. The first inspection during the construction period is often one of the most important because it matters about establishing a dialogue and common understanding about what expectations and requirements NVE has for terrain treatment and restoration, and thus the end result.



39. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

The Water Resources and Energy Directorate (Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet; NVE)

40. Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

No

41. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

- Concession application
- EIA
- Detailed plan

Environment, transport and facility plan (Miljø-, transport og anleggsplan (MTA).

42. Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?

No information available

43. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer).

44. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- Planning and Building Act (PBA) (2008, updated 2023)
- Energy Act of 1990
- Energy Act regulations
- Biodiversity Act

## SECTION 7. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION

45. What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation? Please, list and describe them briefly.

In addition to an approved license in accordance with the Energy Act and approved detailed plan and MTA, the developer must also make sure to obtain the necessary permits in accordance with other legislation, for example the Cultural Heritage Act, the Pollution Act, the Road Act, the Harbor and Water Act etc., in connection with establishment of the wind power



plant.

46. Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

47. In case the economic right wasn't granted by a public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved to make an agreement?

No information is available.

48. Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

No information is available.

49. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer).

50. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- Planning and Building Act (PBA) (2008, updated 2023)
- Energy Act of 1990
- Energy Act regulations
- Biodiversity Act

### SECTION 8. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

51. Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)? If the answer is yes, please specify its name. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Yes, Norwegian Climate Action Plan 2021 – 2030.

52. If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

No.

53. Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)? The Energy and Industry Geography



Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

Besides <https://kartkatalog.nve.no/#kart> and public baseline map repositories no official GIS system for wind energy scoping exists. A national framework for onshore wind was proposed, but that has been withdrawn right after its publication due to arising conflicts due to the mapped 'suitable areas' as part of this framework that did not fit already developed wind power plants and lack of clear purpose of areas deemed suitable.

**54.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency. Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

No available information.

**55.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

In the past two decades the licensing time has generally become more and more prolonged due to the culmination of societal and environmental conflicts. Some projects have had permitting processes for up to 15 to 20 years (Hitra and Haramsøy). As a result of these conflicts a moratorium on the development of onshore wind energy has been established in 2019. Since then, the regulatory process has been adjusted. Specifically, this includes required municipal area regulation of proposed projects prior to the application to enhance local acceptance (before this was opposite where licenses would override municipal area regulations) and stricter requirements for environmental monitoring and mitigation.

**56.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

No available information.

**57.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

The Water Resources and Energy Directorate (Norges Vassdrag og Energidirektoratet; NVE).

**58.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable



energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering.

No.

**59.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

A plan proposal was sent out for consultation in 2022, but is as far as we know not yet decided

**60.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

No available information.

### SECTION 9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

**61.** Resource assessment: Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region? If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?

- Regional wind power plans have been developed for a number of regions in Norway. Officially these are to be used in the assessment by NVE; however, in practice they do not have much influence (Wiig et al. 2019). Also, an evaluation in 2010 showed that these plans lack components usually included in Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) (May 2010). As such, Norway has no functional SEA available for onshore wind energy development.
- Examples of regional plans:
  - <https://www.tffk.no/tjenester/plan-og-horinger/gjeldende-planer-og-strategier/regional-vindkraftplan-for-finnmark-2013-2025/>
  - <https://www.vestlandfylke.no/narings--og-samfunnsutvikling/gron-vekst/regional-plan-for-fornybar-energi/>

**62.** Community participation: Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)? If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.



Community members are invited to express their interests and views at public meetings (as a part of the concession process) and in public hearings.

**63.Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level? If yes, please provide examples.

In the state budget for 2023, the Government is following up on the Parliaments decision to draw up a plan with measures to reduce energy use in existing buildings by at least 10 TWh in 2030, as well as increase electricity production in buildings. The target is compared to the 2015 level.

**64.Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country? If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

No available information.

**65.Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples. Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizen.

No available information.

**66.Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects? Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

No available information.

**67.Monitoring plans:** Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented? Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

No available information.

**68.Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access**



to energy at lower cost, etc.

The municipality where the wind farm is located will have income from the windfarm from taxes and a production fee calculated based on the energy production (kWh).

**69.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms? If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

No available information.

**70.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

No available information.

**71.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- Planning and Building Act (PBA) (2008, updated 2023)
- Energy Act of 1990
- Energy Act regulations

#### **SECTION 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**72.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

NA (Non answer).



# Annex II-B

## *Offshore questionnaires*

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WENDY aims to unraveling the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis at three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## **D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 GREECE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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### **SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1. Organization's name**

Minoan Energy Community.

**2. Author (Name and Surname)**

Dimitris Katsaprakakis.

**3. Date (MM/DD/YY)**

08/08/2023.

### **SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE OFFSHORE WIND AREAS**

**4. Is it necessary to present an application for area reservation? If the answer is yes, how is this procedure denominated in your country?**

This is not exactly how it will be done. The potential areas for the development of offshore wind parks in Greece will be defined centrally from the State, with the approval of several involved Ministries and Authorities, such as the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment and Energy etc. Once these areas will be defined, the potential offshore wind parks can be only installed in these areas, after an



open competitive process.

**5.** Are there different procedures depending on the installation capacity for wind farms in your region?

If yes, please specify.

Yes  No

**6.** To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted? If there are several authorities involved, please list them and indicate if the authority responsible changes according to different parameters (power to be installed, number of turbines, etc).

The Authority in charge for the definition of the areas for offshore wind parks installations, the management of the open calls and the licensing of the new projects is the Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company (HEREMA) (<https://herema.gr/>).

**7.** Which documentation should be submitted along with the application (Power capacity, studies to be carried out, basic technical information, location, etc)?

Please, list it briefly

The process is implemented in two stages. In the first stage, the interested party applies for a license to implement the required investigation – research in a specific area for the installation of the offshore wind park (wind potential, bathymetry etc). In this application, the applicant should prove a former experience on the development or the operation of offshore wind parks. This can be also proved with the so-called “borrowed experience”, which actually is a third-party experience supplied for the applicant. Of course, additionally, there is a list of administrative documents regarding the form and the structure of the legal entity, as well as certain documents which can prove the funding capacity of the applicant to implement the project. Finally, there is also a bank guarantee of 10,000 €/MW. In the second stage, which is the open call from the HEREMA for the licensing of the projects, this application and its results, together with the same bank guarantee, should be submitted again.

**8.** An eolic marine characterisation refers to an official analysis of the marine area (fauna, flora, geomorphology, navigation, among many others). Is there an official public eolic marine area characterisation in your region?

No, there is not.

**9.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

No more relevant comments.

**10.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this



section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Law 4964 2022. Official Governmental Gazette 150A / 30-7-2022.

### **SECTION 3. OBTAINING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE GRID, CONCURRENCY PROCESS AND BANK GUARANTEE**

In some regions, when the marine area has two or more reservation requests (overlapping areas, for example), a concurrency process is carried out to define the most suitable project. The decision shall grant the selected applicant(s) the right of access to the grid.

Also, the submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the process.

#### **11. Which authority is in charge of carrying out this process?**

For the permit to implement the conditions in a specific area for the installation of offshore wind parks, the Authority in charge is the Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company. For the open call process, the evaluation of the submitted applications and the final selection of the approved investors, the Authority in charge is the Regulatory Authority of Energy ([www.rae.gr](http://www.rae.gr)).

#### **12. How long does this process take?**

Currently, there are not any time periods or deadlines clearly defined in the overall process.

#### **13. Is there a concurrency process in your region? How is this procedure denominated?**

As far as we as described in the previous answers, the Greek State is responsible for the overall process. The potential areas will be selected centrally, with the in advance approval of all the involved Authorities. In this way, all the potential sites for offshore wind parks installations will be very specific and clearly predefined. The investors will be selected following an open competitive process.

#### **14. Is it mandatory to carry out a public consultation in this process?**

Yes  No

#### **15. During this process, is it necessary to present a bank guarantee?**

If yes, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation and briefly explain the procedure. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW

There is a bank guarantee required in the application of the interested party in the HEREMA for the license to proceed to the investigation of a specific area for offshore wind park installations. The amount of this bank guarantee is defined at 10,000 €/MW.

#### **16. Please, briefly explain the process of obtaining the right of access to the grid.**



Firstly, the Independent Power Transmission Operator (the utility for the mainland grid in Greece), given the in advance definition from the HEREMA of the candidate's areas for offshore wind parks installations and the potential maximum power which can be installed in each one of them, must have undertaken and implemented all the required actions for the development and the enhancement of the local transmission grid, so as it will be capable to accept and transfer the produced power from each one offshore wind park. The investor should then apply to the IPTO for the issuance of a connection bid, which should be accompanied with full study of the required connection works and environmental terms approval.

**17.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Law 4964/2022, Official Governmental Gazette 150A / 30-7-2022.

#### **SECTION 4. ZONE RESERVATION AND INVESTIGATION OF THE EOLIC RESOURCE**

**18.** How long is the zone reservation title valid? Can it be extended? If extensions are allowed, how much longer can the title be extended?

The license for the investigation of a specific site has a maximum duration of 3 years. The power production certificate, which is issued by the Regulatory Authority of Energy once the interested party has been selected in the frame of the open call from the HEREMA, has a duration of 36 months. Within this period from the issuance of the power production certificate the applicant should submit in the Operator the application for the supply of the binding bid for the connection of the project with the local grid.

**19.** Is it required to present a second bank guarantee?

If so, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 E/MW

For the submission of the application in RAE for the issuance of the power production certificate a bank guarantee is required. It is denominated as "bank guarantee for the issuance of the power production certificate". The amount of this second bank guarantee is 35.000 €/MW.

**20.** Is there a public database or registry that contains the information on the reserved areas?

So far the areas for the installation of the offshore wind parks have not been defined by the HEREMA. We suppose that once this is done, there will be certainly a public database or registry with all the relevant information (available and reserved areas, issued licenses etc).

**21.** Is it necessary to carry out environmental studies to assess the impact of the research activities?

If yes, what type of basic studies must be carried out?



For the licensing of the project full environmental impact studies are required. The content of these studies, for projects or activities categorized in the group A, is defined in number oik. 170225. For the group B, practically no environmental licensing is required.

## 22. Please mention other relevant comments about this section

After the selection of the investor for a specific site, the process follows the same steps as with the onshore wind parks: issuance of the power production certificate, issuance of the environmental term's approval, issuance of the installation permit and, finally, issuance of the operation permit.

### SECTION 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues:

- Population and human health.
- Biodiversity
- Soil, water, air, and climate
- Assets material.
- Cultural and landscape heritage.

## 23. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Issuance of the Environmental Terms Approval.

## 24. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

The authority in charge for the submission of the application and the issuance of the ETA is:

- For projects or activities of the sub-group A1, the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The issuance of the ETA is implemented with a Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Environment and Energy.
- For project or activities of the sub-group A2, the local Decentralized Management Authority. The issuance of the ETA is implemented with a decision of its General Secretary. Particularly regarding wind park projects, according to the Ministerial Decision YPEN/DIPA/74463/4562 (Official Governmental Gazette: 3291B / 6-8-2020), the wind parks are categorized in the following groups or sub-groups:
  - A1: if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 60 MW or if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 45 MW and it is sited inside a NATURA 2000 region or if the length of the wind park's connection grid with the local electrical network is higher than 20 km
  - A2: if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 10 MW and lower than 60 MW and the length of the wind park's connection grid with the local electrical network is lower than 20 km
  - B: if the wind park's nominal power is higher than 0.02 MW and lower than or equal to 10 MW
  - B:



if the wind park's nominal power is lower than or equal to 0.02 MW and it is sited inside a NATURA 2000 region or in a coastal area in a distance lower than 100 m from the shore.

**25.** Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?

This question has been answered above, if we are not mistaken.

**26.** Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area?

Please specify those parameters for your region.

Yes, there is. The projects are divided according to their size and installation site in groups A1, A2 and B. The application content, which should be submitted in the authority in charge for the issuance of the ETA, for projects or activities categorized in the group A is defined in number oik. 170225. For the group B, practically no environmental licensing is required.

**27.** Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

The application content, which should be submitted in the authority in charge for the issuance of the ETA, for projects or activities categorized in the group A is defined in number oik. 170225. It normally consists of a technical report, drawings, prior approvals from the involved authorities etc.

**28.** On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?

Not easy to say. We can say, on average, from 6 months to 1 year, although there can be cases with much longer licensing periods.

**29.** Is there a public consultation period included in the process?

Yes  No

**30.** How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?

No such activities are predicted in the overall process.

**31.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary?

If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

No public consultations are officially applied for any project and for any stage of licensing in Greece.



### 32. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

In general, all projects and activities are categorized in two main groups, the group A and the group B, according to the Ministerial Decision 1958/2012 and its amendments. The projects or the activities with potential significant impacts on the environment are categorized in the group A. Group A is divided in two sub-groups, the sub-groups A1 and A2. The projects or activities with potential very important impacts in the environment are categorized in the sub-group A1, while the projects or activities with potential important impacts on the environment are categorized in the sub-group A2. Finally, projects or activities with minor potential local impacts, which can be treated with general measures and actions, not necessarily particularly designed for the specific projects or activities, are categorized in group B.

The environmental licensing is required for all new projects or activities of the group A, as well as for the change of the location of existing projects or activities of the group A. For all projects that fall into the obligation of the environmental licensing, a relevant approval is required in advance by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. With this approval, the antiquities authority in charge investigates whether the proposed project or activity is located in an area of archaeological interest. This approval is not required for any projects or activities that are sited within predefined areas of productive activities (for example within an industrial area, mining areas, ports etc). Additionally, in case the project or the activity is sited inside forest or reforested areas, or groves and parks, a relevant opinion is also required by the forest authority in charge.

The ETA has a nominal duration of 10 years. After the expiration of this period, the ETA should be updated. If the update procedure is not initiated and completed on time, then the validity of the ETA is terminated. The process for the update of the ETA is described in the clause 5 of the law 4014/2011. For very specific cases, this duration can be shortened. It can be also expanded for 4 additional years for projects or activities that apply the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) as their environmental management system, or for 2 more years for projects or activities that undertake the ISO 14001:2015 standard as their environmental management system.

The process for the submission of the application and its evaluation for the issuance of the ETA is described in law 4014/2011 and particularly in the clause 3 for the A1 group's projects or activities, in the clause 4 for the A2 group's projects or activities and in the clause 8 for the B group's projects or activities.

The content of the application for the issuance of the ETA for projects or activities of the group A is described in number oik. 170225. Particularly for projects or activities which are sited inside the boundaries of NATURA 2000 regions, a special addition is required for the overall application, which is entitled as "Special Ecological Evaluation". This study includes



on-site investigation and observation to conclude to and predict any potentially important impacts of the project or the activity on the local flora and fauna and the ecological balance. The content of the application for the issuance of the ETA for projects or activities of the group B is described in the Annex II of the law 4014/2011.

**33.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Particularly for the environmental licensing of electricity production projects from RES, the following laws and regulations are applied:

- law 4014/2011, Official Governmental Gazette 209A' / 21-11-2011: Environmental licensing of projects and activities, regulation of illegal buildings with regard to the introduction of environmental balance and other clauses on topics under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.
- Ministerial Decision 1958/2012. Official Governmental Gazette 21B / 13-1-2012: Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09-2011.
- number DIPA/oik. 37674. Official Governmental Gazette 2471B / 10-8-2016: Amendments and codification of the Ministerial Decision 1958/2012 - Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09- 2011, as it has been modified and is valid.
- number oik. 2307. Official Governmental Gazette: 439B / 14-2-2018. Amendment of the DIPA/oik 37674/27-7-2016 decision of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change "Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09-2011", with regard to the categorization of specific projects and activities of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th groups.
- number YPEN/DIPA/74463/4562. Official Governmental Gazette: 3291B / 6-8-2020. Amendment of the DIPA/oik. 37674/27-7-2016 (B'2471) decision of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change "Categorization of public and private projects and activities in categories and sub-categories according to the clause 1, paragraph 4 of the law 4014 / 21-09-2011", with regard to the categorization of specific projects and activities of the 10th group.
- number oik. 170225. Official Governmental Gazette: 135B / 27-1-2014. Particularization of the application content for the environmental licensing of projects and activities of the category A of the Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change with no. 1958/2012, as it is valid, according to the clause 11 of the law 4014/2011 (A' 209), as well as any other relevant detail.

The whole process of the environmental licensing aims at the final issuance of the so-called



Environmental Terms Approval (ETA). The whole process can be analysed in the following steps:

- the overall process for the issuance of the ETA is defined in the law 4014/2011
- the new project or activity is categorized, obviously with regard to its type and size, according to the defined in the Ministerial Decisions presented previously: Ministerial Decision 1958/2012, number DIPA/oik. 37674, number oik. 2307 and number YPEN/DIPA/74463/4562
- the application content, which should be submitted in the authority in charge for the issuance of the ETA, for projects or activities categorized in the group A is defined in number oik. 170225.

### SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)

#### **34. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

We are not sure if there is such a discrete process in Greece. We think that this process coincides with the issuance of the Power Production Certificate. Once the potential investor has been selected following the open competitive process by the HEREMA, then the Power Production Certificate should be issued.

#### **35. To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?**

To the Regulatory Authority of Energy (RAE).

#### **36. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?**

No, it remains the same.

#### **37. Please indicate the period from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.**

Since 2020, the required period described in the regulations and also applied in practice is no longer than 4 months.

#### **38. Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application**

- Presentation of a technical preliminary project.
- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assesment process) section).
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).



- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, among other financial assurances.

### 39. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

The application should be developed according to the defined content in the Power Production Certificates Regulation. It contains wind potential evaluation, description of the installation site, exact geographical coordinates of the turbines installation positions and the wind park's installation site borders, description of the access roads to the site, calculation of the annual electricity production, exact description with technical specifications of the wind turbine selected model, economic evaluation, justification of the capacity of the project's owner to fund the project etc.

The application is submitted only electronically, via the online submission system of RAE. Theoretically, the Power Production Certificate is issued at latest 20 days after the expiration of the period for the submission of any potential objections from anybody who may have legitimate interest against issuance of the Power Production Certificate. This period, in total can be at maximum 20 days after the submission of the application. The process for the submission of the application and the issuance of the Power Production Certificate is defined and described in the clause 11 of the law 4685/2020.

### 40. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

The process for the issuance of the Power Production Certificate is given in the following legislation framework:

- law 3468/2006, Official Governmental Gazette 129A' / 27-6-2006: Electricity production from Renewable Energy Sources and Combined Heat and Power of high efficiency and other clauses.
- law 3851/2010, Official Governmental Gazette 85A' / 4-6-2010: Acceleration for the development of Renewable Energy Sources and the treatment of the climate change and other clauses on topics under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.
- law 4203/2013, Official Governmental Gazette 235A' / 1-11-2013: Regulations on Renewable Energy Sources topics and other clauses.
- the Power Production Certificates Regulation, No. YPEN/DAPEEK/114746/4230, Official Governmental Gazette 5291B' / 1-12-2020: Power Production Certificates Regulation from RES and CHP and Certificates for Electricity Production from Special RES Projects and Combined Heat and Power production projects.
- law 4254/2014, Official Governmental Gazette 85A' / 7-4-2014: Supporting measures of the Greek economy in the frame of the application of the law 4046/2012 and other clauses.
- Management Code of non-interconnected Islands: Official Governmental Gazette



304B' / 11-2-2014: Management Code of non-interconnected Islands.

- law 4513/2018, Official Governmental Gazette 9A' / 23-1-2018: Energy Communities and other clauses.
- law 4685/2020, Official Governmental Gazette 92A' / 7-5-2020: Update of the environmental legislation, embody in the Greek legislation of the European directives 2018/844 and 2019/692 of the European Parliament and Council and other clauses.
- law 4964/2022, Official Governmental Gazette 150A' / 30-7-2022: Clauses for the simplification of the environmental licensing of offshore wind parks, the treatment of energy crisis, the environmental protection and other clauses.

## SECTION 7. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

### 41. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Issuance of the Installation Permit.

### 42. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

The Installation Permit of electricity production plants from RES are issued by the Governor of the responsible Regional Authority, following a relevant application of the project's owner or developer. In case the plant is sited inside the boundaries of a NATURA 2000 or Ramsar region or National Parks, the Installation Permit is issued with a common Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Development and the Minister of Environment and Energy.

### 43. Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

Yes there is and this question has been answered with the previous answer.

### 44. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

Please see our answer for the question 46 for a detailed description of the whole process. Through this process, all technical reports, calculations, topographic maps etc should be submitted and, of course, all the prior licenses (Power Production Certificate, Environmental Terms Approval etc).

### 45. Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?

Normally within a period from 6 months to one year the whole process must have been fully completed. More or less, similar time intervals are also given in the legal framework.

### 46. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.



The first step in the overall process is the definition from the Operator of the binding bid for the connection of the project with the local grid. To this end, the project's owner – developer submits to the Operator a relevant application. The content of this application is defined in the paragraph 2 of the clause 4 of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision. Once the project's developer or owner accepts the binding bid, the proposed by the Operator connection of the project with the local grid is depicted by the project's developer – owner in a topographical diagram, with a 1:5,000 and 1:50,000 scale. In this diagram, the exact location of the plant and the proposed connection with the local grid are shown. The Operator approves the submitted topographical diagram. The whole process for the application and the definition of the binding bid for the plant's connection is defined in chapter B (clauses 4 – 6) of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision. The binding bid has a duration of 3 years and can be expanded by the Operator, according to the paragraph 4 of the clause 3 of the law 3468/2006.

The second step in the process is the issuance of the Installation Permit. This process is defined in the chapter C (clauses 7 – 11) of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision. For the issuance of the Installation Permit, the project's owner – developer submits to the responsible department of the Regional Authority in charge a relevant application with the content described in the paragraph 1 of the clause 8 of the aforementioned Ministerial Decision. The Installation Permit has a duration of 2 years and can be expanded according to the clause 10 of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision. With the issuance of the Installation Permit, the project's owner – developer can proceed to the installation and the construction of the project.

After the issuance of the Installation Permit, the project's owner – developer submits an application to the Operator for the synapse of the connection contract of the plant with the grid. The process and the attachments of this application are described in clause 9 of the D6/F1/oik. 13310 Ministerial Decision.

**47.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

The process for the issuance of the Installation Permit is defined in the following Ministerial Decision:

- number D6/F1/oik. 13310, Official Governmental Gazette 1153B' / 10-7-2007: Procedure for the issuance of the Installation Permit and the Operation Permit for electricity production plants with the use of renewable energy sources.

## **SECTION 8. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION**

**48.** What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation?



Please, list and describe them briefly

The exploitation (or research) permit for offshore wind parks.

**49.** Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

**50.** In case the economic right wasn't granted by a Public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved to make an agreement?

The process is undertaken by the Regulatory Authority for Energy. No private entities are involved in the organisation of these public auctions.

**51.** Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

As far as we are aware, no.

**52.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

Within a period of maximum 2 months from the definition of the available sites for offshore wind parks installations, the HEREMA should issue a call for the submission of applications from potential investors for the supply of exploitation (or research) permit. Every interested party can apply for more than one sites. The applications are applied only online.

**53.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Law 4964/2022, Official Governmental Gazette 150A / 30-7-2022

### SECTION 9. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EURO- PEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**54.** Does your country have a maritime spatial plan that aligns with the recommendations established in Directive 2014/89/EU?

Yes  No

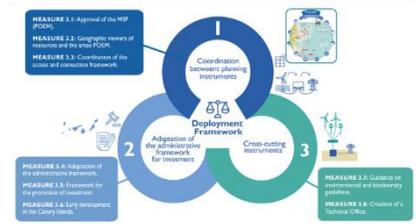
**55.** Does your country have a development plan for offshore wind energy following the guidelines and recommendations of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy?

No, not so far. Theoretically, the beginning to this end has been done with the Law 4964/2022.



**56.**The following image shows several measures towards a clear and predictable framework for the deployment of offshore renewable generation in Spain.

Is your country currently involved in one of the displayed measures?



The Law 4964/2022 obviously aims to the integration of all the processes in Greece.

**57.**Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)?

If the answer is yes, please specify its name and briefly provide information about the goals for offshore wind. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Yes, there is the National Plan for Energy and Climate. For the offshore wind parks the targets have been set at 2.7 GW in 2030 and 17 GW in 2050.

**58.**If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

Yes it has.

**59.**Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)?

The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

Yes, there is the GIS map of RAE: <https://geo.rae.gr/>.

**60.**According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

As far as we are aware, no extensions have been given in the permitting deadlines.

**61.**Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

Not really, on the contrary, it seems that some of the involved licensing authorities, especially in environmental licensing, are more slow than in the past. Only the first stage, the Power Production Certificate, has been considerably accelerated.

**62.**Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current



international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

As far as we are aware, no extensions have been given in the permitting deadlines.

**63.**To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

Certainly not.

**64.**Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering. Is there a plan in your country for the renovation of renewable installations and administrative processes to be carried out?

As far as we are aware, no there isn't.

**65.**Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

No more comments.

**66.**Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

N/A (Non answer).

## **SECTION 10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT**

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

*Note: If you have already answered these questions in the onshore questionnaire, there is no need for you to answer them again.*

**67.**Resource assessment: Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region?

If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?

Not officially from the State. Only through academic initiatives. Usually, these works are published in scientific articles and can be traced through international scientific libraries.

**68.**Community participation: Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)?



If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

Not officially and certainly not driven or initiated by the State. Again only in some cases through local initiatives originated from locally activated energy communities, such as in Sifnos (Energy Community of Sifnos) and in Crete (Minoan Energy Community), in collaboration with the local Regional Authorities and Municipalities

**69.Goal and target setting: Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level?**

If yes, please provide examples.

We think that there are some targets set according to the European Directives. For example, public building should be upgraded to zero energy buildings until 2030 and private buildings should not be categorized at rank lower than B.

**70.Identification of specific projects: Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country?**

If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

CeCs have been very recently introduced (last April 2023) in the Greek legislation. People certainly are not aware at all for the new regime for energy communities in Greece.

**71.Financing and partnerships: Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples.**

Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizen.

There is only the programme "Saving" which refers to the energy performance upgrade of buildings. Apart from that, no other capacity building programme exists in Greece for the awareness raising of citizens and their stimulation to undertake action in energy transition projects.

**72.Training and local employment: Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects?**

Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

Normally every wind park creates maximum 5 permanent occupation positions during normal commercial operation. During the construction phase, certainly more people are occupied.

**73.Monitoring plans: Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented?**



Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

The only community development action that has been implemented in Greece regarding the development of a wind park is in the Eastern Crete from the Organisation for the Development of Sitia. Actually, no monitoring or tracking mechanisms have been set for this achievement.

**74.** Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.

Not officially. However, usually, among the negotiations between the project's owner and the local community, there are some projects which are constructed from the project's owner for the benefit of the local community (e.g. a new road). During the normal commercial operation of the project, 3 % of the revenues are given to the local Municipality (1,7 %) and as discounts in the electricity bills of the residents of the nearby settlements (1,3 %).

**75.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms?

If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

Certainly not.

**76.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

No, there is not such a study implemented.

**77.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

N/A (Non-answer).

## SECTION 11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**78.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

Nothing more to add.





WENDY aims to unraveling the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis at three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 ITALY QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

**1. Organization's name**

Enel Green Power.

**2. Author (Name and Surname)**

Silvia Masci and Miriam Di Blasi.

**3. Date (MM/DD/YY)**

10/08/2023.

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE OFFSHORE WIND AREAS

**4. Is it necessary to present an application for area reservation? If the answer is yes, how is this procedure denominated in your country?**

Yes, the procedure is denominated: Richiesta di Concessione Demaniale Marittima.

**5. Are there different procedures depending on the installation capacity for wind farms in your region?**

If yes, please specify.

Yes  No



**6.** To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted? If there are several authorities involved, please list them and indicate if the authority responsible changes according to different parameters (power to be installed, number of turbines, etc).

Ministero delle Infrastrutture e della Mobilità Sostenibili - Capitaneria di Porto.

**7.** Which documentation should be submitted along with the application (Power capacity, studies to be carried out, basic technical information, location, etc)?

Please, list it briefly

Administrative documentation and Technical documentation: 1. cartographic sketch of the territorial framework indicating the area of interest; 2. planimetry on an appropriate scale of the stretch of water requested under the concession; 3. technical-illustrative report of the activity that is to be carried out in the stretch of water. 4. in the case of the construction of facilities, detailed graphic drawings on an appropriate scale of the works to be carried out: planimetric view, perspective views and construction details.

**8.** An eolic marine characterisation refers to an official analysis of the marine area (fauna, flora, geomorphology, navigation, among many others).

Is there an official public eolic marine area characterisation in your region?

Aree Marine protette.

**9.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer).

**10.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Decreto Legislativo. n.387/2003, Decreto Legislativo n.28/2011.

### **SECTION 3. OBTAINING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE GRID, CONCURRENCY PROCESS AND BANK GUARANTEE**

In some regions, when the marine area has two or more reservation requests (over-lapping areas, for example), a concurrency process is carried out to define the most suitable project. The decision shall grant the selected applicant(s) the right of access to the grid.

Also, the submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the process.

**11.** Which authority is in charge of carrying out this process?

Ministero delle infrastrutture e dei trasporti in concert with Ministero dello sviluppo economico e il Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio e del mare.

**12.** How long does this process take?



N/A (Non answer).

**13.** Is there a concurrency process in your region? How is this procedure denominated?

N/A (Non answer).

**14.** Is it mandatory to carry out a public consultation in this process?

Yes  No

**15.** During this process, is it necessary to present a bank guarantee?

If yes, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation and briefly explain the procedure. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 €/MW

Yes, in the Autorizzazione Unica is necessary to declare: 1) commitment to the provision, within one hundred and eighty days of the issue of the Autorizzazione Unica, of a first-demand surety issued as a guarantee for the construction of the plant, for an amount of no less than euro 50.00 per kW of electrical power issued; 2) commitment to the provision of a first-demand surety issued to guarantee of the execution of the decommissioning works and of the pristine state of the sites at the end of the plant's operation, for an amount not less than Euro 50.00 for each kW of electrical power released.

**16.** Please, briefly explain the process of obtaining the right of access to the grid.

In the request of Autorizzazione Unica is necessary to attach: connection estimate prepared by the National Electricity Grid operator or distribution network operator explicitly accepted by the proposer; the estimate shall be accompanied by the drawings required for the issue of grid system authorisation for the connection, prepared or validated by the competent grid operator, as well as the drawings relating to any utility installations for connection, prepared by the proposer and validated by the competent grid operator.

**17.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Articles 6 and 19 of AEEG Resolution ARG/elt 99/08.

#### **SECTION 4. ZONE RESERVATION AND INVESTIGATION OF THE EOLIC RESOURCE**

**18.** How long is the zone reservation title valid? Can it be extended? If extensions are allowed, how much longer can the title be extended?

They may, have a different duration at the motivated request of the interested parties. Generally 30 years.

**19.** Is it required to present a second bank guarantee?

If so, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate



the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 E/MW

No.

**20.** Is there a public database or registry that contains the information on the reserved areas?

Aree Marine protette.

**21.** Is it necessary to carry out environmental studies to assess the impact of the research activities?

If yes, what type of basic studies must be carried out?

Yes, Valutazione degli Impiatti Ambientali (VIA).

**22.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section

N/A (Non answer).

### SECTION 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues:

- Population and human health.
- Biodiversity
- Soil, water, air, and climate
- Assets material.
- Cultural and landscape heritage.

**23.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

VIA (Valutazione d'Impatto Ambientale), which is an integral part and necessary condition for the conclusion of the authorisation procedure (AU).

**24.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security in consultation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility and in consultation with the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy for aspects related to marine fisheries.

**25.** Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?

No, the authorisation is national.

**26.** Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area?



Please specify those parameters for your region.

No.

**27.** Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

The application content, which should be submitted in the authority in charge for the issuance of the ETA, for projects or activities categorized in the group A is defined in number oik. 170225. It normally consists of a technical report, drawings, prior approvals from the involved authorities etc.

**28.** On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?

Deadlines for the adoption of the EIA decision are normally set at 150 days from the submission of the application and may extend up to 330 days under special conditions.

**29.** Is there a public consultation period included in the process?

Yes  No

**30.** How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?

60 days.

**31.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary?

If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

No.

**32.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer).

**33.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Decreto Legislativo 152/06 and Decreto legislativo 104/2017.

## SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)

**34.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Autorizzazione Unica (AU).



**35. To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?**

Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, after consulting the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Land and Sea and the sea and subject to the prior concession for the use of "Demanio Marittimo" by the competent Maritime Authority.

**36. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?**

No.

**37. Please indicate the period from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.**

N/A (Non answer).

**38. Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application**

- Presentation of a technical preliminary project.
- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section).
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, among other financial assurances.

**39. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

N/A (Non answer).

**40. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

For the Single Authorisation (AU) the administrative procedure is that provided for by Article 12 of Legislative Decree No. 387/2003 as amended and supplemented.

**SECTION 7. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION****41. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

AU (as the previous session).

**42. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?**

As previous session.

**43. Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is**

submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

No.

**44.**List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

N/A (Non-answer).

**45.**Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?

N/A (Non-answer).

**46.**Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

**47.**Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

N/A (Non-answer).

### **SECTION 8. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION**

**48.**What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation?

Please, list and describe them briefly

The exploitation (or research) permit for offshore wind parks.

**49.**Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

**50.**In case the economic right wasn't granted by a Public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved in making an agreement?

N/A (Non-answer).

**51.**Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

N/A (Non-answer).

**52.**Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).



**53.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

N/A (Non answer).

**SECTION 9. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EURO- PEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**54.** Does your country have a maritime spatial plan that aligns with the recommendations established in Directive 2014/89/EU?

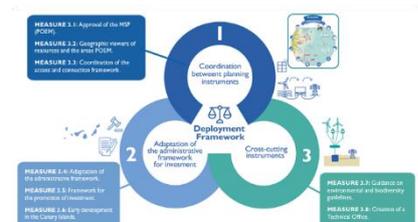
Yes  No

**55.** Does your country have a development plan for offshore wind energy following the guidelines and recommendations of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy?

Yes, denominated Piano Nazionale Energia e Clima (PNIEC) of 2020.

**56.** The following image shows several measures towards a clear and predictable framework for the deployment of offshore renewable generation in Spain.

Is your country currently involved in one of the displayed measures?



N/A (Non answer).

**57.** Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)?

If the answer is yes, please specify its name and briefly provide information about the goals for offshore wind. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Piano Nazionale Energia e Clima (PNIEC) of 2020 plans to reach the target of 900 MW by 2030.

**58.** If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

The updated is scheduled in 2024.

**59.** Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)?

The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

Yes.



**60.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

No, on the contrary, measures have been developed to speed up the authorisation phases in order to reach the expected energy self-sufficiency targets.

**61.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

N/A (Non-answer).

**62.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

N/A (Non-answer).

**63.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

Yes, in the Ministry portal for single authorization (AU).

**64.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering. Is there a plan in your country for the renovation of renewable installations and administrative processes to be carried out?

No for Offshore plants.

**65.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

**66.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

N/A (Non-answer).

## **SECTION 10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT**

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

*Note: If you have already answered these questions in the onshore questionnaire, there is no need for you to answer them again.*

**67. Resource assessment:** Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region?  
If so, could you provide some examples of such studies.

Yes.

**68. Community participation:** Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)?  
If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

No in the past.

**69. Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level?  
If yes, please provide examples.

N/A (Non-answer).

**70. Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country?  
If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

N/A (Non-answer).

**71. Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples.

Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizen.

N/A (Non-answer).

**72. Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects?

Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.



N/A (Non-answer).

**73.** Monitoring plans: Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented?

Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

N/A (Non-answer).

**74.** Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.

We know only for onshore plants.

**75.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms?

If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

N/A (Non-answer).

**76.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

Yes.

**77.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

N/A (Non-answer).

### SECTION 11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**78.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

N/A (Non-answer).





WENDY aims to unraveling the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis at three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 SPAIN QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

**1. Organization's name**

Spanish Renewable Energy Association (APPA Renovables).

**2. Author (Name and Surname)**

Beñat Sanz

**3. Date (MM/DD/YY)**

19/07/2023.

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE OFFSHORE WIND AREAS

**4. Is it necessary to present an application for area reservation? If the answer is yes, how is this procedure denominated in your country?**

Yes, Area reservation request. This process aims to reserve the area to characterise the eolic resource.

**5. Are there different procedures depending on the installation capacity for wind farms in your region?**

If yes, please specify.

Yes  No



**6.** To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted? If there are several authorities involved, please list them and indicate if the authority responsible changes according to different parameters (power to be installed, number of turbines, etc).

MITECO- Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge.

**7.** Which documentation should be submitted along with the application (Power capacity, studies to be carried out, basic technical information, location, etc)?

Please, list it briefly

Several documents are necessary for the application. It shall be accompanied by: 1. Accreditation of the applicant's capacity in the terms indicated in article 121 of Royal Decree 1955/2000, of 1 December. 2. Summary report detailing the surface area for which the project is requested, and which will be the object, if applicable, of the area reserve, as well as the preliminary studies to be carried out with an indication of the estimated time for completion (always with a maximum of two years coinciding with the maximum for the area reserve). The following documentation must be provided: a. Area for which the reserve is requested, which will be delimited by the geographical coordinates of the vertices of the polygonal line comprising it. b. The purpose of the research to be carried out in the area to be reserved, the installation to be implemented, the investment plan and the appropriate restoration plan to restore the public domain to its original state in the event that the project is not carried out. 3. Preliminary draft of the offshore wind power generation facility in triplicate. 4. Separate sheet for public administrations, bodies and, where appropriate, public service companies or general interest service companies with goods or services for which they are responsible affected by the installation.

**8.** An eolic marine characterisation refers to an official analysis of the marine area (fauna, flora, geomorphology, navigation, among many others).

Is there an official public eolic marine area characterisation in your region?

Yes, there is. The offshore wind farm characterisation document is understood to be the compilation of all the reports issued by the affected institutions in relation to the foreseeable effects that the installation of a potential offshore wind farm could have on the surrounding environment. The scope of the characterisation includes the entire offshore wind area, as defined in Article 5 of this Royal Decree. The characterisation of the offshore wind area will contain the estimation of the maximum amount of energy evacuable through the electrical transmission grids, as well as the impact that an offshore wind project would have on the elements that make up its environment. The characterisation of the area may determine the impossibility of installing any park for reasons of national defence, serious risk or obstacle to navigation and maritime traffic or special environmental protection.

**9.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.



N/A (Non answer).

**10.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 1028/2007; Law 9/2006.

### **SECTION 3. OBTAINING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE GRID, CONCURRENCY PROCESS AND BANK GUARANTEE**

In some regions, when the marine area has two or more reservation requests (overlapping areas, for example), a concurrency process is carried out to define the most suitable project. The decision shall grant the selected applicant(s) the right of access to the grid.

Also, the submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the process.

**11.** Which authority is in charge of carrying out this process?

MITECO- Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. The right of access to the transmission system for the capacity allocated in the published decision is granted when the authority grants the reservation of the area.

**12.** How long does this process take?

The timeframe is highly variable and depends on several factors external to the promoter and corresponding to the involved authorities.

**13.** Is there a concurrency process in your region? How is this procedure denominated?

Yes, once the area characterisation document motivated by an application has been made public, or once an application has been received and any defects in the presentation have been corrected, provided that there is a current and updated published area characterisation corresponding to the requested polygon, the Directorate General for Energy Policy and Mines will open a competition procedure. The scope of this competition procedure will be the entire offshore windpower area for which there is an application. A period of three months will be opened for any interested developer to submit a project for the installation of an offshore wind farm in the offshore wind farm area to be determined. Then, a Valuation Committee evaluates the proposals and issues a resolution granting the mentioned rights.

**14.** Is it mandatory to carry out a public consultation in this process?

Yes  No

**15.** During this process, is it necessary to present a bank guarantee?

If yes, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation and briefly explain the procedure. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example:



25.000€/MW

Yes, the presentation in the concurrency procedure includes the submission of a bank guarantee amounting to 1% of the total budget of the project and a premium request or offer, which will be expressed in €/kWh produced, of a value not exceeding that established in article 38.1 of Royal Decree 661/2007, of May 25.

**16. Please, briefly explain the process of obtaining the right of access to the grid.**

Identification of the Zone and Reservation Request: Promoters of marine renewable energy projects identify a suitable area in the territorial sea for their installations.

They submit a reservation request for exclusive rights to investigate and develop the wind or energy resource in the designated area.

- **Area Characterization:** A detailed study is conducted to assess the generation potential and potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed installation in the reserved zone. The characterization includes reports and estimations of the maximum power generation that can be evacuated to the electrical grid and the impact on the marine environment.
- **Competitive Bidding Process:** Interested parties provide economic guarantees and a premium offer to secure access to the electrical grid and the reserved zone.

A Valuation Committee evaluates the proposals and issues a resolution granting the mentioned rights.

**17. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

Royal Decree 1028/2007; Royal Decree 661/2007.

**SECTION 4. ZONE RESERVATION AND INVESTIGATION OF THE EOLIC RESOURCE**

**18. How long is the zone reservation title valid? Can it be extended? If extensions are allowed, how much longer can the title be extended?**

The reservation title, corresponding to the surface area for which the offshore wind power generation installation project was submitted, shall be granted for a maximum period of two years, extendable for a further year, subject to justification, when circumstances attributable to the operation of the Administration arise.

**19. Is it required to present a second bank guarantee?**

If so, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 E/MW

The applicant who has obtained the reservation must deposit an additional guarantee of 1%



of the budget of the wind farm for which the request for reservation of the zone has been submitted.

**20. Is there a public database or registry that contains the information on the reserved areas?**

Yes, the authority has a registry of the characterisation of each area, which after a request is always published in the Official State Gazette.

**21. Is it necessary to carry out environmental studies to assess the impact of the research activities?**

If yes, what type of basic studies must be carried out?

Yes, an EIA must be carried out to assess the potential impacts of the research activities.

**22. Please mention other relevant comments about this section**

N/A (Non-answer).

### SECTION 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues:

- Population and human health.
- Biodiversity
- Soil, water, air, and climate
- Assets material.
- Cultural and landscape heritage.

**23. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

**24. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?**

MITECO- Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge.

**25. Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?**

No, in the offshore case, it is always presented to the General State Administration.

**26. Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area?**

Please specify those parameters for your region.

Yes, according to Law 21/2013, there are 2 possible EIA procedures: •Ordinary EIA: those



projects with > 30 MW,  $\geq$  50 wind turbines or < 2 km from another wind farm. •Simplified EIA: those projects not subject to ordinary EIA, and exceptions Nevertheless, according to Law 21/2013 (Annex II, group 4, section i), installations for the production of energy in the marine environment are considered cases of Simplified Environmental Impact Assessment.

### 27. Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

Request for ordinary environmental impact assessment  Technical document of the project  Environmental Impact Assessment  Allegations and reports received in the public information procedure and consultations with the affected public administrations and interested parties. Request for simplified environmental impact assessment:  Environmental document:  Other documentation required by sectoral legislation. Request for Determination of environmental conditions for projects of renewable energy: - Request for determination of environmental condition for renewable energy projects. The request for determination of environmental condition must meet the general administrative requirements set forth, in general, in Law 39/2015, of 1 October, of the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations - 2. The project consisting of the preliminary project provided for in article 53.1.a) of Law 24/2013, of December 26. - 3rd The environmental impact study with the contents provided for in articles 5.3.c) and 35 and in annex VI of Law 21/2013, of December 9, OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE STATE CONSOLIDATED LEGISLATION Page 49. - 4th An executive summary that quantifies the accredited impacts regarding the aspects included in section 3.b).

### 28. On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?

It is important to note that the time frame es highly variable and depends not only on the authorities and public administrations but also on the developer of the project. Simplified EIA: according to article 47-1 of Law 21/2013, The environmental institution will formulate the environmental impact report within three months from the receipt of the start request and the documents that must accompany it. After that, it will be published in the official bulletin and needs to be authorised by the corresponding organism.

### 29. Is there a public consultation period included in the process?

Yes  No

### 30. How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?

Ordinary EIA: According to article 36 of Law 21/2013, The promoter will present the project and the environmental impact study before the substantive body, which will submit them to public information for a period of not less than thirty business days, prior announcement in



the "Official State Gazette" or official newspaper that corresponds and in its electronic office. According to what is established in article 37-2, with respect to public administrations, the affected Public Administrations and the interested persons will have a maximum period of thirty working days from the receipt of the notification to issue the reports and formulate the allegations they deem appropriate. Simplified EIA: According to article 46 of Law 13/2013, the environmental authorisation will consult the affected public administrations and interested persons, making the environmental document of the project referred to in the previous article available to them.<sup>2</sup> The public administrations affected, and the interested parties consulted must make a decision within a maximum period of twenty days from the receipt of the report request.

**31.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary?

If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

No.

**32.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

**33.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Environmental regulation: <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/evaluacion-ambiental/legislacion.html> ; Law 21/2013, as amended by Royal Decree-Law 20/2022 (Article 22).

## **SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)**

**34.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Preliminary Administrative Authorisation (PAA), in Spanish: Autorización administrativa previa (AAP).

**35.** To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

General State Administration: installed electrical power > 50 MW; those present in two or more Autonomous Regions; and other exceptions.

**36.** Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

No.

**37.** Please indicate the period from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.



The regulations allow a period of 34 months.

**38. Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application**

- Presentation of a technical preliminary project.
- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centers and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section).
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, liability insurance, among other financial assurances.

**39. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

N/A (Non-answer).

**40. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

Royal Decree 1955/2000; Royal Decree - Law 23/2020.

**SECTION 7. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**41. How is this procedure denominated in your country?**

Administrative Authorisation for Construction (AAC), en español: Autorización administrativa de construcción (AAC).

**42. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?**

This authorization is submitted to the General State Administration.

**43. Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?**

Yes.

**44. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.**

Technical project document and requested documentation by authorities.

**45. Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?**

The regulations allow a period of 37 months for the authorisation to be obtained. Recently,



the Real Decree law 5/2023 (article 185) has extended the time frame for obtaining the AAC.

**46.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

**47.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree - Law 23/2020; Royal Decree - Law 5/2023.

### SECTION 8. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION

**48.** What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation?

Please, list and describe them briefly.

The authorisation is called Operating Authorisation (AE), in Spanish: Autorización de Explotación (AE). Once the project has been executed, it allows the installations to be put into operation.

**49.** Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

**50.** In case the economic right wasn't granted by a Public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved to make an agreement?

Private companies involved in energy commercialization.

**51.** Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

Yes, through auctions or private agreements.

**52.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer).

**53.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 1955/2000; Royal Decree - Law 23/2020).

### SECTION 9. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EURO- PEAN COMMISSION DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**54.** Does your country have a maritime spatial plan that aligns with the recommendations



established in Directive 2014/89/EU?

Yes  No

**55.** Does your country have a development plan for offshore wind energy following the guidelines and recommendations of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy?

Yes, In 2022, in accordance with the "EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energies", Spain developed the "Roadmap for the development of Offshore Wind and Marine Energy in Spain."

**56.** The following image shows several measures towards a clear and predictable framework for the deployment of offshore renewable generation in Spain.

Is your country currently involved in one of the displayed measures?



Yes, currently Spain developing measure 3.3.

**57.** Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)?

If the answer is yes, please specify its name and briefly provide information about the goals for offshore wind. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Yes, The National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC), which follows the guidelines established in RE 2018/1999, includes energy measures and objectives for the period 2021-2030.

**58.** If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

Yes.

**59.** Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)?

The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).

Yes, <https://sig.mapama.gob.es/geoportal/>.

**60.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.



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Royal Decree Law 20/2022 establishes in Article 23 simplified procedures for authorisation of renewable energy projects. Nevertheless, there are no Offshore wind farm projects ongoing.

**61.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

Not as far as we know.

**62.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

Not as far as we know.

**63.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

No.

**64.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering. Is there a plan in your country for the renovation of renewable installations and administrative processes to be carried out?

There are currently no offshore installations.

**65.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

**66.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree - Law 20/2022.

## SECTION 10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT

A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

*Note: If you have already answered these questions in the onshore questionnaire, there is no need for you to answer them again.*

**67.** Resource assessment: Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable



and suitable renewable energy sources for the region?  
If so, could you provide some examples of such studies.

In accordance with what is established in the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIE, in Spanish), an environmental zoning tool for renewable energy (wind and photovoltaic) has been developed in Spain. This tool shows the value of the existing environmental sensitivity index at each point on the map, and the environmental indicators associated with that location. These layers are available in the Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDE, in Spanish) of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.  
[https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/evaluacion/ambiental/zonificacion\\_ambiental\\_energias\\_renovables.html](https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/evaluacion/ambiental/zonificacion_ambiental_energias_renovables.html).

**68. Community participation:** Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)?

If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

There are no offshore wind farm projects currently ongoing.

**69. Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional or national level?

If yes, please provide examples.

Yes, there is specific legislation related to energy efficiency. (i) Royal Decree 390/2021 (basic procedure for the certification of the energy efficiency of buildings) (ii) Royal Decree-Law 14/2022, of August 1, on economic sustainability measures in the field of transport, in terms of scholarships and study aid, as well as saving measures, energy efficiency and reduction of energy dependence. of natural gas. In the context of the Spanish "Plan Más Seguridad Energética (+SE)", It facilitates compliance with European commitments derived from the conflict in Ukraine, it also promotes the electrification of the economy, by speeding up the procedures for networks and infrastructures and promoting storage and self-consumption.

- Royal Decree 36/2023 of 24 January establishing a system of Energy Saving Certificates.

(iii) Royal Decree 36/2023 of 24 January establishing a system of Energy Saving Certificates.

**70. Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country?

If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

Law 24/2013- establishes the rights and obligations of renewable energy communities and citizen energy communities. (i) Article 12 ter - Citizen energy communities. In English CEC (Citizen energy communities). (ii) Article 12a - Renewable energy communities. Aligned with the objectives and targets of the PNIEC, in 2021 Spain launched the "Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR)" which involves the articulation of a series of investments and reforms aimed at increasing productivity and potential growth, moving



towards a green, digital, inclusive Spain, with greater social and territorial cohesion, and without gender gaps. Lever 3 - Component 7 (Deployment and integration of renewable energies) and reform 3 (C7.R3) aims to promote citizen participation in the energy transition, in particular renewable energy communities and citizen energy communities.

**71. Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples.

Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to the citizen.

In Spain, there are both national and local financial aid programs for wind energy. Every autonomous community can establish different financial programs. As an example, at a national level, Spain has launched, in the context of Plan de Recovery, transformation and Resilience (PRTR), an incentive program for pilot projects of Energetic communities (CE IMPLEMENTA- December 2022).

**72. Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects?

Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

Currently, there are no ongoing offshore projects in Spain.

**73. Monitoring plans:** Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented?

Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

Currently, there are no ongoing offshore projects in Spain.

**74.** Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.

Currently, there are no ongoing offshore projects in Spain.

**75.** Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms?

If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

Currently, there are no ongoing offshore projects in Spain.



**76.** Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?

Currently, there are no ongoing offshore projects in Spain.

**77.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

Royal Decree 390/2021; Royal Decree-Law 14/2022; Royal Decree 390/2021 (basic procedure for the certification of the energy efficiency of buildings); Royal Decree-Law 14/2022, of 1 August, on economic sustainability measures in the field of transport, grants and study aid, as well as measures for energy saving, energy efficiency and reduction of energy dependence; Royal Decree 36/2023, of 24 January, establishing a system of Energy Saving Certificates.

### SECTION 11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**78.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

N/A (Non-answer).





WENDY aims to unraveling the factors triggering social acceptance of wind farms through an in-depth analysis at three dimensions: social sciences and humanities, environmental sciences, and technological engineering.

## D. 4.4 Consenting process and Community development scheme Task 4.4 NORWAY QUESTIONNAIRE

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### SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. Organization's name

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)

#### 2. Author (Name and Surname)

Frank Hanssen, Reto Spielhofer, Thomas Kvalnes, Roel May

#### 3. Date (MM/DD/YY)

27/09/2023.

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE OFFSHORE WIND AREAS

#### 4. Is it necessary to present an application for area reservation? If the answer is yes, how is this procedure denominated in your country?

Yes. The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (OED) announces the opening of one or several project areas for offshore wind energy. The announcement will be an invitation to initiative holders to participate in a competition for the exclusive right to develop a project within an opened area. It will contain the necessary information about how the competition is to be conducted are carried out, including deadlines for registration and prequalification, requirements for documentation, bidding and other relevant deadlines etc. The project areas will be announced publicly. If an actor takes an interest in an area that has been advertised previously without being allocated or if an application for a license has been



refused, the ministry will assess whether there is a basis for this to announce the area again or whether it can be allocated without announcement. If the ministry has set up a prequalification process, applicants must prequalify in line with the requirements of the Offshore Energy Act § 3-5 first paragraph and the Offshore Energy Act Regulations § 2c in order to participate in the competition. The purpose of such a prequalification process is to ensure that everyone who participating in the competition meets the necessary requirements and has satisfactory competence. It will be clear from the ministry's announcement whether there is a requirement for pre-qualification. In those the cases where the ministry has decided in the announcement that a prequalification process, the initiative owners who wish to participate in the competition will have to respond to the announcement by submitting the necessary documentation. Companies wishing to develop a project together can prequalify together. The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy decides who will be prequalified based on the documentation which is presented. The decision will be a single decision which can be appealed, cf. the Public Administration Act. The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy will allocate the tender area by carrying out a competition for the area. Competition for the area will, as a general rule, be carried out as an auction. The ministry can in special cases choose to carry out a qualitative competition instead of an auction; such as for project areas for floating offshore wind energy due to its immature stage. Such special considerations may be that the state has other goals for the development of offshore wind, for example technology development, sustainability, co-existence, in addition to economically profitable power production. The ministry aims for the competition to be decided 6-12 months after the announcement. Whom is allocated an area gets a time-limited exclusive right to carry out a specific project impact assessment and to apply for a license for wind power plants within the allocated area. In an auction, the players will bid on the announced areas. The ministry plans to send proposals for the auction model to public consultation before the auction is used to assign areas. In the announcement, the ministry will elaborate on the type of auction model that will be used and how the auction will be conducted. Allocation of tender areas after a qualitative competition must be carried out on the basis of an overall assessment of objective and non-discriminatory conditions. Detailed description of the conditions to be assessed will appear in the ministry's announcement. The announcement will also contain information about the deadline for participating in the competition, requirements for documentation and others relevant deadlines. The ministry will then decide who scored best in the qualitative competition and who is granted the right to develop a project within the announced project area.

### 5. Are there different procedures depending on the installation capacity for wind farms in your region?

If yes, please specify.

Yes  No



Not as far we are aware. However, offshore wind energy development to electrify oil and gas production platforms do not require the announced opening of specifically designated areas for offshore wind energy and a public auction. Also, within the low-tidal zone, development follows the Energy Act for onshore wind energy (see onshore survey).

**6.** To which public or private administrative authority should it be submitted? If there are several authorities involved, please list them and indicate if the authority responsible changes according to different parameters (power to be installed, number of turbines, etc).

Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (OED) receives the application and is aided by Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) during the process.

**7.** Which documentation should be submitted along with the application (Power capacity, studies to be carried out, basic technical information, location, etc)?

Please, list it briefly

- The applicant's name, business, ownership and financial capacity. If the application includes several applicants, all names, addresses and nationalities must be described. Who in Norway will be the contact person for the licensing authorities.
- A description of the project area in which a license is sought.
- Where the facility is to be operated from.
- A description of the planned facility: estimated installed power, estimated annual production, grid solution for connection to the power grid, cost estimate, assessment of the profitability of the project and the potential for conflict with other interests.
- Other applications, e.g. according to the Energy Act for connection of the energy plant to the power grid on land. Here, the guide must be supplemented with NVE's current guide for the design of applications for a license for network facilities.
- Description of the facility.
- Description of security and emergency preparedness, including, among other things, emergency preparedness contamination.
- Information on how large an area the wind turbines will occupy for ship traffic, and what measures the undertaking will take to reduce the disadvantages for ship traffic and to reduce the risk of accidents.
- The application needs to include maps

**8.** An eolic marine characterisation refers to an official analysis of the marine area (fauna, flora, geomorphology, navigation, among many others).

Is there an official public eolic marine area characterisation in your region?

No



**9. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

There have been developed a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to designate suitable areas for offshore wind energy development, which includes many of such mapped data on the marine environment.

**10. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

- The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)

**SECTION 3. OBTAINING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE GRID, CONCURRENCY PROCESS AND BANK GUARANTEE**

In some regions, when the marine area has two or more reservation requests (overlapping areas, for example), a concurrency process is carried out to define the most suitable project. The decision shall grant the selected applicant(s) the right of access to the grid.

Also, the submission of a bank guarantee is required in some steps of the process.

**11. Which authority is in charge of carrying out this process?**

OED for the wind energy license (with technical support from NVE); also the national grid owner Statnett has responsibility regarding the connection to the central electricity transmission grid.

**12. How long does this process take?**

Don't know; offshore wind energy development has just started with the opening of the first project areas.

**13. Is there a concurrency process in your region? How is this procedure denominated?**

Do not understand the question; do you mean competition? If so, yes. This is described further up.

**14. Is it mandatory to carry out a public consultation in this process?**

Yes  No

Don't know; but likely yes.



**15. During this process, is it necessary to present a bank guarantee?**

If yes, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation and briefly explain the procedure. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000€/MW

- Procedures for processing terms about financial security for wind turbines on land
  - Deadline for proposals for financial security: According to the terms of the construction concession, the concessionaire is obliged to submit a proposal for a guarantee within the twelfth year of operation. There are no legal restrictions for the concessionaire to submit a proposal before this time, but it cannot be required by NVE. It was not considered appropriate to require a financial guarantee before a license is granted.
  - Six per cent of the investment cost: A concessionaire with a construction concession for wind power must, in the proposal for financial security, use six per cent of the investment cost as a basis for calculating the costs of decommissioning wind power plants on land.
  - Clear grounds for deviating from the percentage rate: NVE can consider other calculations for the size of the collateral. This will be in cases where there are clear grounds that indicate a higher or lower security deposit. A deviation from the specified percentage requires a factual basis.
  - Forms of security: Financial security should primarily be a fund allocation in a blocked account. Alternatively, proposals can also be put forward for a self-debtor guarantee in the form of insurance or a demand guarantee such as a bank guarantee where the concessionaire believes this is a better arrangement. NVE, on the other hand, will not accept a demand guarantee designed as a parent company guarantee.
  - Only one form of security: NVE will only accept one form of financial security per facility concession.
  - Security must be provided to NVE: Financial guarantees for the closure of wind power plants on land in Norway must be provided to NVE. In the case of a fund allocation to a blocked account, NVE will be the holder of the mortgage.
  - Single payment or payment over time: In principle, the financial security must be paid in or provided together. It is, however, open to the concessionaire, where there are reasons that indicate that payment should be made over time, to justify and describe this in the proposal for security. NVE states in this context that gradual payment should not extend over more than three years to ensure that there is enough time between payment and closure of the wind power plant.
  - Release of security: In NVE's view, release of security should only take place upon approval of the return. NVE is, however, opening up to release parts of the security permit, successively as the wind power plant is returned. Such a solution must be assessed by NVE in each individual case. Before a full release of financial security, NVE must approve the closure and return. Single decision:



NVE's approval of proposals for financial security in the specific case will take the form of a single decision.

**16. Please, briefly explain the process of obtaining the right of access to the grid.**

Compared to production and consumption on land, offshore wind stands out in that the state has taken an active role by opening up land, carrying out strategic impact assessment, and inviting tenders, etc. These are factors that determine when reservation of capacity according to current regulations can be made. There are certain special features of the connection of production from offshore wind which mean that this procedure is somewhat adapted for offshore wind operators. Statnett has identified some relevant connection points for production from offshore wind. Therefore, it is not necessary for the individual client to send a separate request to clarify available network capacity with Statnett. Statnett holds capacity for offshore wind at all relevant connection points until six months after the allocation has been made by the authorities. Within six months of the award, the bidders must order network capacity in one of the connection points. At this point, we assume that the operator is sufficiently mature for Statnett to reserve network capacity for the operator, cf. maturity requirements for level 3 in the evaluation form on the website shown above. If necessary, the operator can apply for an extension of the deadline of six months to order capacity. Statnett set requirements for the bidder's progress so that the bidder can keep the reservation. When facilities are commissioned, the client's right to network capacity will be regulated in a network agreement with Statnett.

**17. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

- The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)

**SECTION 4. ZONE RESERVATION AND INVESTIGATION OF THE EOLIC RESOURCE**

**18. How long is the zone reservation title valid? Can it be extended? If extensions are allowed, how much longer can the title be extended?**

Don't know; the offshore licensing is currently being developed and implemented for the first time.

**19. Is it required to present a second bank guarantee?**

If so, specify the Bank Guarantee amount according to your local legislation. Please indicate the currency type (Euro, NOK, etc). Example: 25.000 E/MW



Don't know.

**20.** Is there a public database or registry that contains the information on the reserved areas?

Yes, <https://www.nve.no/energi/energisystem/havvind/>

**21.** Is it necessary to carry out environmental studies to assess the impact of the research activities?

If yes, what type of basic studies must be carried out?

Yes. Currently, the seabed is being mapped as well as the potential consequences on seabirds. The extent of EIAs is as yet unclear.

**22.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section

N/A (Non-answer).

### SECTION 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU, Art. 3.1 it is necessary to identify and describe, as well as establish the interaction between the following issues:

- Population and human health.
- Biodiversity
- Soil, water, air, and climate
- Assets material.
- Cultural and landscape heritage.

**23.** How is this procedure denominated in your country?

Will be denominated according to the strategic EIA- program proposed by NVE (summer 2023) focusing on biodiversity and ecosystem services, recreation, fisheries, fish farming/aquaculture, shipping, petroleum and effects on climate change, the risk for accidents, pollution, technical infrastructure, defense interests, landscape and cultural heritage.

**24.** To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

NVE.

**25.** Is there a distinction between the local and national administrative agencies to which this authorisation is requested?

No.



**26.** Is there more than one EIA procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) depending on certain parameters such as type of project/activity, size, environmental risks, location, power to be installed, number of turbines, and land area?

Please specify those parameters for your region.

No, not that we are aware of

**27.** Which documents are required in your country to obtain a favourable environmental impact certificate?

Please, list them and describe them briefly.

Don't know.

**28.** On average, how long does it take from the date of application to the receipt of a favourable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate?

Don't know; this is the first time this process is performed.

**29.** Is there a public consultation period included in the process?

Yes  No

**30.** How long is there to make consultations and potential amendments, if necessary?

Don't know.

**31.** Is there a simplified procedure (simplified/abbreviated process) where public consultation is not necessary?

If yes, please indicate in which situations this abbreviated procedure can be applied.

No, not that we are aware of.

**32.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

**33.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)



## SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION (INITIAL AUTHORISATION)

### 34. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

When the ministry has declared the competition settled and an initiative owner has been awarded a project area, the initiative owner must submit a notification with a project-specific proposal study program no later than 6 weeks after the award. The ministry will put the report out for public consultation in a minimum 6 weeks and determine the investigation program after the hearing. After the project-specific study program has been established, the actor has two years to submit a license application to the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy. It is possible to apply for an extended deadline before the deadline expires. The project-specific impact assessment must be submitted with the license application. Oil and the Ministry of Energy (OED) will put the license application out for public consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks. Estimated processing time will vary with the size and complexity of the case. The ministry envisages a processing time for the license application of approximately 1 year, but it can also take longer if additional investigations etc. are required. The Ministry's licensing decisions can be appealed to the King in Council. An application for approval of a detailed plan must be sent to the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) within two years of the decision on the license. It is possible to apply for an extended deadline before the deadline expires. NVE will publish the application for approval of the detailed plan for public consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks. The expected processing time for a detailed plan is about 1 year, but it can also take longer if additional investigations etc. are required. The decision can be appealed to the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (OED), and a possible complaint will result in further processing time. Following a decision on an approved detailed plan, the plant must be put into operation within three years.

### 35. To which public administration/authority must it be submitted?

OED/NVE

### 36. Does the authority responsible for granting the permit change based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

No.

### 37. Please indicate the period from submission to obtaining the administrative authorisation.

1-2 years.

### 38. Please select the documentation requirements in your region for the application

Presentation of a technical preliminary project.



- Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centres and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section).
- Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
- Bank guarantee, and liability insurance, among other financial assurances.
  - A description of the energy system with a network solution
  - Current development solutions
  - Costs
  - Description of the project area
  - Possible effects on other industries, the environment and society, based on available data and knowledge
  - What is to be investigated and what kind of methods are to be used
  - Information about the applicant's business
  - Presentation of a technical preliminary project
    - Sørilige Nordsjø II and Utsira Nord have been announced for opening in 2023.
  - Basic environmental studies: Visual and acoustic impact, groundwater and soil investigation, proximity to urban centres and/or other industrial sites. Note: This point does not refer to the EIA (Environmental impact assessment process) section)
    - Currently the seabed is being mapped as well as the potential consequences on seabirds.
  - Specific authorisations from affected/required authorities (Culture, heritage, archaeological, army, telecommunications, Comcast TV, Tourism agency, among others).
    - We do not know.
  - Bank guarantee, and liability insurance, among other financial assurances
    - We do not know.

**39. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.**

N/A (Non-answer).

**40. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

- The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)



- Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)

## SECTION 7. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORISATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

### 41. How is this procedure denominated in your country?

An application for approval of a detailed plan must contain information as required by the concession, and otherwise describe the planned development of the energy plant, and describe the financial, resource-related, technical, environmental and safety issues at the development and operation of the energy plant. NVE can demand that alternative solutions be investigated. The detailed plan must contain at least the following information:

- Planned time for the start of construction work and completion of the energy plant.
- Technical description of the development.
- Description of planned operation and financing of the energy plant.
- Plan for decommissioning and removal of the energy plant.
- Changes to the documentation used to apply for a license.

### 42. To which public administration or authority should the application be submitted?

NVE

43. Is there any difference in the administrative authority to which the application is submitted based on different parameters, such as the power to be installed, the number of turbines, location, etc?

No

44. List and briefly describe the necessary documentation to be provided.

Don't know.

45. Could you please provide information on the timeframe specified in the regulations and the actual timeframe observed in practice for obtaining the relevant administrative authorisation, starting from the submission of the application?

Possibly 1-2 years but given that this is the first time this process is performed much is uncertain.

46. Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

47. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this



section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)

## **SECTION 8. AUTHORISATION FOR EXPLOITATION AND ENERGY COMMERCIALISATION**

**48.**What specific authorisation or permit is required to start the exploitation and/or commercialisation?

Please, list and describe them briefly.

License to operate.

**49.**Are there public auctions in which the exploitation of energy is guaranteed at a fixed price over a specific period?

Yes  No

Yes- but do not know if there is a fixed price over a specified period.

**50.**In case the economic right wasn't granted by a Public entity (by auctions), which organization (public or private) is involved to make an agreement?

Not relevant to the Norwegian context

**51.**Is it possible to obtain this economic right to a guaranteed electricity price at a later stage (after obtaining the access and connection permit)? If yes, when?

Don't know.

**52.**Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non answer).

**53.**Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

- The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone).
- The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone).
- Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone).
- Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone).



**SECTION 9. OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**54.** Does your country have a maritime spatial plan that aligns with the recommendations established in Directive 2014/89/EU?

Yes  No

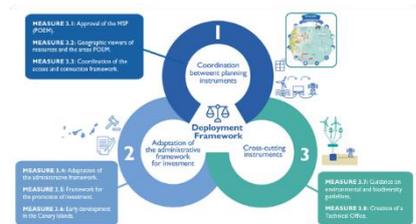
Not sure, we have several MSPs but do not know if they are aligned with the Directive.

**55.** Does your country have a development plan for offshore wind energy following the guidelines and recommendations of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy?

Norway does have a development plan for offshore wind energy consisting of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, updated designated project areas for offshore wind energy and the general target for the designation of areas for 30 GW of offshore wind energy by 2040. Whether this is aligned with the EU Strategy is unknown to us.

**56.** The following image shows several measures towards a clear and predictable framework for the deployment of offshore renewable generation in Spain.

Is your country currently involved in one of the displayed measures?



No.

**57.** Is there in your region a National Energy Climate Plan (NECP)?

If the answer is yes, please specify its name and briefly provide information about the goals for offshore wind. NECPs (period 2021-2030) were introduced by the RE (EU) 2018/1999, agreed as part of the "Clean Energy for all Europeans" package, which was adopted in 2019.

Yes, the plan aims to produce 4500 MW at Utsira Nord and Sørflig Nordsjø II. However, it was not developed as part of the EU Clean Energy Package. Title: "Meld. St. 13 (2020–2021) – Klimaplan for 2021–2030".

**58.** If the answer to the previous question was yes, has it been reviewed in 2023?

No

**59.** Is there any Geographical information system or GIS (useful to identify the location of a potential wind farm) in your region similar to the one proposed by the European Commission (Energy and Industry Geography Lab)?

The Energy and Industry Geography Lab enables analyses and assessments that support Europe's transition to climate neutrality: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-tools-databases/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en).



No.

**60.** According to the package of recommendations promoted after the war in Ukraine, there has been a modification of measures stated in Directive 2018/2001, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and Regulation 2022/2577 on deploying renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Have permitting deadlines been extended or relaxed considering that developers have been impacted by supply chain disruptions in the current international environment? If yes, please briefly explain.

No, however the deadline for the submission of prequalification has been extended.

**61.** Have the overall response times of the public administration been accelerated?

No, however, three more project areas have been proposed to be opened in 2025.

**62.** Given that developers have been affected by the supply chain due to the current international environment, have permitting deadlines been relaxed?

See above.

**63.** To facilitate permitting processes, Europe is proposing the concept of a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)". Is there a "Single administrative touchpoint (single window)" concept established in your country to carry out the necessary applications and formalities for the authorisation and permit granting processes?

Yes, NVE.

**64.** Directive 2022/2577 EU (Art. 5, among others) promotes the repowering of renewable energy installations and provides guidelines for repowering. Is there a plan in your country for the renovation of renewable installations and administrative processes to be carried out?

No

**65.** Please mention other relevant comments about this section.

N/A (Non-answer).

**66.** Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).

The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone).

The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone).

Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone).

Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone).

## **SECTION 10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES: SOCIAL IMPACT**



A community renewable energy development plan is a comprehensive strategy to promote the use and implementation of sustainable energy sources in a community. The main objective lies in encouraging economic, social, and environmental development while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Please indicate the degree of progress in your country on the following topics related to Community Development, and if possible, give an example.

*Note: If you have already answered these questions in the onshore questionnaire, there is no need for you to answer them again.*

**67. Resource assessment:** Are local or regional studies conducted to identify the most viable and suitable renewable energy sources for the region?  
If so, could you provide some examples of such studies?

No.

**68. Community participation:** Is there active involvement of community members in any or some stages of the process (from planning to implementation)?  
If yes, please provide examples and indicate where public consultations, committees or working groups, or awareness-raising are undertaken.

Community members are invited to express their interests and views at public meetings (as a part of the concession process) and in public hearings.

**69. Goal and target setting:** Are energy efficiency measures in public and private buildings defined at a local, regional, or national level?  
If yes, please provide examples.

In the state budget for 2023, the Government is following up on the Parliament's decision to draw up a plan with measures to reduce energy use in existing buildings by at least 10 TWh in 2030, as well as increase electricity production in buildings. The target is compared to the 2015 level.

**70. Identification of specific projects:** Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) arise from the recognition of concrete renewable energy projects that can be implemented in the community. Is there sufficient knowledge and regulation on CECs in your country?  
If yes, please provide examples and indicate the main CEC regulatory framework.

No.

**71. Financing and partnerships:** Is there an outreach program (national or local) to access knowledge and resources, as well as grants or incentive programs? If yes, please provide examples.

Exploring financing options, both locally and through partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organisations is a step towards bringing renewable energy closer to



the citizen.

No.

**72. Training and local employment:** Do you have information on the direct or indirect jobs created by wind farm projects?

Promoting education and training in renewable energy technologies for community members will help foster the local job industry in the clean energy sector and boost sustainable economic development.

No.

**73. Monitoring plans:** Do these tracking mechanisms exist in projects where community development actions have been implemented?

Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the progress and results will allow for adjustments and improvements over time, as well as to celebrate achievements.

No.

**74. Out of the total budget for the implementation of the wind farm, is an amount designated for the municipality/local administration where the wind farm is to be installed? If the answer to the previous question was yes, how is this compensation to the community carried out? Examples: Improving municipal infrastructure, facilitating access to energy at lower cost, etc.**

This is not clear at the moment. Norway is still developing these issues with regard to offshore wind. There could be differences depending on the distance to shore (within or outside the low-tidal zone), but this is yet to be determined.

**75. Does your country/region have a Community Development Plan related to the establishment of wind farms?**

If the answer is yes, briefly describe it.

No.

**76. Is there a regional study conducted to evaluate the direct or indirect economic impact on the territory?**

Don't know.

**77. Please, list all the legislation (European and local) used to answer the questions in this section (Directives, regulations, decrees, etc).**

- The Ocean Energy Act of 2010 (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- The Ocean Energy Act regulations (outside the Norwegian low-tidal zone)
- Norway's Energy Act of 1990 (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)



- Norway's Energy Act regulations (within the Norwegian low-tidal zone)

### SECTION 11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**78.** If you think that any aspect of the authorisation process was not covered in the questionnaire, please specify it below.

N/A (Non-answer).



# Annex III

## *Exploitation strategy – IPR*



	Dimensions	Analysis
1	Exploitation potential	<p><b>The main users</b> that stand to benefit from the results or findings are the: wind energy farm developers and operators; regulatory authorities and/or government agencies responsible for energy and environmental policies and procedures; NGOs related to issues such as environment, local development, cultural heritage; local authorities/governments and local communities; consultants, law firms specialized in wind farms' planning &amp; licensing.</p> <p>The <b>added value</b> of the results or findings for WENDY, its partners, or external stakeholders is based on the following aspects: a comprehensive overview and comparative analysis of regulatory conditions and consenting processes in selected EU countries; determination of the community development schemes carried out in each country to involve the community in all stages of wind energy projects development; emergence of interesting practices or areas for improvement.</p> <p><b>Unique features</b> of the deliverable's results that may be attractive: focusing on specific European countries with varying regulatory conditions, consenting processes, and community involvement strategies; addressing aspects of sustainability, transparency, and fairness.</p>
2	IP protection	IP protection could be based on the following measures: applying data protection measures that ensure the confidentiality and security of any personal data collected; and using Creative Commons to disseminate and use the results and findings.
3	Potential exploitation pathways	Exploitation actions could include, among others, the following: knowledge transfer activities such as workshops, training webinars, and publications, to disseminate the findings; development of a new service related to the implementation of public engagement activities or the consultation of involved stakeholders, leveraging the focus of the companies on social and environmental issues and sustainability priorities; further development of research through other funding opportunities.
4	Partners' plans	Partners can inform their business plans and policy strategies considering the results and findings as a key information resource on the topic. Partners' plans could include knowledge transfer activities; the development of a new service; seeking new opportunities for relevant research.
5	Other	The exploration of potential collaborations and synergies with key actors and stakeholders could enhance the exploitation potential of the results.