

WENDY aims at unravelling 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.

## **D5.1: WENDY societal engagement and capacity building program**

**WP5, T5.1**

**Task 5.1 partners**

**Leading partner: WR**

**Participants: CIRCE, EGP, NOWC, MEC, CBS, Q-PLAN**

## Technical Preferences

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Project Acronym	WENDY
Project Title	Multicriteria analysis of the technical, environmental and social factors triggering the PIMBY principle for Wind technologies
Project Coordinator	CIRCE FOUNDACION CIRCE CENTRO DE INVESTIGACION DE RECURSOS Y CONSUMOS ENERGETICOS <a href="mailto:jperis@fcirce.es">jperis@fcirce.es</a>
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Contributing beneficiary/ies	1 (CIRCE), 4 (EGP), 5 (NOWC), 6 (MEC), 7 (CBS), 9 (Q-PLAN)
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- Classified S-UE/EU-S – EU SECRET under the Commission Decision No2015/444

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## WENDY project's abstract

WENDY aims at unravelling 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. For that, the project will implement a series of local actions promoting the wider adoption of the project solutions, including guidelines, reports and handbooks which will be created to boost the understanding of wind farms decision making processes and enhance energy citizenship. This will be supported by the spatial multi-criteria WENDY toolbox. A tool able to identify the optimal turbines' siting with the minimum environmental impact and highest social acceptance likelihood. All developed models, methods, guidelines and tools will be implemented within 10 wind projects spread across 4 countries. These have been selected considering: geography (north vs. south Europe), maturity stage (viability phase / planning phase / short-term operation phase / long-term operation phase); type of wind energy (onshore / offshore – floating, fixed-); and co-existence with other activities (agriculture, fisheries, energy communities). In these locations, outreach activities tailored to their specificities will be performed, creating the WENDY Knowledge Hubs which will incorporate citizens, local authorities, business owners and value chain actors of wind energy. WENDY Hubs will serve as a baseline for the WENDY Knowledge Exchange Platform, a forum that will be developed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between decision makers and key stakeholders within wind farms planning processes. For a successful implementation of the project activities, all the value chain and the best-in-class expertise is involved in the project consortium including 9 partners from 6 European countries: 1 Large Company (EGP), 2 SMEs (WR, Q-PLAN), 1 University (CBS), 2 RTO (CIRCE, NINA), 1 Energy Community (MEC), 2 Non-profit organisations and associations (NOWC, APPA).

## List of the WENDY's consortium partners

No	Full name	Short name
1	FUNDACION CIRCE CENTRO DE INVESTIGACION DE RECURSOS Y CONSUMOS ENERGETICOS	CIRCE
2	WHITE RESEARCH SRL	WR
3	STIFTELSEN NORSK INSTITUTT FOR NATURFORSKNING NINA	NINA
4	ENEL GREEN POWER SPA	EGP
5	MARIN ENERGI TESTSENTER AS	NOWC
6	ENERGEIAKI KOINOTITA ANATOLIKIS KRITIS	MEC
7	COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL	CBS
8	ASOCIACION DE EMPRESAS DE ENERGIAS RENOVABLES - APPA	APPA
9	Q-PLAN INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS PC	Q-PLAN

## Time-plan of Task 5.1 and its resulting deliverable 5.1

Action	Description	Planned time		Responsible
1	Stakeholder identification	M5	M5	WR, Pilot partners
2	Hold meetings with the pilot partners to help structure and organize the events	M6	M7	WR, Pilot partners
2a	<i>Develop templates for the events</i>	M7	M7	WR
2b	<i>Tailored awareness-raising strategies</i>	M7	M7	WR, Q-PLAN, CBS
3	Preparation and organisation of 2 warm-up events per pilot	M8	M11	WR, Pilot partners
3a	<i>Identification of "local champions"</i>	M8	M11	Pilot partners
3b	<i>Monitor events and KPI</i>	M8	M11	WR, Pilot partners
3c	<i>Collect reporting of 2 warm-up events per pilot (8 events)</i>	M8	M11	WR
4	Consolidation of information	M11	M11	WR, Pilot partners
5	Draft of D5.1 deliverable	M11	M12	WR, Pilot partners
5a	<i>Contribution/feedback to D5.1</i>	M11	M12	Q-PLAN
6	Quality review of D5.1	M12	M12	D5.1 Reviewers
7	Finalisation of D5.1	M12	M12	WR

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## List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name
CA	Consortium Agreement
DoA	Description of Action
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GW	Giga-Watt
n.d.	no date
NIMBY	Not In My BackYard
PIMBY	Please In My BackYard
WF	Wind Farms
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

## Executive summary

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Deliverable 5.1 presents the results of Task 5.1, the main objective of which is community mobilisation in order to promote the concept of the WENDY project in the selected use cases. Another key objective of this task is to identify and eventually empower local champions (local authorities, turbines developers, citizens, etc.). T5.1 is called upon to define capacity building actions that will be offered to local champions by following the engagement plans proposed by the task.

In order to conduct this task, a set of guidelines has been developed with the partners to help ensure that the results are appropriately coherent. Building on the experience and knowledge of the WENDY pilot partners, engagement strategies per pilot case have been developed that will form the basis of the project's stakeholder engagement process.

Relevant information has already been gathered through an initial round of pilot events in each area, leading to the identification of i) motivated stakeholders willing to support the WENDY vision, ii) key opportunities in the community that, following future consultation, have the potential to be supported under the WENDY project.

During the initial phase of this task, nine (9) warm-up events using various approaches were organised to assess the interest and representation of participating stakeholders. The outcomes were then analysed to understand participants' willingness to serve as local champions, responsible for mobilizing and informing their communities about wind farm acceptance and public participation. For instance, effectively communicating the advantages of a wind farm community initiative in a clear and relatable manner can enhance awareness and generate increased interest.

In summary, the key takeaways from the events are as follows:

- To improve the uptake of wind farms in the pilot areas, there is a need for improved communication, greater community involvement, sustainable practices and strategies to educate and inform local people.
- The economic benefits of wind farm development, legal considerations for wind energy communities and their role in improving social acceptance are important challenges that need to be addressed.

In the first part of this task, the necessary knowledge was gathered, which will serve as a basis for the second part of the task, which focuses on the organisation of co-creation workshops. In addition, roadmaps will also be created.

WR will continue to conduct task-level meetings to discuss the outcomes of the events, the engagement plan and the process of identifying motivated stakeholders. These meetings will refine the selection of local champions in the local communities. The aim is to select one (1) local champion per pilot case who will be supported in developing a shared local vision for wind farm acceptance and public participation.

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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1. The WENDY project

### 1.1.1. Background

In its efforts to combat climate change and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, the European Union (EU) has set ambitious targets for renewable energy, with particular emphasis on solar and wind energy. This is reflected in the proposal put forth by the Commission that increased the EU's renewable energy target from 32% to 40% by 2030 (WindEurope, 2021). To achieve this, the EU will need a wind power capacity of 451 GW by 2030, a significant increase from the current 180 GW. Consequently, the EU will have to install approximately 30 GW of new wind farms every year until 2030.

However, research has shown that social acceptance is a significant barrier to the effective deployment of wind farm projects and may limit the use of available wind resources to achieve the renewable energy targets set by the EU (European Commission. Joint Research Centre., 2016). This is also consistent with a recent study (Segreto et al., 2020) which found that social acceptance of wind farms across Europe has proven to be one of the biggest challenges in implementing such projects. Therefore, stakeholder engagement plays a crucial role in the successful deployment of wind farm projects.

In the study by (Aitken et al., 2016), the authors examined common community engagement practices for wind farm projects that can increase social acceptance. They found that a variety of community engagement methods are used, such as awareness raising strategies, consultation and empowerment activities of local communities. However, project developers usually retain much of the control over these processes. They also identified some innovative methods of community engagement, including digital techniques such as crowdsourcing exercises to explore new ideas for community benefits from wind energy projects.

In recent years, social ownership models have also emerged in the context of wind energy projects (Warren & McFadyen, 2010). These are approaches where a renewable energy project, such as a wind farm, is owned and operated by the community or a collective group of stakeholders, rather than being owned exclusively by private companies or developers. In addition, these models also aim to involve local communities, citizens and other stakeholders in the decision-making processes, financial benefits and overall management of wind energy projects.

These can lead to greater acceptance of wind energy through such community-based initiatives. As a result, wind energy could offer significant benefits towards the broader public, as the following:

- Clean and renewable energy

- Energy security
- Employment opportunities
- Cost efficiency
- Lower carbon emissions

### 1.1.2. The project's ambition: Increasing social acceptance and enhancing participation in wind energy projects

The wind energy sector has the potential to capitalize on an important opportunity by exploiting an untapped marketing channel represented by local communities, which is recognized as a crucial organizational form for driving the transition towards renewable energy systems. With this in mind, the main ambition of WENDY is “to increase social acceptability of wind energy at local communities moving from a NIMBY to a PIMBY principle”.

Currently, wind energy initiatives face challenges arising from both wind energy and community aspects. These obstacles can be attributed to the following factors:

- Communities may be hesitant or unprepared to accept wind energy due to perceived drawbacks, including the high costs and time investment required, technical complexities in implementation, and limited awareness of the benefits they can derive from such initiatives.
- Wind energy stakeholders may not actively promote awareness around their technology through community channels, lacking knowledge of specific requirements applicable to community energy projects and lacking strategies to effectively engage with local communities.
- The prevailing framework conditions may be influenced by vested interests, such as competition from fossil fuels and other renewable energy sources.
- Policy factors, including local and national regulations, might pose challenges and make it difficult to develop community energy initiatives.

To increase the social acceptance and enhance the participation in wind energy projects under social ownership schemes, it is crucial to make these projects more attractive to local communities. This objective aligns with the strategic plans of WENDY, which include:

- Engaging stakeholders and citizens for the promotion of wind farm acceptance and their participation in such projects at local level.
- Raising awareness on wind energy citizenship among local stakeholders through a series of outreach activities.
- Empowering motivated stakeholders who can act as local champions via the deployment of capacity building sessions to promote the project's concept.

## 1.2. Stakeholder engagement and participation in the wind energy sector

While renewable energy is seen as an important solution to various social and environmental challenges such as energy poverty and climate change, integrating a greater share of these energies into the overall energy mix requires significant effort. Establishing new energy projects requires overcoming economic, technical, social and environmental obstacles, encompassing decisions, options and outcomes. These factors are highly influenced by socio-economic and environmental considerations, which may even vary from region to region within the same country, as well as by the perceived reputation of developers. The development of the future of renewable energy involves numerous stakeholders who both influence and are affected by these efforts. Therefore, it is critical to have a comprehensive understanding of these stakeholders and their contributions to the decision-making process in order to promote reliable and well-organised renewable energy projects. Many experts argue that the successful implementation of such projects requires effective and continuous stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder participation, which is different from broader public involvement, refers to the active engagement of groups, organisations and individuals in decisions that directly affect them. It is strongly recommended to initiate stakeholder involvement at an early stage, e.g. in discussions on basic assumptions, values and setting of the agenda. This approach leads to the establishment of credible project organisations and facilitates the development of socially acceptable and desirable projects and technologies (Azlan et al., 2020; Cuppen et al., 2016; Johnson et al., 2015; O'Neill-Carrillo et al., 2010; Schelly et al., 2019).

As outlined in (Bigg, 1997) broad public participation in decision-making processes is essential for sustainable development. Furthermore, in the specific context of environmental issues and development, there is a growing need for new forms of participation. This includes the active participation of individuals, groups and organisations in environmental impact assessment processes, as well as their knowledge and involvement in decisions, particularly those that potentially affect the communities in which they live and work. Individuals, groups and organisations should have access to relevant environmental and development information held by national authorities. This information should include details of products and activities that have or may have a significant impact on the environment, and information on measures taken to protect the environment.

To put it simply, it is important that all stakeholders actively participate in the development, evaluation and execution of sustainable long-term plans. This requires collaboration between government, industry, business and the public, transforming their currently opposing positions into cooperative partnerships based on trust and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of society (O'Neill-Carrillo et al., 2010). Research has also shown that people who are familiar with renewable energy

technologies, as for example when wind turbines are located near them, are more likely to accept and support these types of technologies (Schelly et al., 2019).

The growing demand for renewable energy resources also requires effective means of communication and dialogue between stakeholders in the energy sector (O'Neill-Carrillo et al., 2010). Successful engagement of key stakeholders can be achieved through well-informed decision-making and the adoption of good practices that add value to their interests (Azlan et al., 2020).

The timely and transparent provision of information to all stakeholders in a collaborative and open manner is essential before final policy decisions are made. This is necessary because decisions in the energy sector often follow a top-down approach with limited and delayed public participation in policy-making processes. There are several tools that have the potential to improve stakeholder engagement and thus facilitate the effective implementation of proposed renewable energy projects, including: i) clear and open communication platforms that allow all stakeholders to voice their concerns and suggestions, ii) educational approaches that focus on renewable energy and involve the community in the early stages of planning and iii) visible and concrete mechanisms for compensation and/or profit sharing.

In order for the various stakeholders to make decisions about the suitability and value of a project, it is important that they have a clear understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of the project. An optimal decision allows maximising benefits and minimising unforeseen consequences. However, meeting these requirements can be challenging in renewable energy projects due to the different benefits and consequences for each stakeholder. In addition, the overall magnitude of benefits is influenced by socio-economic, technical and environmental factors. Although identifying and assessing social factors such as acceptability, fear, desirability, to name a few, can be difficult, a thorough benefit assessment can help identify such factors for each stakeholder group and assess their preferences and opinions.

As previously mentioned, public education plays a crucial role in the effective introduction of new "green" concepts related to renewable energy sources. The purpose of education is to counter rumours and misinformation about renewable energy, which often circulate as facts. By involving a neutral and well-informed third party, rather than relying solely on local authorities, a constructive and respectful dialogue between stakeholders can be fostered, ensuring that all opinions and concerns are acknowledged and represented. This requires the establishment of participatory structures and comprehensive analyses that go beyond mere cost-benefit considerations and include social factors in energy policy. It is recommended to adopt interdisciplinary and constructive approaches that incorporate different attitudes, values, perceptions and knowledge into the policy-making process. Finally, education and outreach activities aimed at both energy sector workers and the general public should adopt a participatory and holistic approach (O'Neill-Carrillo et al., 2010; Schelly et al., 2019).

Active stakeholder participation in decision-making can bring several benefits, including:

- Fostering trust and acceptance among stakeholders
- Improved understanding, accountability and transparency
- Increased consistency and quality of decisions
- Facilitated promotion of social learning
- Increased likelihood that local priorities and needs will be met
- Inclusion of non-scientific perspectives and non-technical information in the decision-making process
- Promotion of sustainability and resilience

A sense of participation in the planning and decision-making processes reduces the likelihood that the public will oppose the final outcome (Azlan et al., 2020; Johnson et al., 2015). However, public opposition can be a difficult and unpredictable barrier to the successful implementation of large-scale renewable energy projects. It can significantly drive up project costs through delays, damage the reputation of project developers and even lead to the cancellation of the project by the government (Cuppen et al., 2016).

In the meantime, engaging stakeholders in the process can be a major challenge. The complexity associated with different stakeholders can hinder the development of collaborative relationships between them and make it difficult to implement renewable energy projects. In order to include a wide range of stakeholders in the planning and decision-making processes, it is important to clearly identify and characterise each stakeholder group. Taking stakeholders' perspectives into account becomes a crucial aspect of the problem-solving process. The more accurately stakeholders' opinions are described, the greater the trust that can be built in a project and the greater their participation (Bellantuono et al., 2016). Failure to effectively engage stakeholders can lead to unmet needs and expectations, which should ideally be addressed early on to prevent escalation (Azlan et al., 2020).

In conclusion, stakeholder engagement plays a critical role in the effective development and implementation of renewable energy projects. Despite the potential challenges posed by the different interests, values and knowledge of various stakeholder groups, involving them in the initial stages of decision-making and planning, providing transparent and timely information and creating value for their participation can foster a high level of trust and communication. Ultimately, this can contribute to the green energy transition and successful implementation of such projects.

## 2. Engagement plan for mobilizing local communities

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### 2.1. Engagement actions applied to all pilot cases

The main objective of T5.1 is the engagement of local stakeholders for the promotion of wind energy acceptance and public participation concept. This involves defining tailored awareness-raising strategies per area and per target group such as local authorities, turbines developers and citizens. To initiate this process, warm-up events will be organized in the targeted areas within the project's pilot locations. A crucial aspect of these activities is to identify local champions who can serve as central points, mobilizing and informing local communities while encouraging the adoption of wind energy and enhancing their participation in such projects.

The initial phase of the task is about initiating the warm-up events. Building on the information gathered in this phase, the remaining part of the task will involve ongoing monitoring and guidance of the pilot partners. This guidance will aim to encourage wider public engagement and potentially identify new local champions in the community. In addition, at the task level, regular discussions will take place between WR and the pilot partners to assess the outcomes of the events, refine the engagement plan and streamline the local champion identification process. The main objective of these discussions is to narrow down the initial list of motivated stakeholders and select at least one local champion in each pilot case for further support from WENDY.

In connection with the task, WR, CBS and Q-PLAN with the support of the rest of the WENDY partners will organise five social innovation webinars where the task partners will provide training on topics related to their expertise and experience. At the events, they will also answer relevant questions related on the topic.

Moreover, the stakeholder engagement and the associated actions undertaken by T5.1 are based on the findings and outcomes of tasks T2.1, T2.2, and T2.3. These tasks have provided valuable insights into the challenges and needs of regional stakeholders in each pilot case, identified and retrieved lessons from lighthouse wind farms that co-exist harmoniously with local communities and encourage participation, mapped framework conditions that promote or hinder social acceptance of wind turbines, and assessed the perception and acceptance levels of wind farms. The main goal of T5.1 is to empower stakeholders engaged in wind energy by providing them with the essential knowledge and skills. This empowerment will support them in the planning and execution of future community-based wind energy initiatives, enhancing citizen's involvement and participation in the process.

In addition, the identification procedure of local champion stakeholders, particularly those interested in promoting the uptake of wind energy, will play an important role in implementing awareness-raising initiatives. These measures aim to increase social acceptance among citizens, address negative perceptions and promote a deeper understanding of wind energy. Ultimately, this stakeholder identification will facilitate the translation of the needs and challenges faced by established wind farms into a shared vision for a wider wind energy uptake.

The main focus of the stakeholder engagement and mobilisation activities carried out by the pilot partners will be on the following areas:

- Warm-up events such as info days in the pilot areas to promote the project concept and identify local champions within communities.
- Deployment of capacity building sessions, including upskilling meetings of the identified local champions regarding their empowerment for community mobilisation and promotion of wind energy acceptance.
- Training workshops such as social innovation webinars and open discussions to address various topics, including finding ways to overcome obstacles that hinder the implementation of community-based wind energy projects.

## 2.2. Engagement strategy per pilot case

WR, the leader of T5.1, has been constantly communicating with the pilot partners to determine the most appropriate engagement strategy for each area's unique characteristics. The main objective of the project's mobilisation efforts, as described below, is twofold: i) to educate and mobilise local stakeholders about the social acceptance of wind energy and participation in such projects, and ii) to promote the vision of WENDY and involve them in future project activities.

During the brainstorming sessions on the engagement strategy, WR and the pilot partners generated a number of potential ideas specified to the pilot areas. These preliminary suggestions relate to future actions that may not be directly related to WENDY, but have the potential to initiate meaningful conversations between the pilot partners of the project and the invited stakeholders. These ideas can be incorporated into our mobilisation efforts to gain the attention of participants while highlighting the value of the project and its potential support.

The following subsections present the specific strategies for the pilot cases.

### 2.2.1. Spain pilot case

A series of mobilisation activities should be carried out to raise awareness of the WENDY project among stakeholders (local authorities, turbines developers, citizens, etc.) in order to promote wind energy acceptance and enhance public participation in

the selected pilot cases of WENDY. For the pilot case in Spain, these are some indicative actions:

- **Dissemination** of the project through CIRCE's official social media channels, such as Instagram and LinkedIn.
- **Presentation** of the project at prominent conferences and forums.

Below is a list of indicative ideas that could possibly be discussed during a mobilisation action organised by the pilot partner in Spain to initiate dialogue with local stakeholders.

***Idea #1: Environmental challenges for wind farm projects | Leading stakeholders: Environmental Protection Agencies, Ecologists and Biologists, Local Community, Wind farm Operators***

- How to conduct a comprehensive and precise environmental study for a wind farm.
- The importance of acknowledging the windfarm's integration within a dynamic ecosystem.
- Implementation of training initiatives and activities to foster community engagement and understanding of the wind farm's operations.

***Idea #2: Contractual challenges with landowners | Leading stakeholders: Landowners, Windfarm Operators, Legal Advisors, Community Representatives***

- Enhance communication and educational efforts to foster better relations with landowners.
- Emphasize transparency in contractual agreements.
- Establish a "Consumer" or "Winder" association to ensure a collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership between stakeholders.

### 2.2.2. Italy pilot case

A series of mobilisation activities should be carried out to raise awareness of the WENDY project among stakeholders (local authorities, turbines developers, citizens, etc.) in order to promote wind energy acceptance and enhance public participation in the selected pilot cases of WENDY. For the pilot case in Italy, these are some indicative actions:

- **Preparatory activities - events** to familiarise stakeholders with the WENDY project and to promote cooperation between all stakeholders. These events

will facilitate discussions on the economic, social and environmental challenges and promote the exchange of ideas to improve social acceptance.

- **Information campaigns** particularly in schools to provide information on renewable energy, circular economy with the reuse of blades and the use of recycled materials, and the economic and environmental benefits of wind power.
- **Technical workshops** to demonstrate with data and testimonies the maturity of offshore floating technology, to overcome the mistrust of the competent bodies that should assess new offshore projects.

The pilot partners in Italy have also identified a set of indicative ideas that can be brought up during the pilot engagement actions to attract the attention of the audience and stimulate discussions:

***Idea #1: Information campaigns in local communities | Leading stakeholders: University and National Research Center, Wind Energy Developers and Producers***

- Arrange working teams to educate on wind energy, circular economy involving rotor blade reuse and recycled materials, and the benefits of wind energy compared to traditional energy sources. It is also important to arouse locals' emotions about the topic of energy so that they feel part of the decisions for a better future of the world.

***Idea #2: Technical Workshop | Leading stakeholders: Wind Energy Developers and Producers, Representatives of authorising bodies, Advisers to Ministries***

- Engage some offshore floating experts with experience of installations in Northern Europe to increase knowledge and awareness on the offshore floating technology among representatives of authorising bodies and advisers to Ministries.

### 2.2.3. Norway pilot case

A series of mobilisation activities should be carried out to raise awareness of the WENDY project among stakeholders (local authorities, turbines developers, citizens, etc.) in order to promote wind energy acceptance and enhance public participation in the selected pilot cases of WENDY. For the pilot case in Norway, these are some indicative actions:

- **In situ warm-up events** with industry and local government and community. To raise awareness of the proposed development and to help understanding of

industry and non-citizens for the challenges of the area. To co-ordinate with the local authority on existing and previous actions.

- **Promotion and discussion** of the WENDY project to all stakeholders at “floating wind days”.

The pilot partners in Norway have identified several indicative ideas that can be considered and discussed during a mobilization action to capture the attention of participants:

***Idea #1: How can the community benefit from the development? | Leading stakeholders: Community, wind industry, local authority, national/regional administration***

- Review of existing initiatives, input from local community.
- Communication about “energy communities”.
- Information event for national government.

***Idea #2: Co-existence between the development and the environment/community/existing industry | Leading stakeholders: Environmental Agencies and Conservation Organizations, Local Community, Project Developers/Investors, Local Government and Authorities***

Workshop with stakeholders to establish a pathway to best practices for the pilot case. Lessons learnt etc.

#### 2.2.4. Greece pilot case

A series of mobilisation activities can be carried out to raise awareness of the WENDY project among stakeholders (local authorities, turbines developers, citizens, etc.) in order to promote wind energy acceptance and enhance public participation in the selected pilot cases of WENDY. For the pilot case in Greece, these are some indicative actions:

- **Warm-up events - webinars** with the aim to introduce WENDY project to the identified stakeholders and to generate synergies between all actors involved by forming a platform for discussion about the economic, social and environmental challenges and by sharing ideas to increase social acceptability of wind power.
- **Informational campaigns** for the general public and particularly in schools to provide information on wind energy, and its economic and environmental benefits.

The pilot partners in Greece have also highlighted a few crucial points that can be discussed during these activities to draw the audience's attention and stimulate conversation:

***Idea #1: Legislative Challenges | Leading Stakeholders: Local Authorities, Wind Energy Developers***

- Discuss the legislative issues concerning new wind park applications from Wind Energy Communities, aiming to foster a deeper understanding and brainstorming solutions for these challenges.

***Idea #2: Role of Energy Communities | Leading Stakeholders: Local Authorities, Community Leaders***

- Highlight the importance of energy communities in enhancing social acceptance, discussing how these communities can contribute to positive perceptions and engagement in wind energy projects.

These activities aim to bridge the gap between stakeholders and the public, facilitating dialogues that can help overcome the social and technical challenges in implementing wind energy projects.

## 3. Implementation of mobilisation actions

### 3.1. Preparatory actions for the WENDY warm-up events

The task began with a joint meeting to discuss the best way to organise the warm-up events, taking into account the specificities of the pilot cases. Following this initial meeting, WR created a template (7.1 Annex) for all pilot partners to complete, covering aspects such as online technologies that can be used during the events and the objectives of these events. This template was intended to facilitate the development of an appropriate framework for the warm-up events.

The warm-up events were intentionally designed to be dynamic and varied to accommodate the different contexts of each pilot case. More importantly, these events were led by a main facilitator who was responsible for engaging the participants and facilitating a well-balanced discussion. This facilitator played a key role in identifying individuals who showed strong interest and had the potential to be closely involved in the project. Some of the warm-up events were held online, while some pilot cases were able to arrange physical meetings.

#### 3.1.1. Internal steps and guidelines

To initiate the process, WR conducted an online session with the partners to discuss initial requirements and align the objectives of the events. Subsequently, WR created an online template, which was uploaded in the shared drive of the project. Partners then used this template to provide input on various aspects, including:

- Outcomes: Describing the desired achievements from the event.
- Assets: Identifying positive and significant elements associated with organizing these events.
- Challenges: Acknowledging any issues or problems that should be taken into account to ensure the success of the event.
- Tools: Indicating familiarity and comfort with specific online collaborative tools.
- Communication Tools: Identifying preferred software for conducting sessions in their respective locations.

Partners filled out the online form that was put together to set the guidelines for the upcoming events. Below are the outcomes prioritised for the events based on the task description and input from the partners:

- Identification of committed participants among the attendees who belong to a key stakeholder group and are willing to actively support WENDY actions. These individuals can be considered as "local champions" or ambassadors for the project.
- Identification of key opportunities.

- Identification of potential – respected in the communities that can be further supported by the project.

With input from partners, WR proposed the format and recommended tools to be used during the events to achieve the desired objectives. Based on these findings, a comprehensive set of guidelines was developed and shared with partners to assist them in planning, implementing and reporting on the events. These guidelines can be found in 7.1 Annex - Warm-up Event Guidelines, which provides a detailed description of the recommended approach.

Subsequently, WR and the T5.1 partners organised several meetings to discuss community engagement for wind farms. These meetings highlighted important aspects that guided the partners' discussions prior to the respective events. The main points that emerged from these discussions were the following:

- Identification of target stakeholder groups and suggestion of relevant key messages to effectively be communicated with them.
- Determination of suitable media channels for disseminating the key messages to the identified stakeholder groups.
- Identification of the unique challenges and needs in their regions with regard to public participation and engagement in wind energy projects.

### 3.2. Warm-up events implementation

The events took place between May and August 2023, as specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Implementation details of the warm-up events

Pilot Partner	Type of Event	Date of event (planned)
CIRCE	Online (Teams)	28 June 2023
		30 June 2023
EGP	Online (Teams)	5 July 2023
		6 July 2023
NOWC	Physical event	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023
		22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
		23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023
MEC	Physical event	25 <sup>th</sup> of May 2023
		21 <sup>st</sup> of July 2023

In addition to promoting the vision of WENDY, the warm-up events play a crucial role in identifying local champions who can serve as ambassadors for the project's concept and act as central figures for community mobilization.

During these events, each stakeholder group was assessed individually, taking into account their potential contributions and level of engagement, and identifying the most effective communication channels. Furthermore, participants who expressed interest in the project were recorded, ensuring that their contact details were collected with informed consent and in accordance with GDPR principles. This compilation formed the initial pool of motivated stakeholders to be invited for future activities. The following sections give a brief description of the warm-up events in each pilot case.

### 3.2.1. Spain pilot case

Two warm-up events were held for the pilot case in Spain, one on 28 June and one on 30 June 2023. Three hundred mailings were sent to different associations and local governments. 79 participants were registered over two days. Both events were online events and took place on the Teams platform. During the workshop on 28 June, a total of 44 participants were registered, while the participation rate was almost 70%. The session lasted about 1 hour and 5 minutes and provided ample time for fruitful discussion and engagement. For the workshop on 30 June, 35 participants had registered, and the participation rate was 60%. This session lasted about 1 hour and 8 minutes and provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and gain valuable insights. These warm-up events highlighted the need for better communication, community engagement, and sustainable practices.

In particular, the topics that were raised were the following *1) Lack of knowledge about wind farm projects, 2) Environmental impact studies for wind energy projects, 3) Local perceptions of wind energy, 3) A successful case of modernising irrigation due to a wind farm project, 4) Challenges faced with large turbines, 5) Problems with land leasing negotiations for wind energy projects and 6) A successful case of citizen participation in a wind energy project.* In the following bullet points, the topics discussed are described in detail:

- **Lack of knowledge about wind farm projects:** The administration faces challenges arising from a lack of familiarity with wind farm projects, often relying only on reports rather than conducting site visits. Given the importance of understanding the true nature and intricacies of such projects, it is strongly recommended that priority be given to gaining a comprehensive understanding of their actual reality.
- 
- **Environmental impact study:** The existing approach of conducting environmental impact studies offers a static snapshot of the project's impact, failing to capture its evolving dynamics over time. It is imperative to recognize the importance of transforming this practice into an ongoing process that adapts and evolves in sync with the project's lifecycle. This crucial aspect should be duly acknowledged and taken into consideration.

- Local perception of wind energy:** In certain regions, wind energy is met with resistance because residents hold the belief that it does not contribute to job creation or bring significant benefits to the local community. It is crucial to proactively address and change these perceptions and promote a deeper understanding of the tangible benefits and opportunities of wind energy to bring a positive change.
- Successful case of modernising irrigation:** A positive example was presented where the construction of a wind farm was conditional on converting the area into irrigated land. It was proposed to assist in the development of the irrigation system, thus fostering a successful relationship with the community.
- Challenges with large wind turbines:** Large wind turbines result in financial compensation being concentrated on a limited number of individuals, while impacting wider population. It is essential to address this issue to ensure a fair distribution of benefits for all.
- Problems with land leasing negotiations:** Difficulties in negotiating land leases can make wind energy projects economically unviable. It is important to find solutions to these challenges.
- Successful case of citizen participation:** The Aspiravi company presented a successful example where it has set up cooperatives to involve citizens in wind farms. This approach allows people to have a sense of ownership and promotes their development and integration.

Table 2: Pilot case in Spain – Overview of the stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder Group	Potential Contribution	Current engagement level	Targeted engagement level	Communication channel used to reach them	Number of participants
Authorities	Listen and taking suggestions	Low	Low	e-mail / LinkedIn	1

WF Developers / Engineering office	Help with ideas in the workshop	Medium	Medium	e-mail / LinkedIn	21 Companies - 43 Participants
Citizens	Listen and express their experiences	Unknown	Unknown	LinkedIn	2
WF Owners	Help with ideas in the workshop	Low	Low	e-mail / LinkedIn	11 Companies - 25 Participants

### First pool of motivated stakeholders for the pilot case in Spain:

At the two warm-up events, 40 participants consented to receive future information. Some of them showed interest in the project but have yet to be identified as local champions. It is worth noting that the two companies that reported on their cases during the events could continue their involvement in the project. These companies were Aspiravi and OPD Energy.

### 3.2.2. Italy pilot case

The warm up events held for the pilot case in Italy were two on-line meetings organized in Microsoft Teams platform. The events in detail:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- Invited stakeholders: 32
- Registered participants: 22
- Attendees: 17
- Duration: 2 hours

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- Invited Stakeholders: 34
- Registered participants: 15
- Attendees: 11
- Duration: 1 hour and 47 minutes

In particular, the following topics emerged during the discussion that took place after a brief presentation of the WENDY project: *1) Slow pace of authorization procedures and the need for alignment between various Ministries, 2) Lack of decision-making tools in environmental and landscape protection, 3) Regulatory frameworks and their*

*adaptation to country specifications, 4) Acceptability of offshore installations compared to onshore ones, 5) Mistrust of competent bodies regarding offshore floating technology, 6) The proliferation of wind farms and the need for a network between operators, 7) Countering local opposition through information and education, 8) Economic benefits on the territory and compensation measures, 9) Participation of citizens in investments, 10) Mitigating environmental impacts and preserving biodiversity, 11) Maintenance and safety of wind turbine generators (WTGs), 12) Acceptance of renewable energy installations in rural vs. urban communities, 13) Sizing of the plant based on neighbouring community characteristics.*

In particular, the first step to tackle in Italy for the development of new installations is the slow pace of authorisation procedures, on the one hand these procedures must protect environment, landscape and population and on the other hand they are mainly affected to a lack of alignment between the various Ministries. Before acting on citizens, it is essential that politics find an agreement. There is a lack of decision-making tools in environmental and landscape protection, as well as a methodological approach is missing to manage the large number of requests for new projects. The regulatory framework is the first level of acceptance in the life cycle of an installation, regulatory frameworks must adapt to Country specifications.

- Offshore installations have a higher acceptability than onshore because they are remote and not visible to the population. Anyway, in Italy it is necessary overcoming the mistrust of the competent bodies of offshore floating technology that is blocking so many new projects.
- In areas such as the Maida pilot site (in Calabria Region) there are numerous wind farms of different operators, and this has created confusion among the local population. In such cases it would be appropriate to create a network between operators.
- Countering local opposition by informing and educating the population with working groups organised in the areas with this kind of problem.
- The economic benefit on the territory is scarcely perceived, citizens must be informed about all the compensation measures agreed with local entities (municipalities, etc.). As for other sites in North Europe, the participation of citizens in the investment should be facilitated and encouraged.
- In Calabria region there are bird migratory routes, citizens should also be informed about actions to mitigate environmental impacts, to preserve the biodiversity.
- Inform and make citizens aware of the level of attention on the maintenance of the WTGs to make everyone aware of the safety level of the plants and instil trust.
- Rural communities are less accepting of these installations and in these cases the economic benefits help to increase acceptability. Instead for larger

communities such as large cities, the production of renewable energy that feeds the entire community that makes the city eco-sustainable from an energy point of view could be a valid reason to accept large plants (awarding a “green badge” to cities powered by wind energy).

- The sizing of the plant based on the characteristics of the neighbouring community could help to increase the acceptability (big plants near big city, small ones near rural community).

Table 3: Pilot case in Italy – Overview of the stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder Group	Potential Contribution	Current engagement level	Targeted engagement level	Communication channel used to reach them	Number of participants
University and National Research Center	Support to prepare and conduct informative campaign in the schools	Low	Medium	Personal e-mail	6
Environmental protection association	Support to prepare the informative campaign in the schools	Low	Medium	Personal e-mail and mobile number	1
Wind Energy Producer	Support to prepare and conduct informative campaign in the schools	Medium	Medium	Personal e-mail	6
Wind Energy Developer	Support to prepare and conduct technical workshop	Low	Medium	Personal e-mail	7

### First pool of motivated stakeholders for the pilot case in Italy:

During the warm-up events for the pilot case in Italy, a number of participants were identified as potential local champions who will be confirmed in the near future. Some of the participants have a very good background on the subject, in particular researchers and university professors who have conducted studies on social acceptability including the calculation of key indicators. These could be contacted for possible support in information and educational activities for citizens.

### 3.2.3. Norway pilot case

The Norwegian pilot represents a very unique case. It is situated in Norway's smallest local authority with only 200 residents on a very small and remote island off the West coast. The world's largest floating wind farm is planned adjacent to the island, and there are currently 11 consortia of leading companies bidding for the development concession. According to the bidding regulations all must show a level of involvement of local community/business in order to have a successful application for development (so called non-price criteria). This means that there are many initiatives and enquires to the small administration which governs the island. Therefore, the warmup events and subsequent actions planned in the WENDY project must be mindful of the current level of activity to avoid "stakeholder fatigue" and ensure sufficient engagement and local administrative support. NOWC has an ongoing dialogue with the political leadership of the island to ensure this.

**First event:** An initial scoping event was carried out, organised locally, but in dialogue with NOWC in conjunction with our "floating wind days conference" (*Floating Wind Days 2024*, n.d.). This event was carried out in situ at Utsira island on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, where there were over 60 participants, largely from industry, and both regional and national politicians. Subsequently the project was communicated as part of the NOWC stand at the main conference where over 700 delegates were present representing all stakeholder groups. This allowed for a broad dissemination of the project to gather input through informal discussion.

**Second event:** Workshop between NOWC and Utsira political leadership, 2 hours, in person at Haugesund on the mainland. The goal was to ascertain what is a reasonable level of activity and focus topics, and to evaluate what has been carried out previously, for example a previous local participation workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 (not in connection with this project).

Many interesting topics were discussed, but from the overall community standpoint, the most important one is that of how they can secure economic benefits from the planned development. As it is so close to shore they are giving up "territory" and there is therefore, a strong wish that they benefit also. Environmental effects are somewhat unknown so co-existence with the environment together with other local industries (especially fishing), are important points to be followed up on. A further point was the wish of involvement of the younger members of the community.

**The third event** was carried out on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August in situ at Utsira Island. Roughly 35 people were present and 28 gave consent to receive further information. The event was called "Utsira - offshore wind – A local laboratory for social acceptance and local

development” and lasted for two hours and starting with a general introduction to NOWC’s work, followed by a presentation of the project and an open discussion session. The event was held as part of the communities regular open day (“sira preik”). During the discussion session the main focus areas were: 1) co-existence (with society, environment, existing industry, other activities), and 2) economic benefits to the island. Here the subject of “energy communities” was identified as a new one to the stakeholders, and several challenges were also identified.

- Ensuring the creation of new job opportunities within the community as a direct result of the offshore wind farm is considered crucial. Addressing the employment aspect and aligning it with community needs presents a challenge.
- There's a concern about potential impacts on birds and fish due to the installation of an offshore wind farm near Utsira. Balancing the benefits of renewable energy with preserving local ecosystems poses a challenge. Here there is also existing tourist activity connected to bird watching, and a local fishing industry which provides much needed jobs.
- Developers are actively initiating communication and sharing information, but there is a perceived lack of proactive involvement and information-sharing from national authorities. Bridging this gap and ensuring comprehensive communication poses a challenge.
- Engaging Utsira's youth in project discussions and decisions to cultivate a sense of ownership and awareness among the younger generation, was also a theme put forward from the political leadership.

Table 4:Pilot case in Norway – Overview of the stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder Group	Potential Contribution	Current engagement level	Targeted engagement level	Communication channel used to reach them	Number of participants
Wind industry and supply chain	Need to involve locally to secure concession. Potential funding of projects.	Medium	Medium	Direct communication	60
Local authority	Facilitation of events, identification of local champions. Coordination	High	High	Direct	4

with other initiatives.

Local community	Participation	Medium	High	Direct / through local administration	20
Academia	Research context, participation	Low	Medium	Direct	10
Local fishing industry	Participation, experiences	Low	Medium	Direct	5

**First pool of motivated stakeholders for the pilot case in Norway:**

One local champion has so far been confirmed, and there is ongoing dialogue with several others, but these are not confirmed at the time of reporting. Due to the positive response during the second warm up event, it is assumed that this will be confirmed relatively quickly. In addition, a “land-based” local champion is being investigated in order to ensure a broader regional impact of the project, and in the light of regional wind farm developments.

**3.2.4. Greece pilot case**

The Greek pilot case included two warm-up events. The first event took place on May 25, with a total of 42 people registering for the event (out of the 127 that were contacted). The second event was held on July 21, with a total of 11 people participating. Both events were held in person, lasting 6 hours and 2 hours respectively.

Throughout these events, participants engaged in productive discussions revolving around wind energy. During these events, important topics were discussed, including legislative issues concerning new wind parks applications from wind energy communities and the importance of energy communities in enhancing social acceptance.

Several key issues and perspectives emerged during the meetings, such as *1) Public misconceptions about wind energy, 2) Licensing process limitations, 3) Low community participation, 4) Unfair distribution of benefits, 4) Influence on local authorities, 5)*

*Public awareness, 6) Site availability and 7) Need for technical assistance.* In the following bullet points, the key topics of discussion are described in detail:

- **Public Misconceptions about Wind Energy:** There is a significant amount of misinformation about wind energy, leading to its demonization, especially in the Greek islands. This widespread negative attitude further complicates the installation of wind parks.
- **Licensing Process Limitations:** The licensing process for wind parks has several restrictions. For instance, older applications from private investors that are now deemed irrelevant are still in limbo, not rejected nor implemented, creating a roadblock for new applications, particularly from priority entities like energy communities.
- **Low Community Participation:** There is minimal local community involvement in wind parks, which hampers acceptance. This is due to lack of interest, technical knowledge and also inability to properly finance the high initial cost of wind parks.
- **Unfair Distribution of Benefits:** Local communities feel that the benefits derived from wind parks are not being equitably distributed by private investors.
- **Influence on Local Authorities:** Elected local authorities are sometimes swayed by negative public sentiment and feel compelled to make official decisions against the installation of new wind parks.
- **Public Awareness:** There's a significant lack of public awareness about the possibility of developing community-based wind parks, as well as about the funding options available for such community-based projects.
- **Site Availability:** Due to licensing process limitations, there is a shortage of suitable sites for wind parks. In Greece, it is not possible to apply for a wind park if there's another pending application for the same area, even if it's not yet implemented or if development is stale.
- **Need for Technical Assistance:** There's a notable necessity for technical assistance in the development of community-based wind parks.

These insights are significant as they highlight the challenges and misconceptions that hinder the wider acceptance and implementation of wind energy projects in Greece. The discussions conducted during these warm-up events can guide the development of more effective strategies to improve the public understanding and acceptance of wind energy.

Table 5: Pilot case in Greece – Overview of the stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder Group	Potential Contribution	Current engagement level	Targeted engagement level	Communication channel used to reach them	Number of participants
Energy Community	Support to prepare and conduct informative campaign	Medium	Medium	Personal email and number	13
Individual	Support for informative campaign material development	Low	Medium	Personal email and number	5
Local Authority	Support to enable informative campaign	Low	Medium	Personal email and number	1
National Government	Support for proposal of new legislative measures	Low	Medium	Personal email and number	1
Regional government	Support to enable informative campaign. Legislative measures	Low	Medium	Personal email and number	3

### First pool of motivated stakeholders for the pilot case in Greece:

Throughout the two warm-up events, motivated stakeholders were identified who could be involved in the project as local champions. In addition, these events effectively brought together a diverse array of stakeholders. They served as a crucial platform for these influential figures to partake in essential dialogues concerning wind energy in Greece.

Table 6: Summary information regarding the WENDY warm-up events conducted in all pilot cases

Pilot case / Responsible Partner	Type of Event / Date	No of attendants	Key topics of discussion
Spain / CIRCE	Online / 28 June 2023	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of knowledge about wind farm projects.</li> <li>• Environmental impact studies for wind energy projects.</li> <li>• Local perceptions of wind energy.</li> <li>• A successful case of modernizing irrigation through a wind farm project.</li> <li>• Challenges associated with large turbines.</li> <li>• Issues with land leasing negotiations for wind energy projects.</li> <li>• A successful case of citizen participation in a wind energy project.</li> </ul>
Spain / CIRCE	Online / 30 June 2023	21	
Italy / EGP	Online / 5 July 2023	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow authorization procedures and inter-ministry alignment.</li> <li>• Lack of decision-making tools for environmental protection.</li> <li>• Adaptation of regulatory frameworks to national standards.</li> <li>• Offshore vs. onshore installation acceptability.</li> <li>• Mistrust of offshore floating technology.</li> <li>• Need for operator networks amid wind farm proliferation.</li> <li>• Overcoming local opposition through education.</li> </ul>
	Online / 6 July 2023	11	
Italy / EGP			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic benefits and compensation measures.</li> <li>• Citizen participation in investments.</li> <li>• Environmental mitigation and biodiversity preservation.</li> <li>• Maintenance and safety of wind turbines.</li> <li>• Acceptance in rural vs. urban communities.</li> <li>• Sizing based on neighboring community characteristics.</li> </ul>
Norway / NOWC	Physical / 23 May 2023	over 60	<b>First Event:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and scoping event with industry and political participants.</li> </ul>
Norway / NOWC	Physical / 22 June 2023	-	

Norway / NOWC	Physical / 23 August 2023	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination of the project at a conference for input gathering.</li> </ul> <p><b>Second Event (Workshop with Utsira political leadership):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determining project activity levels and focus areas.</li> <li>Evaluating past activities and discussing economic benefits.</li> <li>Addressing coexistence with the environment and engaging younger community members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Event:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of the project and open discussion.</li> <li>Focus areas included coexistence and economic benefits.</li> <li>Identified challenges: job creation, environmental impact, communication with national authorities, and engaging youth.</li> </ul>
Greece / MEC	Physical / 25 May 2023	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public misconceptions about wind energy.</li> </ul>
Greece / MEC	Physical / 21 July 2023	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limitations in the licensing process.</li> <li>Low community participation.</li> <li>Unfair distribution of benefits.</li> <li>Influence on local authorities.</li> <li>Lack of public awareness.</li> <li>Site availability.</li> <li>Need for technical assistance.</li> </ul>

## 4. Preliminary capacity building actions

### 4.1. Local champions' upskilling meetings

The capacity building program for wind energy acceptance will be implemented in each pilot area including local champions' upskilling meetings. To facilitate this, it is essential to create a "training material baseline" encompassing crucial aspects, associated with establishing wind energy projects and the active participation of local communities throughout the process.

Based on the previous deliverables and the knowledge obtained through internal meetings with WENDY project partners and various stakeholders in the local pilot areas in Spain, Italy, Norway and Greece the strategy and objectives for the WENDY capacity building program were set. In collaboration with all partners, WR led a number of brainstorming sessions that resulted in the general and detailed objectives of the main thematic areas for the local champions' upskilling meetings. WR that is leading T5.1, created and distributed a template to capture the initial scope of each upskilling meeting.

Consequently, several upskilling topics have been identified as outlined below:

- Exploring social ownership models in wind energy projects
- Engaging local communities in wind farm initiatives
- Addressing concerns and overcoming opposition to wind energy
- Community investment and benefits sharing in wind energy projects
- Case studies: successful examples of socially owned wind energy projects
- Strategies for enhancing public acceptance of wind energy projects
- Community engagement and participation in wind energy decision-making
- Legal and regulatory framework for community-based wind energy projects
- Financing and funding options for community wind farm initiatives

Training material in the form of PowerPoint slides will be prepared for each training topic. It is important to note that the content utilized during the local champions' upskilling meetings may be adapted to the specific needs and characteristics of each pilot area, namely Spain, Italy, Norway and Greece.

Table 7: Overview of the preliminary local champions' upskilling meetings in all WENDY pilot cases

Pilot case / Responsible Partner	Upskilling meeting	Key areas
Spain / CIRCE	1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content: Showcase wind energy benefits, fair payments, cooperatives.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives: Educate about wind energy, promote cooperatives.</li> <li>Gaps: Improve communication, community engagement.</li> <li>Remarks: Encourage ongoing involvement in local wind energy projects.</li> </ul>
Spain / CIRCE	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content: Admin visits, ecosystem impact analysis, modernization projects.</li> <li>Objectives: Understand project's eco-impact, explore modernization participation, promote collaboration, informed decision-making.</li> <li>Gaps: Communication, sustainable practices.</li> <li>Remarks: Emphasize community engagement, active participation, and open dialogue in planning.</li> </ul>
Italy / EGP	1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content: Address concerns and showcase successful social wind projects.</li> <li>Objectives: Raise awareness of wind energy benefits.</li> <li>Gaps: Low community participation, public misconceptions.</li> <li>Remarks: Meeting provides data to improve understanding of wind energy's impact.</li> </ul>
Italy / EGP	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content: Engage local communities in wind farms, boost public acceptance, involve communities in decisions.</li> <li>Objectives: Improve wind energy acceptance, propose energy democracy reforms.</li> <li>Gaps: Address low community involvement, devise strategies.</li> <li>Remarks: Meeting offers data to enhance wind energy acceptance.</li> </ul>
Norway / NOWC	1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content: Fair economic distribution, energy communities, successful examples.</li> <li>Objectives: Empower local communities and authorities economically.</li> <li>Gaps: Lack of knowledge about energy communities, legal frameworks, and financial possibilities.</li> <li>Remarks: Meeting seeks to ease financial concerns for better local acceptance.</li> </ul>
Norway / NOWC	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content: Resolve co-existence conflicts with positive case studies.</li> <li>Objectives: Improve communication, empower local communities, address wind conflicts.</li> <li>Gaps: Misunderstandings, lack of co-benefit awareness.</li> <li>Remarks: Empower the community for informed project discussions.</li> </ul>

Greece / MEC	1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content: Explore social ownership, community involvement, successful case studies, and engagement strategies in wind energy.</li> <li>• Objectives: Raise awareness about social ownership, increase community participation.</li> <li>• Gaps: Low community involvement, lack of awareness, misconceptions about wind energy in Greek islands. Remarks: Emphasize dispelling misconceptions and boosting community participation in the Greek context.</li> </ul>
Greece / MEC	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content: Address wind energy concerns, legal framework, financing, and successful cases.</li> <li>• Objectives: Clarify licensing, boost public acceptance, advocate for energy democracy.</li> <li>• Gaps: Misconceptions, licensing limitations, funding awareness.</li> <li>• Remarks: Meeting aims to demystify licensing and tackle wind energy misconceptions, especially in Greece.</li> </ul>

The following sections give a more in detail description of the WENDY upskilling meetings of the local champions in each pilot area.

#### 4.1.1. First upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Spain

Table 8: Description of the first upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Spain

<b>Responsible partners: CIRCE</b>
<p><b>Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate successful cases and the benefits for localities when there is wind energy installed.</li> <li>• More equative payments, and clarity in the contracts. Maybe a regulation.</li> <li>• Cooperatives to involve citizens in wind parks. Example of a positive case.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate participants on wind energy benefits.</li> <li>• Promote cooperative engagement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main gaps to be addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better communication.</li> <li>• Community engagement.</li> </ul>

**Remarks:**

Encourage participants to stay informed and involved in the ongoing development of wind energy projects in their communities.

#### 4.1.2. Second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Spain

Table 9: Description of the second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Spain

<b>Responsible partners: CIRCE</b>
<p><b>Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring how administrative visits can help in gaining insights into the local context.</li> <li>• Analysing the project's impact on the ecosystem throughout its lifespan in the environmental study.</li> <li>• Engaging in modernization projects, with irrigation as a prime example.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the long-term environmental impact of the project on the ecosystem.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for participation in modernization initiatives, such as irrigation.</li> <li>• Foster knowledge sharing and collaboration among participants.</li> <li>• Ensure informed decision-making for project planning and implementation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main gaps to be addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better communication.</li> <li>• Sustainable practices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize the importance of community engagement in project planning and encourage active participation and open dialogue among attendees.</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.3. First upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Italy

Table 10: Description of the first upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Italy

<b>Responsible partners: EGP</b>
<p><b>Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing concerns and overcoming opposition to wind energy.</li> <li>• Case studies: successful examples of socially owned wind energy projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness and knowledge about the social, environmental and economic benefits of wind energy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main gaps to be addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low community participation in wind parks.</li> <li>• Public misconceptions about wind energy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This meeting will provide information and data to increase understanding and awareness of the socio-economic and environmental impacts of wind energy.</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.4. Second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Italy

Table 11: Description of the second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Italy

<b>Responsible partners: EGP</b>
<p><b>Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging local communities in wind farm initiatives.</li> <li>• Strategies for enhancing public acceptance of wind energy projects.</li> <li>• Community engagement and participation in wind energy decision-making.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To explore ways to improve public acceptance of wind energy projects.</li> <li>• To propose/advocate legislative reforms that promote energy democracy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main gaps to be addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To address the identified gap of low community participation and provide strategies to involve local communities actively in wind energy initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This meeting will provide information and data to improve public acceptance of wind energy.</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.5. First upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Norway

Table 12: Description of the first upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Norway

<b>Responsible partners: NOWC</b>
<p><b>Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to fairly distribute the economic benefit from the offshore farm.</li> <li>• Introduction to energy communities; models for ownership with successful examples; examples of successful community benefit programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower local communities and administrative authorities as to potential options for improving economic benefits.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main gaps to be addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of knowledge about energy communities and international examples of successful community benefit projects.</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge about legal frameworks and financial possibilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting will increase local acceptance by decreasing worries about lack of financial benefit.</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.6. Second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Norway

Table 13: Description of the second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Norway

<b>Responsible partners: NOWC</b>
<p><b>Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to resolve co-existence conflicts which may arise from the planned development. Positive case studies from elsewhere.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to communicate to different stakeholders and to raise participation.</li> <li>• To empower local communities to be able to actively participate in the debate and development of projects.</li> <li>• To empower local stakeholders on how to approach wind conflicts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main gaps to be addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misunderstandings and misinformation.</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge of possible co-benefits and good international projects of coexistence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting will empower the community to participate actively in knowledge-based discussions concerning the development of the project, regarding local coexistence and environmental impact.</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.7. First upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Greece

Table 14: Description of the first upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Greece

<b>Responsible partners: MEC</b>
<p><b>Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <p>Exploring Social Ownership and Community Participation in Wind Energy Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring different social ownership models in wind energy projects.</li> <li>• Understanding the importance of engaging local communities in wind energy initiatives.</li> <li>• Discussing case studies of successful socially owned wind energy projects.</li> <li>• Strategies to increase community engagement and participation in wind energy decision-making.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives of the upskilling meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness and knowledge about the potential for social ownership in wind energy projects.</li> <li>• To address the identified gap of low community participation and provide strategies to involve local communities actively in wind energy initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main gaps to be addressed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low community participation in wind parks.</li> </ul>

- Lack of public awareness about the possibility of developing community-based wind parks.
- Public misconceptions about wind energy, particularly in the Greek islands.

**Remarks:**

- Given the identified gaps for the Greek context, a focus will be placed on addressing misconceptions about wind energy and enhancing community participation.

#### 4.1.8. Second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Greece

Table 15: Description of the second upskilling meeting in the pilot case of Greece

**Responsible partners: MEC**

**Description of the content of the upskilling meeting:**

Addressing Licensing Process Limitations and Improving Public Acceptance

- Addressing concerns and overcoming opposition to wind energy.
- Understanding the legal and regulatory framework for community-based wind energy projects.
- Discussing financing and funding options for community wind farm initiatives.
- Case studies of successful examples of wind energy projects overcoming licensing and public acceptance issues.

**Objectives of the upskilling meeting:**

- To provide a clearer understanding of the licensing process and its limitations.
- To explore ways to improve public acceptance of wind energy projects.
- To propose/advocate legislative reforms that promote energy democracy.

**Main gaps to be addressed:**

- Misconceptions and negative attitude towards wind energy.
- Limitations in the licensing process for wind parks.
- Lack of public awareness about funding options for community-based wind parks.

**Remarks:**

- This meeting will provide an opportunity to demystify the licensing process and discuss potential solutions to overcome associated challenges.
- We will also aim to address misconceptions about wind energy, as this has been identified as a significant issue in the Greek context.

## 4.2. Social innovation webinars

A series of five webinars is proposed, aimed at the comprehensive development of stakeholders' skills related to wind energy projects that meet both local and EU requirements. The webinars aim to improve stakeholders' knowledge and skills on several aspects of wind energy projects. It is important to emphasise that the WENDY webinars are intended to be inclusive events, inviting stakeholders from the pilot areas

as well as an international audience of the wind farm value chain. Experts will also be invited to participate in the webinars in order to maximise the potential of stakeholders. As mentioned above, the thematic topic list of webinars below serves as an initial guide and will be completed in the coming months. In addition, other ideas are being developed, including the presentation of WENDY array of tools, lessons learnt and project-generated insights.

Please note that the following list of webinars is only indicative and was formulated in initial discussions between the T5.1 leader and task partners. This list of webinars is also based on the outcomes of WP2, where insights and lessons learnt from lighthouse wind farms across Europe were reported in D2.1, regional and EU framework conditions affecting social acceptance of turbines were reported in D2.2, and perceptions and acceptance levels of wind farms were reported in D2.3. Needs and challenges were presented in D2.4 by cross-fertilising the outcomes of T2.1, T2.2 and T2.3. This list may be expanded, revised and adapted based on the training needs identified during the project. The WENDY social innovation webinars are expected to take place between M15 and M36 of the project duration.

#### 4.2.1. Webinar 1 – Mitigation measures towards environmental impacts of wind farms

This webinar will be focus on mitigation measures that can be taken to reduce the environmental impact of wind power plants with the aim of making stakeholders aware of technological innovations in this topic.

Table 16: Webinar 1 description

<b>Webinar Description</b>	The webinar will cover the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to environmental impacts of wind farms.</li> <li>• Different approaches for impact mitigation.</li> <li>• Description of technological solutions to reduces the environmental impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	Project Developer, Owner, Environmental Associations, Citizens, Local government
<b>Speakers</b>	EGP
<b>Duration</b>	60 min

#### 4.2.2. Webinar 2 – Community engagement and consultation

In this webinar, we will focus on how communities can be effectively engaged in wind energy projects.

Table 17: Webinar 2 description

<b>Webinar Description</b>	<p>The webinar will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining community and different forms of community engagement undertaken in the wind energy projects.</li> <li>• General stakeholder engagement &amp; mobilization actions in wind energy community projects.</li> <li>• Effectiveness of different community engagement strategies.</li> <li>• Barriers to a successful community engagement.</li> <li>• Enhancement of community engagement actions.</li> <li>• Potential benefits of strong community engagement.</li> <li>• Real cases of community engagement in wind energy projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	Project developers, owners, policy makers, local government
<b>Speakers</b>	WR, CBS
<b>Duration</b>	60 - 90 min

#### 4.2.3. Webinar 3 – Social innovation and wind farm social ownership models

The purpose of this webinar is to explore, disambiguate, and train on the concepts and elements of social innovation and social ownership models in the context of wind farms as part of the wider renewable energy field. The event aims to highlight and inform on successful practices and case studies from various European regions, showcasing how community-led initiatives can foster social acceptance in the wind energy sector. The webinar is designed for a diverse audience interested in renewable energy, social innovation, and community engagement and development. The webinar will serve as a WENDY capacity building action, empowering local (knowledge) Hubs, facilitating connections and knowledge exchange among diverse stakeholders and actors. Furthermore, it aims to inspire attendees to explore and implement social innovation principles and practices in their own regions or projects. By showcasing the positive impacts of social ownership models of wind farms (including the community-owned), participants will be motivated to take active roles in promoting sustainable energy solutions.

This webinar could incorporate and be inspired by the relevant knowledge, insights and outcomes derived from the WP2 research activities, by presenting among others: (i) indicatively selected best wind farm cases that have established social ownership models, as lighthouse examples (Task 2.1); (ii) examples of social innovation practices and/or social ownership models discussed within the analysis of the regulatory conditions, consenting procedures and framework settings (Task 2.2).

Table 18: Webinar 3 description

<b>Webinar Description</b>	<p>The webinar could cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic terms, e.g. definition of wind farm social ownership model.</li> <li>• Description of the benefits of wind energy cooperatives</li> <li>• Discussion on the challenges, enablers or/and barriers associated with the social innovation in local communities.</li> <li>• Lessons learnt from best practices promoting social innovation and/or social ownership model in wind farms across Europe.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	<p>Wind energy cooperatives, wind farm shareholders, local authorities (municipalities, regions), researchers (academia), public institutions/authorities at national level, investors, manufacturers, policy makers &amp; decision takers, think tanks</p>
<b>Speakers</b>	<p>Q-PLAN personnel, potentially other partners and/or external invited speakers (e.g. representatives of wind energy communities)</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>90 - 120 min</p>

#### 4.2.4. Webinar 4 – Soft skills and negotiations upskilling

The webinar aims to provide participants with an understanding of the dynamics of negotiation and the tools and competencies to enhance their own negotiation skills.

Participants should be able to:

1. Understand, analyse and use insights to drive a successful negotiation or conflict resolution, building on expedient communication, intercultural differences and trust and ethics.
2. Cultivate an understanding of cognitive biases and how they can impact rational thinking and behaviour when negotiating and interpersonal differences in motivation, communication styles and their impact on negotiation processes and outcomes.
3. Evaluate different negotiation styles and decide which should be applied to a particular problem to gain a negotiating edge.

Table 19: Webinar 4 description

<b>Webinar Description</b>	<p>The webinar will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key concepts in negotiation (terminology, models).</li> <li>• Cognitive aspects, emotion in negotiations.</li> <li>• Multi-party, multi-issues negotiations: challenges, methods, cases.</li> <li>• Your personal style - self reflect.</li> </ul>
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<b>Target Audience</b>	Community members incl. local champions, local interest groups, project owners, developers, energy companies, local government, NGOs
<b>Speakers</b>	WR, CBS
<b>Duration</b>	90-120 min

#### 4.2.5. Webinar 5 – Wind Energy Technology and Implications and the Role of Energy Communities

This webinar draws from the outcomes of T2.1, T2.2 and T2.3 to address misconceptions about wind energy and to underscore the crucial role of energy communities in enhancing social acceptance of wind turbines. By illustrating the socio-economic impact of wind energy, the webinar aims to create a case for community-driven initiatives in the sector.

Table 20: Webinar 5 description

<b>Webinar Description</b>	<p>The webinar could cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Wind Energy: Addressing misconceptions and providing accurate, up-to-date information about the wind energy sector.</li> <li>• The Importance of Energy Communities: Discussing the vital role energy communities play in facilitating the social acceptance of wind turbines.</li> <li>• Socio-economic Impact of Wind Energy: Highlighting how wind energy can stimulate local economies and contribute to socio-economic development.</li> <li>• Case Studies: Presenting successful examples of energy community initiatives in the wind energy sector to demonstrate the potential benefits and practical application.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	The webinar is suitable for a wide range of stakeholders, including members of energy communities, local authorities, private investors, and general public interested in wind energy.
<b>Speakers</b>	MEC
<b>Duration</b>	60-120 min

This webinar aims to clear common misconceptions about wind energy and lay a solid foundation of understanding among the audience. Moreover, by elucidating the role of energy communities, it seeks to foster a collaborative and inclusive approach towards the advancement of wind energy projects. The socio-economic advantages of

wind energy will be brought to light, making a compelling case for the sector's potential to uplift local communities.

## 5. Main findings and next steps

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The first round of activities has brought considerable success. Diverse stakeholder groups were actively involved in each pilot case and we have identified an initial group of local champions, i.e. motivated stakeholders who have committed to participate in future WENDY activities. In addition, a preliminary list of potential capacity building actions in each pilot area has been compiled, which will serve as a basis for partners regarding local champion upskilling meetings and community mobilisation.

The initial key findings are:

- With regard to the acceptance of wind farms in the pilot areas, there is a need for improved communication, greater community involvement and the introduction of sustainable practices.
- Strategies should be developed to overcome local opposition to wind energy projects, focusing on informing and educating the affected population through working groups.
- From the perspective of the community, how to secure economic benefits from the planned development of a wind farm project is a significant issue to be solved.
- Legislative issues related to new wind farm applications by wind energy communities and the importance of energy communities in improving social acceptance are crucial.

The initial findings from the warm-up events were complemented by the pilot partners' ideas identified during the planning of the engagement strategy per pilot case for future community mobilisation activities.

- Environmental challenges for wind farm projects
- Contractual challenges with landowners
- Information and formation campaigns in local communities
- Technical Workshops
- How can the community benefit from the development?
- Co-existence between the development and the environment / community / existing industry
- Legislative Challenges
- Role of Energy Communities

Both findings point to areas of interest and processes that can help maximise stakeholder engagement in the actions of the WENDY project that will be implemented in the coming months.

## 5.1. Next steps

In the second part of this task, White Research will support the pilot partners in creating the WENDY knowledge hubs focused, as well as the selection and empowerment of the local champions. In particular, as described in this deliverable, a series of outreach activities will be offered, such as capacity building actions including upskilling meetings and social innovation webinars.

Building on the initial vision and engagement actions identified during the first round of activities, WR will work with pilot partners to host co-creation workshops that will help hubs navigate from the local needs and challenges identified in T2.4 to a harmonious co-existence roadmap for turbines and communities. These roadmaps will detail the local visions and goals and show the sequence of steps required for:

- i) Enhancing participation in and improving coexistence settings around turbines.
- ii) Planning of new wind farm projects using participatory process from the beginning.

In addition, the role of regional authorities in supporting citizen participation and ongoing innovation and digitisation of the energy system will be further explored as a means to strengthen energy citizenship in the energy sector.

These activities will be carried out in line with the findings and results from tasks T2.1, T2.2 and T2.3 and in conjunction with activities and events carried out under the related tasks of WP4 (T4.1), WP5 (T5.4) and WP6 (T6.2).

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## 7. Annex

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### 7.1. Annex: Warm-Up Event Guidelines

#### Before the event:

1. **Define a broad audience:** identify relevant local stakeholders to invite, turbine developers, public authorities and local businesses, while special emphasis will be put on including citizens.
2. **Pick a date and a suitable time:** it is better to avoid work hours and local holidays. The event should last a max of 2 hours, especially if held online, to maintain the attendees' interest.
3. **Prepare an online registration form:** the events have to be reported so it is important to know how many people have attended per stakeholder category.
4. **Select digital platform** (if online): choose the software that will be used based on the specific needs of the events.
5. **Prepare the event communication text and identify key hashtags:** use simple language and hashtags to be used in the dissemination of the event across social media channels, email, etc.
6. **Send out communication text two weeks before the event:** proper dissemination can result in higher rates of attendance and thus, higher rates of holding a successful event.
7. **Inform the dissemination and communication manager and the consortium of the project:** exploit the existing channels of the project to disseminate your event.
8. **Assign roles of facilitator and support coordinator:** the events need to have one facilitator, who will lead the event, and one support coordinator, who may take notes, support with external programs and collect answers for Q&A (if the event attracts more than 40 attendees, you might need 2 support coordinators).
9. **Prepare slides for presentation:** this might be an introductory presentation of the project, a brief description regarding the purpose of the event and how this can be beneficial for the stakeholders. Additional information can be provided based on the specific objectives of each event.
10. **Send a reminder the day before the event:** based on the registration information, send a reminder to the potential attendees the day before the event to ensure participation.

### Holding the event:

Event structure	Time	Description
Introduction	5'	The facilitator introduces himself/herself and gives and overview the event structure and ask participants to sign online consent:
	10'	The facilitator asks the attendees to introduce themselves and ask them what they expect of the session.
	10'	The facilitator introduces WENDY project.
Core session Part 1	30-40'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce the finding from WENDY WP2. This will be done to initiate the discussion about definition of regional challenges: to provide a set of aspects that hinder wind energy citizenship and challenge the harmonious co-existence of turbines and local communities.</li> <li>- Using the collaborative online tool (Miro, Zoom whiteboard, gDraw), ask the participants each to write down key challenges a) regarding social acceptance and b) social participation in wind energy projects.</li> <li>- Back in the main conference room, discuss about ideas to tackle that. The support coordinator should take note of these ideas on the shared online collaborative tool while participants discuss.</li> </ul>
Break	5'	- Break

Core session Part 2	5'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If using zoom or Teams, there's the possibility of having break out rooms and have people assigned to them automatically. If this tool is being used, you can them divide the group in smaller groups to discuss how to best develop some of the ideas suggested. Before going into the breakout rooms, let them know that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have to decide who will moderate the room and the one doing that will use the shared online collaborative to take the notes.</li> <li>• They should have at least two ways to execute the ideas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. If the communication tool is other than Zoom or Teams, go back to the shared board and while the facilitator engages the participants in choosing the ideas and discussing how to deploy them, the support coordinator will take notes on the collaborative tool.</li> </ol>
	30'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Breaking down the ideas into actionable tracks</li> </ul>
	15'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Presenting the ideas back to the main conference space (if in breakout rooms)</li> <li>➤ From within the attendees, ask who would like to be involved in deploying these ideas.</li> <li>➤ If none is interested, ask them why and how they would like to be involved in the project events.</li> </ul>

<b>Closing session</b>	5'	Wrap-up and promote upcoming activities, if applicable.
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### Overall logistics:

At least 2 warm-up events should take place in each Pilot case.

- Pilot partners have to identify potential participants by consulting their organisation's contacts' network. It is also recommended to further identify stakeholders by disseminating the event through the involved partners' social media accounts / websites. We would, of course, also suggest taking maximum advantage of the WENDY online presence in social networks. The project's dissemination manager can give you valuable advice in this regard.
- The event should last a max of 2 hours and to be considerate to attendees' times.
- The events should take place between May 2023 and June 2023.
- The events need to be documented, so ask attendees for a picture permission (this is integrated in the consent form).
- The events need to have one facilitator, who will lead the event, and one support coordinator, who will take notes, support with external programmes and collect answers for Q&A.
- After the initial identification, invitation shall be sent to stakeholders (e.g. email invitations). It is recommended that you also attach an event agenda. It is also important that participants fill out an Informed Consent Form before taking part in your event.

### After the event:

After the end of each event, the organisers (pilot partner) should fill in the event reporting template and send it to WR.

- The day after the event write a thank you email highlighting the main event learnings.
- Email the ones who volunteered and invite for a follow-up meeting to agree on the actions to be deployed based on the ideas and actions developed.

### Reporting template:

The table below should be filled out and sent back to WR.

Time	Description
------	-------------

Event's goals, objectives and relevance to WENDY project	Short description
Organisation of the event	Location/ time/date
Which stakeholder groups were represented	Please identify all stakeholders.
Number of attendees	
Event's promotion	Promotion material, <i>links to press releases, videos, posts, leaflets, etc.)</i>
Evidence of the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The list of participants (if consent to store and share data was given)</i></li> <li>• <i>Photo</i></li> </ul>
Structure of the event (short minutes)	
Identified challenges regarding social acceptance in wind energy projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One</li> <li>➤ Two</li> <li>➤ .....</li> </ul>
Identified challenges regarding social participation in wind energy projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One</li> <li>➤ Two</li> <li>.....</li> </ul>
Ideas to tackle	Please write the ideas
Ideas to tackle lack of social acceptance in wind energy projects	
Which ideas were developed into actionable processes	
Idea 1 and actionable process	
Idea 2 and actionable process	
Idea 3 and actionable process	
Ideas to tackle lack of social participation in wind energy projects	

Which ideas were developed into actionable processes	
Idea 1 and actionable process	
Idea 2 and actionable process	
Idea 3 and actionable process	
How many participants were interested in being directly involved in the project	
How many committed to it	
Evaluation of the event	

## 7.2. Annex: Example of the WENDY promotional material / warm-up events

Pictures of the promotional material for the warm-up event of the WENDY pilot case in Norway.

**Dalanaustet**  
**onsdag 23. august**  
**kl 09:30 – 15:30**



– Oppdatering og involvering av lokalsamfunnet

10-11:30

SiraPreik – DWO, Deep Wind Offshore

- Hvordan skape aktivitet som sikrer lokale ringvirk og medvirkning på øya?
- Studentene SildikonVally deler sine tanker
- Haugaland Kraft gir en oppdatering på prosjektet «Utsira – et levende testsenter»



11:30 Lunsj – med oppdatering fra Næringsaktivitet – Areandalsuken – Marte og C

12:00 – 15:00 – kaffe og kake sammen med EU Norwegian offshore wind – EU prosjekt - WENI

- Lokal verdiskaping – hvordan sikre noe tilbake lokalsamfunnet.
- Din stemme er viktig inn i EU prosjektet

15:00

Oppsummering fra dagen, veien videre.

Hva NÅ?

**Invitasjon til diskusjon om sosial aksept av havvir**  
**KL: 12-15, Dalanaustet**

Vi har gledet oss til å invitere deg til et spennende arrangement på Utsira den 24. august, med sosial aksept av havvind. Prosjektet styres av Norwegian Offshore Wind, i forbindelse med forskningsprosjekt som heter «WENDY». WENDY er et EU-finansiert (Horizon Europe) forskningsprosjekt som tar sikte på å avdekke hvilke faktorer som skal til for å oppnå samfunnsaksept for vind. Prosjektet vil kartlegge disse faktorene gjennom en dybdeanalyse av samfunnsvitenskapelig, humanistiske, naturvitenskapelige og teknologiske forhold.

Bakgrunnen for arrangementet er å finne ildsjeler i lokalsamfunnet, forstå deres motivasjon hvordan vi kan øke kompetansen til Utsira-samfunnet. Utsira representerer et lokalt laboratorierom for fremtidens havvind, og vi ønsker å utforske hvordan vi kan sikre lokal utvikling og sosial aksept i den raskt voksende sektoren.

Vi vil ta opp viktige temaer, blant annet:

- Sosial aksept og inkludering av berørte samfunn i planleggingsprosesser.
- utfordringer knyttet til det visuelle, miljøpåvirkning, eksisterende næringsliv, friluftsliv, demokrati og økonomisk fordeling.
- Hvordan planlegging kan sikre lokalbefolkningens deltakelse i beslutningsprosesser og bedre samarbeid om bruk av felles ressurser.
- Forventninger til sosioøkonomisk utvikling og hvordan økonomisk politikk kan bidra til å inkludere sosioøkonomiske muligheter og utfordringer.

Arrangementet gir en unik mulighet til å delta i en viktig diskusjon og bidra til utviklingen i havvind på Utsira. Vi ønsker å samle ulike perspektiver, erfaringer og kunnskap for å skape bærekraftig og inkluderende vei fremover. Vi ser frem til å ønske deg velkommen til Utsira 23. august, med aktiv deltakelse kan vi få frem viktige synspunkter og diskusjoner, som inspirerer oss videre.

Med vennlig hilsen,

Chris Harman, Norwegian Offshore Wind/ Grete Møgster, Utsira Kommune

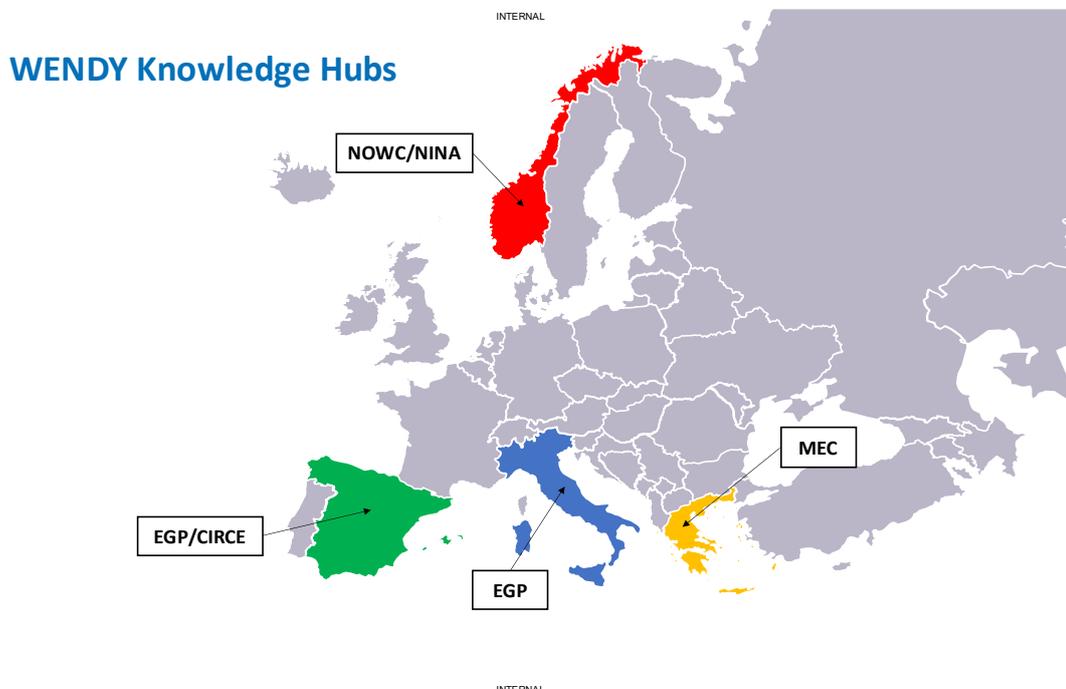


Picture of the warm-up event of the WENDY pilot case in Greece.



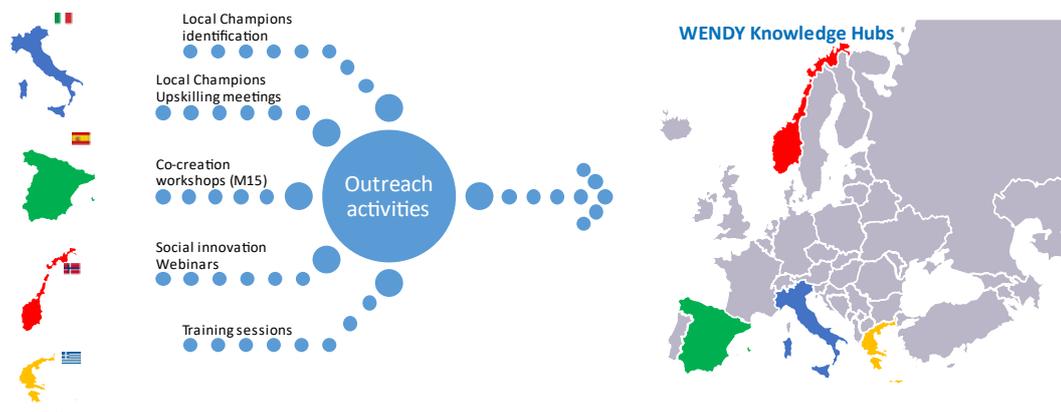
### 7.3. Launch of WENDY knowledge hubs

The launch of the WENDY knowledge hubs took place online (Teams platform) between the consortium partners on 21 September 2023. Below there are slides from the presentation on the WENDY knowledge hubs and a picture of the online meeting.



WENDY

#### WENDY Knowledge Hubs Next Steps



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content area displays the WENDY logo at the top, followed by the title "Knowledge Hub Launching Event". Below the title, the names "Michail Ntovas, Anastasios Tsakas" and "White Research" are listed. At the bottom left, there is a logo for the European Union with the text "Funded by The European Union" and a name tag for "Michalis Ntovas". At the bottom right, the text "Knowledge Hub Launching event 21/09/2023, Online" is visible. The right side of the screen shows a grid of video thumbnails for participants, with a larger thumbnail at the bottom showing a man speaking. The Zoom control bar at the top includes icons for Take control, Pop out, Chat, People, Raise, React, View, Notes, Apps, More, Camera, Mic, Share, and a red Leave button. The time 07:53 is shown in the top left corner.

## 7.4. Exploitation potential of D5.1 results and findings

This special section discusses the exploitation strategy of the results and findings of D5.1, as well as their value to the partners who own them. The following table addresses four (4) dimensions: Exploitation potential, IP protection, Potential exploitation pathways, and Partners' plans. Additionally, it allows for the inclusion of any unforeseen dimensions.

		Analysis
1	Exploitation Potential	<p><b>Main users</b> that can benefit from these results or findings include: developers and operators of wind energy farms, regulatory authorities and government agencies responsible for energy and environmental policies and procedures, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) focusing on environmental, local development, and cultural heritage issues, local authorities, governments, and communities, consultants and residents living near wind farm installations.</p> <p>The <b>added value</b> of the results or findings for WENDY, its partners, or external stakeholders can be attributed to several factors, including: promoting societal engagement and capacity-building initiatives for motivated local stakeholders who can serve as local champions. Offering the empowerment required for these stakeholders to mobilise the community in support of wind farm acceptance and increased public participation.</p> <p><b>Unique features</b> of the deliverable's outcomes that could be appealing include: a tailored engagement plan for mobilising local communities, customized for each area. Preparation (including guidelines) and execution of warm-up events to identify potential local champions. Capacity-building actions, such as upskilling meetings with relevant topics for local champions, along with social innovation webinars.</p>
2	IP protection	Protection of intellectual property (IP) can be achieved through the following measures: implementing data protection measures to guarantee the confidentiality and security of any collected personal data. Utilizing Creative Commons licenses for the dissemination and utilization of the capacity building actions.
3	Potential exploitation pathways	Possible exploitation activities may encompass, but are not limited to, the following: Facilitating knowledge transfer through the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) to share the capacity building actions widely. Creating a novel service aimed at mobilising local communities towards accepting wind energy farms.
4	Partners' plans	Partners can enrich their stakeholder engagement strategies by incorporating the results and findings as a crucial source of information on the subject. Their plans may encompass activities such as mobilisation actions, warm-up events and relevant webinars.
5	Other	Exploring potential collaborations and synergies with key actors and stakeholders has the potential to boost the exploitation potential of the results.