



WIND4BIO

INCREASING THE SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF WIND ENERGY

WIND4BIO: A JOURNEY TOWARDS WIND ENERGY EXPANSION BASED ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As we reach the last phase of the Wind4Bio project, we are delighted to highlight the accomplishments thus far. The collaborative effort has fostered communication between governmental bodies and the wind energy sector for the benefit of civil society, has involved stakeholders, and dedicated efforts to assist policymakers.

The core mission of our project lies in developing a holistic wind energy planning strategy that emphasizes the harmonious integration of "Climate-Biodiversity-Public Opinion." This approach hinges on public consultation and consensus-building, aiming to mitigate biodiversity risks while increasing social acceptance of wind energy initiatives.

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PARTICIPATION AT THE THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR

The Wind4Bio project was featured in a high profile discussion at the Thessaloniki International Fair in September 2024. PROMEA's representative, Charitini Karakostaki **engaged in a dialogue** about the importance of renewable energy and the pivotal role public support plays in its success. Panel members participating in this conversation included the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany Robert Habeck, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy of Greece Alexandra Sdoukou and the President of Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs (SEGE) Lina Tsaltampasi.

The conversation went beyond technical solutions and explored the way **education, transparency and active-community involvement** shape public perception. This discussion brought much-needed attention to the societal factors that can either propel or hinder the energy transition. Interested for more details? **[Click here!](#)**



4TH PROJECT MEETING IN GREECE

On the 23rd of October 2024, the 4th Project Meeting of the Wind4Bio consortium took place at PROMEA's premises in Athens, Greece. During this last meeting of the project, the partners reflected on the achievements of Semester 4 and mapped out the final phase of the project.

Fruitful discussions were conducted regarding the workshop on public consensus-building for local communities of wind energy projects as well as the workshop including wind energy companies and sector representatives, as planned for December 2024. The workshops aim at **integrating biodiversity protection measures** and at **organising sectoral initiatives for addressing ecosystem concerns** and increasing the public acceptance of wind farms.



WORKSHOP IN GREECE

On the 11th of December 2024, University of Patras and PROMEA organised a workshop with the participation of representatives from the wind energy sector and from public authorities. The workshop aimed at integrating biodiversity protection measures with the organisation of sectoral initiatives and actions addressing environmental concerns and social acceptance of wind farms. Main conclusions of the workshop and the discussion which followed, regarded the positive impact of **direct communication channels** on the local communities' views about wind farms and further, providing **financial benefits to municipalities** where wind farms are based and ensuring transparent allocation of the funds. The application of these conclusions in a clear and direct manner towards the respective local community would increase social acceptance.



RELEASE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct is a document which serves as a **comprehensive guide** for businesses in the wind energy sector, integrating ecosystem and biodiversity protection with wind projects development. The Code aligns wind farms development with environmental sustainability principles and promotes responsibility practices across all project phases, namely design and planning, operation and maintenance, and finally decommissioning. The guiding principles of the Code include **environmental responsibility, sustainability, transparency and continuous improvement**, ensuring the minimisation of wildlife disturbance and habitat protection. Reporting and audit processes are enclosed further, combined with training programs which equip personnel with the knowledge to implement biodiversity protection effectively, at all stages of a wind energy project.

You can access the Code of Conduct [here](#).



LESSONS LEARNT SYNTHESIS REPORT

The Lessons Learnt Synthesis Report compiles all the main discussion points and **key takeaways of the three workshops** conducted in Greece, Latvia and Poland. The report introduces the adverse impacts of wind energy development on terrestrial ecosystems and it further focuses on the topics and lessons learnt during each workshop. It provides comparisons and recommendations while **highlighting similarities and differences** among the expressed opinions at the three regional workshops. **Policy recommendations** are also included, regarding the ways public authorities and civil society can optimise their cooperation on mitigating the impact of wind farms on biodiversity, along with recommendations for the joint development of the consultation mechanism.

Recommendations aimed at **improving communication and collaboration** between public authorities and civil society as well as **modifying and upscaling the online consultation platform**.

You can access the Lessons learnt synthesis report, [here](#).

WHAT IS NEXT?



Workshop & Info-day for each Partner, planned to be conducted by the end of February 2025.



Workshops in LV, PL with wind energy companies and sector representatives on the integration of biodiversity protection measures and the organisation of sectoral initiatives to address biodiversity concerns and increase public acceptance for wind farms.





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