

COME RES



Community energy and local participation in energy projects - A means to achieve acceptability?

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Social Acceptance

- **Complexity of social acceptance**
- **Social acceptance produced at different levels and affected by:**
 - Trust/mistrust
 - Perceived distributional and procedural justice
- **The way in which participation is organised and benefits are distributed matters**
 - What kind of communication?
 - What type of participation (in which phase, how early)?
 - What type of compensation?
 - How are beneficiaries (affected people) defined?
 - Who are the winners and losers?
 - Local ownership rather than transfers?
 - Is acceptance the higher the greater the local benefits?

Social acceptance: *“favourable or positive response (including attitude, intention, behavior and – where appropriate – use) relating to proposed or in situ technology or social technical systems by members of a given social unit (country or region, community or town and household, organization).”* (Upham et al. 2015)

Factors influencing local acceptance

Factors	Description
Context	Topography, landscape characteristics, policy/regulatory framework, etc.
Project siting/-design	Number and dimension of the wind turbines, setback distances, visibility, influence on landscape
Actor constellation	Ownership of the plants, intermediaries/mediators, conflict of interest, biases, opinion leadership, discourses, narratives, social norms
Personal factors	Personal values, attitudes, experiences, place attachment, trust
Effects on environment	Flora & fauna, Land use and consumption of resources
Effects on health and well being	Shadow flicker, ice throw, acoustic pollution (infrasound), etc.
Procedural and distributional fairness	Perceived fairness of the planning process and distribution of cost and benefits. Turning indirect economic benefits into direct social benefit

Patterns of conflict: The case of wind energy

- At the beginning wind energy perceived as a key element to reach a sustainable energy system
- Wind energy enjoyed great acceptance of the energy transition, but...
- Hundreds of **anti-wind initiatives** established in recent years
- Similarities: nature conservation concerns, health risks fears, cultural and landscape heritage, aesthetics, fairness concerns
- There is a need for:
 - ✓ disentangling the **different reasons for opposition** in each country and region
 - ✓ seeking to **understand** what kind of **instruments** may affect social acceptability related to each reason
- Opponents' motives extremely different
- Perceived distributive injustice. Rural areas: modest conventional economic benefits (jobs, revenues); mostly rents for landowners
- Citizens' initiatives against RES getting professional, well networked and share methods to successfully block projects
- Tone is becoming harsh. Lack of trust (developers, local councils, procedures) ©
- Populist parties try to ride the protest.



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WinWind selected findings

The experience of DE, IT, PL, LV, NO, SP shows

- ✓ Discrepancy between **socio-political acceptance** and **community acceptance** → “social gap”
- ✓ Diversity of influencing factors and different perceptions by different actors
- ✓ Local impacts, whether real, potential or perceived, shape community acceptance
- ✓ Impacts are often context-specific
- ✓ Since both opposition and support of specific projects are so firmly rooted in local community, knowledge about local impacts and local context key to enhance acceptance
- ✓ In the end it is the combination of drivers, most relevant to each context and community that makes wind energy projects more socially acceptable



Financial participation – lessons learned

Citizens can participate directly as shareholders of community projects

Community foundations and local trusts are also an efficient solution for enabling revenues to be channelled to the local community

Citizens can participate indirectly, e.g. through land lease payments for local residents, or through reduced electricity tariffs

Local governments are acting as informer, mediator and financial stakeholder, but need to be enabled to take up this role



SomEnergia
Cooperative, Spain



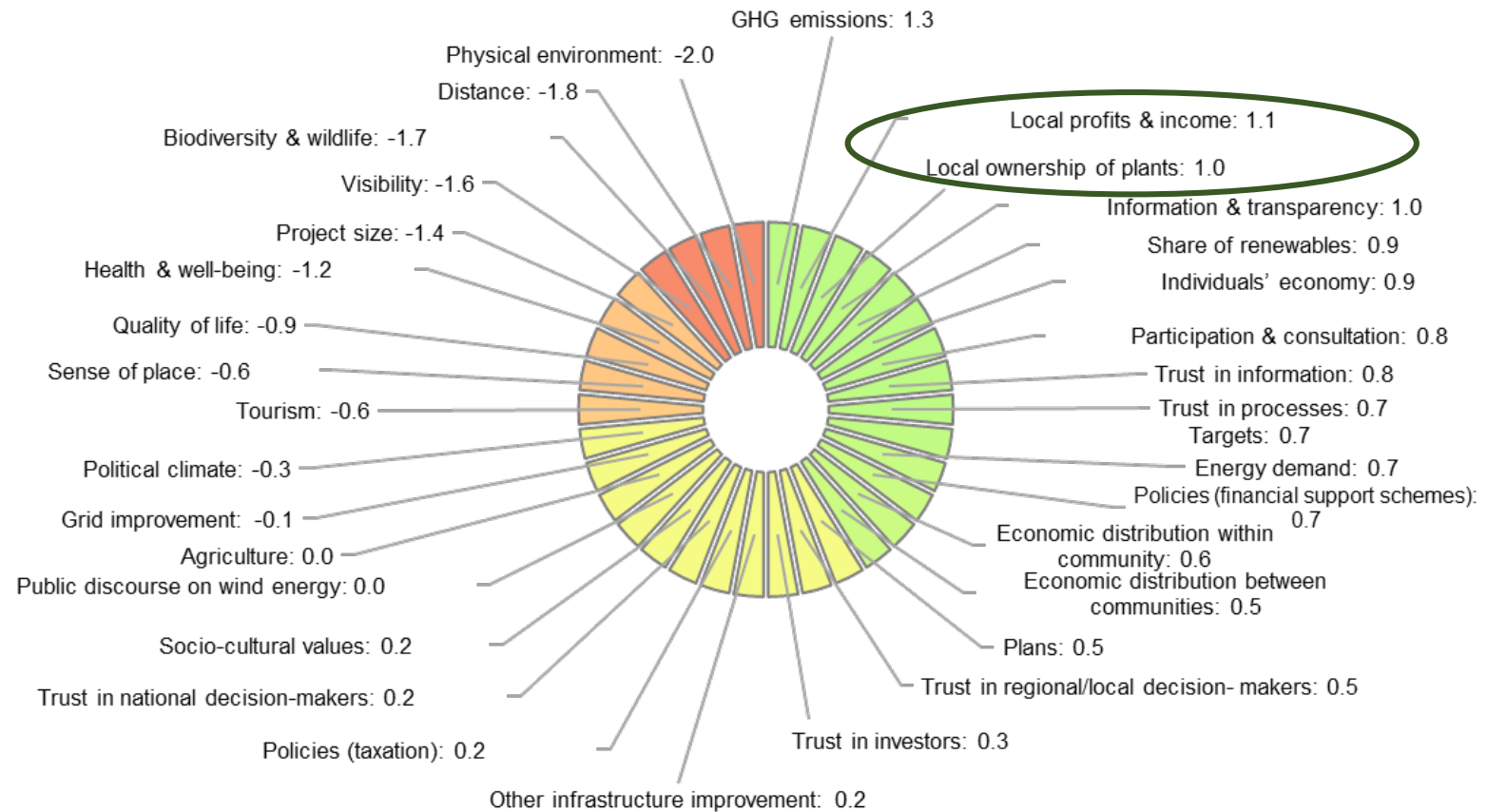
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Community wind energy as a driver of local acceptance ?

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- **Evidence** that **community wind energy** is associated with **positive attitudes and higher acceptability** (Devine-Wright 2005, Breukers/Wolsink 2007, Jobert et al. 2007, Wüstenhagen et al. 2007, McLaren Loring 2007, Warren/McFadyen 2010, Musall/Kuik 2011, Enevoldsen/Sovacool 2016, Sonnberger/Ruddat 2017, Liebe et al. 2017, Leiren et al. 2020, Baxter et al. 2020)
- **WinWind** provided additional evidence from **in-depth case studies** (Maleki-Dizaji et al. 2019) and a comparative **public survey** (Leiren et al. 2020)
- Reasons and mechanisms behind, however, are less understood and need to be entangled (Baxter et al. 2020)
- Potential explanatory factors: Higher levels of **trust** due to the proximity of key actors, **local income** and **benefits, identification** with the project
- Community ownership is **no guarantee** for local acceptance!

Relative importance of acceptance factors- results of WinWind stakeholder survey

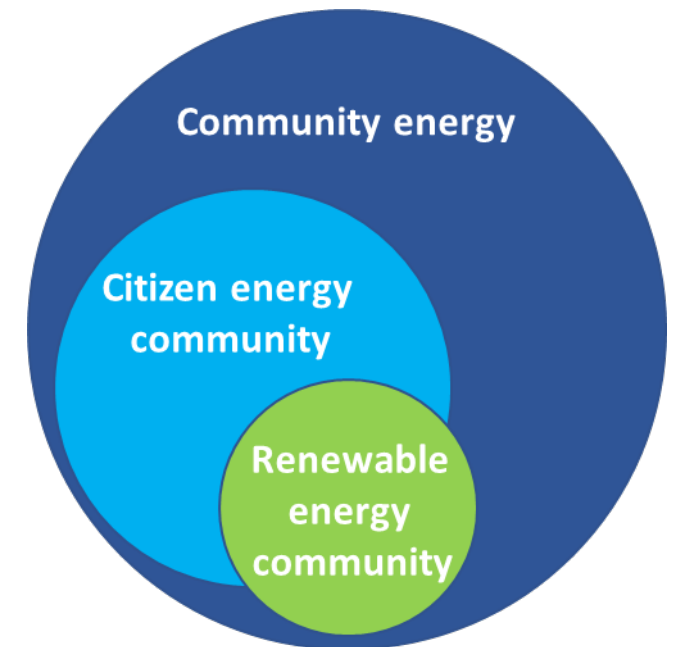


Source: Leiren et al. 2020

Definition of “Community energy”

Projects where communities (of place or interest) exhibit a **high degree of ownership and control** of the energy project as well as **benefiting collectively** from the outcomes, either energy-saving or revenue generation. *Source: Seyfang et al. 2013, Walker/Devine-Wright 2008*

- Variety of legal/organisational forms (e.g. co-operatives, partnerships, community trusts/foundations)
- Variety of ownership models and degrees (complete ownership, hybrid models, joint ventures etc.)
- Community ownership of wind farms has successfully developed in several EU countries (e.g. Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, UK and The Netherlands).



Promotion of energy communities in the EU

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EU Clean Energy Package

- **Recognises and defines** two types of energy communities: **citizen energy communities (CEC)** and **renewable energy communities (REC)**
- Offers an **enabling legislative framework** for CECs and RECs

(Recast) Internal Electricity Market Directive (EU) 2019/944

- Art. 15 Jointly acting active customers
- Art. 16 Citizen Energy Communities

(Recast) Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001

- Art. 21 Jointly acting renewables self-consumers
- Art. 22 Renewable Energy Communities

Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999

- Art. 20 Renewable Energy Communities

Transposition into national law:

- **(Recast) Internal Electricity Market Directive** → **31 December 2020**
- **(Recast) Renewable Energy Directive** → **30 June 2021**

The example of the community wind farm Neuenkirchen (Germany)

- Commissioned in 2015
- 12 x 3 MW Senvion turbines on 3 sites
- Total investment cost: 56.5 million EUR
- **Initiators/founding partners:** local farmers, landowners
- **Active financial participation** of 145 citizens as limited partners (*Kommanditisten*)
- **Land lease pool model** (*Flächenpoolmodell*)
- **Benefit sharing** via civic non-profit association (*Bürgerverein*)
- **Trade tax payments**
- **Voluntary setback distance** of 2,000 m to village center
- **Website:** <http://www.buergerwindpark-neuenkirchen.de/projekt/infos/>
- **WinWind Case Study:** https://winwind-project.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Resources/Deliverables/Del_4.3.pdf



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Starting conditions in COME RES Countries*

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		BE	DE	IT	LV	NL	NO	PL	PT	SP
Market deployment of community energy	Community wind	++	+++	+	-	+++	-	-		+
	Community PV	++	+++	+	-	+++	-	+	+	+
	Community electricity storage	+	+	-	-	+	+		-	-
	Integrated/hybrid solutions	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Community energy legal forms	Co-operatives	++	+++	+	-	+++	-	+	++	++
	Limited partnerships, limited companies, hybrid forms		+++	+	-	+++	-	-	-	
	Civil law partnerships	+/-	+++	-	-	-	-	+	-	
	Other legal forms	-	+	+	-		-	-	-	
Legal framework	Legal framework for RECs acc. to Art. 22 RED II in place	+	+	+	-		-	+	-	-
Support schemes, other support for REC	Political target for RECs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Consideration of RECs in national support schemes	+	++	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
	Other dedicated support for REC	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
	Enabling framework (pursuant to RED II)	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+

Legenda:

- +++ well developed
- ++ partly developed
- + developing, elements in place
- not developed

* As of December 2019

Conclusions

- Enhancing acceptability calls for **integrated approaches** (procedural and financial participation, trust-building)
- **Community energy** can help to increase local acceptance, but is no guarantee
- **EU Clean Energy Package** offers opportunities for developing **community energy** in Europe
- Effective **transposition** and **implementation** in the EU Member states is key for the development and viability of energy communities

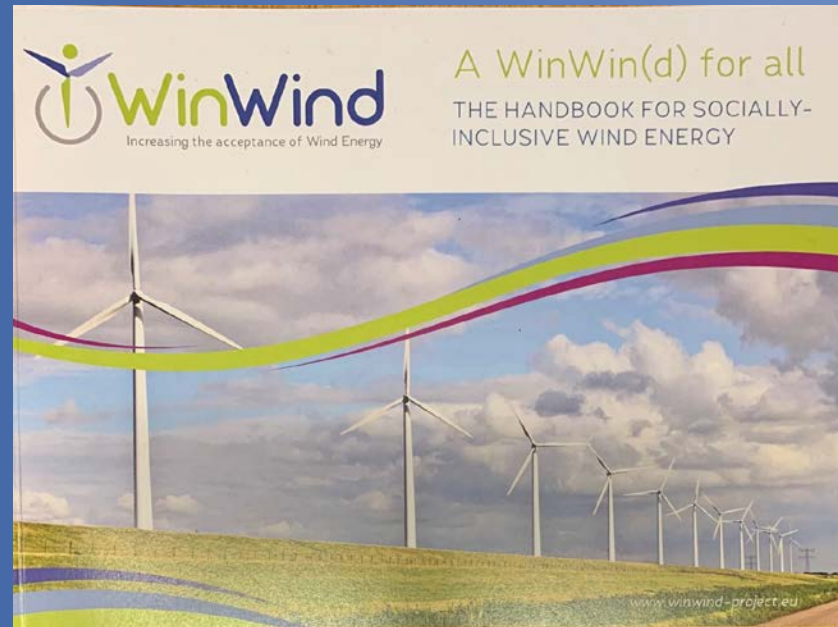
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Thank you for your attention!

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www.winwind-project.eu



https://winwind-project.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Resources/WinWind_Handbook-2020-www-2.pdf



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