JUST WiND 4 ALL

Repowering through local co-financing: the road ahead for a just transition in wind energy in Portugal

CIUL – Lisbon, Portugal
31st of January 2024

Main conclusions & insights from the *world café*

World café main topic of discussion

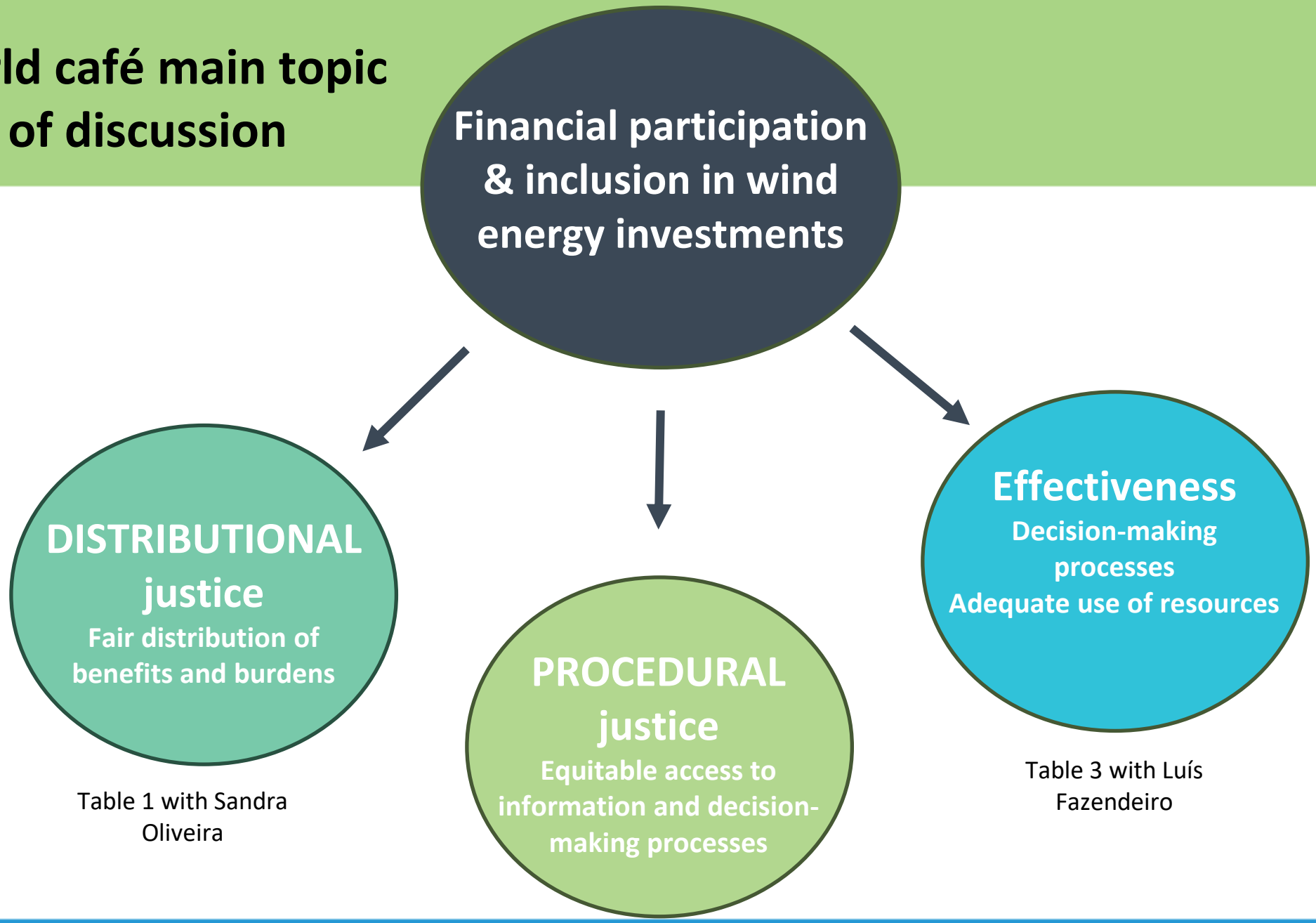


Table 1 with Sandra Oliveira

Table 2 with Flávio Oliveira

Table 3 with Luís Fazendeiro

DISTRIBUTIONAL justice

Fair distribution of benefits and burdens

Table 1 with Sandra Oliveira

Key points discussed:

- **Changes to the fiscal system** to increase distributional justice, e.g. decrease taxes to the local consumers where there are wind farms; tax credits connected to the installed capacity; higher taxes to producers to support grid development and other public investments.

- **Ownership is key** to justice as it tends to concentrate the benefits in the hands of the big shareholders of the private companies. Distributed ownership (specifically with the inclusion of local stakeholders) is a fundamental part of distributional justice;

- **Transparency regulation, anti-corruption mechanisms and effective public participation** is the key vector for correcting distributional injustices.

PROCEDURAL justice

Equitable access to information and decision-making processes

Table 2 with Flávio Oliveira

Key points discussed:

- **Lack of participatory culture in Portugal +** distrust in the processes and the institutions leading these projects is seen as a major setback in having true procedural justice;
- Existing opportunities for participation are too late (consultation phase), often non-properly advertised and non-effective. Need for **new participatory processes**, earlier and throughout the whole process and that are built from the bottom-up with the help of existing structures and networks, such as parishes, local NGO's, etc;
- Consider **economic and other types incentives** for citizens and local stakeholders participation (e.g. fiscal benefits, shares in the project, cheaper energy in the future, etc)

Effectiveness

Decision-making processes
Adequate use of resources

Table 3 with Luís Fazendeiro

Key points discussed:

- **What is effectiveness** regarding wind energy justice, how does it differ from efficiency and why is it an important target? (need for more clarity and literacy on these questions)
- **What's the role of digitalization in effectiveness**? Can it increase licencing times? Can it facilitate decentralized participation, including financial? And how to ensure that digitalization does not discourage participation and accelerate injustices;
- Does **participation makes wind energy development more or less effective**? Will investments in citizen engagement, energy literacy and legal changes really contribute to make these processes more effective?

Our last question to the audience

In your opinion what is the single **most effective** and **just low hanging** fruit strategy/solution to bring about the economic participation of citizens and local stakeholders in the roll-out of wind energy development in Portugal?

Post-its from participants

Accessible information, e.g. financial resources

Work with municipalities on community finance

Improve the grid connection to boost RES communitiesc

Education (economic, digital, civic, energetic)

Using existing groups/associations/co-ops and suggest wind projects

Public-community partnerships based on cooperative models

X2

Mandatory % of crowdlending or crowdfunding for wind energy projects (min25%)

Press Gov. & Municipalities for laws to investing & getting funds and other benefits for wind energy communities

Embed projects into local community e.g. events, activities

Increase citizens awareness & empowerment

Create a pilot project – call for a community owned, co-funded with public funds (and supported in the licencing)

X3

Change the law to make local financial participation compulsory in repowering projects

Empower local communities / associations / cooperatives to branch out into energy projects

Genuine participatory processes for the design of wind energy

Key Action #1 – bottom-up approach to prototype a new model

Create a pilot project – call for a community owned, co-funded with public funds (and supported in the licencing)

Using existing groups/associations/co-ops and suggest wind projects

Empower local communities / associations / cooperatives to branch out into energy projects

JUST WiND 4 ALL

Our team @ Just Wind 4 All will commit to find, and support, a local community in Portugal where a bottom-up wind energy project can grow and prototype a new model of co- ownership in wind energy

Key Action #2 – new policy for mandatory crowdlending/funding

Mandatory % of crowdlending or crowdfunding for wind energy projects (min25%)

Change the law to make local financial participation compulsory in repowering projects

Work with municipalities on community finance

Press Gov. & Municipalities for laws to investing & getting funds and other benefits for wind energy communities

JUST WIND 4 ALL

Our team @ Just Wind 4 All will commit to develop, together with our national partners, a Policy Brief that directly addresses the legal changes necessary to integrate co-financing in future wind energy investments

Key Action #3 – Information, awareness & financial literacy

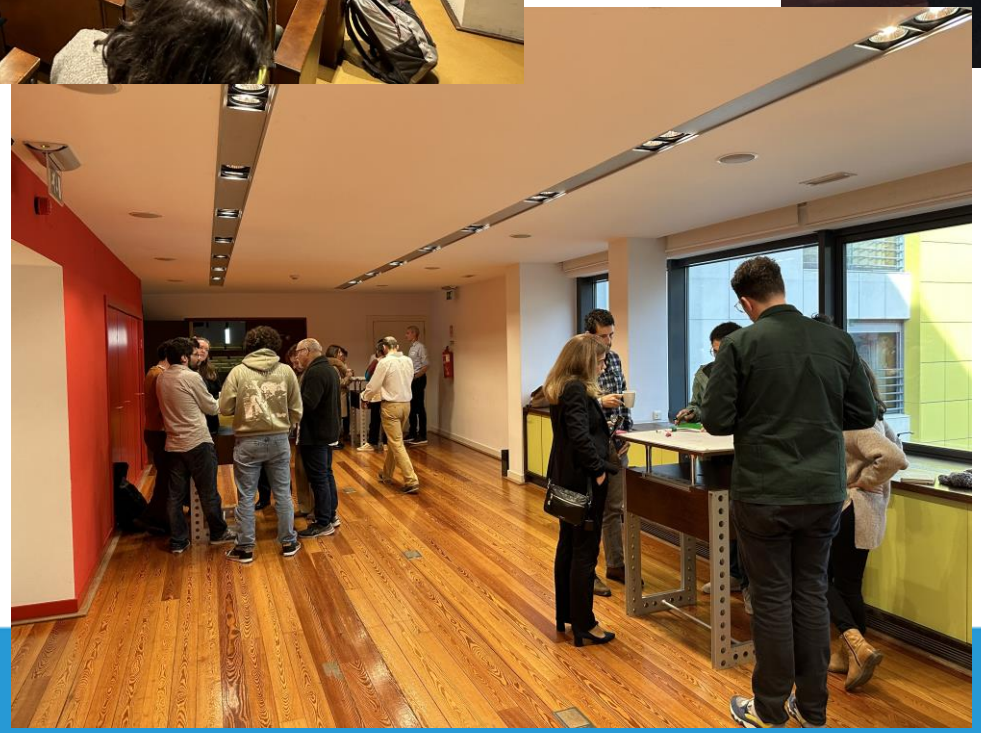
Accessible information, e.g. financial resources

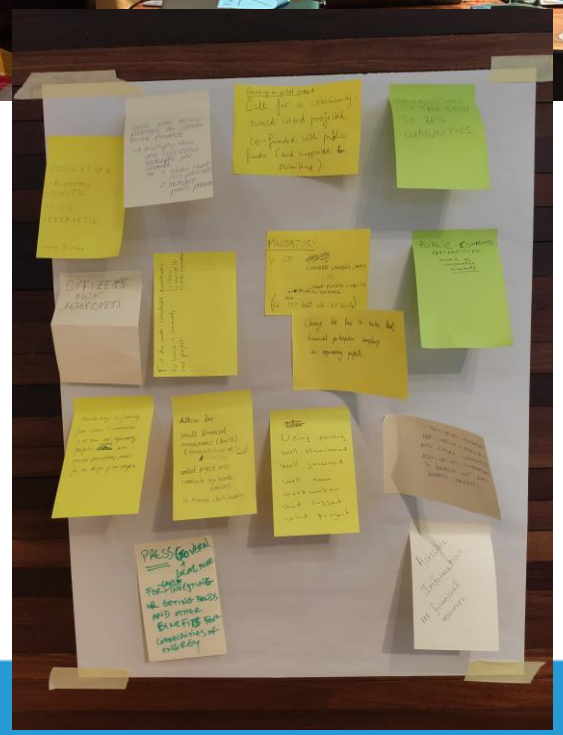
Education (economic, digital, civic, energetic)

Increase citizens awareness & empowerment

Our team @ Just Wind 4 All will commit to develop and disseminate throughout all stakeholders the results of our processes, events, reports and findings in a transparent, timely and user-friendly manner. We hope to pro-actively contribute to the awareness raising regarding the **just transition!**

JUST WIND 4 ALL





Thank you.

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