ENERGY READ SUMMARY

THE WIND WE SHARE: KNOWLEDGE, JUSTICE, AND SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF WIND ENERGY IN NORTHEAST BULGARIA

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ABOUT

A series of four co-creation workshops that brought together developers, entrepreneurs, municipalities, NGOs, farmers and academics to address key challenges in offshore wind planning—ranging from site selection and visual impacts to benefit sharing and agro-wind synergies—aiming to forge just and effective practices for North-Eastern Bulgaria.

KEY TOPICS

- Integrated site-selection data: Developing a unified GIS framework and shared criteria for prioritizing wind-energy zones
- Collaborative visual-impact planning: Engaging stakeholders to plan turbine lighting, layout and aesthetics for coastal landscapes
- Enhancing local benefit-sharing: Building co-created models for community revenues, jobs and procurement
- Strengthening agro-wind synergies: Aligning wind energy deployment with agricultural needs to unlock mutual gains
- Modelling trade-offs

GUIDELINES

Procedural Justice & Inclusivity: Planning must align with just transition principles and ensure the early involvement of stakeholders. Both land and marine spatial planning should prioritize biodiversity and environmental integrity; however, reaching agreement on data sources and their availability is a necessary prerequisite. Early and structured engagement fosters trust and helps prevent objections at later stages.

Data-Driven Decision-Making: Transparent access to integrated GIS layers and real-time visualization ensures that technical choices reflect community input and local conditions.

Cross-Sector Collaboration: Traditional industries must recognize the national and regional interest in developing wind energy infrastructure and avoid treating nearby areas as exclusively reserved for their own use. Instead, energy, agriculture, fisheries, and environmental experts should jointly develop siting and design plans to generate shared benefits and support more resilient land use.

Embedded Justice & Effectiveness: Fair processes and efficient outcomes are inseparable—project rules and regulations must require both.

Adaptive, Continuous Engagement: Sustained regional forums or online platforms enable ongoing monitoring, feedback and iterative refinement as projects evolve, ensuring long-term alignment with community and ecological needs.

Institutional support: Wind energy is a key component of Bulgaria's national strategic plans, yet the absence of newly commissioned projects since 2014 clearly reflects a persistent lack of institutional support needed to translate policy ambition into implementation.

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