

Energy Transitions 11: Wind Power as ‘Overriding Public Interest’ - Acceptance of Wind Energy Deployment

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• Course plan (Compact course/Blockseminar)

	Date	Room	Content
LV1		tba	Introduction
LV2		tba	
LV3		tba	
LV4		tba	
LV5		tba	

Seminar description

• Background - HORIZON Europe project “Wind in My Backyard” (WIMBY): While wind power is one of the fastest growing, most mature and cost-competitive renewable energy (RE) technologies, its deployment faces significant challenges due to low acceptance amongst societal actors. Factors such as restrictive regulation, disinformation, misinformation and concerns about changes to scenic landscapes, negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems and health impede the spread of new wind power installations. To increase acceptance, counterbalance “Not in my backyard” (NIMBY) effects and foster support for wind power, thereby enabling its contribution to the decarbonization strategy of the EU, the WIMBY project translates the results of cutting-edge in-depth models to assess impacts, conflicts, synergies and potentials for development of wind power into practical information for stakeholders. Facilitating societal engagement is key for a broad deployment of wind power across the European Union.

Despite its importance to tackle climate change, low acceptance amongst societal actors remain – apart from broader ecological, economic, and technical issues – the main obstacle to the much-needed expansion of wind energy. The Wind Barriers Report estimated in 2010 that as much as 30% of wind energy projects in Europe were cancelled due to resistance of local populations filing lawsuits (EWAE 2010). Defining the expansion of wind energy as an ‘overriding public interest’ – as of now for 18 months – in the Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 effective as of January 2023 resets this playing field potentially to the disadvantage of both local stakeholders and energy community initiatives acting slower than professional wind park

developers. This poses the hazard, that 'green grabbing', i.e., appropriation of land and natural resources suited for the exploitation of renewables by multinationals, will spread due to the increasing economic value of wind following the dramatic push in the expansion of wind energy.

Against the background of this HORIZON Europe project WIMBY the seminar analyses the regulatory framework Wind Power deployment across the EU (and as a benchmark possibly in other countries worldwide). Following the Tenets of Transitional Justice, the following questions are addressed:

- - How do the current legal systems of selected EU Member States distribute the ills and benefits connected to the construction and operation of wind parks, using the mechanism of 'balancing of interest'? (distributive justice);
 - Do legislators and courts consider all conflicting interests in their 'balancing of interests', including those of typically underrepresented people? (justice as recognition);
 - How can energy communities be empowered to actively shape the energy transition and what role does the state, e.g. by defining wind as a 'common good', play in this process? (procedural justice).

Literature

Tba

Formalities 2024 Summer Semester

Study programs: 5/6/9 ECTS

MES modules: ZB Wirtschaft, WPM 6 // IBA modules: S-Module; Faculty of Law: Master of German and Polish Law (Module 3); SPB 5 (European Law) (without ECTS)

Performance test and credits

- 5 and 6 ECTS: regular attendance; oral presentation; term paper around 15 pages
- 9 ECTS: regular attendance; oral presentation; term paper around 20 pages

Students are required to write a paper (80% of the grade) and present their research to the class (20% of the grade).

Deadlines

Registration

By 18.04.2024 at kelso-professorship@europa-uni.de including name, matriculation number, the study program, and the exact title of the course.

Paper submission

Upload final presentation of term paper topic by 18.05.2024 at 23:59

Finalized term paper by the end of the summer-semester 2024: 30.08.2024.

<https://www.wiwi.europa-uni.de/de/studium/pruefungen/index.html>

<https://study.europa-uni.de/de/studieren/termine/semestertermine/index.html>