



**International Energy Agency (IEA)  
Implementing Agreement for Co-operation in the Research and Development  
of Wind Energy Systems (IEA Wind)**

**Annex 28 – Social acceptance of wind energy  
Extension proposal**

October 2012

*Operating Agent  
Robert Horbaty / Stefanie Huber*

*With contributions of IEA Wind Task 28 working group members*

## 1 Scope and added value

Three years of experience within the working group and supporting institutions of IEA Wind Task 28 on social acceptance of wind energy have shown international exchange on social acceptance issues to be exceptionally valuable for those engaged in the work of the task, including, government administrators, the research community, IEA Wind members and the wind energy industry in the respective countries (e.g., wind energy associations). The development of wind energy – more specifically, the debates surrounding projects in the field - have also shown that social acceptance is a topic that needs to be better understood if the various policy targets for renewable energy production are to be accomplished. Individual projects require public approvals to be realized; proponents and opponents need to work together to improve projects. Such trends appear to be increasingly recognized by industry, government, and research institutions. To achieve long-term acceptance of wind power, the topic requires further attention and examination, e.g. in terms of “quantification” or “monitoring”, by efforts such as Task 28 with their interdisciplinary and trans-national approach.

The work of Task 28 should therefore be continued in 2012 and following years on the basis of the topics identified as crucial to social acceptance, the international exchange within IEA Wind and dialogue with the various stakeholders.

The main areas of the future work of Task 28 proposed for the next period can be summarized as follows:

- Measurement and monitoring of social acceptance
- Documentation of existing policies and standards that have been demonstrated to increase social acceptance
- Discussion of current and new issues influencing social acceptance that are being debated in the participating countries, stressing of research gaps and discovering of opportunities for joint research
- Deduction, documentation, and dissemination of the lessons learned, good practices, successful strategies etc. with the aim of improving projects and their implementation and to support the definition of the common understanding of “sustainable, acceptable projects”.
- The role of “neutral intermediaries” and the question of a “guichet unique” for developers or public authorities.

**IEA Wind Task 28 will support participating countries by**

- **Providing up to date information on social acceptance of wind energy in each of the participating countries including the reporting of social acceptance trends in individual countries where possible** (e.g., reports to IEA Wind ExCo, annual reports)
- **Identifying and documenting successful policy strategies anticipated to be applicable across contexts** (e.g., Good Practice Recommendations and other publications)
- **Enabling sharing of practical information, learning from each other, complementing each other's approaches, exchange of successful strategies** (e.g., Good Practice Recommendations and other publications)
- **Discussion of the complex issues around social acceptance and gaining additional insights from the broad trans-national and interdisciplinary experience of Task 28** (e.g., working group meetings, national expert meetings, Topical Expert Meeting)
- **Working together on open issues and research gaps each country cannot achieve on its own as well as discovering opportunities for joint research** (e.g., working group meetings, national expert meetings, TEM)
- **Enlarging the network and knowledge on good practice of institutions, organizations, experts and practitioners** (e.g., working group meetings, national expert meetings, TEM)
- **Providing reports, publications and presentations in the language of planners, developers, authorities and other stakeholders outside the research community who need to be sensitized on the issue to develop good projects** (e.g., Good Practice Recommendations, articles in industry journals and branch magazines).

## 2 Introduction

IEA Wind Task 28 was founded in 2008 as wind energy development slowed and in some cases halted in several IEA Wind countries by strong opposition and media debates. Today, the industry has grown and the capacities in all countries have increased. However, when examining the challenges that continue to be encountered around the world, many countries will need to invest in social acceptance measures to be able to put into operation the capacity needed to satisfy the array of global and national energy policies that depend heavily on wind power.

IEA Wind Task 28 can support these policies by exchanging successful examples, by connecting researchers, administrators, politicians, associations and practitioners from various countries and by disseminating lessons learned in presentations, publications and web contributions.

Some of the dissemination activities of the last three years include:

- Web site including a web data base of social acceptance projects and publications ([www.socialacceptance.ch](http://www.socialacceptance.ch))
- Participation at the annual EWEA conference
- Presentations of working group members at national and international expert gatherings
- Articles e.g. in national branch magazines and peer reviewed journals, interviews
- National expert meetings (organized in connection with working group meetings; US 2009, Dublin 2010, the Netherlands and Norway 2011, Switzerland 2012).

See also the final report of IEA Wind Task 28, to be expected for the ExCo meeting in May 2012.

### 3 Objectives and Expected Results

Many of the primary objectives from the first period will continue into the proposed second period. In some cases the objectives remain in their current form while in others past work and current needs have resulted in some modification of the previous objectives. Table 1 lists critical objectives from the first period of the task and the form they are expected to take in the second period

Table 1: Overview on objectives of the current and the proposed second period of IEA Wind Task 28

<b>Objectives period I</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Proposal objectives period II</b>
Establishment of an international forum for exchange	Working group meeting with connected national expert meetings	Continue this exchange, reinforce working group meetings with additional online meetings
State-of-the-art report on the knowledge and results	Published beginning of 2011	Regular updates by way of the online web database, eventually as newer, but shorter report
Online library of reports/articles	More or less regular updates	Invest in regular updates and expansion of the database
Establish "Good Practices"	To be published in cooperation with Task 11	Continuation of discussion, regional dissemination, eventually translations
Tools for policy makers and planners to reduce project risks, accelerate time of realization of projects and the realization of the full potential of wind energy in the participating countries	In terms of "good practices recommendations" and dissemination of successful examples	Focus not on development of tools, but engage in active dialogue, exchange and consultation with industry, officials and practitioners, eventually short publications for practitioners and inputs for training courses
Establish strategies and communication activities to improve or to maintain the image of wind power.	In terms of dissemination activities	Concentrate on dissemination of good examples and successful strategies
		Exchange with other international projects in the area of social acceptance of renewable energies to find common "lesseons learned" and to get new input for Task 28

In an effort to continue to push forward the research and knowledge in this space, period II of the task will emphasize those objectives listed above while also prioritizing efforts to better understand trends in social acceptance over time and the quantitative impact of social acceptance on the wind industry. Period II activities will also emphasize documentation of successful policy measures and case studies that can be used to inform others of good practices and lessons learned.

In continuing to pursue objectives from period I of the task and expanding the desired emphasis of the working group, the main areas of the future work of Task 28 proposed for the next period are summarized as:

- Measurement and monitoring of social acceptance respectively quantification / valuation of the phenomenon of social acceptance and the impact of where it has not been sought; assessment of the magnitude of the issue and tracking of developments respectively development of methods, possible indicators or figures to illustrate trends. One example could be to find one or two social acceptance “indicators” that could be reported on IEA Wind level.
- Documentation of existing policies and standards that have been demonstrated to increase social acceptance, including evaluation of checklists and guidelines as well as their use, taking into account the whole life-cycle of wind turbines; dissemination of successful supporting structures (e.g., community benefits and ownership models; the question of “justice” in the sense of costs versus benefits; involvement and processes).
- Discussion of current and new issues influencing social acceptance that are being debated in the participating countries, stressing of research gaps and discovering of opportunities for joint research. Foreseeable topics are (far) off-shore with aspects such as tourism, security), repowering, impacts on ecosystems and species, electricity grid expansion due to wind energy production respectively supporting infrastructure, noise etc. Some of the topics should be discussed more in-depth, perhaps by inviting technical experts to the meetings.
- Deduction, documentation, and dissemination of the lessons learned, good practices, successful strategies etc. with the aim of improving projects and their implementation and to support the definition of the common understanding of “sustainable, acceptable projects”. This also includes the exchange with experts from acceptance of other renewable energy technologies. (Publication of results in industry bulletins and peer reviewed journals, integration in training courses (e.g. environmental engineers, courses on renewable energy technologies), and recommendations for local, regional and national administrations).
- The role of “neutral intermediaries” should be approached in more depth, related also to the management of controversial projects, based on the good examples existing for example in Denmark and the Netherlands, resulting eventually in a “role description”. The issue is also connected to the question of a “guichet unique” for developers or public authorities.

## 4 Time Schedule with Key Dates

Another three-year period is proposed by the working group. This period will begin in the spring of 2012 when the final report of Task 28 2008-2011 is to be presented. This would be valid under the precondition that the IEA Wind Implementing Agreement is extended as well (today's Implement Agreement has been extended to February 2014).

### Work Package 1: Topical discussions

- In-depth discussion of one or two issues per meeting

### Work Package 2: State-of-the-Art / Recommendations

- Updates of web database of social acceptance projects
- Development of recommendations on topics discussed in-depth

### Work Package 3: Dissemination / exchange

- Working group meetings, national expert meetings, Topical Expert Meeting
- Reports to IEA Wind, Annual reports, Final report
- Publications in industry journals, branch magazines; conference talks



Figure 1: Schedule and work packages of the second phase of IEA Wind Task 28

## 5 Reports, Deliverables, Dissemination of Results

The working group intends to focus their meetings on specific issues rather than presenting country status every few months. We anticipate that these results will be captured in

- Eventually a (short) update of the State-of-the-Art Report including the new participating countries and highlighting the comprehensive view of the international and interdisciplinary approach.
- Good Practice Recommendations respectively Guidelines, including the needs of the new participating countries, focused on specific case studies and specific issues.

The working group intends to invite national experts and practitioners to review the reports and results before presentation to ExCo.

Dissemination in general should be focused on national and regional contexts as well as examples, while also taking into account good practices and strategies from around the world. Dissemination should be inserted into existing networks and publications, tailored to the specific needs of the readers of the respective publications. Already existing contacts should be used to spread our message.

Publications should be shorter than the reports from the first phase and focus on more specific issues to get the practitioners that need to know about certain aspects to read the publications.

The working group intends to use the following ways of dissemination:

- National expert meetings: Working group meetings shall be connected with a one-day national expert meeting in the respective participating country, eventually also including the national wind energy association. Further national meetings are recommended to each participating country.
- Exchange with other acceptance projects (tp wind, Task 29 biomass Annex, etc.)
- Web site and continuation resp. expansion of web database
- A kind of “newsletter” to experts in the field of social acceptance of renewable energies
- Publication in industry journals, renewable energy magazines, brochures of wind energy associations, peer review journals etc.
- Presentations and training courses by working group members or the Operating Agent, including participation at EWEA sessions
- Consultation of practitioners and associations with regards to the publications
- Integration of social acceptance issues into training courses on the level of university, universities of applied sciences and vocational training
- Tracking of debates in social media, reaction within our work and deliverance of knowhow
- Production of case studies demonstrating successful policies, standards, and other efforts that have help to building or maintain social acceptance of wind power.