

Summary 2nd WISE Power Test Exercise, Poland, Warsaw, 26th March 2015

On 26th March 2015 the second test exercise of the WISE Power project took place in Warsaw, Poland. Like the first text exercise, which took place in Glasgow in 2014, this meeting aimed at testing and evaluating which social acceptance strategies are currently being used in different countries.

Altogether 15 attendees discussed strategies to provide information and to engage with people during different phases of wind power projects. They shared their experiences of common and best practices in Poland, discussed what success looks like and what challenges they face when trying to gain social acceptance for wind energy. The participants also got to look at different social acceptance tools that already exist and evaluate them according to applicability and usability.

During very lively and active discussions the importance of an early engagement with all regional and local stakeholders was highlighted. In order to address the concerns of different stakeholders face-to-face meetings, participating in local meetings and festivities as well as individually tailored information materials are commonly used strategies in Poland. Currently there are no innovative financing models (such as shared ownership) in place in Poland due to legal restrictions. The test exercise participants, however, found the concepts very interesting and think that forming cooperatives could be an interesting path in the future.

The Polish test exercise was seen as very interesting and valuable by all participants. Participants found the open exchange of knowledge and possible solutions to foster social acceptance strategies for wind energy very helpful and enjoyed the discussions in smaller groups as well as amongst all attendees.