Best practices for local community engagement

Agenda

Presentation of the local community engagement study
- Yoann Baulaz, Research Fellow on Ecosystem Services in the Marine Environment, France Energies Marines

Q&A

Launch of the best practices guide

Moderator: Lotta Pirttimaa, Senior Policy Officer, Ocean Energy Europe

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'Best practice' report on local community engagement

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Yoann Baulaz – FEM

Lotta Pirttimaa - OEE

Forest Mak - SEAI

Silvia Hildebrandt - PLOCAN

Sybill Henry - FEM

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REPowerEU plan

« Save Energy, produce clean energy & diversify its energy supplies »

Total Production

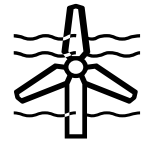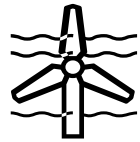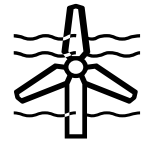|		
16 GW	30 MW	12 MW

WindEurope 2022
OEE 2023

REPowerEU plan

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Average time to obtain
deployment authorizations

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Vasconcelos et al. 2022

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Total Production

| 16 GW | 30 MW | 12 MW | Average time to obtain deployment authorizations |

WindEurope 2022
OEE 2023

Vasconcelos et al. 2022

Need to simplify the procedures to

CONCILIATE

Production

Citizen engagement

Binary perceptions identified in the literature

Typology of attitudes towards ocean energy projects

Cronin 2021
Bas 2017

+ **–**

- *Fight against climate changes*
  - *Technical innovation*
  - *Biodiversity benefits*
- *Socio-economical benefits*

- *Personal interests*
  - *Scepticism about efficiency*
    - *Biology conservation*
- *Scepticism about socio-economical benefits*

Context

- **General objectives**

- Identify best practices for local community engagement in the ocean energy sector

- Make recommendations to anticipate potential conflicts and propose compromise solutions

- Produce a 'best practice' guide on local communities engagement relative to ocean renewable energies.

> **Realization of surveys and interviews destinated to ocean energy projects partners who experienced local communities engagement actions in Europe**

Methodology

1 **State of the art of regulatory, institutional and political frameworks in the EU**

2 **Online survey**

Type of results

The regulatory framework of « engagement » in Europe
- o what are the legal requirements for engaging with local communities?
- o Are developers 'simply' complying with legal obligations, or are they doing more?

3 **Interviews**

Type of results

1. Presentation of local communities engagement processes
2. Evaluation of the impacts of the engagement measures
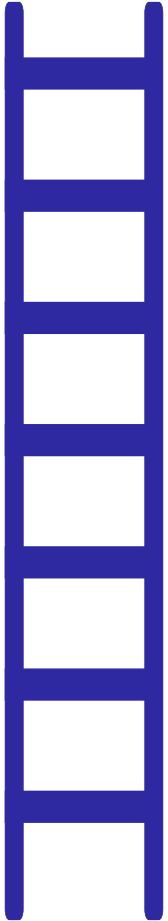3. Listing good practices for engage with local communities

Methodology

All types of projects represented

ECHANTILLON

DK ES FR

11 pays
représentés

GB IE PT

19 projects

Project type	N	%	Technology
Commercial project	1	6	wave
Device demonstrator	15	75	11 wave, 4 tidal
Pilot farm	3	19	2 wave, 1 tidal

① **Typology of engagement in ocean energy projects**

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FRANCE
ENERGIES
MARINES

The participation scale

T2.1 results presentation

The participation scale

Consultation ➡
- The communities receive **information**
- The communities **express their opinions**

Information ➡
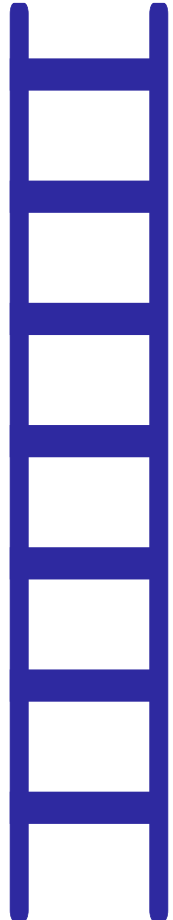- The communities receive **information**
- They **do not participate** to decision making

The participation scale

Conciliation →
- The key stakeholders and/or citizen are **consulted**
- Négociations are undertaken to **compensate** the impacts

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FRANCE ENERGIES MARINES

The participation scale

Partership ➡

- The key stakeholders and/or citizen **participate** to decision making (ex: location, technical caracteristics)
- Négociations are undertaken to **avoid, reduce, compensate** the impacts

Conciliation ➡

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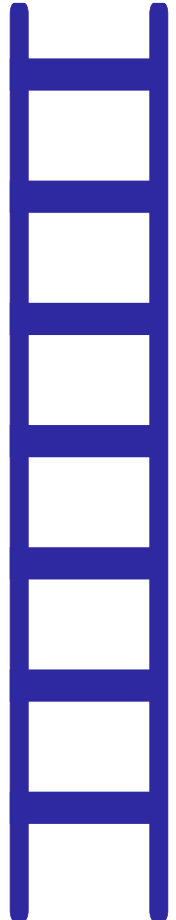- The communities **express their opinions**

Information ➡

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The participation scale

Delegation

- Some responsabilities are **delegated** to communities (organization of consultations, project management, communication …)
- The community take the decisions about the project, **the project is initiated by the community**

Partership

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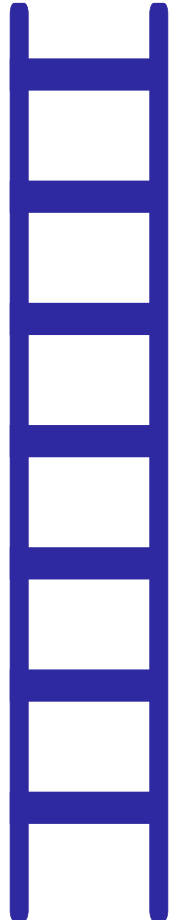- The communities **express their opinions**

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Comparaison des formes d'engagement pratiquées avec le cadre légal

Country	Level of participation (legal)	Level of participation observed in the case study
France	Consultation	1 project: consultation (early stage of development of the project) 4 projects: partnership
Ireland	Consultation	1 project: Partnership 1 project: Delegation
Netherlands	Consultation	1 project: Consultation 1 project: Partnership
Portugal	Consultation	2 projects: Partnership 1 project: Delegation
Scotland	Information	Partnership (for all studied projects)
Spain	Consultation	Consultation (for all studied projects)

Map stakeholders carefully and identify local issues

- Ensure that all stakeholder groups are included
- Identy community development issues and potential environmental and societal impacts
- Involve experts

Good practices for engagement with local communities

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Engage early and regularly

- Engage with stakeholders as early as possible and throughout the project
- Provide even a small amount of information on a regular basis, rather than a large amount of information at the beginning and ending og the project

T2.1 results presentation

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Share information transparently

- Share information through many different media
- Educate the public on the technology
- Present tangible examples of environmental and socio-economic benefits
- Be adaptive, transparent, honest and consistent in your communication
- Anticipate fake news by acknowledging potential scientific uncertainties

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Meet in person with locals and key stakeholders

- Organise public meetings and specific meetings with key stakeholders
- Consult with the community and include them in decision-making as much as possible
- A mediator within the community and medias should relay factual and verified information
- A steering committee is an efficient place to discuss issues and bottlenecks related to the project

Conclusion and perspectives

KEY POINTS

- Prioritize stakeholder expectations and needs on regulatory and institutional frameworks
- Define developer practices for engaging with local communities
- Discuss these practices with the regulatory and institutional frameworks
- Highlight some alternative forms of engagement that could help improve engagement practices with local communities

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CONCLUSION
Ostrom, 2010

- The challenges of social acceptability lie in structuring collective action between developers and local communities.
- Developers innovate and implement measures to engage with local communities in response to regulation that is not always appropriate

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PERSPECTIVES

- We propose this guide to sustainably integrate the good practices for local communities engagement to develop win-win strategies
- *How can the sustainable inclusion of these practices could transform stakeholders' perceptions and help ocean energy project development?*

Thank you for your attention !

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Do you want to know more?

On the ETIP Ocean website you can find:
- The whole study
- A summarised leaflet

Yoann.baulaz@france-energies-marines.org

Best practices guide – build trust, accelerate permitting & reduce costs

Local Community Engagement: Ocean Energy Best Practices

STEP 1
Map stakeholders thoroughly and identify local issues

STEP 2
Engage early and regularly

STEP 3
Share information transparently

STEP 4
Meet in person with locals and key stakeholders

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Coordinated by:

Partners:

Rue d'Arlon 63
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium