

APREN

WIMBY in Portugal to discuss the wind sector - with the support of interactive tools

- APREN is a partner in the European WIMBY Project, which supports the adoption and acceptance of wind energy in the European Union by promoting dialogue between citizens and stakeholders.
- The initiative uses 3D technology to realistically simulate the installation of wind turbines in landscapes and also through an interactive Web-GIS platform to improve the accessibility and usability of information.
- The project took place in the municipalities of Viana do Castelo and Torres Vedras, where it held workshops with representatives of the main actors in the sector, namely the city council, permitting entities, academy, environmental associations and promoters.

Lisbon, 3rd February 2025 - [The Portuguese Renewable Energy Association \(APREN\)](#) welcomed [WIMBY](#) (an acronym for *Wind In My BackYard*) in Portugal, an European project funded by Horizon Europe. APREN is the Portuguese partner of this project and one of fifteen European entities that are part of the consortium.

WIMBY's central objective is to support the adoption and acceptance of wind energy in the European Union. It does so by promoting the dialogue between local communities, experts and other stakeholders on the expansion and/or repowering of onshore wind farms in Portugal.

At an early stage, the project partners created innovative tools to facilitate interaction between citizens and stakeholders, the sharing of knowledge and collaborative assessment of impacts, conflicts, synergies and potential for social innovation. These tools use 3D technology to realistically simulate the installation of various types of wind turbines in different types of landscapes and real scenarios.

An interactive Web-GIS platform was also developed (still in the process of being finalised), which allows the early participation of local stakeholders and citizens, involving them from the beginning of the project in the planning, implementation and operation processes of the wind farm deployment.

These tools were then applied in workshops in four pilot areas: the island of Pantelleria (Italy), the region of Styria (Austria), the municipalities of Viana do Castelo and Torres Vedras (Portugal), and the region of Rogaland (Norway).

APREN was responsible for holding the project's workshops in Portugal. Given the abundant wind resource and the existence of a considerable number of wind farms, Viana do Castelo and Torres Vedras were the municipalities chosen for the immersion of the project, with a focus on the repowering of existing wind farms.

At the end of January 2025, each of the municipalities received a total of four workshops, divided into two days, to reach as many actors in the sector as possible. Each workshop provided attendees with an immersive experience. Using technology, participants virtually visualized how wind turbines would be integrated into the local landscape, simulating different configurations of wind farms. These simulations helped the debate among the participants on the social, environmental and economic impacts of wind energy in the country.

Representatives of permitting entities, city councils of both municipalities, academy, research, environmental associations, and also promoters and developers of the renewable sector were part of these workshops.

For Pedro Amaral Jorge, President of APREN, "These meetings aim at being a space for sharing knowledge and collaborative assessment of the challenges and opportunities of onshore wind energy in Portugal. This way, we are able to contribute to the involvement of local communities in meeting the decarbonisation goals imposed by 2030 and ensure that everyone is heard in the implementation of energy transition."

The results of the project and workshops in the pilot regions will be transformed into practical information for all stakeholders to make informed decisions and will be shared through open access repositories and social networks.

The WIMBY project has 15 partners, distributed throughout Europe:

- Project Coordination: [VUB – Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#) (Belgium)
- Scientific coordination: [Utrecht University](#) (The Netherlands)
- Partners
 - [APREN – Portuguese Renewable Energy Association](#) (Portugal)
 - [BOKU University](#) (Austria)
 - [Deep Blue](#) (Italy)
 - [DTU – Techninal University of Denmark](#) (Denmark)
 - [ETH Zürich](#) (Switzerland)
 - [Kelso Institute Europe](#) (Germany)
 - [Multiconsult Group](#) (Norway)
 - [Nazka](#) (Belgium)
 - [Politecnico di Torino](#) (Italy)
 - [PSI – Paul Scherrer Institute](#) (Switzerland)
 - [Università degli Studi di Palermo](#) (Italy)
 - [UCL – University College London](#) (United Kingdom)
 - [University of Oslo](#) (Norway)

About APREN:



The Portuguese Renewable Energy Association (APREN) is a non-profit association founded in October 1988. Its mission is to coordinate and represent the common interests of its members, promoting renewables energies in the electricity field. APREN works together with official bodies and other similar entities, at national and international level, constituting an instrument of participation in energy and environmental policies through the use and valorization of natural resources for electricity production, namely in the fields of hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas and urban solid waste.

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