



## **Project Description “4POWER”:**

### **Policy and Public Private Partnerships for Offshore Wind Energy**

#### **German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation**

**(Stiftung OFFSHORE-WINDENERGIE)**

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## **Background**

### Huge potential

Offshore wind energy (OSW) has an enormous potential as a renewable energy source: The European Environment Agency (EEA) has calculated that it is economically feasible to generate 60 to 70% of the EU's total energy demand by OSW in 2020. Regions are crucial for further OSW development, for practical reasons and because of the political and strategic role they can play – e.g. creating Triple Helix linkages and stimulating business networks.

### Sharing knowledge

While the technological advancement in OSW applications is considerable in industry, the uptake in terms of knowledge and effective policy in Europe's regional and local governments is still patchy. There are clear leading regions on OSW implementation and regions with similar ambitions, but without the level of experience and/or knowledge to implement OSW in the short term. 4POWER (Policy and Public Private Partnerships for Offshore Wind Energy) focuses on the role of regions in relation to OWE and stimulates knowledge exchange between leading regions (Rostock, Dundee, Emden), regions in progress (Groningen, Rimini) and regions in the stage of orientation (Azores, Malta, Latvia) to create a common understanding on current and future regional challenges in OSW development. Furthermore, the German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation aims to foster collaboration within the participating regions, through its extensive experience and well developed network.

### Content 4POWER

The partners jointly work on two themes: (1) creating an efficient regional policy framework and (2) promoting a favourable business and innovation climate aimed at implementation. Three phases are defined for the project implementation: divergence (regional consultation rounds, comparative analysis documents), convergence (mainstreaming session, good practice examples, thematic guidelines), and translation into strategy (local/regional strategies, project implementation plans and EU OSW regional charter).

### Results 4POWER

The project's findings, including a mini guidebook for regions to prepare for OSW development as well as practical policy recommendations towards EU policy-making level on how to make regions more aware and better equipped to create an EU level playing field for OSW implementation, will be offered to the Committee of the Regions.

The Project runs between January 2012 and December 2014. The total project budget is € 1,570,879.69 out of which € 1,228,472.22 is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).



## Parties Involved

- Province of Groningen (Netherlands) as Lead Partner
- Province of Rimini (Italy)
- Sustainable Industries Institute, Dundee College (United Kingdom)
- Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (Latvia)
- Rostock Business and Technology Development GmbH (Germany)
- Maritime Institute in Gdańsk (Poland)
- AZORINA – Society for Environment Management and Nature Conservation (Portugal)
- Municipality of Corfu (Greece)
- Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (Malta)
- City of Emden (Germany)
- German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation (Germany)

## Objectives

The overall objective of 4POWER is to prepare EU coastal regions for OSW developments by exchanging knowledge, experience and best practices on OSW supportive policy instruments and effective implementation. With 4POWER local and regional authorities will have a pro-active role in OSW development, contributing to a faster transition to renewable sources for energy generation and the EU's 2020 CO2 reduction agenda. The exchanging of knowledge, experience and best practices aimed towards:

### 1. DEVELOPING FRAMEWORKS

Identifying and exchanging good practice approaches on several crucial OSW topics (legal, technical, educational, environmental), aimed at the creation of efficient regional policy frameworks.

### 2. STREAMLINE IMPLEMENTATION

Identifying and exchanging good practice approaches on creating favourable regional climates for efficient offshore wind development: raise awareness, establish durable 'triple helix' relations between local and regional governments, NGO's, knowledge institutions and the private wind industry.

### 3. STRATEGY TRANSLATION

Mainstreaming the best practices on policy frameworks and efficient implementation, aiming towards regional implementation and common recommendations on a European scale.

### 4. DISSEMINATION

Communicate the 4POWER innovative policy approaches to OSW development horizontally, vertically as well as diagonally and create a transnational (web-based) community of practice.



### **German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation**

The German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation is responsible for the “exchange of experiences dedicated to the identification and analysis of good practices” (component 3).

This part is the backbone of the project, in which the knowledge exchange, research and reporting on the content-related OSW theme’s will take place. The activities respond to the three project objectives DEVELOPING FRAMEWORKS, STREAMLINE IMPLEMENTATION and STRATEGY TRANSLATION. Two thematic workgroups (TWG’s) will be responsible for the activities in the component.

#### TWG Frameworks

Province of Rimini will guide the TWG that will exchange knowledge on the policy prerequisites necessary for OSW development. The region system of incentives, permits and regulations determines whether stakeholders are triggered and facilitated to bring OSW developments closer.

#### TWG Implementation

Rostock BD will take the lead to individualise and transfer good practices in the actual implementation of OSW, in practice the bringing together of the right stakeholders (triple helix), managing information flows, efficient division of tasks, network adjustments.

The German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation is responsible for the coordination of this activity and will prepare the final report together with both TWG’s. The final report, which will be offered to a high-profile EU official at the end-event in Groningen 2014, has two deliverables:

- *OSW Regional Policy Charter*, which includes practical policy recommendations on EU level to make regions more aware of the opportunities and better equipped to create an EU level playing field for OSW implementation.
- *A Project Implementation Guide*, which is an overview of the project learning's, and acts as a mini guide book for regions to prepare for OSW development.