

Development of offshore windmill parks in the Lithuanian coastal zone - LT

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems

2. Key Approaches

- Technical

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The spatial planning approach applied to trans-boundary areas.

4. Overview of the case

Use of renewable energy sources, including wind, is an important component of sustainable development, which may result in measurable positive economic, ecological and social effects. This objective should be achieved by attracting potential investors and defining optimum locations for offshore wind farms, especially focused on principles of sustainable development, including preservation of nature values in marine cross-border areas.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

Lithuania, like all EU states, is expected to overcome the lack of reliable knowledge related to possibilities of offshore wind power development in marine areas of Lithuania and to plan investments into this kind of advanced renewable energy. According to an EU access agreement the State of Lithuania is obligated to produce no less than 7% of total energy consumption from renewable sources.

b) Objectives

The main goal is to create conditions for effective development of wind energy production in the Baltic Sea coastal zones of two neighbouring EU countries: Lithuania and Poland.

6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

a) Management

From the administrative point of view it is very convenient that the entire coastal zone of Lithuania belongs to one (Klaipeda) county, which comprises seven municipalities. However, the maritime part is also under the administration of the waterway authority. The final decision including the EIA approval(s) has to be taken by the Ministry of Environment.

b) ICZM tools

The ICZM tools in this case study fall within the legislative and planning categories. It includes mainly spatial planning and multi-sectoral management planning. The offshore areas are used for different activities and are divided into different zones. Therefore it includes territorial planning and management plan preparation prior to the legal activities.

7. Cost and resources

Since only the first stage of the case study has been implemented, the information about the final cost is not available.

8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)

Generally, the spatial planning and legislative zonation of the Lithuanian coastal waters is considered to be a pre-requisite for the any economic development. Effectiveness has to be assessed more closely when first practical implementation works will be started.

9. Success and Fail factors

The main success of the offshore park development will depend on foreseen investments, including foreign ones. However the attractiveness of the marine territories for such investments will depend on additional economical measures taken by the Lithuanian government to increase the competitiveness of the renewable energy sources.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

It appeared that construction of offshore wind energy parks is much less complicated with regards to stakeholder conflict compared to the wind energy parks in the coastal environment where there is high recreation value. It also appeared that offshore wind farms could serve as a feature facilitating the mari-culture development in Lithuania.

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13. Sources

- Internal materials from the Coastal Research & Planning Institute, Klaipėda University
- Perspectives of Offshore Wind Energy development in marine areas of Lithuania, Poland and Russia, Strategic Self-Management Institute, 2008, 84 pp.