



FACHAGENTUR
WINDENERGIE AN LAND

Social Acceptance of Wind Energy in Germany – Observations and Conclusions

WinWind Conference: Socially-Inclusive Wind Energy across Europe

Plenary 2: How can different levels of government foster social acceptance?

Frank Sondershaus

27th February 2020

Gefördert durch:



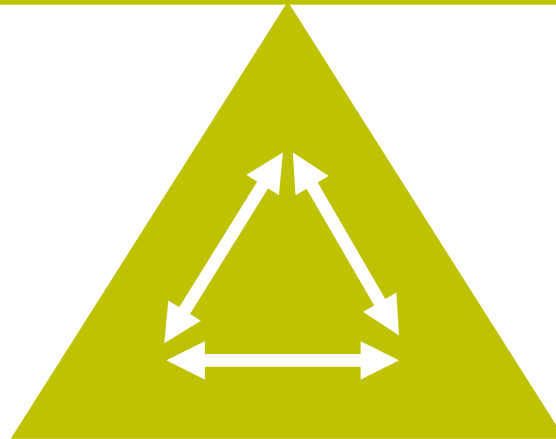
Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Energie

aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE

socio-political acceptance



community acceptance

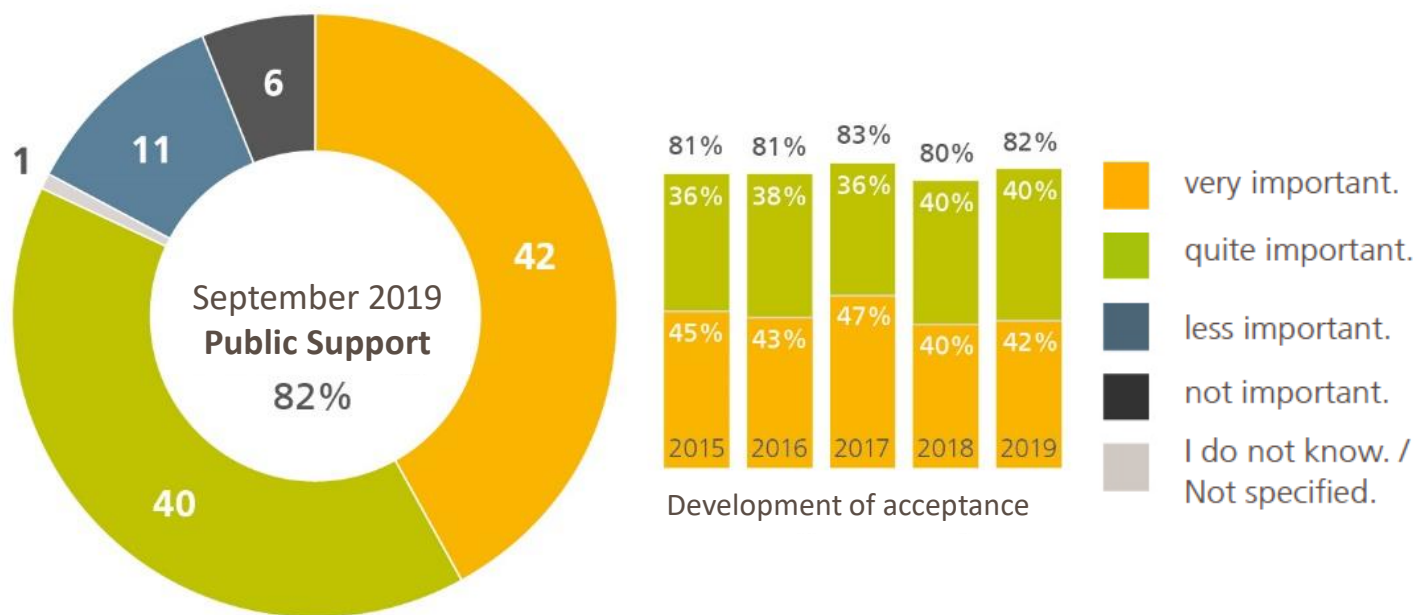
market acceptance

Source: Wüstenhagen et al. 2007



Acceptance of onshore wind energy

Based on the energy transition in Germany the use and expansion of onshore wind energy are...



Sample: 1.013 respondents:
Source: survey by **forsa** on behalf of FA Wind
Date: 3Q/2019



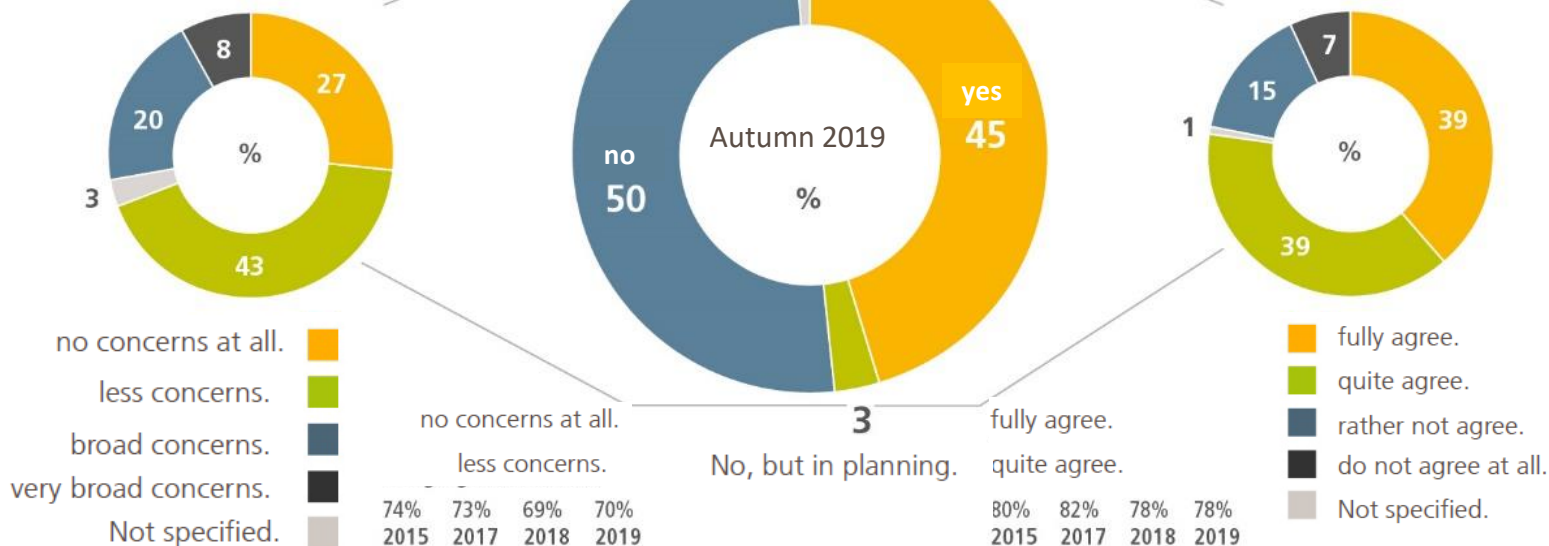
Acceptance of onshore wind energy

Are there wind turbines
in your neighborhood...

If wind turbines were to
be built, according with
the approval process

I don't know/not specified

With the wind turbines
in your neighborhood you...



Sample: 1.013 respondents: 461 respondents with wind turbines in neighborhood, 542 without turbines or in planning

Source: survey by **forsa** on behalf of FA Wind

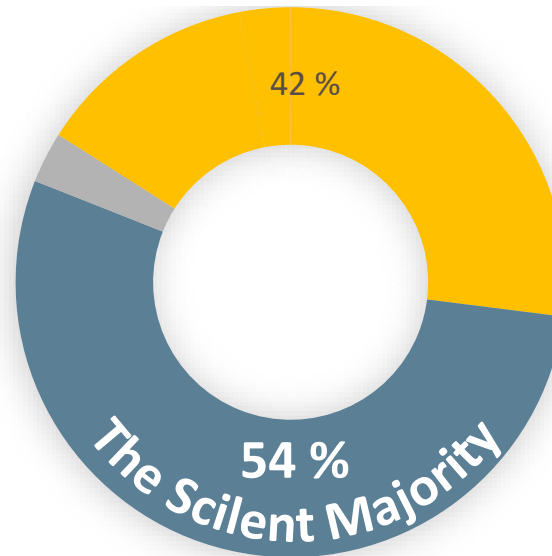
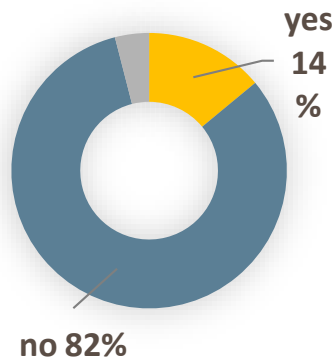
Date: 3Q/2019



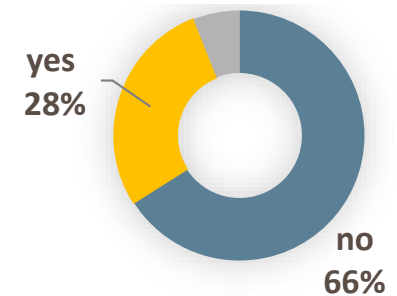
THE SILENT MAJORITY

Disposition to attend a demonstrate...

...against locally wind turbines



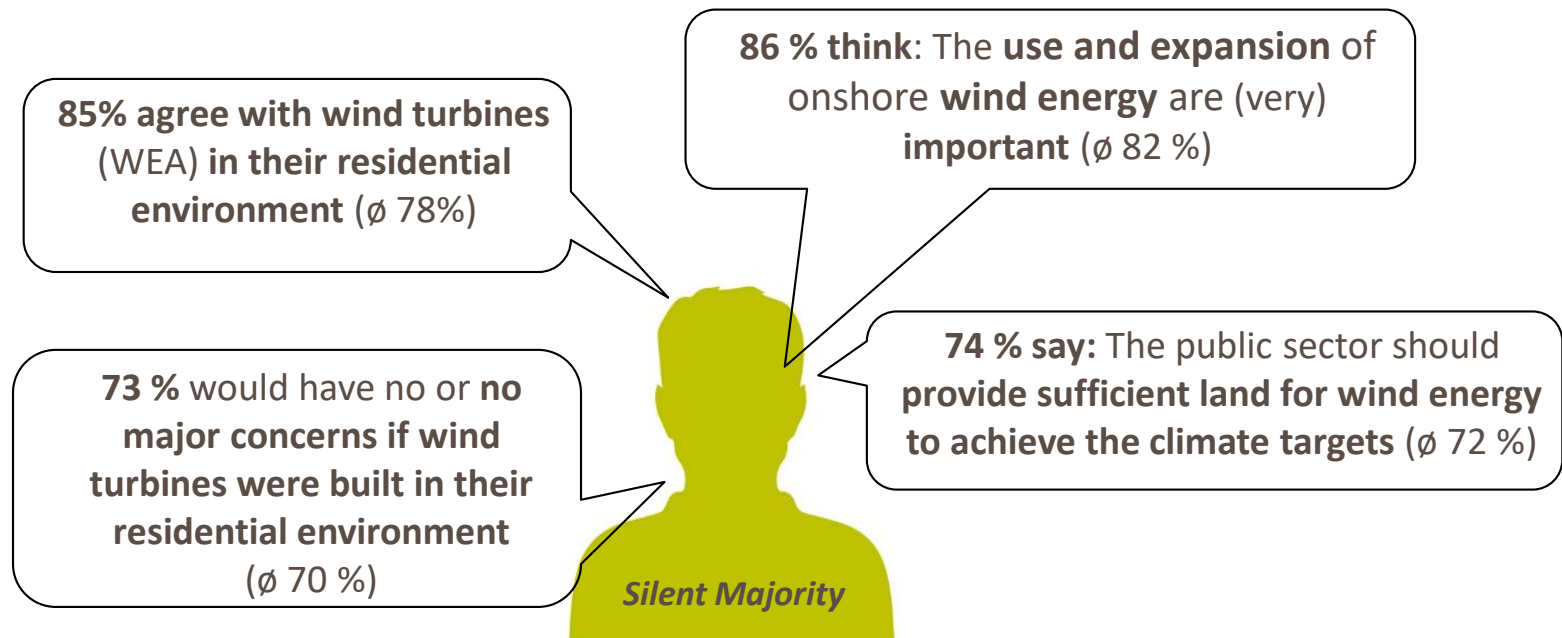
...to support the energy transition even with local wind turbines



Sample: 1.013 respondents:
Source: survey by **forsa** on behalf of FA Wind
Date: 3Q/2019



WHAT'S THE SILENT MAJORITIES' OPINION ON WIND ENERGY



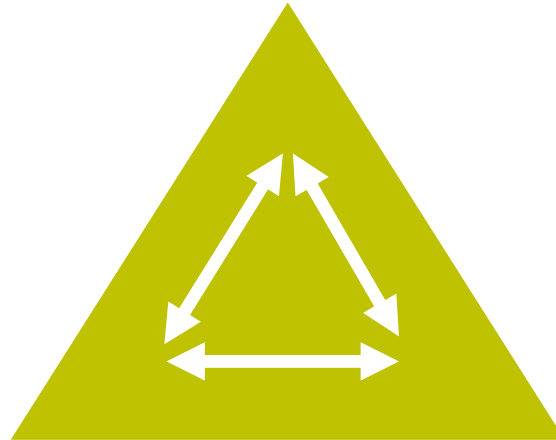
Sample: 546 respondents with no position to demonstrate; 240 with, and 304 without windenergy plants in their residential environment
Data: forsa-survey, in order of FA Wind;
3Q/2019

Source: FA Wind (2019)



DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE

socio-political Acceptance: **82%**



community acceptance: **78%**

market acceptance

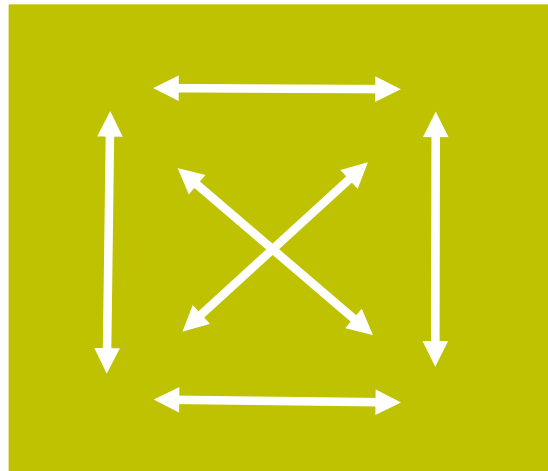
Source: Wüstenhagen et al. 2007



A FOURTH DIMENSION OF SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE

public acceptance

political acceptance



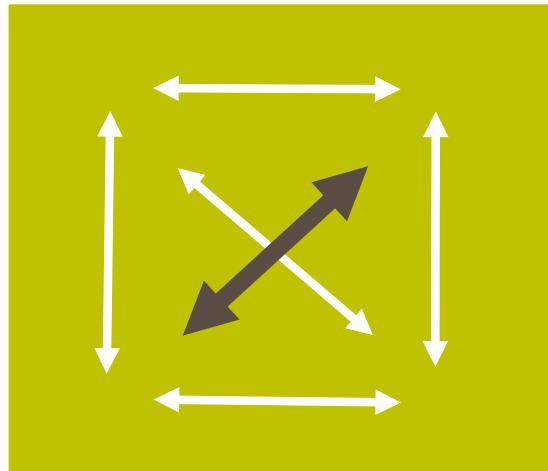
community acceptance

market acceptance

own diagram, related to Wüstenhagen et al. 2007



THE SITUATION IN GERMANY



political acceptance is declining

- path dependencies
- party-political considerations
- personal perceptions /assessments of policy makers
- ...

perception of the community acceptance

- ⇒ dominated by resistance
- ⇒ lack of positive dynamics



CONCLUSIONS

- local acceptance is changing within the project development
- passive acceptance is not enough
- key is: active support for wind-projects – and trust
 - good reasons for the local communities (e.g. value creation)
 - positive messages and information
 - participation and involvement
 - positive stories
 - questioning routines and setting rules (e.g. land securing)
 - linking policies for wind energy and regional development



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Thank you!

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