

# How to assess the context of wind projects?

Assessing the **project background** is an essential, but often neglected task. The contextual factors can be clustered into several dimensions, listed in the box below:

Criteria	Risk assessment: List positive / negative aspects
Location	Can the location trigger public debate?
Region, Geography	What is the socio-economic background of the population? Which socio-economic factors are decisive?
History	Have similar developments taken place in the area/ might they affect how willing groups are to engage?
Politics	What is the political background (region, municipality)?
Technology & Impact	How might stakeholders perceive effects on the environment and health?
Values / Culture	Does the project raise any fundamental questions (values: heritage etc.)?
Relationship	Is the relationship with stakeholder groups characterised by distrust?



**Local and regional aspects** are often much more important than national and international aspects (e.g. Touristic regions may have higher reluctance to allow wind farms due to the importance of landscape, heritage)



You may add any relevant historical facts, for instance if there are any **wind energy developments or any projects blocked or delayed**.

Useful tool: In order to gain insight into positive and negative contextual factors, establish two lists with positive and negative factors surrounding your project. What are e.g. positive political factors?

**Further Reading:** [↗ The ESTEEM-Tool](#) can help with more detailed project context analysis.