



**ARRS**

JAVNA AGENCIJA ZA RAZISKOVALNO DEJAVNOST  
REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE

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## Project

<b>Member of University of Ljubljana</b>	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty
<b>Code</b>	<a href="#">J5-9348</a>
<b>Project</b>	Social acceptability of territorial effects in RES scenarios
<b>Period</b>	1.7.2018 – 30.06.2020
<b>Range in 2018</b>	0,43 FTE
<b>Head</b>	Mojca Golobič
<b>Research activity</b>	Social sciences
<b>Research Organisation Partners</b>	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty
	Jožef Stefan Institute
	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences
	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Political agreements and severity of climate change predictions call for urgent improvement of energy production and use. Amongst the many measures to address this problem, one of the most perspective besides consumption decrease is also increase in share of energy produced from renewable energy sources (RES). While technological progress is swift, political support high and market conditions relatively favourable, RES use implementation faced considerable social opposition. The public generally supports increase in use of RES but finds concrete projects unacceptable. Research shows that main reason for opposition stems from changes and impacts on landscape and distributions of benefits and damages, perceived as unjust by local communities. The proposed project addresses this issue with an</p>

	<p>interdisciplinary contextualized approach on multiple levels. Setting EU and Slovenia's RES targets as our basis, we will construct scenarios of reaching them by combining different RES technologies. For each scenario will design a spatial model, showing the most appropriate areas in Slovenia to implement those RES facilities. We will choose reference areas for which visualizations will be made to show landscape consequences of the implementation. This will allow us to link together national targets, which generally have high public support, with concrete local consequences of achieving them, which often evoke opposition. Social acceptability of scenarios, spatial models and visualizations will be explored using a public opinion survey conducted on a representative sample. We will also include various compensations and ownership schemes of RES facilities, which were shown to have a beneficial effect on social acceptability. We will employ focus groups to further study the results of the survey in order to better understand motivation for (un)acceptance. Survey and focus group findings will explain the relative importance of landscape and economic factors for social acceptability as well as reveal the socially most acceptable scenario. By understanding the public's value system we will also be able to improve the spatial models. Results will be gathered in recommendations for ensuring higher social acceptance of RES facilities, paying special attention to impacts of compensations and ownership. They will also reveal in which landscape types the use of RES and which technology is most acceptable to the public. Using the described approach we will address some of the key questions in the research of social aspects of energy transition. We will link together acceptability on multiple levels, test effects of compensation and ownership and connect the perception of national RES targets and local consequences of their fulfilment. Besides the crucial knowledge for development of RES in Slovenia, this will also bring together issues that are mostly studied separately and set a common framework to ground existing research in a common perspective.</p>
<b>Researchers</b>	<a href="#">link</a>
<b>The phases of the project and their realization</b>	<p>Phase 1: Design of scenarios  In Phase 1 we will use two existing scenarios prepared for AN OVE to check other alternatives of increasing the share of RES, in line with national targets. Based on the defined scenarios we will create spatial models by confronting territorial potentials and vulnerability, finding places where RES as defined in scenarios are most feasible. To make the model easier to understand we will also create referential visualizations, showing concrete spatial consequences of utilizing the modelled</p>

	<p>RES. Scenarios, models and visualizations will serve as inputs for phase 2.</p> <p>Phase 2: Public opinion survey and focus groups          Scenarios, models and visualizations will be used in a public opinion survey to find the degree of social acceptability for each scenario of achieving national RES targets. By including national targets, scenarios, models and visualization we will link the high general public support for use of RES with concrete spatial consequences often evoking public opposition. Additionally we will also study the impact of compensations on social acceptability of various RES technology. By including this survey in the Slovenian public opinion 2019 research our sample will be nationally representative. Findings from the survey will then be explored in depth in additional focus groups, which will be designed in detail when survey results are examined.</p> <p>Phase 3: Synthesis and dissemination          Last phase of the project will be dedicated to synthesize all of the results and disseminate the findings. Some of the dissemination will take place also in phase 1 and 2, but it will intensify in this final phase, which will be mainly focused on offering a comprehensive view of the studied topic. The results will be presented to academia, professionals and general public as well as to decision-makers</p>
<p><b>Citations for bibliographic records</b></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>