



*Meeting with stakeholders (Public talk "Café Scientifique")
22 March 2011, Klaipeda*

Goal of the event was to discuss with stakeholders offshore wind park development in Lithuania and potential environmental impacts of such projects in the light of future marine spatial planning.

During the first part of the meeting **two presentations on the following topics were made:**

1. **Development of marine energy projects.** Mr. Tadas Navickas of the international company "4energia" planning installations of offshore wind parks in Lithuanian Sea made an overview of wind energy development in the world: current capacities and trends, demand for wind energy development. Presenter also introduced main barriers for these projects in Lithuania. Mr. Navickas stressed the lack of political will and policy coordination as well as issues linked to environmental impact assessment.
2. **Environmental impact assessment of offshore wind park projects.** Dr. Mindaugas Dagys of the Vilnius University presented regional research on marine environment in the context of environmental impact assessment. He focused on possible impacts on fish, birds and other species migrating or living in the Lithuanian offshore area. He introduced research on the impact from wind parks carried out in other countries. Dr. Dagys stressed an urgent need for an integrated approach towards wind park development in Lithuania and lack of cooperation among various institutions as well as strategic thinking on the matter.

Discussions and outcomes:

The presentations were followed by active discussions among participants of the event. Representatives of fishermen associations expressed their concerns about not being able to fish in the areas of future wind parks and thus losing their income. The main concern of the representatives of environmental NGOs and clubs were the possible impact to marine species in the areas of these parks. Some scientists questioned the quality of environmental impact assessments conducted for development of these parks. Participants of the event came up with a common outlook that offshore wind energy is needed, however there is a demand for a more active communication between different groups of scientists, scientists and business representatives, and a common strategy for development of such projects in the Lithuanian Sea.