The overall aim of MISTRAL is to nurture a new generation of researchers who can effectively evaluate the complexity of social acceptance issues facing the deployment of renewable energy infrastructure and propose innovative solutions in a variety of research, government and business contexts. Lead Prof. Geraint Ellis of Queens University Belfast (in concert with Celine Bout of DTU) has secured funding for an EU-Funded Innovative Training Network, PhD Researchers, Common Training Programmes in Social Acceptance. Programme emphasis on inter-disciplinary engagement with non-academic partners and innovative ways of delivering researcher training.

Objectives

Obj.1: Pursue creative, inter-disciplinary research on the conceptual framing, drivers, contexts and responses to declining social acceptance of renewable energy infrastructure;

Obj.2: Establish the links and feedback processes between socio-political, market and community dimensions of social acceptance, at a range of spatial scales;

Obj.3: Engage academic researchers with other key stakeholders in the field of social acceptance, including infrastructure developers, policy-makers, regulators, trade bodies, politicians and community interests to maximise the impact of network activities;

Obj.4: Provide an innovative training environment where young researchers can develop advanced skills in research and transferable skills, benefit from a range of diverse secondment experiences and debate current issues with some of the world leading researchers in the field, in order to develop advanced capacities for progressing Europe’s energy transition.

Overview of network activities

Mistral Deliverables and Milestones

48 Deliverables that support objectives, including:

- Research protocols (common variables etc)
- Conference presentations
- 36 academic papers
- Workshops and summer schools
- Lay guides and briefing papers
- Quality assurance and management deliverables (Career development plans, final reports etc)
- Training events and secondments
Research Projects

MISTRAL Host Universities ('beneficiaries')
- Geraint Ellis (Co-ordinator, WP1) Queen's University Belfast
- Tom Cronin (WP2) Technical Uni of Denmark
- Patrick Devine-Wright (WP3) Uni of Exeter
- Susana Batel (WP4) Uni Institute of Lisbon
- Rolf Wüstenhagen (WP5) Uni of St. Gallen
- Jan Hildebrand (WP6) IZES, Saarbrücken
- Celine McInerney (WP7) Uni College Cork
- Nick Johnston (Project Manager) Queen's University Belfast

MISTRAL Partners (secondments)
- AXPO Power, Coillte, EDF R&D
- Fachagentur Windenergie an Land (FAW)
- Empreendimentos Edênicos do Vale do Minho, S.A (EEVM)
- Green Fox Community Energy
- Irish Wind Energy Association
- Laboratorio Nacional de Energia e Geologia I.P. (LNEG)
- Nalbach Municipality
- National Economic and Social Council (NESC), NTR Plc, Project Zero
- REScoop
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), RGI, Energy4All

Overview of Network Activities

ESR 1: Justice Perceptions in Intercultural comparisons
- Title: Justice Perceptions in Intercultural comparisons
- Inst: IZES
- 1st Supervisor: Hildebrand
- 2nd Supervisor: Ellis (QUB)
- Secondment: FAW
- Secondment: Municipality of Nalbach

ESR 2: Dynamics of community acceptance
- Title: Dynamics of community acceptance
- Inst: St.Gallen
- 1st Supervisor: Wüstenhagen
- 2nd Supervisor: Devine-Wright (Exeter)
- Secondment: Apvo
- Secondment: Colite

ESR 3: Cumulative impacts on People-place relations
- Title: Cumulative impacts on People-place relations
- Inst: IZES
- 1st Supervisor: Hildebrand
- 2nd Supervisor: O’Callachor (UCC)
- Secondment: LNEG
- Secondment: EEVM

ESR 4: Socio-technical imaginaries of future energy landscapes: How, when and where are renewable energy infrastructures acceptable?
- Title: Socio-technical imaginaries of future energy landscapes: How, when and where are renewable energy infrastructures acceptable?
- Inst: ISCTE-IUL
- 1st Supervisor: Batel
- 2nd Supervisor: O’Callachor (UCC)
- Secondment: LNEG
- Secondment: EEVM

ESR 5: Social and distributive justice in renewable energy deployment
- Title: Social and distributive justice in renewable energy deployment
- Inst: Exeter
- 1st Supervisor: Devine-Wright
- 2nd Supervisor: Murtagh (QUB)
- Secondment: Green Fox
- Secondment: FAW

ESR 6: Public policy, procedural justice & participation in the low carbon transition
- Title: Public policy, procedural justice & participation in the low carbon transition
- Inst: Exeter
- 1st Supervisor: Devine-Wright
- 2nd Supervisor: Ellis (QUB)
- Secondment: Colite
- Secondment: Municipality of Nalbach

ESR 7: People’s responses to large-scale renewable energy generation and associated infrastructures: A socio-historical approach
- Title: People’s responses to large-scale renewable energy generation and associated infrastructures: A socio-historical approach
- Inst: ISCTE-IUL
- 1st Supervisor: Batel
- 2nd Supervisor: Fontes (LNEG)
- Secondment: LNEG
- Secondment: EEVM

ESR 8: Social acceptance, path dependency and the low carbon transition
- Title: Social acceptance, path dependency and the low carbon transition
- Inst: QUB
- 1st Supervisor: Ellis
- 2nd Supervisor: Murtagh (QUB)
- Secondment: Borch (DTU)
- Secondment: NESC

ESR 9: National – EU Regimes
- Title: National – EU Regimes
- Inst: DTU
- 1st Supervisor: Cronin
- 2nd Supervisor: Ellis (QUB)
- Secondment: Project Zero
- Secondment: SEAI

ESR 10: Governmentality of public participation in renewable energy
- Title: Governmentality of public participation in renewable energy
- Inst: QUB
- 1st Supervisor: Murtagh
- 2nd Supervisor: Rudolph (DTU)
- Secondment: REScoop
- Secondment: NESC

ESR 11: Collaborative approaches
- Title: Collaborative approaches
- Inst: DTU
- 1st Supervisor: Borch
- 2nd Supervisor: Murtagh (QUB)
- Secondment: LNEG
- Secondment: Project Zero

ESR 12: Motivations, incentives and commitments for co-investment
- Title: Motivations, incentives and commitments for co-investment
- Inst: UCC
- 1st Supervisor: McInerney
- 2nd Supervisor: Collin (IWA)
- Secondment: REScoop
- Secondment: Irish Wind Energy Association (Ireland)

ESR 13: Community investment – a segmentation approach
- Title: Community investment – a segmentation approach
- Inst: St.Gallen
- 1st Supervisor: Wüstenhagen
- 2nd Supervisor: Devine-Wright (Exeter)
- Secondment: Apvo
- Secondment: EDF

ESR 14: Financial models and incentives for Co-investment
- Title: Financial models and incentives for Co-investment
- Inst: St.Gallen
- 1st Supervisor: Wüstenhagen
- 2nd Supervisor: McInerney (UCC)
- Secondment: REScoop
- Secondment: EDF

ESR 15: The Political Economy of Opposition to Wind Energy Projects
- Title: The Political Economy of Opposition to Wind Energy Projects
- Inst: QUB
- 1st Supervisor: Ellis
- 2nd Supervisor: Barry
- Secondment: Mullally (UCC)
- Secondment: SSE
- Secondment: SEAI

For further information please contact Geraint Ellis at g.ellis@qub.ac.uk