

Non-Technical Summary

Beresti Wind Farm



DATE
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DOCUMENT DETAILS

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
IFC	International Finance Corporation
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Berești Wind Farm (the "Project") is an onshore wind farm with a total installed capacity of 126 MW, located in eastern Romania. It is being developed by EE Berești Wind S.R.L., a project company within the European Energy Group. European Energy is a Danish-origin group founded in 2004, present in 25 markets, with more than 950 employees, 1.7 GW of projects under construction and a development pipeline of 41.7 GW as of 2026.

The Project has a long development history. Land negotiations began in 2012, when the local developer SEDERA PLUS S.R.L. signed the first long-term land agreements with local landowners. European Energy acquired the project company on 28 April 2021 and continues to develop the Project together with the local developers up to the point when construction can begin.

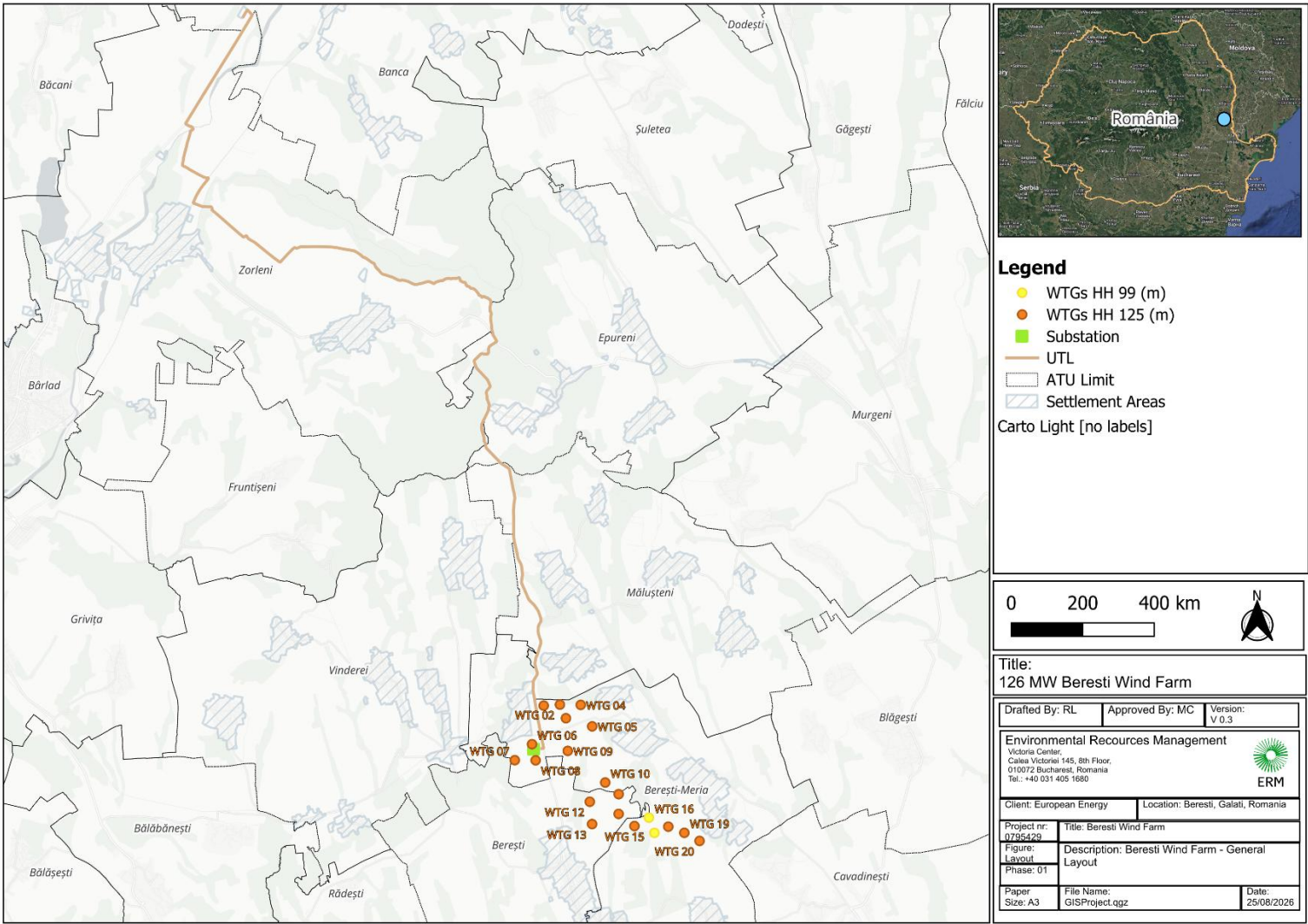
Once operating, the Project will feed electricity into the Romanian national grid, with a maximum export of 117.8 MW. It is expected to generate approximately 371 GWh of clean electricity each year, enough to power around 154,000 Romanian households and to avoid approximately 90,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The electricity will be sold under a Contract for Difference, providing stable revenues for the first 15 years of operation. Commissioning is targeted for 31 December 2028.

The Project consists of:

- Twenty wind turbines, model Vestas V162, of two types: eighteen larger turbines with a hub height of 125 m, and two smaller turbines with a hub height of 99 m, each with a nominal capacity of between 6.0 MW and 6.4 MW, spaced approximately 500 m to 700 m apart;
- Foundations and assembly platforms, comprising a buried reinforced concrete foundation beneath each turbine and temporary hard-standing areas alongside for cranes and turbine assembly;
- Internal access roads, using and upgrading existing roads and farm tracks where possible;
- An underground cable network at 33 kV connecting the turbines;
- A step-up station, where the voltage is raised from 33 kV to 220 kV for efficient transport; and
- An underground transmission line of approximately 34 km, buried along its whole length, carrying the electricity from the step-up station to the existing Banca substation.

During construction, the construction workforce employed by contractors is expected to peak at approximately 120 workers. During operation, only a small permanent team is required, mainly for monitoring and maintenance.

FIGURE 1 BERESTI WIND FARM LAYOUT



2. WHERE THE PROJECT IS LOCATED AND WHO LIVES NEARBY

The Project is located in eastern Romania and spans two counties. The wind farm itself, meaning the twenty turbines, the internal access roads, the assembly platforms and the step-up station, is located in Berești city and Berești-Meria commune in Galați County. The underground transmission line corridor runs from the step-up station through Berești-Meria commune in Galați County and the communes of Mălușteni, Epureni, Zorleni and Banca in Vaslui County, to the point of connection at the Banca substation.

The turbines are located within two administrative territorial units, Berești city and Berești-Meria commune, on arable land outside the built-up area of any settlement.

The closest communities to the turbines are:

- **Pleșa village** (Berești-Meria commune), approximately 248 m from the nearest turbine;
- **Berești City**, approximately 972 m from the nearest turbine;
- **Aldești village** (Berești-Meria commune), approximately 1.3 km west of the nearest turbine;
- **Puricani village** (Berești-Meria commune), approximately 1.5 km north-west of the nearest turbine.

Because Pleșa village lies close to the nearest turbine, particular attention has been given in the assessments to noise and shadow flicker at this location. These topics are described in Section 5.

The underground transmission line corridor passes through Berești-Meria commune in Galați County, and the communes of Mălușteni, Epureni, Zorleni and Banca in Vaslui County. Because this line is buried, it does not remain visible once construction is complete and the land above it is reinstated.

During construction, communities along the corridor may experience temporary effects related to traffic, access arrangements, and agricultural land use.

. The route of the transmission line has been carefully planned to fit around ongoing agricultural use and keep any interruption to farming to a minimum. Communities along the corridor will be kept informed ahead of the planned works.

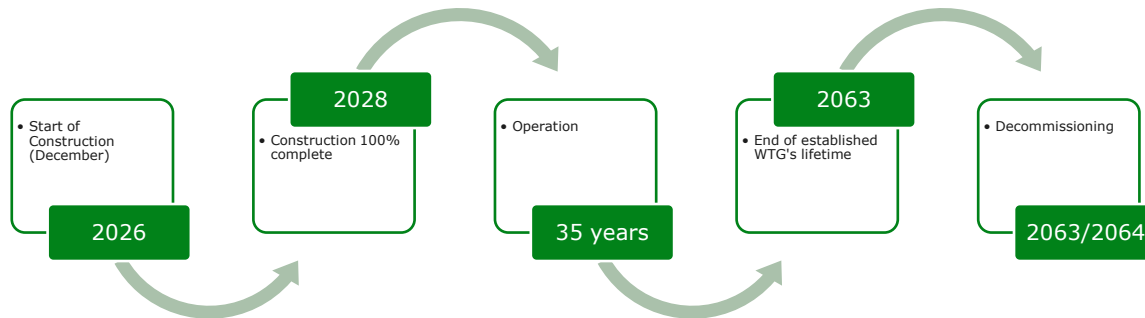
The wider area is predominantly rural and agricultural. Agriculture is the main livelihood activity in the Berești area, and the mayoralities estimate that approximately 70 % of the local population depends on agricultural activity as their main source of income.

3. WHAT IS THE PROJECT SCHEDULE?

Construction is scheduled to begin in the **December 2026** and is expected to last approximately **24-30** months. Once commissioned, the wind farm is designed to operate for approximately **35 years**. At the end of its operating life, the Project will either be decommissioned or, subject to the necessary approvals, repowered. Local communities will be informed of the operator's intentions ahead of that decision.

Decommissioning involves dismantling and removing the turbines and above-ground equipment, and returning the land to agricultural use as far as practicable.

FIGURE 2 TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT



4. WHAT STANDARDS APPLY TO THE PROJECT?

- The Project is developed to comply with the following Romanian and European Union legislation, and the conditions of the permits and approvals issued by the competent Romanian authorities;
- the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability (2012),
- the Equator Principles IV (EP4), and;
- the World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines, including the guidelines specific to wind energy.

To demonstrate how these requirements are met, a set of specialist studies has been prepared for the Project, covering noise, shadow flicker, visibility, biodiversity, cultural heritage, ecosystem services, socio-economic conditions, human rights and cumulative effects.

The findings of these specialist studies collectively form the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) package for the Project and are summarised in Section 5 of this document.

5. HOW WILL THE PROJECT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMUNITY

The main potential effects of the Project are summarised below. Measures to avoid, reduce and manage these effects will be implemented through the Environmental and Social Management Plan and contractor management plans. Overall, most impacts are expected to be minor or negligible after mitigation measures are put in place. Environmental effects are mainly temporary and related to construction activities, such as noise, dust, traffic, soil disturbance and waste generation, and are not expected to result in significant long-term effects. not expected to result in significant long-term effects.

5.1 BIODIVERSITY

The Project is located mainly on agricultural land, interspersed with grassland, woodland, shrubs and wetland in the surrounding landscape. The turbines and most associated infrastructure will be located on modified habitat, while the 220 KV underground transmission line follows existing roads and access routes where possible crossing three Natura 2000 sites and the Horga-Zorleni Key Biodiversity Area. The Bârlad River crossing will be completed using horizontal directional drilling. The biodiversity assessment concluded that the Project is not expected to result in impacts on Critical Habitat.

The main potential effects during construction are temporary disturbance, habitat loss and mortality through collision with turbines. For operations stage, collision modelling for selected bird species predicted low annual mortality after normal avoidance behaviour was taken into account. The actual effects on bats cannot be predicted before the turbines begin operating.

Construction mitigation measures include ecological checks before works begin, limiting vegetation clearance and the area occupied by construction, protecting nesting and roosting areas, controlling lighting and vehicle movements, and reinstating temporarily disturbed land. During operation, bird and bat activity and fatalities will be monitored under an Adaptive Bird and Bat Monitoring and Management Plan. If monitoring identifies repeated fatalities, mortality above predicted levels or effects on species of conservation importance, additional measures will be introduced.

With these measures in place, residual biodiversity impacts are anticipated to be minor and will be further managed through adaptive monitoring and mitigation throughout Project operation.

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5.2 NOISE

Noise was assessed for both construction and operation of the Project. Measurements taken near the Project showed that existing background noise levels are generally low.

During construction, the main sources of noise will be earthworks, foundation construction and turbine installation. Noise levels reduce quickly with distance, and the assessment predicts that construction noise will remain within applicable standards at nearby homes. Good construction practices will be used to minimise disturbance, including controlling working hours and maintaining construction equipment.

During operation, noise from the wind turbines was assessed at nearby homes. The assessment predicts that noise levels will meet the applicable criteria at almost all locations. One property may experience a slightly higher daytime noise level than the adopted assessment criterion.

To address this, the Project will consider operational measures for the nearest turbine if required and will carry out monitoring after the wind farm becomes operational to confirm actual noise levels. If any issues are identified, additional measures will be implemented as necessary.

Overall, noise impacts are expected to be low and no significant long-term effects are anticipated.

5.3 SHADOW FLICKER

Shadow flicker occurs when the sun is low in the sky and rotating turbine blades cast moving shadows across a window. It can only occur when the sun is shining, the turbine is operating and the building, turbine and sun are aligned.

Assessment of nearby properties identified a limited number of locations where shadow flicker may occur. The Project will implement a shadow flicker management procedure, including investigation of any complaints received, verification of actual shadow flicker conditions and, where necessary, mitigation measures such as operational curtailment of specific turbines during the periods when shadow flicker occurs. With these measures in place, no significant residual effects from shadow flicker are anticipated.

5.4 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Wind turbines are tall structures in an open agricultural landscape and will be visible from the surrounding area. A visibility study mapped where the turbines could be seen from, examined how large they would appear from viewpoints around the Project, and produced computer-generated images of those views.

As a general guide, turbines of this size can be fully seen from up to around 1.5 km away. Between about 2 km and 4 km, they are still easy to see but do not stand out as much. As the distance increases, they become less noticeable, and beyond about 9 km they are generally not expected to be visible to the human eye.

The turbines will be a prominent feature for those living and working closest to them. This cannot be avoided: a wind farm is visible by nature. The effect drops off quickly with distance and is absent across most of the wider area. The turbines will be removed at the end of the Project's life.

5.5 SOIL, WATER AND WASTE

The Project is built on agricultural land. Construction involves stripping topsoil, digging foundations, levelling working areas and trenching for cables. Water is used only for dust suppression, concrete mixing and the workforce, and turbines require no water to generate electricity.

Potential effects during construction include:

- temporary soil compaction and localised erosion;
- accidental contamination from fuels, oils or construction materials, which could affect soil, watercourses or household wells;
- sediment runoff into drainage channels; and
- waste generated by construction activities and the workforce.

These are managed through measures, including:

- stripping and separately stockpiling topsoil for reinstatement, with stockpiles protected against erosion;

- installing drainage and sediment controls before earthworks begin;
- restricting vehicle movements to designated routes and working areas;
- storing fuels and hazardous materials in covered and secured areas, and refuelling only in designated areas with spill controls;
- keeping spill kits available and containing and cleaning any spill immediately, with contaminated material removed by licensed contractors;
- separating waste at source, using only licensed waste contractors, and prohibiting any burning of waste on site;
- suppressing dust by watering unpaved areas during dry and windy conditions, and keeping vehicles well maintained; and
- reinstating temporarily disturbed land following construction.

During operation there are no routine emissions or discharges.

No significant long-term effects on soil, water resources or land capability are anticipated.

5.6 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

Construction activities generate dust and noise that can be noticed in nearby settlements and along the cable corridor, particularly in Zorleni commune. This is temporary and moves with the works.

To avoid placing additional demand on these services, contractors are required to provide their own occupational health, first aid and medical transfer arrangements for their workers, and roads will be kept passable for ambulances, police and fire services at all times.

Construction also brings workers from outside into a small rural community. Worker accommodation is not envisaged within the local communities. Home ownership in the area is effectively universal, at close to 100 per cent according to the mayoralities engaged, and the local rental market is negligible, so the Project is not expected to compete with residents for local housing. The workforce is expected to be accommodated in the regional centres of Bârlad, Galați and Târgu Bujor. All workers and contractors must follow a Code of Conduct, receive training on respectful behaviour towards community members, and are prohibited from harassment, intimidation and abuse, including gender-based violence and harassment. Confidential channels are available for either a worker or a community member to report an incident.

Construction areas, storage yards and the step-up station are fenced, signed and access-controlled to prevent entry, particularly by children. Security staff will be trained in human rights and de-escalation and will not be permitted to use excessive force.

With these measures properly implemented, no significant long-term effects on community health and safety are anticipated.

5.7 TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

Turbine components are very large, with blades transported in single loads of up to approximately 92 m and tower sections weighing up to approximately 145 tonnes, requiring oversized vehicles and escorts. Around the wind farm, construction traffic will use county and commune roads passing near Pleșa, Berești, Aldești and Puricani.

Along the 34 km cable corridor, most of the route follows roads that bypass settlements

A Traffic Management Plan will be in place before construction begins, covering approved routes, restricted hours for heavy vehicle movements, speed limits through villages, escort vehicles for oversized loads, advance notification to communities, and road condition surveys so that any damage caused by Project traffic is repaired. Additional measures apply specifically at Zorleni, including timing oversized load movements away from school arrival and departure times, pedestrian safety measures, and direct engagement with the school, kindergartens and local authority. School buses around the wind farm use roads distinct from those expected to carry construction traffic.

The Project also includes rehabilitation of approximately 15 ha of agricultural roads, which remain in place afterwards and are expected to improve year-round access to farm plots. During operation, traffic reduces to occasional maintenance visits.

Traffic effects will be noticeable during construction, particularly at Zorleni, and some disturbance will remain despite these measures. The Project will continue to work with the affected institutions and local authorities throughout the construction period to keep this to a minimum.

5.8 LAND, LIVELIHOODS

No physical or economic displacement requiring resettlement is anticipated. Temporary disruption to farming activities or crop damage may occur during construction and will be compensated in accordance with applicable agreements and Project procedures.

The Project will occupy approximately 14.25 ha permanently and up to 142.42 ha temporarily during construction, predominantly arable land in Berești city and Berești-Meria commune. The two administrative units together contain roughly 15,500 ha of agricultural land, so the permanent footprint is a very small fraction of the farmland available. No resettlement is required, either at the wind farm or along the cable corridor.

During construction, the main effects on farmers are temporary disruption of access to plots and crop damage within the working areas. Farmers consulted during field engagements indicated that alternative routes to their plots exist and that they did not consider their access materially affected, but the risk is treated seriously, particularly for subsistence and small-scale farmers with limited financial reserves.

Measures include continued individual engagement with landowners and the agricultural operators who work the land; coordinating construction with the farming calendar, reducing heavy vehicle movements during spring sowing in April and the summer harvest between June and August; and direct engagement with small-scale farmers so they know their entitlements. During operation, farming continues around and between the turbines and roads.

The Project also brings economic benefits to an area where the two administrative units together have fewer than 90 registered employees in the formal economy and where around 450 residents commute daily to work elsewhere. Construction over roughly two and a half years will create demand for labour, with lower-skilled and support roles most likely to be filled locally and specialised roles brought in. Contractors will source goods and services locally where they can, particularly food and catering, transport, and small-scale construction

services. The Project will generate tax revenue for the host local authorities throughout its operating life.

Vacancies will be publicised through local mayoralties notice boards and social media pages and local leaflets and basic pre-employment training will be offered for lower-skilled roles. The Project has already contributed to the community, including a 30 kW rooftop solar installation donated to a school in Berești-Meria in 2025. The Project intends to continue engaging with local communities and will consider opportunities to support local development initiatives throughout its lifecycle.

Construction workers are employed by contractors, and all employment must comply with Romanian labour law and the Client's labour policies, with these requirements passed down through contracts to subcontractors. Discrimination, forced labour and child labour are prohibited, including in the supply chain. Site hazards such as working at height, lifting heavy components and electrical work are managed through a health and safety plan, training and competency checks, protective equipment, and first aid and medical evacuation arrangements. Where the Project provides accommodation, it must meet international standards for space, sanitation, meals, safety and privacy. Workers will be able to raise concerns through confidential channels.

During operation, the permanent land take represents only a small proportion of the available agricultural land and agricultural activities will continue around and between turbines. Land occupied permanently by the Project will be restored following decommissioning.

5.9 CULTURAL HERITAGE

The area has a long history of settlement. A cultural heritage assessment reviewed 91 heritage resources within the study area, using the National Archaeological Repertory, an archaeological study carried out for the site in 2023, and field survey.

Seven sites were identified as potentially affected: one designated site and six non-designated sites. None of the potential effects is considered significant, and no significant effects are expected from changes to the setting of heritage sites. The exact locations of several sites are not recorded, so the assessment takes a cautious approach and assumes archaeological material could be encountered.

Measures include exclusion buffers around the six non-designated sites; archaeological investigation before construction and a watching brief during works at the designated site; a Chance Finds Procedure requiring work to stop immediately and the heritage authority to be notified if anything of possible archaeological interest is uncovered; and cultural heritage awareness training for all workers.

With these measures in place, no significant effects on cultural heritage are anticipated.

5.10 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects arise where the Project combines with other developments in the same area to produce an effect greater than the Project would cause on its own. A cumulative impact assessment was prepared, considering other renewable energy developments that are operating, under construction, permitted or reasonably foreseeable. Three neighbouring wind

developments were identified (Fruentiseni, Hoopeks and Gala Wind) within 20 km of the Project, with 135 turbines between them, in addition to the Project's own 20.

- **Birds and bats.** Several bird and bat species recorded at Berești have also been reported at the neighbouring Hoopeks, Gala Wind and Fruentiseni developments. This means that individuals from the same wider populations could encounter turbines at more than one wind farm, and that individually low levels of collision or displacement could combine over time. The total cumulative biodiversity effect has therefore been assessed as Moderate on a precautionary basis, while the Berești Project's own contribution is assessed as Minor. Comparable quantitative collision and mortality data were not available for all neighbouring developments, so the combined effect could not be calculated reliably. The Project will monitor bird and bat fatalities during operation, adapt its own mitigation where necessary and seek to exchange monitoring information with neighbouring developers and the environmental authorities.
- **Landscape.** Close to the Berești turbines, the view is dominated by the Project itself, and the neighbouring developments appear only as small features on the horizon. At intermediate distances, between the Project and the neighbouring wind farms, no single development dominates and each is clearly seen, so the Project adds to a combined effect. Further away, the Project adds only marginally to wind development already visible on the skyline, and where the Berești turbines cannot be seen it does not contribute to the cumulative effect.
- **Noise.**
 - Noise from wind turbines decreases quickly with distance. The assessment found that neighbouring wind farms are not expected to make a meaningful contribution to noise levels at homes near the Project. Although a slightly elevated daytime noise level has been predicted at one property, this is related to the Project alone and not to cumulative effects from other developments. No significant cumulative noise effects are anticipated.
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- **Shadow flicker.** Flicker also weakens rapidly with distance and is not expected beyond about 1.6 km from a turbine. Of the 36 neighbouring turbines, only one lies close enough to combine with a Berești turbine at the same building, at approximately 1.4 km from one of the Project's turbines. The area between them is open farmland where the Project itself causes no exceedance. Combined flicker is therefore possible only at one or a very small number of buildings, if any, and is not expected anywhere else in the study area.
- **Construction traffic.** This is the most significant cumulative issue. If construction of the neighbouring developments overlaps in time with the Berești works, the same roads and communities would carry heavy vehicles and oversized loads from more than one project at once. The shared pressure points are the Zorleni corridor and the county road approaches to the turbine field.

No additional measures are needed for cumulative noise, since the Project's contribution does not materially add to what any home experiences.

The Project commits to engaging with the neighbouring developers to coordinate activities that could combine to affect local communities, in particular the timing of construction and of major transport movements. Where such coordination is not achievable, the Project will rely on its own management plans to control its contribution.

The Project's contribution to cumulative effects is limited for noise, shadow flicker and distant views, and is greatest for construction traffic where routes are shared. Coordination with neighbouring developers, supported by the Project's own management plans, is the means by which this will be managed.

6. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

The Project developer will engage with stakeholders and provide accessible information about the Project, including opportunities for stakeholders to raise questions or concerns.

A grievance mechanism is in place, allowing anyone affected by the Project or its contractors to submit an enquiry, comment or complaint. Submissions may be made anonymously, are free of charge, and are treated confidentially. Each is recorded, investigated and responded to, and the person raising it is informed of the outcome. Using the mechanism does not affect any other right of recourse, including to the authorities or the courts.

Stakeholders may contact the Project using the following channels:

- Community Liaison Office:
 - Name: Andreea Gabriela Gubernat Musat / Ovidiu Apreotesei
 - Telephone: Andreea (+40 761 222 642) / Ovidiu (+40 786 121 404)
 - Email: RO0001-Beresti@europeanenergy.com
 - Postal address: European Energy Romania Development: Str. Calea Floreasca, nr. 218, etajul 2, apt 5, Sector 1, 014473, Bucharest.
- Online form: <https://ro.europeanenergy.com/beresti-wind-project-english/>

7. NEXT STEPS

The Project is preparing to proceed to the construction phase. Implementation will be supported by the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), which may incorporate topic-specific management plans, designed to ensure compliance with applicable national legislation and relevant international standards. Under the ESMP framework, management measures will address the key environmental, social, health and safety aspects of the Project during construction and operation.

These plans will guide contractors and Project personnel so that potential impacts are prevented, minimised or appropriately managed throughout the Project lifecycle.