

Offshore Wind Acceptability in France: Public Preferences over Wind Turbine Tax Redistribution

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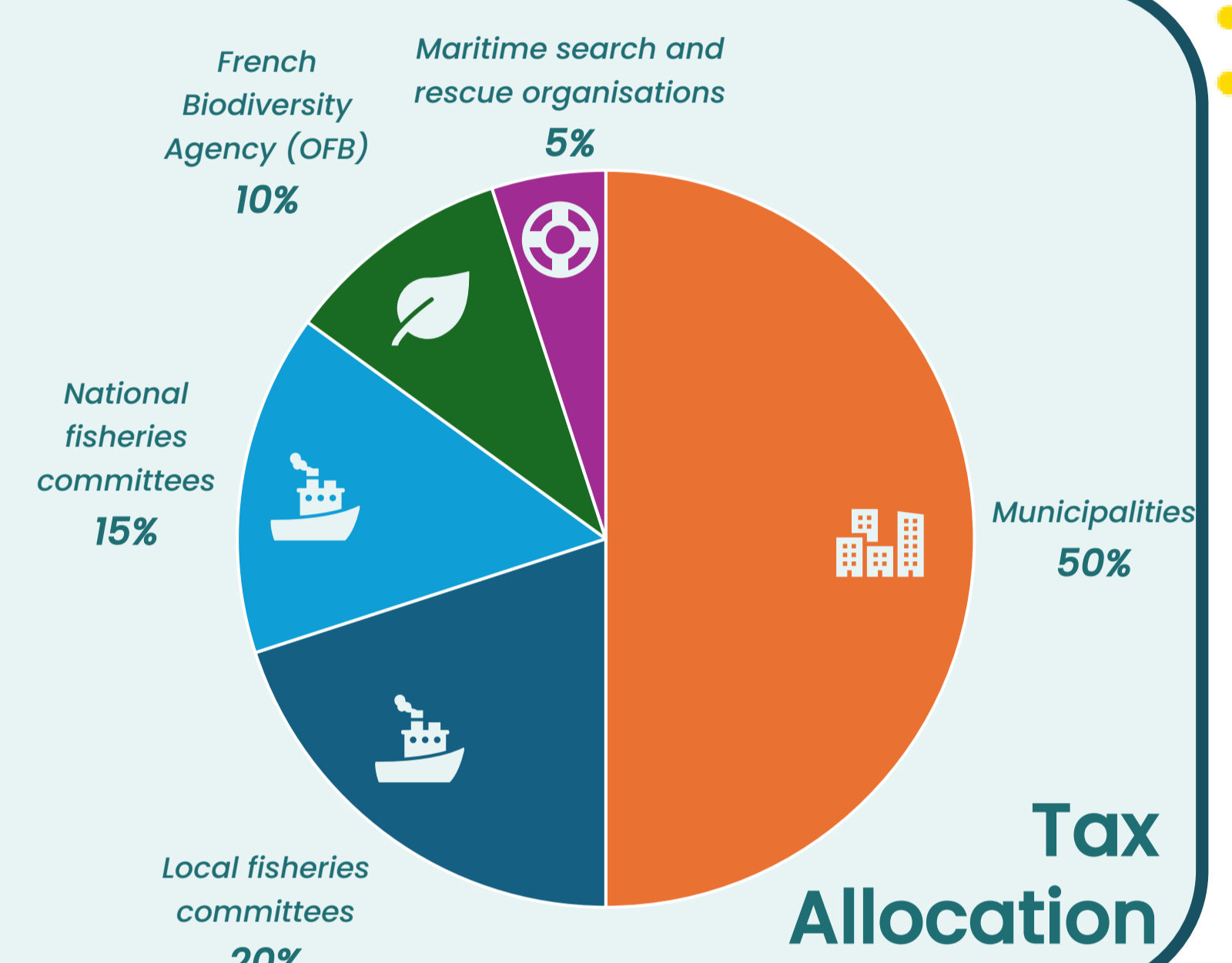
The French « Maritime Wind Turbine Tax »

France has introduced a maritime wind turbine tax (*«taxe éolienne»*):

- €20,248 per installed MW per year, allocated to local stakeholders
- Nearly €1 billion annually by 2050 (45 GW target)
- To align interests of wind farm developers and local stakeholders by supporting local policies

Revenues are currently allocated to general budgets, with limited transparency and traceability for citizens. This raises key questions:

- What are citizens' preferences for revenue allocation, given level and type of local impacts?
- Is the current design optimal for ensuring social acceptability?

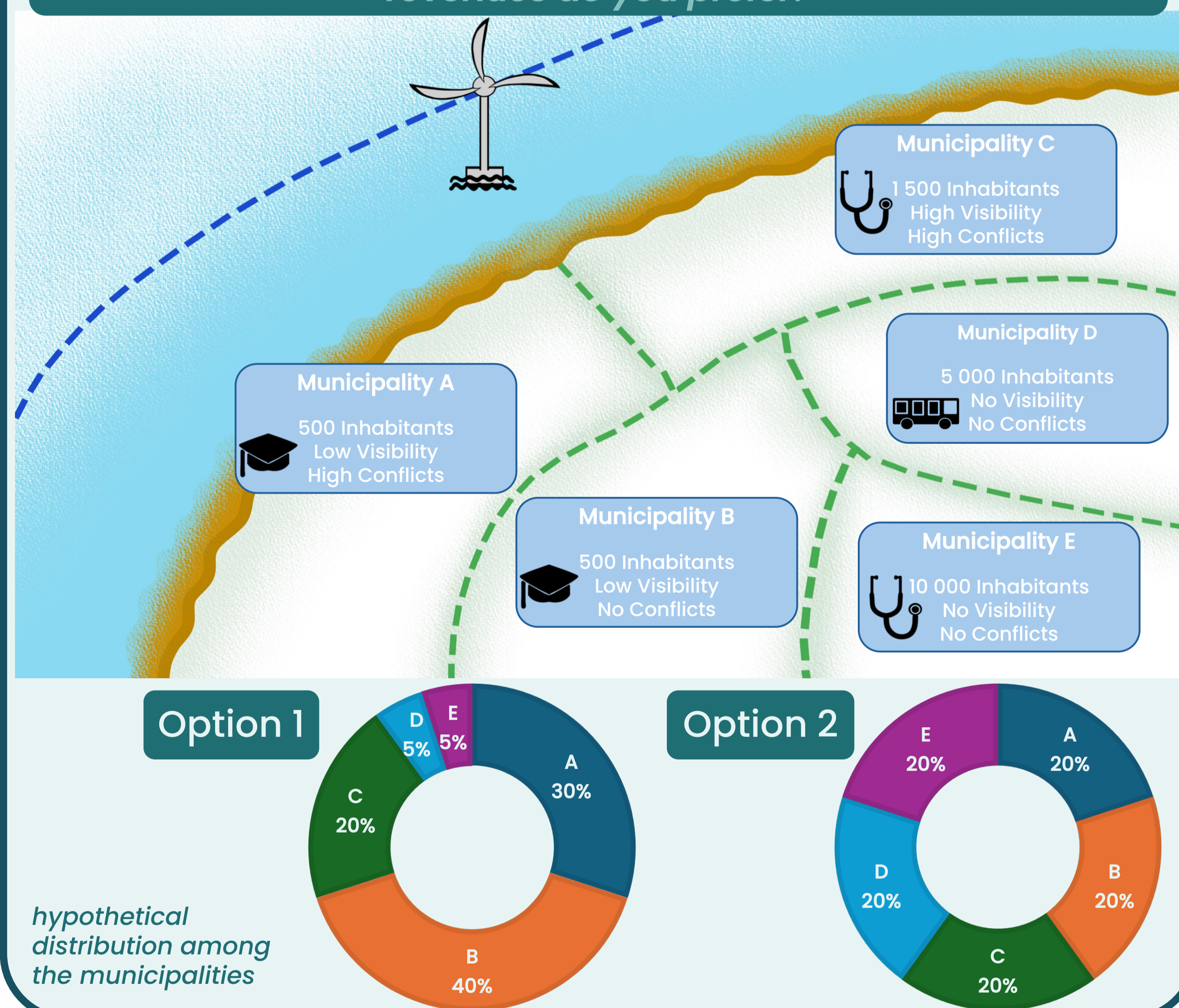


Experimental Approach

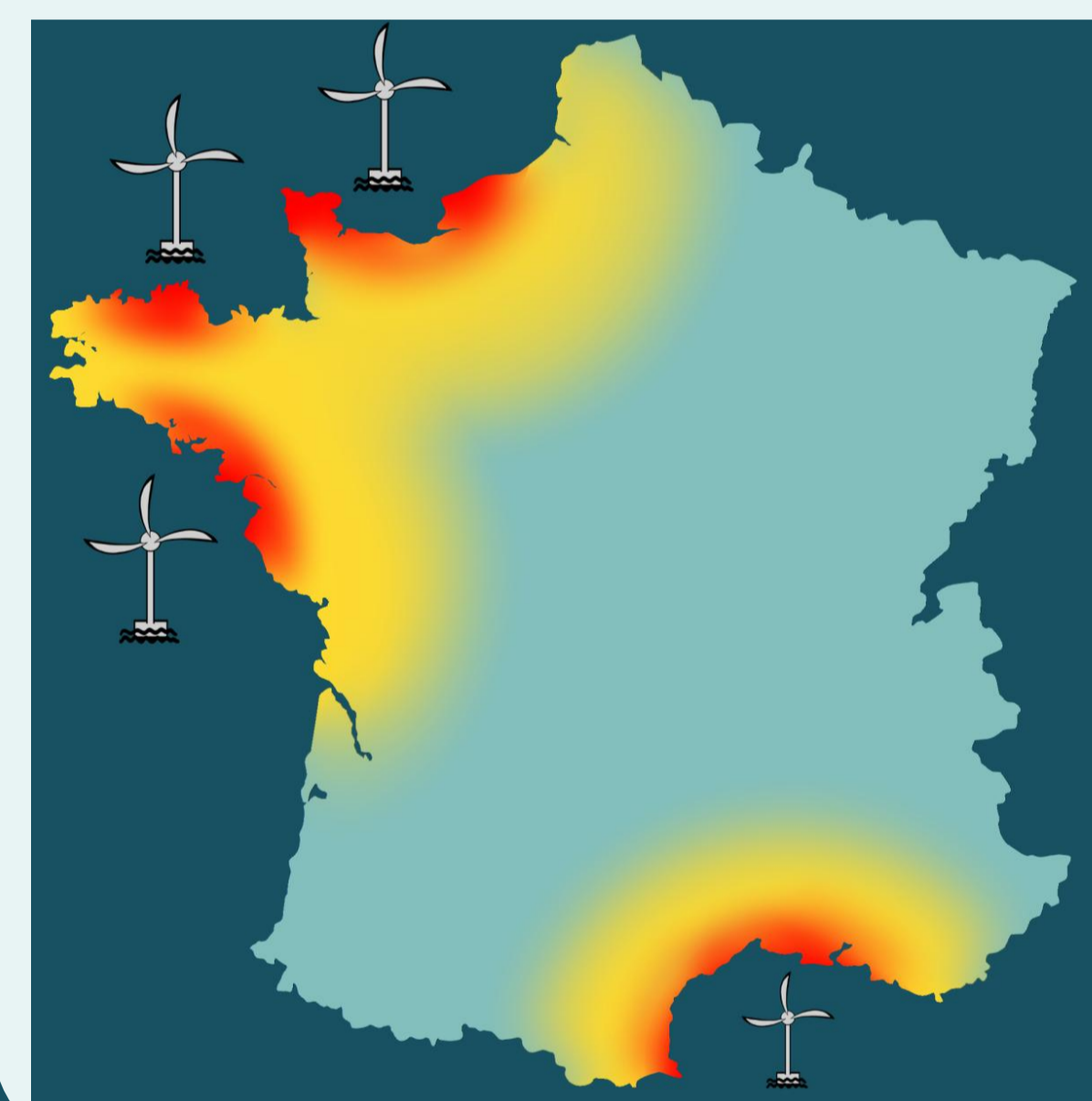
A survey of the metropolitan French population including a **Discrete Choice Experiment (DCE)**. Respondents :

- Face a series of hypothetical scenarios involving wind farm development near municipalities
- Are informed about differences in exposure across municipalities
- Are asked to choose how to allocate wind turbine tax revenues across constrained options

In the following scenario, which allocation of wind turbine tax revenues do you prefer?



Population Target



A **national sample** interviewed online composed of:

- Nearby beneficiary communities
- Nearby Non-beneficiary communities
- Distant communities

Capturing both local and national perceptions.

Awaited Results

This ongoing research is based on an online survey of a **nationally representative sample**, with data collection planned for **June 2026**, followed by subsequent analysis:

Portray **citizens' preferences** regarding wind turbine tax allocation

- Compare preferences **between municipalities** (based on their characteristics and exposure to wind farm disturbances)
- Compare preferences **across policy targets**
- Analyze preferences **according to individuals' profiles** (socio-demographic characteristics, distance to wind farms)

Provide **policy recommendation** to adapt wind turbine tax design:

- Identify the **optimal level of governance** for funds (municipality, inter-municipalities, or higher level)
- Identify **allocations of funds** that ensure citizen acceptability

This work is part of an ongoing research project within a doctoral thesis conducted by **Joffrey STARY** (PhD student, LEMNA, Nantes Université), under the supervision of **Pierre-Alexandre MAHIEU**, **François-Charles WOLFF** & **Romain CRASTES DIT SOURD**.

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