

Environmental, Social, And Governance Evaluation

Galata Wind Enerji A.Ş

Summary

Galata Wind Enerji A.Ş is a Türkiye-based renewable energy company. It operates three wind farms and two solar photovoltaic plants with a total capacity of 269 megawatts (MW) in 2023. The company also designs solar energy systems for roofs of houses, schools, workplaces, gas stations, and factories to generate their own energy. In 2022 it employed 51 people and generated approximately €55 million, mostly from electricity sales from wind energy (87%) and solar energy (10%) to the Turkish grid operator. Galata Wind was founded in 2006 and since 2012 has been a subsidiary of Doğan Şirketler Grubu Holding A.Ş. Following a successful IPO in 2021, the company is 30% publicly traded.

The ESG Evaluation of 67 reflects our view that Galata Wind is adequately prepared to benefit from and overcome short- and medium-term disruptions facing the power generation industry. As a pure renewable energy generator, we believe it has a role in displacing fossil fuels in Türkiye’s current energy mix, particularly considering its target to nearly double its generation capacity to 550 MW by 2025, which we view as ambitious but achievable. In terms of its environmental profile, the company has very low direct emissions and intends to reduce scope 1 emissions to zero by 2025, which we view positively. However, we note it has yet to develop a strategy to reduce indirect emissions, particularly those related to scope 3, which are the most significant in the sector. We believe Galata Wind is less directly exposed to social risks than other power generators, particularly as the construction and maintenance of wind and solar plants is outsourced, meaning health and safety risks to employees are less material. Finally, despite the limited track-record of its board of directors, we believe it exhibits good governance practices in line with Turkish standards for listed companies. We also understand that Galata Wind’s financial and nonfinancial disclosures, which lag some industry and regional peers, will become more granular and robust, particularly as it published its first sustainability report in June 2023 and intends to externally assure nonfinancial information from 2024 onward.

PRIMARY ANALYST

Maria Ortiz de Mendivil
Madrid
+34-687-007-348
Maria.omendivil
@spglobal.com

SECONDARY ANALYST

Julien Bernu
London
+44-207-176-7137
Julien.Bernu
@spglobal.com

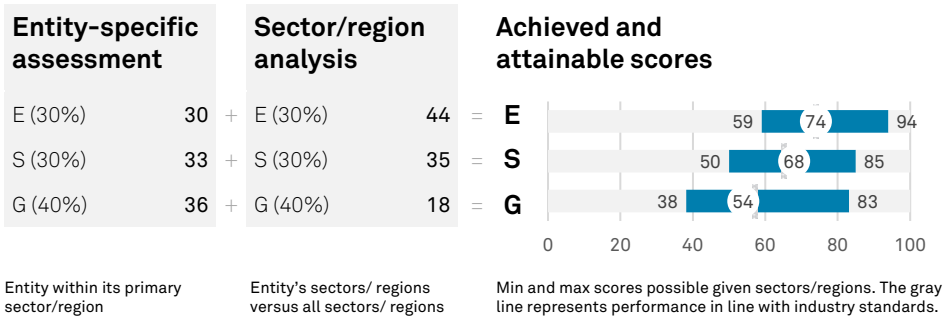
Luisina Berberian
Madrid
+34-91-788-7200
Luisina.Berberian
@spglobal.com

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTOR

Francesca Pisaroni
Milan
+39-347-242-7606
Francesca.Pisaroni
@spglobal.com

Prashant Singh
GAC Mumbai

ESG Profile Components (figures subject to rounding)



ESG Profile 64

Preparedness +3



Component Scores

Environmental Profile			Social Profile			Governance Profile		
Sector/Region Score		44/50	Sector/Region Score		35/50	Sector/Region Score		18/35
	Greenhouse gas emissions	Good		Workforce and diversity	Good		Structure and oversight	Good
	Waste and pollution	Good		Safety management	Strong		Code and values	Good
	Water use	Good		Customer engagement	Good		Transparency and reporting	Developing
	Land use and biodiversity	Good		Communities	Good		Financial and operational risks	Neutral
	General factors (optional)	None		General factors (optional)	None		General factors (optional)	0
Entity-Specific Score		30/50	Entity-Specific Score		33/50	Entity-Specific Score		36/65
E-Profile (30%)		74/100	S-Profile (30%)		68/100	G-Profile (40%)		54/100
ESG Profile (including any adjustments)						64/100		

Preparedness Summary

As a pure renewable energy generator, Galata Wind is adequately prepared to benefit from and overcome short- and medium-term disruptions facing its business, in our view. It aims to nearly double its generation capacity to 550 MW by 2025, going some way to help Türkiye displace fossil fuels in its energy mix. The board appears aware of the financial, regulatory, and operational risks that Galata Wind faces, and has shown it can overcome disruptions and maintain a stable financial position. In this regard, we view the company as significantly exposed to political instability given its limited geographical and technological diversification. Its reactive stance regarding the development of technologies to overcome sector-specific concerns, such as renewable energy availability and security of supply, reflects its status as a relatively small player in the market, in our view.

Capabilities

Awareness	Good
Assessment	Good
Action plan	Good

Embeddedness

Culture	Good
Decision-making	Good

Preparedness Opinion (Scoring Impact)

Adequate (+3)

ESG Evaluation

67

Note: Figures are subject to rounding.

Environmental Profile

74/100

Sector/Region Score (44/50)

Galata Wind operates exclusively in the renewable energy generation sector. This sector is significantly less exposed to greenhouse gas emission risks than nonrenewable power generation peers. However, renewable assets, especially wind farms, occupy a lot of land and turbines can create substantial nonrecyclable waste at end-of-life. Galata Wind operates in Türkiye, which is increasingly exposed to climate risks such as water stress and biodiversity loss.

Entity-Specific Score (30/50)

Note: Figures are subject to rounding.



Galata Wind has lower scopes 1 and 2 emissions than pure renewables peers, but only started tracking its scope 3 emissions this year. Scope 3 emissions are the largest contributors to the renewable energy generation sector's overall carbon footprint. Galata Wind's focus is on growing its wind and solar installed capacity to 550 MW by 2025. It is on track, in our view, having received approval for the construction of six wind plants and one solar plant to add 350 MW more in installed capacity to its portfolio (269 MW in 2023). We expect its low scopes 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions intensity will continue to outperform industry peers, mostly because it consumes 100% renewable energy from its own production to reduce scope 2 emissions, and aims to reduce scope 1 emissions to zero by 2025. That said, unlike some peers, Galata Wind has only just started tracking scope 3 emissions, with a view to mitigating them, particularly those related to purchased goods and services and capital goods, which tend to be the most material in the sector.

We expect Galata Wind to define its waste management strategy in 2023. It has committed to implement zero-waste policies and recycling to reduce its environmental impact and support the circular economy. Like for its other ESG metrics, its tracking of waste management is nascent. Only waste resulting from power plant maintenance is measured (mostly lubricant oil, batteries, and replaced parts), which it disposes of via certified companies. We understand its exposure to waste generation is lower than other market participants, particularly given how recent its renewable projects are (2012) and therefore how far these are from reaching their end-of-life. However, it lags more consolidated peers that have a solid record of tracking, reporting, and managing their waste exposure.

Galata Wind sees biodiversity protection as a relevant topic and does more than just meet the legal requirements set in Türkiye. It performs Environmental Impact Assessments (ESIA) for greenfield projects and often monitors biodiversity risks more closely than the law requires, which we view positively. The company is planning to introduce automatic controls at its wind farms to ensure turbines are stopped during bird migrations, which we view as a standard practice for wind power operators.

While Galata Wind has low exposure to water risks, driven by its lower-than-peers consumption, all its sites are in water-stressed areas according to WRI Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas. We view favorably the holding-level target for 2030 for all water used by the group to be recycled or replenished. Galata Wind commits to make water-saving measures at all centers to reduce its consumption.

Social Profile

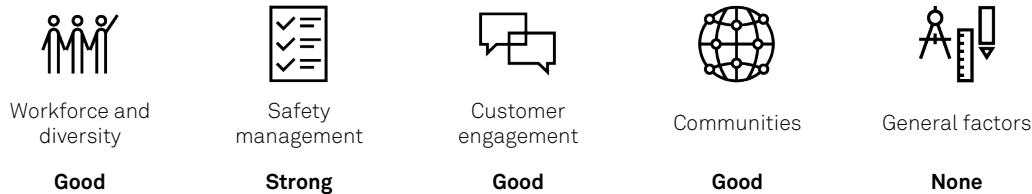
68/100

Sector/Region Score (35/50)

Renewable energy power generators like Galata Wind have relatively low exposure to social risks. The most material social risks are linked to community relationships and employee health and safety, especially during the project development phase. As a fast-developing segment, renewables require highly skilled employees.

Entity-Specific Score (33/50)

Note: Figures are subject to rounding.



Galata Wind's health and safety performance compares well to local peers. It has low direct exposure to safety risks given that third parties carry out the construction and maintenance of its plants. This has resulted in zero reported injury rates for its direct employees. To mitigate any risks, the company provides a minimum of 16 hours of mandatory health and safety training per employee (13.8 hours in 2022). There have been no severe or fatal accidents at its plants in the last three years. Furthermore, all its plants have management systems certified under ISO 45001, in line with strong peers in the industry.

Galata Wind involves local communities during the planning of new projects, in line with peers.

Concerns are mostly raised during the development phase related to local employment, unwanted noise, expropriation, livestock breeding, and radiation. These are resolved through local meetings and discussions, via compensation for lands, and by showing technical academic assessments of previous projects. Though all complaints are third party audited, the grievance reporting mechanism looks less robust than that of sector peers, as there is no online way of communicating grievances. Similar to peers, Galata Wind invests in community education, arts, sports, partnerships, and sponsorship of local events and charitable foundations. Most of its community investment is done through its parent company's Aydin Dogan Foundation.

Galata Wind has average gender diversity across its workforce and management positions. The percentage of women in its workforce (24%) and management (24%) is in line with sector medians, but the company lacks formalized targets and initiatives to improve gender diversity. The employee turnover rate is higher than that of peers and the sector median, predominantly due to project-related hiring that usually ceases upon project conclusion. Given the human rights risks in the upstream of its supply chain, the company is developing supplier screening standards, which we assess as strong practice compared to industry peers. The company has achieved more training hours (54.5 hours in 2022) compared to industry peers, mostly covering vocational skills, safety, environment and waste management, and leadership skills, among others.

By selling renewable energy certificates and renewable electricity, Galata Wind contributes to clients' decarbonization goals. It also has a high availability factor of 98%+ for its wind farms, in line with strong peers. Galata Wind has ISO 27001 Information Security Management System certificates for all its sites and has not reported any data breaches in the last few years, which we view positively. The company does not track customer satisfaction levels.

Governance Profile

54/100

Sector/Region Score (18/35)

Galata Wind is headquartered in Türkiye, a country we view as having weaker governance than international standards, including less advanced ESG regulation. That said, we have observed efforts in recent years to update Türkiye's corporate governance principles, which supports improving governance standards.

Entity-Specific Score (36/65)

Note: Figures are subject to rounding.



Structure and oversight

Good



Code and values

Good



Transparency and reporting

Developing



Financial and operational risks

Neutral



General factors

None

Galata Wind's board exhibits good governance practices in line with Turkish standards for listed companies.

Following the successful IPO in 2021, Galata Wind established a new board of six members including separate CEO and chair positions, which we view as in line with international best practice. Two of the six members are also on majority-owner Doğan Holding's board, reflecting the parent company's active participation. We view independence (33% in 2023) as largely in line with Turkish standards, but slightly below stronger peers in the sector. Under the company's by-laws, a simple majority is required to take decisions at board level, but in practice the board passes resolutions only when all votes are in favor, ensuring the views of the minority shareholders, represented by the two independents, are respected. We believe board members' skills in and knowledge of areas such as finance, auditing, sustainability, and the broader industry support Galata Wind's business needs. Gender diversity falls short of expectations for listed companies in Türkiye (Galata Wind has one female board member in 2023) and we expect the company will formalize a diversity policy and set a target to meet the required 25% soon.

Galata Wind has comprehensive publicly available policies and values driving its direct operations, though we view its management of risks along the supply chain as less robust than that of direct peers.

While its code of conduct is less sophisticated, the company complies with the Doğan Holding Code of Ethics and Conduct, which covers its employees, contractors, suppliers, and subsidiaries like Galata Wind. Like many peers, the company has not yet formalized a process to assess and manage sustainability risks along its supply chain, and it does not provide training to suppliers or contractors, which would be seen as a good practice. Also, in Türkiye listed companies are not required to report information on their remuneration structure, so we have limited visibility on how Galata Wind's executive pay aligns with its strategy, which we view as a weakness.

We believe Galata Wind's financial and nonfinancial disclosures will become more granular and robust. As a recently listed company in a jurisdiction with less advanced financial and nonfinancial reporting requirements, we understand Galata Wind is developing more comprehensive reporting practices. While Doğan Holding has been tracking and reporting some ESG metrics for Galata Wind since 2018, the company will publish its first sustainability report in 2023 and intends to externally assure the information from 2024 onward, which we see as strong practice that goes beyond what is required in Türkiye.

Preparedness Opinion

Adequate
(+3)

Preparedness

Low

Emerging

Adequate

Strong

Best in class

We view Galata Wind as adequately prepared to benefit from and overcome short- and medium-term disruptions facing the renewable energy power sector.

As a pure renewables player that focuses on wind and solar energy, we believe Galata Wind has a role in increasing Türkiye's renewable energy generation capacity, and therefore in reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuel imports. While the company is relatively small, the IPO in 2021 allowed it to secure additional capital and attain a more robust governance structure to support its ambition of becoming a leading generator in the Turkish market. Its target is to nearly double its installed capacity from 269 MW in 2023 to 550 MW in 2025. To do so, its current focus is on improving the efficiency and operational capacity of existing plants and, to a lesser extent, developing new greenfield projects within Türkiye, mainly in wind energy. We believe it will achieve its goal given its track record of doubling its capacity in the previous five years and considering it has already secured the licenses for an additional 350 MW.

Galata Wind's relatively new board demonstrates good awareness of the financial, operational, and geopolitical risks facing its business.

Members benefit from previous experience on Doğan Holding's board. The parent company operates in a diversified portfolio of segments and prioritizes growth in renewable energy generation. Galata Wind set up an Early Detection of Risks Committee in 2021, which uses stress scenarios and other tools to anticipate risks and designs effective internal control systems to mitigate and overcome them. The committee meets every two months and submits a written report to the board to ensure all its members are aware of the risks identified—mainly financial risks as well as those derived from the current volatile political and financial situation in Türkiye. The company's power plants are fully insured against natural disaster damage, though we believe it has yet to improve its physical climate risk awareness.

Galata Wind's main focus is to maintain revenues and predictable costs, and expand its capacity in Türkiye in the short and medium terms.

We understand that, as a listed company that operates in foreign currency, Galata Wind's primary focus is financial stability. Furthermore, it operates in a highly regulated sector and is therefore heavily exposed to changes in the regulatory environment. As such, we view positively that in 2022 it achieved strong financial results despite the price cap for merchant energy generators. This was introduced in April by the Turkish Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA), affecting 60% of the company's assets and negatively impacting its revenues. Unexpected regulatory changes and Türkiye's volatile economic situation present uncertainties for the execution of the company's expansion strategy. We view its strategy as somewhat constrained by its short-term outlook to 2025, though we understand that beyond 2025 the company will aim to continue strengthening its position in Türkiye while looking for growth opportunities in Europe or elsewhere.

The company is reactive when it comes to managing sector-specific future disruptions and we therefore view it as less able to benefit from and capitalize on new trends in the energy sector.

While Galata Wind operates in a sector that is paramount to the transition to a low carbon economy, its ability to provide solutions to concerns around the supply of clean energy is more limited, in our view, than that of other more consolidated players in the industry. It does not invest in R&D and relies on stronger peers to develop new technologies that it can then start applying. That said, we view it as having a role in helping Türkiye increase its renewable energy generation capacity to displace fossil fuels in the national energy mix.

Sector And Region Risk

Primary sector

Power

Primary operating region

Turkiye

Sector Risk Summary

Environmental exposure

The primary environmental risk facing power generators stems from the sector's production of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for about 40% of global emissions (source: IEA). This implies governments are likely to increasingly regulate these emissions as they seek to stem the effects of anthropogenic climate change. The magnitude of this risk varies sharply depending on generation type, ranging from coal-fired, which faces an existential threat in many parts of the world, to renewable energy, which is seen as necessary for the energy transition. The sector also faces growing risks around waste and pollution, with coal generation highly exposed due to its creation of coal ash and particulates, both of which have come under increased regulatory scrutiny and can be costly to remediate, while nuclear generation leads to vast stores of radioactive waste that can't be easily, quickly, or inexpensively disposed; other subsectors still face pollution risks but are less exposed in the near term. Conventional generators also rely heavily on access to water as a cooling fluid. In water-stressed regions, generators may face difficulty or increased costs procuring water, especially as climate change leads to longer and more severe droughts. As power generation is a broad sector grouping, certain subsectors face bespoke risks. Nuclear power is carbon-free, but carries significant low-probability, high-impact event risk that can have wide-ranging and enduring reputational consequences. The safe and permanent disposal of radioactive nuclear waste is another highly complex and difficult environmental problem yet to be solved. As for renewable projects, hydropower may have near-zero emissions during the use phase but occupies more land than other generation types, sometimes in areas of high biodiversity. Large hydropower plants can mean the forced resettlement of local communities. Wind and solar also occupy a significant amount of land, and, over time, will likely increasingly rely on battery technology, which creates indirect exposure to environmentally-taxing metals extraction. These projects can also create substantial nonrecyclable waste at the end of their lives.

Social exposure

Safety management is a critical risk for generators; safety metrics have generally improved in the sector, but there is still exposure to financial and reputational liability stemming from workplace fatalities, as well as to major accidents, notably for coal and nuclear facilities, that spill over beyond the generating facilities. These are less common but can weaken a company's social license to operate, and can damage a company's community standing. Generators sometimes face community backlash on environmental grounds, while plant closures can also be highly disruptive to communities. One of the more acute social risks that generators face relates to the workforce. As the energy transition takes hold globally, and generation types transform in response to regulation, required skills will also change; consequently, generators with limited age diversity face some exposure to the costs associated with reskilling workforces. Unlike regulated utilities in the U.S., the need for direct customer engagement is comparatively low, in part because generators have historically produced a commoditized product. However, as end-users increasingly vet generation for its environmental footprint, this relationship will become more central to generators' decision making. This risk could become more pronounced, too, for integrated utilities, as well as for pure generators who are acquiring retail operations. While utilities are the direct guarantors of reliability and affordability to customers, they are also unable

to ensure this without strong and efficient operating performances by generators, who can often be penalized, financially, for an inability to perform.

Regional Risk Summary

Turkiye

In our view, Türkiye's institutional arrangements remain weak with limited checks and balances and power largely concentrated within the presidential administration. Institutional arrangements have continued to weaken over the last few years, in our view, leading to significant outflow of foreign investors from Türkiye's domestic capital markets. We consider that political institutions interfere in the free dissemination of information. Nevertheless, governance standards at blue-chip companies remain relatively strong. Since the publication of the landmark Capital Markets Law in 2012, the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of Türkiye has been working on further improving governance standards. Its Corporate Governance Principles (revised in 2014) introduced new and important clauses in areas such as board diversity and related-party transactions, among others, and made some provisions mandatory. Pyramidal ownership structures are prevalent in Türkiye where controlled conglomerates own controlling shares at most companies. This affects minority shareholders' rights. This is reflected on boards--often made up of several executives from the controlling group--while adherence to international best practices is more common among the key large-cap listed companies. In 2020, the CMB published new sustainability principles requiring public companies to disclose their sustainability performance and policies, as well as specific social and environmental indicators. The principles became effective in 2021, on a comply-or-explain basis. Türkiye ranks 96 of 180 on Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index.

Related Research

- [Environmental, Social, And Governance Evaluation: Analytical Approach](#), Sept. 20, 2022
- [The ESG Risk Atlas: Sector And Regional Rationales And Scores](#), July 22, 2020
- [Our Updated ESG Risk Atlas And Key Sustainability Factors: A Companion Guide](#), July 22, 2020
- [How We Apply Our ESG Evaluation Analytical Approach: Part 2](#), June 17, 2020

This report does not constitute a rating action.

Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or its affiliates (collectively, S&P) receives compensation for the provision of the S&P Global Ratings ESG Evaluation product, including the report (Product). S&P may also receive compensation for rating the entity covered by the Product or for rating transactions involving and/or securities issued by the entity covered by the Product.

The Product is not a credit rating, and is not indicative of, nor related to, any credit rating or future credit rating of an entity. The Product provides a cross-sector, relative analysis of an entity's capacity to operate successfully in the future and is grounded in how ESG factors could affect stakeholders and potentially lead to a material direct or indirect financial impact on the entity. ESG factors typically assess the impact of the entity on the natural and social environment and the quality of its governance. The Product is not a research report and is not intended as such.

S&P's credit ratings, opinions, analyses, rating acknowledgment decisions, any views reflected in the Product and the output of the Product are not investment advice, recommendations regarding credit decisions, recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions, an offer to buy or sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any security, endorsements of the suitability of any security, endorsements of the accuracy of any data or conclusions provided in the Product, or independent verification of any information relied upon in the credit rating process. The Product and any associated presentations do not take into account any user's financial objectives, financial situation, needs or means, and should not be relied upon by users for making any investment decisions. The output of the Product is not a substitute for a user's independent judgment and expertise. The output of the Product is not professional financial, tax or legal advice, and users should obtain independent, professional advice as it is determined necessary by users.

While S&P has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, S&P does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives.

S&P and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively S&P Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Product. S&P Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, for reliance of use of information in the Product, or for the security or maintenance of any information transmitted via the Internet, or for the accuracy of the information in the Product. The Product is provided on an "AS IS" basis. S&P PARTIES MAKE NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDED BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE ACCURACY, RESULTS, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO THE PRODUCT, OR FOR THE SECURITY OF THE WEBSITE FROM

WHICH THE PRODUCT IS ACCESSED. S&P Parties have no responsibility to maintain or update the Product or to supply any corrections, updates or releases in connection therewith. S&P Parties have no liability for the accuracy, timeliness, reliability, performance, continued availability, completeness or delays, omissions, or interruptions in the delivery of the Product.

To the extent permitted by law, in no event shall the S&P Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs or losses caused by negligence, loss of data, cost of substitute materials, cost of capital, or claims of any third party) in connection with any use of the Product even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

S&P maintains a separation between commercial and analytic activities. S&P keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of S&P may have information that is not available to other S&P business units. S&P has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain nonpublic information received in connection with each analytical process.

Copyright ©2023 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.