

Implementing stakeholder engagement - the example of RGI and the BESTGRID project

Stakeholder workshop BirdLife Lithuania

BEST GRID



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe
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- The value of stakeholder engagement
- The Renewables Grid Initiative = institutionalised stakeholder engagement
- The BESTGRID project = showcasing our ambitions

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Stakeholder engagement reduces opposition by serving a range of objectives



Overarching objectives of stakeholder engagement processes

Educating and informing

- Allow public to play an educated role
- Explain technical complexities and procedural issues
- Inform before others do

Incorporating public values

- Goes beyond purely expertise based decision making
- Consider opinions and values
- Strong element of risk perceptions

Improving decision quality

- Seize local knowledge
- Generation of alternative solutions
- Recognises that concerns are not necessarily irrational

Increasing trust

- Build and rebuilt trust in decision-making institutions
- Overcome a (perceived) gap in values and perceptions

Reducing conflict

- Resolve problems before they escalate
- Understand the other side
- Reduce societal conflict potential

Acceptance of the process/legitimacy – second best

„I do not like the final decision, but I accept the decision-making process.“

Acceptance of outcome – ideal case

„I embrace the details of the final decision as my own.“

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RGI brings industry and stakeholders together to improve stakeholder engagement

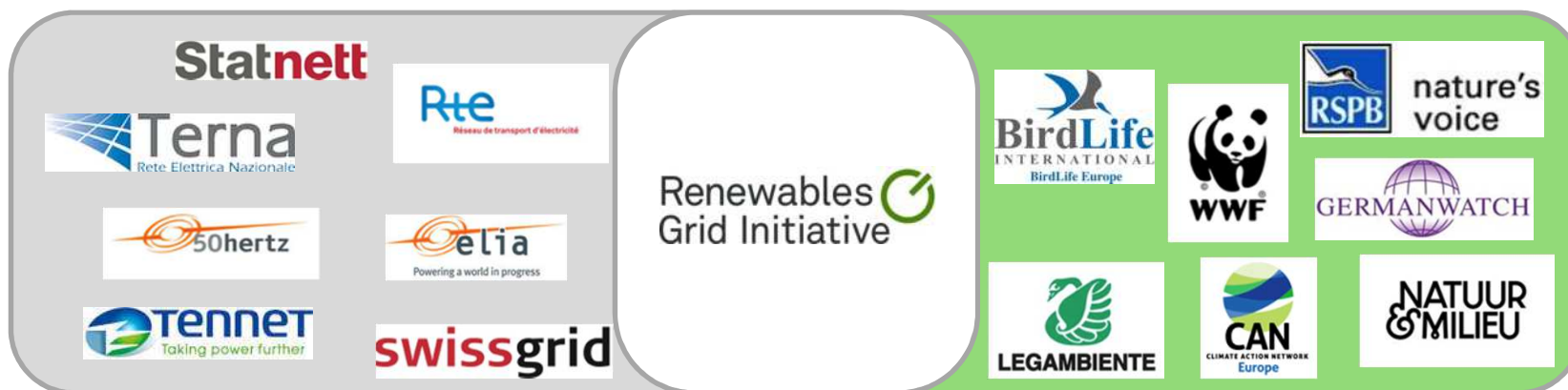


Focus of electricity grid operators:

„We need to build power grids without delay“

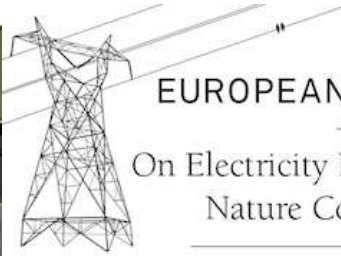
Focus of NGOs:

„We need renewable energies – without negative impact on nature and people“



“We want a grid built in time and in line with environmental objectives and with people’s concerns”

How it all began – the European Grid Declaration



Renewables
Grid Initiative

EUROPEAN GRID DECLARATION

On Electricity Network Development and
Nature Conservation in Europe



Renewables
Grid Initiative

EUROPEAN GRID DECLARATION

On Transparency and Public Participation

The following Declaration is an extension of the „European Grid Declaration on Electricity Network Development and Nature Conservation in Europe“, signed on 10 November 2011.

What is a Declaration?



First, it's ink on paper.

Then, it's what you do with it.

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1. Improve local public acceptance for grids by applying best practices in participation and transparency in pilot projects
2. Speed up permitting procedures while respecting or surpassing environmental protection standards in pilot projects
3. Support implementation of best practices in future electricity grid “Projects of Common Interest”

Four pilot projects in three countries to test better practices

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Pilot project A: National Grid has used the interconnector Nemo from UK to Belgium to scrutinise their existing approach and derive recommendations especially for offshore interconnectors

Pilot project B: TenneT's pilot project SuedLink with ~800km length is a large HVDC line that intends to transport electricity from offshore wind generation from Northern Germany to the consumer centres in the South.

Pilot project C: Elia's pilot project concerns an onshore underground cable in an urban area, with an impact on local small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, it will scrutinise its own approach in the Stevin project.

Pilot project D: 50Hertz's 380kV overhead line between Bertikow and Pasewalk is to increase the power transmission capacity in Germany's North-East, thus guaranteeing the security of supply for this region. Length: ~40km.



1. Improve local public acceptance for grids by applying best practices

- Early, comprehensive and collaborative planning of activities
- National NGOs give feedback
 - on action plans to engage stakeholders
 - on stakeholder mapping
- Development of comprehensive, easy-to-read information material
- Early information events, dialogue elements
- “Special” feature on different pilots, e.g.
 - NGOs interview stakeholders on concerns and needs
 - NGO moderated events
 - Launch events and information markets prior to official application
 - On-site EMF measurements



2. Speed up permitting procedures while respecting environmental protection standards

- Early advise on nature environment issues by local NGO partner
- Local NGOs contribute to “nature environment” stakeholder mapping
- Early roundtables with authorities and environmental stakeholders
- “Special” feature on different projects, e.g.
 - Joint authority, NGO, TSO site visit
 - Local NGO to join internal TSO jour fixes
 - NGO give input on strategic corridor management
 - Special consideration of coastal areas



3. Support implementation of best practices in future “Projects of Common Interest”

- Workshops to investigate transferability of identified best practices
- NGO guidebooks on “How to...?”
- Dedicated roundtables in Central/Eastern Europe
- Test of best practice exchange tools
- Dissemination via workshops, website, flyer, newsletter....



Info markets, stakeholder roundtables, mobile citizen offices



The fourth BESTGRID workshop will take place on May 19/20 2015 in Milan, Italy

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We are only starting – so stay tuned

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Why grids?

Modernising and expanding the European electricity grid is an imperative building block to enable the transition of Europe's energy system from fossil fuel dependence towards renewable energy.

News

Project BESTGRID has started: European Union supports four pilot projects

Four pilot projects for grid expansion will be developed and implemented within the coming 30 months. During the projects, new approaches to increase public acceptance and to speed up permitting procedures, while respecting or surpassing standards for environmental protection, will be tested and evaluated. [Read](#) ↗

Apr 01, 13

Upcoming Events

The first public event will take place in 2014. Information will follow.

Newsletter

Please register for our newsletter [here](#).

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Thanks a lot for your attention!



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