

Deliverable 2.2: Methodological and theoretical framework mapping commonalities and differences of separate pilot study action plans onto a common framework of actions and guiding principles

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1. Introduction

The European climate policy goals require a reduction of at least 80% of all CO₂ emissions by 2050, eventually leading to the full decarbonisation of the energy generation sector (European Commission, 2010). The European Union (EU) Directive 2009/29/EC, 2009, amending EU Directive 2003/87/EC, foresees 20% of the primary energy consumption to be generated by RES by 2020, which will require a strong upgrade and expansion of the electricity grids in Europe, as the existing European electricity grid is inadequate to cope with increasing volumes of renewable electricity (IEA, 2002).

But the existing electricity grid infrastructure in Europe, which was constructed half a century ago, is designed to satisfy national electricity needs through fossil and nuclear energy generating capacities, which are located nearby important load areas. Including energy generated from fluctuating and geographically spread sources of renewable energy will require modification of the electricity grids. The current high voltage transmission grid architecture is already constraining expansion of renewables (ECF, 2010). Without substantial changes in the power grid architecture, it will be difficult to incorporate even these shares of renewable power, even before one begins to consider much more ambitious quantities required to meet the 2050 decarbonisation targets (Patt et al., 2011). Besides, the majority of the European transmission systems is 30-40 years old, and needs to be replaced, upgraded and even expanded (Ecofys, 2008).

The construction of new power lines is extremely slow. In some countries not a single overhead power line at voltages higher than 200 kV exceeding five kilometres has been built in the last 10 years (ETSO, 2006). Several interconnection projects became stuck in the planning phase and were never realised (European Commission, 2007). Delays are rarely related to technology, but rather to the insufficient regulatory framework, which cannot prevent or limit delays and interruptions during each phase of the permitting process. In the majority of Member States public opposition is considered to be the main cause preventing the expansion of the high voltage electricity grid (Battaglini et al., 2012).

The aim of the BESTGRID project is to test new approaches for public acceptance and speeding up of permitting procedures within four pilot projects in UK, Belgium and Germany. These approaches will be tested in cooperation between actors responsible for their implementation, such as Transmission Systems Operators (TSOs), and actors who have knowledge to improve approaches, credibility and networks to disseminate the results of the implementation of new approaches, such as Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and academic and research institutions.

2. Background

2.1. Concept of participatory governance

Governance and participation are gaining a prominent space in the development discourse nowadays. In fact, participation and governance in today's development world go hand in hand and can improve the outcomes of any development endeavor and contribute to good governance, which is the cornerstone of any democratic process. According to the Commission on Global Governance, governance as a sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and co-operative action may be taken (Commission on Global Governance, 1995). The essential elements of sound or good governance are accountability, participation and transparency with the focus on multitude of stakeholders, which covers formal and informal stakeholders and institutions involved into decision-making processes (Verweiy and Thompson 2006).

Participatory governance foresees involvement of several stakeholders into the process of decision-making, which is based on such elements as circulation of information, transparency, accountability and contribution in the public debate. The involvement of stakeholders into decision-making is a key element in participatory governance (Coelho and Favareto 2006). Participation can contribute to improvement in implementation of outcomes of decision-making, efficiently and quality of the decision-making, itself, and its legitimacy in eyes of stakeholders (Stewart and Wang, 2004). Also participation does not only legitimize decision-making but also to involve local knowledge, to improve policy trust and to avoid delays by resolving conflicts (Blackmore, 2006).

The concept of participation was developed by Arnstein (1969) represents a "ladder of citizen participation", which includes eight different levels (figure 1).

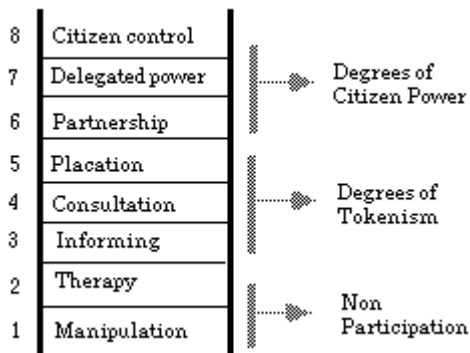


Figure 1: Ladder of citizen participation

Source: Arnstein, 1969

The ladder includes three degrees of citizen participations such as non-participation, degree of tokenism and degree of citizen power. These three degrees include eight levels such as manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen control. We describe each of these levels below.

- Manipulation is a non-participation by the less powerful while the powerful use them to achieve their ends.
- Therapy has the aim to cure or educate the participants according to the proposed plan. The role of participation is only to achieve public support by public relations rather than to gain contribution from public.
- Informing is a most important first step to legitimate participation, but too frequently it has the emphasis only on one way flow of information. In this case, it does not foresee any possibility for a feedback or does not take it into consideration.
- Consultation is also a legitimate step and applies such things as attitude surveys, neighborhood meetings and public enquiries. However, Arnstein still regards this level as just a window dressing ritual.
- Placation foresees cooperation and allows citizens to play an advisory role or plan, but it retains for power holders the right to judge the legitimacy or feasibility of the advice.

- Partnership is a redistribution of power through negotiation between citizens and power holders. Planning and decision-making responsibilities are shared. The have-not citizens can negotiate and engage in ‘trade-offs’ with power holders, e.g. through joint committees.
- Delegated power is when citizens hold a clear majority of seats on committees with delegated powers to make decisions. Therefore, the public now has the power to assure accountability of the policies and programmes to them.
- Citizen Control is when the have-nots citizens handle the entire planning, policymaking and managing a programme e.g. neighborhood corporation with no intermediaries between it and the source of funds or states. Furthermore, powerless citizens obtain the majority of decision-making seats in the committees or a full managerial power.

The first five levels represent what Arnstein called tokenism, thus people can hear and be heard, but they still lack a power to make their points be considered by the powerful and decision makers. Therefore at these levels of participation there is no assurance that the status quo of policies, laws or programmes will be changed. Participation that is restricted to these five levels does not lead to change of status quo. Hence it would not bring about meaningful participation. As such the powerless can achieve a level of advising (placation), but the power holders remain the ones who decide what and how can be done. In this case we rather speak about public awareness then public participation.

There are also limitations in the conceptual framework of the “ladder of participation”. First, the concept is a simplification of reality. Even though it shows different degrees of participation, levels and graduations, reality itself can be much more complex. In the real world, people and programmes are more heterogeneous. Therefore there will be much more than eight levels of participation without clear sharp and distinctions among them. Many of the characteristics, used by Arnstein to illustrate each of the eight levels, might be applicable to other levels. Second, the conceptual framework considers have-not citizens as well as power holders as two homogeneous groups, undermining all differences, cleavages and competing interests that each group encompasses, including subgroups that emerge in the process. Third, it does not include bottlenecks, which exist in the process of participation, and does not include the analysis of the most significant roadblocks to achieving genuine levels of participation in both sides. On the power holders’ side, the bottlenecks and the roadblocks include racism, paternalism, nepotism and resistance to power redistribution. On the ‘have-nots’ side, they include inadequacies of the poor community’s political and socioeconomic infrastructure and

knowledge base, plus difficulties of organizing a representative and accountable citizens' group in the face of futility, alienation and distrust.

2.2. Guiding principles for participatory governance in infrastructure development

Public support or opposition to infrastructure projects is not a new phenomenon. The experience of the 1970-ies on such infrastructure projects as highways, airports or energy generating capacities and their analysis allowed to identify crucial principles for public support of infrastructure projects.

These principles are:

- Early involvement of stakeholders into the process of infrastructure planning, including the time of identification of the overall need for new project and its location,
- Clear and constant linking of the need for new infrastructure to problems which this infrastructure is going to address,
- Transparency regarding all aspects of the projects, including costs and benefits of the project, design choice, way and possibilities for involvement of stakeholders, environmental, economic and health impacts,
- Minimization of any environmental and health impacts,
- Sharing of benefits from infrastructure also with local communities, which are hosting infrastructure projects. This shall include not only payments for sacrifices but more the attempts to make these communities a healthier and a better place to leave.

Implemented altogether, these five principles can be regarded as best practices and can contribute significantly to creation of the climate of trust between stakeholders involved such as business community, local and national government, civil society. The hypothesis is that the increased climate of trust will also lead a decrease of unexpected delays in the project planning, permitting and construction. At the same time, of course, implementation of these five guiding principles, especially if they are implemented altogether, requires additional resources. In the ideal world project developers will follow these five principles and the benefits of their implementation will be greater than their costs. However, it is still not clear if this would be the case.

The role of IIASA is to ensure the comparability of actions taken within four pilot projects and to develop a framework, which will allow to collect reliable data from four different projects and based on this data to

develop robust analysis of the effects of application from best practices. For this, IIASA will map various actions foresees in the action plans on public acceptance and procedures into a common framework of actions and guiding principles. This is necessary to be able to compare different pilot projects and to identify which actions made difference in terms of public acceptance. In order to compare results from different pilot projects, it is essential to clearly understand commonalities and differences across projects. The development of a common methodological framework, which categorizes all actions taken in pilot projects and maps these actions, can help significantly to understand differences and similarities across the projects.

3. Methodology

In the frame of the BESTGRID project transmission systems operators (TSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have agreed to work together in order to test innovative approaches for enhancing public acceptance, taking account of public views, of electricity transmission infrastructure. BirdLife, Germanwatch, RGI and IIASA have roles in BESTGRID to support the TSOs in developing their action plans for the pilot projects.

The framework of guiding principles and actions shall be based on five guiding principles, which we name shortly as “need”, “transparency and accountability”, “engagement”, “environment” and “benefits”. Each of these principles can be implemented through different actions. Ideally, the framework should settle four or more actions per pilot project per guiding principle. Originally we planned that at least two of these actions shall be common for all pilot projects and two shall be different. If under each guiding principle we would have at least two common actions, this would result in overall 10 common actions. This will allow us to identify, which action exactly would make the difference and would lead to success in dealing with public acceptance issues. However, not all these common actions will be necessarily new actions for all partners. Some actions will be a part of the “standard programme” of some partners and could be new to other partners.

The methodology of the development of common framework of guiding principles and actions included following steps:

Step 1: Development of the list of guiding principles and actions with several actions per guiding principle, including new and innovative actions, based on the best practices summarized in the background paper and recommendations from NGOs, finalized in June 2013. This was a first step to collect feedback from TSOs and provide their input to the framework of guiding principles and actions. The list contained five parts according to five guiding principles. Each guiding principle had four sets of actions, giving the TSOs an alternative to choose.

Step 2: first round of feedback collected from TSOs and their comments on the developed list of actions,

Step 3: round table discussion of possible common actions during the 2nd BESTGRID team management meeting on the 19th of June 2013 conducted at the premises of the BirdLife International in Brussels, and during the following up teleconference,

Step 4: questionnaire, developed in cooperation between BirdLife, Germanwatch, RGI and IIASA in June-July 2013, which was designed to help identify and specify actions that could be central in the plans of TSOs for implementation of tasks one and two of the grant agreement and to help to clarify, which elements of the plans are additional and innovative relative to normal practices,

Step 5: telephone interviews conducted with TSOs in August and September 2013, which was conducted after analyzing feedback from TSOs to discuss further development of the action plans. The interviews lasted for approximately one hour. During the interviews IIASA in cooperation with BirdLife and Germanwatch discussed the choice of TSOs and experience with implementation of the actions, if some of these actions were already implemented in previous projects. The discussion also included the envisaged barriers for implementation of the actions and the reasons why some of the actions might not be attractive under certain conditions,

Step 6: meeting and discussion in London in November 2013 to adapt the action plan of the National Grid,

Step 7: mapping of the common actions into a framework of actions and guiding principles.

4. Results

We mapped all actions, which TSOs are going to implement in order to impacts public acceptance and awareness as well as to contribute to understanding of possibilities how the permitting procedures for grid extension could be speed up. Based on discussions with RGI, BirdLife, Germanwatch and IIASA TSOs developed

two actions plans, one on actions to deal with the issues of public acceptance, another one on actions to deal with environmental procedures. Further on, RGI, BirdLife, Germanwatch and IIASA provided comments to the action plans and recommendations on additional and new actions. Following this, TSOs modified their action plans. After TSOs modified the actions plans, we classified all proposed actions according to common actions and objectives for all four pilot projects and specific actions, foreseen only by one or more pilot projects. We describe them here:

4.1. Common pilot project objectives

Put into practice principles outlined in the European Grid Declaration on Transparency and Public Participation.

Put into practice principles outlined in the European Grid Declaration on Nature Conservation.

Earlier and more intensive involvement of stakeholders (primarily local populations), including an increased level of participation and transparency.

Existing environmental concerns are addressed earlier and more proactively; potential environmental concerns are raised and addressed earlier, including development of effective solutions in cooperative manner.

Environmental impact assessment in pilot projects includes early expert input.

4.2. Common actions within five guiding principles

4.2.1. Need

The common action on the guiding principle “Need” (understanding needs and concerns of different stakeholders) will include stakeholders mapping with a focus on existing groups of stakeholders, their influence and concerns. The second part of the mapping will include mapping of relevant stakeholders in grid planning in the region. The stakeholders mapping will identify interested and concerned persons or groups at the local level of affected communities and communities outside of the project. Additionally, the mapping will identify

positions of stakeholders and their concerns regarding the project, as well as their recommendations and possible influence in the community.

The stakeholders mapping will identify all official stakeholders involved into legal process and find right persons of contact at local and regional authorities as well as at the following sectors: environmental, cultural and citizen associations involved in the region, economic actions, schools, hospitals etc. The mapping will also identify local experts on different topics such as electro magnetic fields, landscape, biodiversity, mobility etc., as well as people that could be mostly affected by the project and target groups, which might be difficult to reach. Additionally, the mapping will identify positions of stakeholders and their concerns regarding the project, as well as their recommendations and possible influence in the community.

4.2.2. Transparency

The common action on the guiding principle “Transparency” will include information document for the public, which will include description of the project and its main phases as well as the description of the BESTGRID project. The goal is to prepare the document, which will be in a “nice-to-read” and “easy to understand” format and will also contain information about possibilities for public engagement and details for feedback. It is foreseen that this document will be published on-line and will be also distributed to stakeholders.

4.2.3. Engagement

The guiding principle “Engagement” includes development and suggestion of different settings and format to engage with stakeholders in the grid planning process in the region as well as roadmap of interaction with these stakeholders and guidance of such stakeholders groups.

The second common action is realization of at least one roundtable discussion with relevant stakeholders such as regional environmental authorities, land planning authorities and relevant experts within NGOs or

environmental agencies. The purpose of this action is to serve as a starting point for a regular interaction between authorities, the transmission system operators and relevant local or regional environmental NGOs. For these discussions new settings and approaches will be applied, including three participants, guidance and organization of the discussion. A local NGO will be also subcontracted to provide insights on local environmental issues and to joint roundtable discussions.

4.2.4. Environment

The guiding principle “Environment” includes development of an action plan on early engagement with stakeholders of grid planning and permitting as a common action for all four pilot projects. The aim of this action is to foresee and present challenges in planning and permitting of new grids. The action also includes engagement with stakeholders from land planning and environmental authorities and organizations representing public interests, including environmental NGOs, earlier than normally and in a new and innovative ways.

The second common action is involvement of local NGO, which is foreseen by all four pilot projects. The local NGO will provide inputs to the action plans and detailed input to BirdLife Europe by researching and compiling advice on local conservation stakeholders and their potential concerns with respect to specific nature environment.

The third common action is early consideration of local environmental knowledge.

4.2.5. Benefit

It was not possible to identify a common action on the guiding principle “Benefit”. Some TSOs foresee compensation to local community in one or other way. However, as a common principle, it seems that we speak about “explaining the benefits” of the project to local communities rather than compensating or providing additional benefits. The common action in all pilots except National Grid is explanation of the project and of the needs and benefits from the project in frames of information events with inhabitants. These events will serve both information and consultation purposes on critical issues such as electro magnetic fields, option

of underground cabling, concerns about visual amenity or effects on biodiversity. The meetings will also provide an opportunity to introduce and discuss the draft document of the environmental assessment and to collect feedback from stakeholders on it. This feedback will include collecting local knowledge and identification of local concerns. However, the number of events and their organizational form will differ in each pilot project.

4.3. Specific actions

4.3.1. Need and benefits

Elia plans to organize **three information events**. The first event will provide information about the project and foreseen next steps. The second information event will be organized on the electro magnetic fields topic. The third information even will be organized with the focus on the results of the environmental impact assessment.

50Hertz will organize **two information events** in cooperation with representatives of the federal state of Brandenburg. The first information event will provide information about the project. The second information event will inform about experience and results from EMF measurements.

TenneT will organize **five information events** in cooperation with authorities of the affected states and communities in different places along the preferred corridor. These events will targets authorities but also citizen and will be followed by the parliamentary breakfast with representatives of regional planning and politicians.

Elia will organize one **field trip** to visit the pilot project terrain, in which grid is planned. The main goals of the trip will be to provide information and understand the challenges on the group, to increase attention of public authorities to the project, to discuss environmental challenges, to estimate actions, which Elia can take to improve and secure mobility during construction, to better restore areas around construction, to better integrate infrastructure into local environment. The main goals of the trip is to provide information about the project and to understand concerns of stakeholders, to increase attention of public authorities to the project, to discuss environmental challenges, to estimate actions, which Elia can take to improve and secure mobility during construction, to better restore areas around construction, to better integrate infrastructure into local environment.

TenneT will organize **editorial visits** for journalists along the entire corridor of the project. The journalists from the major daily newspapers will be invited.

TenneT will establish a **video diary** at the project website, which will show interviews and portray stakeholders, as well as the progressing work and everyday life along the transmission corridors.

National Grid will conduct the **case review of marine-coastal approach** of their previous projects to identify recommendations. This will also include feedback from stakeholders, such as local and national authorities, representatives of civil society and environment interest groups, on identified good and bad practices as well as their recommendations.

4.3.2. Engagement

Elia will settle a group of stakeholders, according to the proposition of IEW, which will form an **expert panel**. The goal of this activity would be to synthesize different contributions and knowledge grouped at the expert panel, to develop report for public about visions, knowledge and recommendations about opportunities, needs, problems, which might arise around such topics as biodiversity, EMF, mobility and landscape.

The principle engagement in the pilot of 50Hertz will include enhancement of public engagement via a **mobile citizen information office**. The mobile information office will serve as a local contact platform for direct dialogue with interested citizens and will provide information and to reach groups of stakeholders, which could be otherwise difficult to reach via standard information events on such topics as the reasons for grid expansion project and specific power lines, different technological solutions, environmental, health and other social concerns.

TenneT will organize the **regional state conference** to provide information to regional and local authorities about the project and to identify ways of possible engagement.

National Grid will organize a **facilitated workshop** with typical marine and coastal stakeholders groups to discuss and collect recommendations about how to adjust the existing approach of the National Grid taken into reference the needs of the marine and coastal environment.

4.3.3. Environment

50Hertz will address concerns of stakeholders regarding electromagnetic fields through the **EMF measurements**. This will be done on the basis of easy-to-understand information from scientific insight of the neutral scientific organization exercising on-site EMF measurements. 50Hertz will commission a technical university to conduct the measurements. 50Hertz will cooperate with the administration, industrial and trade chambers of Brandenburg to raise awareness about activities on EMF measurements.

50Hertz will organize **two round table discussions** with representatives of environmental authorities, land planning authorities and relevant experts within NGOs or environmental agencies to discuss environmental and social concerns related to EMF and to develop recommendations.

National Grid will organize a **workshop on cross-border jurisdiction** with stakeholders from countries involved into interconnector project. During this workshop, stakeholders will formulate practical methods for enhanced international and international jurisdictional cooperation to ensure environmental assessments and will develop recommendations on how to deal with the challenges that result from the timing requirements introduced via regulations and what are the requirements and necessary conditions to achieve this.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Recommendations and feedback on additional actions in frames of five guiding principles

In the process of consultation on action plans between TSOs, NGOs, IIASA and RGI extensive feedback and recommendations were provided. It also included suggestions on additional actions in frames of five guiding principles. We describe some of them below. For detailed information please see the table in the annex.

5.1.1. Need

Principle **“Need”** such as understanding concerns of stakeholders and explaining the need for the project included following recommendations:

Techniques to gather stakeholder input for mapping exercise: in person surveys, Internet surveys and polls, interviews, mailed surveys and questionnaires and telephone surveys and polls.

Techniques to gather public opinion and input: comment forms, in person surveys, Internet surveys and polls, interviews, mailed surveys and questionnaires, telephone surveys and polls, local votes and referendums, dedicated phone line for public queries and comments.

Suggestions to improve public understanding of the need for investment - at national, regional and/or local levels: assess alternatives to (this) grid development and communicate the results, improve understanding of the benefits of renewables integration and how this project helps, improve understanding of the benefits, costs and risks of available technical options, increase transparency regarding supply security/load flow data, facilitate understanding of the policy context that creates the need (e.g. climate change), inform on the regulator's role, provide information on the role of regulatory bodies in defining and specifying the need.

5.1.2. Engagement

Principle **“Engagement”** includes following recommendations:

Suggestions on how to plan public engagement: create a steering group consisting of all relevant stakeholders for each process that gives advise on how to implement it, carry out a thorough analysis, including stakeholder mapping, develop a concept of stakeholder participation that answers the following questions: Aim of the participation? Which information needed? Framework conditions? Resources? Target group/ stakeholders concerned? How shall the results feed into the formal procedures?

Suggestions to gather feedback from the public: comment forms, community Facilitators, in person surveys, internet surveys and polls, interviews, mailed surveys and questionnaires, telephone surveys and polls, random sample questionnaires over a six month period (also covering other areas to observe changes in opinion, local

votes and referendums, dedicated phone line for public queries and comments, publish maps with alternative routes online and collect feedback, consultation techniques such as supermarket exhibitions, rent spaces in shopping malls and be present at info points in local libraries, citizen jury such as open debate between conflicting perspectives/experts, layman jury deliberates and decides with argument is more convincing.

Techniques to enable dialogue with public: citizen juries, fairs and events, ongoing advisory groups, public hearings, public meetings, town meetings, tours and field trips, workshops, world cafés, citizen panel, round table, consensus conferences, planning cell and citizen report, focus groups, coffee chats and kitchen table meetings, schooling campaign, meetings between stakeholders, developers, NGOs with external/neutral but knowledgeable moderators.

5.1.3. Transparency

Principle **“Transparency”** including following recommendations:

Techniques/ Tools to share information with the general public: briefings, central information contacts, hotline, expert panels (public meeting), field office, information kiosk, information repositories, list servers and E-Mail, newspaper inserts, press releases and press packs, print advertisements, technical reports, television, web sites, local and well-known person or organisation (e.g. retired local politician/ other respected member of community) to disseminate information about the project, information provided in public places (libraries, shopping centres), specially commissioned films on specific issues, event protocols made available to the public online, critical friends, which means involvement of stakeholders as observers, e.g. internal meetings (where appropriate) become more outward-oriented thus making the project’s complexity more visible, publish maps with alternative routes online and collect feedback, include all feedback gathered in further planning application and the use of social media (Facebook, Twitter).

Suggestions to increase transparency on the process as well as project: national transparency platform, national manual on decision-making procedures, website for each project with maps, contact points etc., information on possibilities for participation, including early announcements of consultations or other events, information on the reasoning of decisions and feedback to stakeholders, public scoping events for SEA and

EIA, facilitate community representatives to act as observers in key decision-making meetings, publish details of all meetings and minutes online, clarity on roles and opportunities to influence.

5.1.4. Environment

Principle **“Environment”** including following recommendations:

Suggestions on preventing challenges in planning and permitting related to environmental impacts: engage stakeholders in dialogue on potential impacts and mitigation (e.g. independently chaired environmental stakeholder group to assess and rank risks), engage stakeholders on project planning from feasibility stage (e.g. joint fact finding studies/ field trips), help ensure well-supported planning context (rigorous, participatory SEA of grid plan), ensure all stakeholders are aware of planning procedures and opportunities to influence, take additional care with environmental procedures (e.g. biodiversity surveys, assessment of alternatives, consultation procedures), increase transparency on information required by environmental stakeholders (e.g. monitoring results).

Suggestions on early actions to identify environmental concerns: use public and stakeholder engagement events to understand concerns about environment, use impact information from national SEA of grid plan, map sensitive areas (e.g. Natura 2000) and potential to avoid these from earliest planning stages, consult NGOs and public on SEA/EIA scope and use monitoring information from similar projects.

Suggestions to take environmental challenges into account and thereby improve public acceptability and improve and accelerate permitting: new and additional steps to avoid impacts (e.g. mapping, routing, technology choices), new and additional steps to reduce impacts (e.g. bird deflectors, new pylon designs), new and additional steps to compensate for environmental damage (e.g. habitat or amenity creation).

5.1.5. Benefit

Principle **“Benefit”** including following recommendations:

Suggestions on increasing or understanding benefits benefit to local communities: opportunity to buy shares in the line, benefit payments to local authorities, create amenities (e.g. open spaces, cycle routes), create employment for local people, support independent facilitation for communities to negotiate benefits packages, register of community benefits, clear communication on already ongoing activities (Olympics, Program for Young Offenders), corporate social responsibility such as volunteer man hours (e.g. painting schools, sports events), Input/Output impact from project on socio-economic development, Twintowns, benefits around the waypoints, broadband Internet with the electricity line.

Suggestions on increasing benefits to environmental stakeholders: implement impact avoidance, mitigation or enhancement measures on other lines or in other locations, bird impact risk mapping and remedial measures, restore or create wildlife habitats in grid corridors, provide money to local organisations for environmental improvements, engage local volunteers or schools in environmental improvement works.

Communication of possible benefits: scenario development, which include of what happens if the project is not built (cost for citizen if line is not built; covering money, GHG savings, electrical compensation, dismantling of other lines) as a format for broad public; storytelling of 2 different stories: with and without the project, universal communication campaign on the need of the project with TSO and NGO partnership on the local level, general education for local authorities, online forum discussion with moderator to communicate the need, random sample questionnaires over a six month period (need, but also covering other areas to observe changes in opinion), scenario development about what happens if the project is not been built (cost for citizen if line is not built).

5.2. Framework of common and specific actions

TSOs integrated recommendations and feedback provided to them by BirdLife, Germanwatch, IIASA and RGI. The mapping of actions foresees by TSOs into a framework of common and specific actions showed at least one common action per guiding principle (table 1). The table also summarized the most important specific actions foresees in each concrete pilot project. This table shows only the major actions and does not include more technical actions, like, for example, distribution of information document in print or on-line. Even though we suppose that these actions might have significant impacts in terms of public acceptance, we will analyze them separately in frames of each pilot project (please also see D2.3 on data collection protocols).

Principle	Common	Specific
Need and benefit	Understanding the need and concerns of different stakeholders based on stakeholders mapping complimented by information campaign explaining the benefits of the project to local communities	<p>Elia: three information events with different focus</p> <p>50Hertz: two information events with representatives of federal state of Brandenburg</p> <p>TenneT: five information events in different locations in cooperation with local authorities</p> <p>Elia: field trip for the local authorities and media</p> <p>TenneT: editorial field visits to journalists</p>
Transparency	Information document with comprehensive description of the pilot project and of BESTGRID project, including information on legal procedures and possibilities for participation	<p>Elia, TenneT and 50Hertz: Description of the general legal procedures of project consultation, main project phases and details about the different environmental assessments.</p> <p>TenneT: video diaries about the everyday life of people in affected communities and construction of the project</p>
Engagement	Roundtable discussions with relevant stakeholders and identification of formats to	Elia: expert panel from stakeholders to develop a report about opportunities, needs and

	engage with stakeholders in the grid planning process	<p>challenges connected with the project, synthesizing views of different stakeholders</p> <p>TenneT: regional state conference to engage with local and regional authorities</p> <p>National Grid: facilitated workshop with marine and coastal stakeholders groups</p>
Environment	Early engagement, including early consideration of local environmental knowledge, with stakeholders in grid planning and permitting processes, including involvement of local NGOs, by providing advice on local conservation stakeholders and their concerns	<p>50Hertz: EMF measurements in cooperation with local scientific organization</p> <p>50Hertz: two round table discussions with NGOs and local authorities to discuss the challenges of EMF</p> <p>National Grid: workshop on cross-border jurisdiction with stakeholders involved into interconnector project</p>

The comparison of common and specific actions, which are foreseen in frames of four pilot projects, and recommendations and inputs, proposed by BirdLife, Germanwatch, IIASA and RGI, as well as lessons drawn from historical review of other infrastructure projects allow to draw three major conclusions.

The first one is a major focus in all four pilot projects of actions to deal with public acceptance mainly on information and communication processes. These processes include not only providing information to stakeholders in a transparent and comprehensive way through different communication tools such as

information documents, video diaries , information documents etc., but also understanding the needs and concerns from stakeholders through stakeholders mapping, collection of feedback via online or telephone as well as during information events. Thus, we could speak about balanced two-side communication process, which includes different tools and collects feedback from stakeholders.

The second one is less of attention to such principles as benefit. The principle benefit finds its implementation in the actions plans mainly through explaining benefits of new infrastructure project to inhabitants of local communities. At the same time it does not include any of the compensation actions such as material compensations to local communities in exchange for hosting of transmission infrastructure or financing of projects for local community development, such as schools. The actions also do not foresee co-ownership of the infrastructure from the side of local community such as private-public partnerships in financing of the project or ownership of the shares. At the current point it is unclear if projects will create any additional socio-economic benefits such as employment of local people for skilled or non-skilled jobs, optimized utilization of local services or establishment of local training centers. The co-benefits of the projects, such as improvement to landscape through design of installations or pylons, or creation of special areas for recreation of nature are also not discussed at the current point.

The third one is that the foreseen in the pilot project actions in terms of stakeholders engagement correspond to the medium level of the latter of stakeholders participation by Arnstein. The actions will provide full information to stakeholders, will explain the need for the projects, will collect stakeholders feedback and concern. However, at the current point it is still unclear how and to which extent the feedback from stakeholders will be taken into consideration in the processes of planning and construction of electricity transmission infrastructure. If we speak about involvement of stakeholders, the actions mainly target local authorities and allow their involvement but it is not clear to which extent the local civil society organizations will be involved.

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7. ANNEX

BirdLife, Germanwatch and IIASA support to development of BESTGRID Action Plans

Questionnaire on actions

BirdLife, Germanwatch and IIASA have roles in BESTGRID to support the TSOs in developing their action plans for the pilot projects. This questionnaire is the first milestone to start this process in detail. It is designed to help identify and specify actions that are likely to be central to your plans for implementing Tasks One and Two of the grant agreement. It will also help to clarify which elements of the plans are additional and innovative relative to normal practices.

After analysing this feedback we will schedule telephone interviews to discuss further development of the action plans with you. For productive and efficient use of time, we would like to ask TSOs to fill in this questionnaire first and return it to us. It will help us to have a clearer idea which actions are central to your action plans, so we can prepare better for the call and consider where we should focus our thinking. It should also help you and other TSOs to reflect systematically on whether the plans meet what the project promises, and identify any areas needing further work.

The structure of the questionnaire is the following. It summarises objectives and actions as specified in the BESTGRID project description (grant agreement) in the table below. Where slightly different wording is included in a work package, this is noted in a footnote at the bottom of the page. It also contains some additional and specific actions suggested by the NGOs or IIASA, and some ideas suggested by TSOs at the Month 3 BESTGRID meeting.

Please go through the table and indicate which actions you plan to address in your action plan. Please also indicate whether this is an innovative and/or additional action in your plan relative to standard practice for your TSO. Please also provide any comments that you would like to discuss with us during the telephone interview or with other project partners. It is not essential to complete everything – this is just a tool to stimulate your thinking and ours.

Explanation of the table

- A “Y” in columns 2-5 means that an action is specified in your work package. Please indicate if this action is planned (column 6), and consider if it is innovative/ additional (column 7) and add any explanatory comments.
- If you are not sure an action can/ will be implemented as specified, please indicate this in the table in Column 6, and consider what the challenges/barriers are, and how these might potentially be addressed.
- Actions marked N against your work package are also worth considering, as they contain additional ideas that may be useful to your plan: these are elements of other TSO’s work packages, and NGO suggestions which are in green text. Additional ideas developed in the month 3 meeting are in blue text. If these or similar ideas may feature in your plans, please indicate your intentions in the same way, and if possible provide a short explanation.

<p>TSO name: Please insert here</p> <p>Key to text colours:</p> <p>Actions/ objectives as specified in the project description (grant agreement)</p> <p>Additional/specific ideas (Germanwatch and BirdLife suggestions, and ideas from the IIASA literature review on historical cases)</p> <p>Ideas developed at the month 3 BESTGRID meeting</p>	W P 3	W P 4	W P 5	W P 6	Planned for implementation (Y/N)?	Innovative/additional beyond standard (Y/N)?	Any comments/points for discussion e.g.
<p>Project objectives (all work packages)</p>							
<p>Put into practice principles outlined in the European Grid Declaration on Transparency and Public Participation</p>	Y	Y	Y	Y			
<p>Earlier and more intensive involvement of stakeholders (primarily local populations)</p>	Y	Y	Y	Y			

Levels of participation and transparency will be increased	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Put into practice principles outlined in the European Grid Declaration on Nature Conservation	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Addressing environmental concerns earlier and more proactively	Y	Y	Y	Y			
New approaches in informing and involving environmental stakeholders earlier and more consistently	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Potential environmental concerns will be raised and addressed earlier, and effective solutions developed in a cooperative manner	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Early expert input delivered to support environmental impact assessment in pilot projects	Y	Y	Y	Y			

Task 1: Improve public acceptance							
1. Stakeholder mapping. All TSOs.							
A detailed stakeholder mapping focusing on the population and public acceptance issues	Y	Y ¹	Y	Y			
NGO will furthermore strongly collaborate to support the stakeholder mapping and development of the action plan	Y	Y ²	Y	Y			
[Local NGO] running ten in depth interviews with local stakeholders to understand the local situation with respect to key stakeholders and opinion leaders, insights generated in these interviews will also serve the development of the action plan	Y	N	N	N			
Identification of important multipliers (individuals such as mayors, leaders of local organisations, etc.)	N	N	Y	N			
Techniques to gather stakeholder input for							

¹ Wording in TenneT work package: “a profiling of different target groups of the local affected population, including their specific concerns and information needs”

² Wording in TenneT work package: “An independent local expert (Deutsche Umwelthilfe) will be invited (subcontracted) to bring in the perspective of an external stakeholder from prior grid development projects and so help to finetune stakeholder mapping and resulting action plan to the specific local context.”

<p>mapping exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Person Surveys • Internet Surveys/ Polls • Interviews • Mailed Surveys & Questionnaires • Telephone Surveys/ Polls 							
2. Action plan on public acceptance. All TSOs.							
Detailed roadmap towards implementation of the action plan	Y	Y ³	Y	Y			
Pragmatic methodology to measure success of the approach chosen	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Different formats to reach out to and engage with the different stakeholder groups	Y	Y ⁴	N	Y			
<p>Joint activities/ common features of the action plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared protocol on stakeholder mapping • Stakeholder mapping • Involve external experts/ moderators • Facilitate dialogue and deliberation (rather than mere PR/ communication activities) • Increase external communication in order to strengthen engagement 							

³ Wording in TenneT work package: “a detailed roadmap towards new and innovative interaction with these target groups”

⁴ Wording in TenneT work package: “the different channels and options to raise awareness and to “activate” these groups to engage in consultations relevant to the grid development project”

<p>Suggestions to gather public opinion and input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment Forms • In Person Surveys • Internet Surveys/ Polls • Interviews • Mailed Surveys & Questionnaires • Telephone Surveys/ Polls • Local votes/ referendums • Dedicated phone line for public queries/ comments. 								
<p>Suggestions on how to plan public engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a steering group consisting of all relevant stakeholders for each process that gives advise on how to implement it • Carry out a thorough analysis, including stakeholder mapping • Develop a concept of stakeholder participation that answers the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aim of the participation? Which information needed? ○ Framework conditions? Resources? ○ Target group/ stakeholders concerned? ○ How shall the results feed into the formal procedures? 								
<p>Mobile citizen office</p>	N	N	Y	N				
<p>Measurement activities for EMF</p>	N	N	Y	N				
<p>Requirements to maximise the success of The mobile citizen office and measurement of EMF [include an analysis</p>	N	N	Y	N				

of location and timing.]							
3. Detailed information-document for the public. All TSOs.							
<i>Format of the information document</i>							
[Provide additional information]beyond the information provided in other projects	Y	Y	N	Y			
[Provide information in] nice-to-read and easy-to-understand format	Y	Y	N	Y			
[Provide additional information] beyond what is legally required / no requirement for such an information foreseen in national law	Y	N	N	N			
<i>Participation in developing of the information document</i>							
[Information document] developed jointly by TSO and local NGO [external target group can take a strong influence in the final product]	Y	Y ⁵	N	Y			
Feedback from relevant authorities will be requested.	Y	N	N	N			
<i>Content of the information document</i>							

5 Wording in TenneT work package: “a knowledgeable NGO (DUH) will provide feedback to the information documents, thus assuring that experiences that have already been gathered on what is needed in the specific local circumstances is fully reflected.”

Address key concerns of the people (e.g. EMF, environmental concerns, landscape concerns, etc.)	N	Y	N	Y			
Lay out the reasons of why the grid is needed	N	Y	N	Y			
<p>Suggestions to improve public understanding of the need for investment - at national, regional and/or local levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess alternatives to (this) grid development and communicate the results. Improve understanding of the benefits of renewables integration and how this project helps. Improve understanding of the benefits, costs and risks of available technical options. Increase transparency regarding supply security/load flow data. Facilitate understanding of the policy context that creates the need (e.g. climate change). Inform on the regulator’s role: Provide information on the role of regulatory bodies in defining and specifying the need 							
Description of the general legal procedures of project consultation, main project phases and details about the different environmental assessments.	Y	Y	N	Y			
Seek support from relevant authorities in explaining the relevant legal procedures, which will also strengthen the awareness	N	Y	N	N			

of the authorities for this document and its dissemination.							
In-depth description of participation opportunities for different stakeholder groups.	Y	Y	N	N			
Explain the goal of and differences between the several instances for public consultation.	Y	N	N	N			
[Provide information about] foreseen timeline and milestones, official instances for public participation but also the information for the additional further planned voluntary information and participation measures, including contact information and details where updated latest information can be accessed.	Y	N	N	N			
Description of what is happening “behind the scenes” within the TSO and within the relevant authorities.	Y	Y	N	N			
Second part of the document will be specifically dedicated at the upcoming net infrastructure pilot project.	Y	N	N	N			
<i>Use / dissemination of information document</i>							
[Information document] printed, actively disseminated as a hard copy in the region, and made available online.	N	Y	N	Y			

<p>[Information document] may serve as a basis for larger displays/posters (e.g. in public information events)</p>	N	Y	N	Y			
<p>Additional online dissemination (e.g. updates on the next steps of the process on TSO webpage, usage of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.)</p>	N	Y	N	Y			
<p>4. Additional suggestions on transparency</p>							
<p>Techniques/ Tools to share information with the general public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings • Central information contacts • Hotline • Expert panels (public meeting) • Field office • Information kiosk • Information repositories • List servers and E-Mail • Newspaper inserts • Press releases and press packs • Print advertisements • Technical reports • Television • Web Sites • Local and well-known person or organisation (e.g. retired local politician/ other respected member of community) to disseminate information about the project • Information provided in public places (libraries, shopping centres). • Specially commissioned films on specific issues. • Event protocols made available to the public online (like NG) 							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical friends: Involvement of stakeholders as observers, e.g. internal meetings (where appropriate) become more outward-oriented thus making the project’s complexity more visible • Publish maps with alternative routes online and collect feedback • Include all feedback gathered in further planning application • Use of social media (Facebook, Twitter) 								
<p>Suggestions to increase transparency on the process as well as project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National transparency platform • National manual on decision making procedures • Website for each project with maps, contact points etc. Information on possibilities for participation, including early announcements of consultations or other events • Information on the reasoning of decisions and feedback to stakeholders • Public scooping events for SEA and EIA • Facilitate community representatives to act as observers in key decision-making meetings. • Publish details of all meetings and minutes online. Clarity on roles and opportunities to influence. 								
<p>5. Workshop with representatives of regional and local governments. 1 TSO (Elia – WP3).</p>								
<p>Raise awareness for the upcoming project and inform about upcoming process steps</p>	Y	N	N	N				
<p>Help local governmental bodies to provide first information to an interested public.</p>	Y	N	N	N				

Introduce the foreseen process of interaction with stakeholders to enhance transparency on the planned communication/consultation concept	Y	N	N	N			
Feedback gathered throughout this workshop will be used to adjust the approach to grid planning chosen	Y	N	N	N			
NGO helps to prepare this workshop, participates at the workshop and jointly with TSO to analyse the results to draw conclusions on how to adjust the action plan.	Y	N	N	N			
6. Additional information events to engage with the public. All TSOs (all WPs)							
<i>Purpose of events</i>							
Serve both information and consultation purposes	Y	Y ⁶	N	Y			
Personally communicate to the interested public the same topics as are covered by the information document	Y	N	N	N			
[Inform people] in the right order: on the local level, key representatives of the population, such as mayors or members of	N	Y	N	N			

⁶ Wording in TenneT work package: “The public information events will use and disseminate the information materials described above. They will also serve to gather local knowledge that will improve the grid planning process.”

community councils, should be informed first. Wider public should then be informed as early and as well as possible both directly (addressed to the individual person) and indirectly (via traditional and new media).								
<i>How events will be planned</i>								
NGO will be asked to help prepare the meeting and to reach out to relevant stakeholders.	Y	Y	N	N				
<i>Participation in events</i>								
[Involve] potentially affected population	Y	Y	N	Y				
[Involve] interested local NGO representatives	Y	N	N	N				
[Involve] representatives and/or multipliers of the population (e.g. mayors, media)	N	Y	N	N				
<i>Format of events</i>								
Drop-in” events at central public places.	N	Y	N	N				
[Opportunity for public to] engage in direct discussions with representatives of both the TSO and public authorities, giving sufficient room for questions, including from those people who may not feel comfortable raising personal concerns in a	N	Y	N	N				

larger workshop-like settings.							
Different design option is information/consultation workshops.	N	Y	N	N			
<p>Suggestions to gather feedback from the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment Forms • Community Facilitators • In Person Surveys • Internet Surveys/ Polls • Interviews • Mailed Surveys & Questionnaires • Telephone Surveys/ Polls • Random sample questionnaires over a six month period (also covering other areas to observe changes in opinion • Local votes/ referendums • Dedicated phone line for public queries/ comments. • Publish maps with alternative routes online and collect feedback • Consultation techniques: Supermarket exhibitions, rent spaces in shopping malls and be present at info points in local libraries • Citizen jury: open debate between conflicting perspectives/experts, layman jury deliberates and decides with argument is more convincing 							
<p>Techniques to enable dialogue with public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Juries • Fairs and Events • Ongoing Advisory Groups • Public Hearings • Public Meetings • Town Meetings • Tours and Field Trips 							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • World Cafés • Citizen Panel • Round Table • Consensus Conferences • Planning Cell/ Citizen Report • Focus Groups • Coffee Klatches/ Kitchen Table Meetings • Schooling campaign (example: National Grid game connecting city A with wind park B) • Meetings between stakeholders, developers, NGOs with external/neutral but knowledgeable moderators 							
<i>Content of events</i>							
Address need for the grid	N	Y	N	Y			
Address EMF	Y	Y	N	Y			
Address underground cabling	Y	Y	N	N			
Address concerns about visual amenity	Y	Y	N	Y			
Address effects on biodiversity	Y	Y	N	N			
Introduce and discuss draft environmental assessment documents to allow for feedback before these are officially	Y	N	N	N			

7 Wording in National Grid work package: “...focus the awareness of the population on the direct link between the new grid that is being planned and the renewable energy production that it will allow to integrate, especially in view of the large plans towards offshore wind energy”

handed in.							
Aim to improve the design/siting of the grid by collecting local knowledge and identifying local concerns at an early point in time when it is still possible to adjust certain elements of the plan.	Y	N	N	N			
Address the specific concerns that key stakeholders in regard of the coastal areas may have, including environmental concerns regarding the coastal areas, concerns of fisherman and stakeholders of tourism.	N	N	N	Y			
7. Mobile citizen information office. Only 1 TSO (50hertz - WP 3)							
Local contact platform for the direct dialogue with interested citizens	N	N	Y	N			
Target group are citizens in affected communities and regional multipliers	N	N	Y	N			
Gain access to those groups that might be skeptical of the grid development project but hard to reach via standard information events.	N	N	Y	N			
Deal with information requests along the wide range of topics that citizens typically demand	N	N	Y	N			
8. Address stakeholders' concerns regarding electromagnetic fields. Only 1 TSO (50hertz - WP3).							

Provide <i>information</i> as well as a possibility for concrete measurements of EMF in people's daily life	N	N	Y	N			
[Ensure]... official critical limits for EMF exposure are duly respected by project developers	N	N	Y	N			
Make this somewhat technical and hard-to-grasp topic more understandable and on a more emotional level tangible... analyse EMF that are continuously present in our every daily life, e.g. through the use of common electric devices, as well as in people's homes before and after the realisation of a line project	N	N	Y	N			
On-site cooperation with a technical university (such as Duisburg and/or Cottbus) in order to legitimise the independent conduct of the EMF measurements.	N	N	Y	N			
Cooperate with the administration of Brandenburg and the industrial and trade chamber of Brandenburg to fine-tune and leverage the awareness of the activities performed.	N	N	Y	N			
9. Information events in cooperation with representatives of the federal state of Brandenburg. Only 1 TSO (50hertz - WP3).							

<p>Assure that relevant governmental stakeholders are well-informed about the project, are competent in dealing with questions that regard the activities of a TSO and ideally take an active role in supporting the communication that accompanies a grid extension project.</p>	N	N	Y	N			
<p>Organise two events together with representatives of the federal state of Brandenburg: inform about the project and serve to define possible fields of support that the federal state could grant / informing about the experiences and present results of the EMF measurements to a general public & help to win support for further cooperation.</p>	N	N	Y	N			
<p>10. Benefit Sharing: Additional ideas</p>							
<p>Suggestions on increasing or understanding benefits benefit to local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to buy shares in the line. • Benefit payments to local authorities. Create amenities (e.g. open spaces, cycle routes). • Create employment for local people. • Support independent facilitation for communities to negotiate benefits packages. • Register of community benefits • Clear communication on already ongoing activities (NG Olympics, 							

<p>Program for Young Offenders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Social Responsibility: volunteer man hours (e.g. painting schools, sports events) • Input/Output impact from project on socio-economic development • Twintowns, benefits around the waypoints • Broadband internet with the electricity line 							
<p>Communication of possible benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario development: what happens if the project is not built (cost for citizen if line is not built; covering money, GHG savings, electrical compensation, dismantling of other lines) as a format for broad public; storytelling of 2 different stories: with and without the project 							

Task 2: Speed up permitting via early stakeholder engagement and early consideration of environmental concerns

1. Detailed action plan on early engagement with stakeholders of grid planning and permitting. All WPs.

Purpose of action plan

Aim at foreseeing and/or preventing challenges in planning and permitting of the new grid	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Engaging with stakeholders earlier than “normally”	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Engaging with stakeholders... in new and innovative ways	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Engage with... land planning and environmental authorities and organisations representing public interest, including environmental NGOs.	Y	Y	Y	Y			
<p style="color: green;">Suggestions on preventing challenges in planning and permitting related to environmental impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage stakeholders in dialogue on potential impacts and mitigation (e.g. independently chaired environmental stakeholder group to assess and rank risks). • Engage stakeholders on project planning from feasibility stage (e.g. joint fact finding studies/ field trips). 							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help ensure well-supported planning context (rigorous, participatory SEA of grid plan). • Ensure all stakeholders are aware of planning procedures and opportunities to influence. • Take additional care with environmental procedures (e.g. biodiversity surveys, assessment of alternatives, consultation procedures). • Increase transparency on information required by environmental stakeholders (e.g. monitoring results). 							
<p>Suggestions on increasing benefits to environmental stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement impact avoidance, mitigation or enhancement measures on other lines or in other locations. • Bird impact risk mapping and remedial measures • Restore or create wildlife habitats in grid corridors. • Provide money to local organisations for environmental improvements. • Engage local volunteers or schools in environmental improvement works. 							
<p>Suggestions on how to plan public engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a steering group consisting of all relevant stakeholders for each process that gives advise on how to implement it • Carry out a thorough analysis, including stakeholder mapping • Develop a concept of stakeholder participation that answers the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aim of the participation? Which information needed? 							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Framework conditions? Resources? ○ Target group/ stakeholders concerned? ○ How shall the results feed into the formal procedures? 							
<i>How the action plans will be developed</i>							
Local NGO will provide input to this action plan	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Further locally active NGO (tbd) will provide detailed input to BirdLife Europe by researching and compiling advice on very local conservation stakeholders and their potential concerns with respect to the specific nature environment.	Y	Y	Y	Y			
<i>Content of the action plans</i>							
Mapping of relevant stakeholders in grid planning in the region	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Suggested settings and formats to engage with these stakeholders	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Suggested initiation and guidance of such stakeholder groups	Y	Y	Y	Y			
A roadmap to interaction with these stakeholders	Y	Y	Y	Y			
A pragmatic methodology to measure success of the approach chosen.	Y	Y	Y	Y			

Additional focus of the pilot project of National Grid will be on the offshore aspect (including maritime and coastal areas) and the international aspect of planning and permitting.	N	N	N	Y			
New approaches shall be found to discuss the challenge of balancing out environmental concerns vs. social concerns related to the project.	N	N	Y	N			
2. Roundtable discussions with relevant stakeholders such as representatives of environmental authorities, land planning authorities and relevant experts within NGOs or environmental agencies							
<i>Purpose/ objective of roundtable discussions</i>							
Starting point for a regular interaction between authorities, the transmission system operator and relevant local/regional environmental NGOs	Y	Y	Y	Y			
To identify local nature protection related critical issues and take these into account/figure out how to deal with them from the very initial stages of the project.	Y	Y	N	Y			
<p>Suggestions on early actions to identify environmental concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use public and stakeholder engagement events to understand concerns about environment. • Use impact information from national SEA of grid plan 							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map sensitive areas (e.g. Natura 2000) and potential to avoid these from earliest planning stages. Consult NGOs and public on SEA/EIA scope Use monitoring information from similar projects. 							
New settings and approaches to such early engagement will be tested, including regarding the participants, the setting and the guidance of such a meeting.	Y	Y	Y	Y			
[Improve the consideration of environmental and other planning challenges and thereby] contribute to better and faster permitting procedures.	N	Y	Y	N			
[Improve the consideration of environmental and other planning challenges...thereby] contribute also to achievement of public acceptability/task 1]	Y	Y ⁸	Y	Y ⁹			
<p>Suggestions to take environmental challenges into account and thereby improve public acceptability and improve/accelerate permitting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New/ additional steps to avoid impacts 	N	Y	N	N			

8 "...public acceptance is increased by assuring any environmental concerns are dealt with in a comprehensive and sensitive way."

9 "...assuring any environmental concerns are dealt with in a comprehensive and sensitive way"

(e.g. mapping, routing, technology choices).							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New/ additional steps to reduce impacts (e.g. bird deflectors, new pylon designs). • New/additional steps to compensate for environmental damage (e.g. habitat or amenity creation). 							
<i>Format of roundtable discussions</i>							
[Local NGO] subcontracted specifically to provide relevant local environmental insights early on and to join the roundtable discussions.	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Sufficient involvement of key stakeholders and at the same time enable a real dialogue between the participants.	Y	Y	N	N			
Independent local experts to organise and conduct such meetings, to select and approach the participants, and/or to chair the discussion	Y	Y	N	N			
Professional mediators [used for above tasks]	N	Y	N	N			
Precede the environmental assessment and improve the common understanding regarding the scope of required assessment or suitable methodology for studies designed.	Y	N	N	N			
Beyond legal requirement	N	Y	N	N			

<i>Content of roundtable discussion events</i>						
Discussing the challenge of balancing social concerns related to EMF and environmental concerns and finding joint approaches on how to best deal with the conflict	N	N	Y	N		
Identification of challenges, opportunities (such as ecological enhancements, contributions to creating ecological corridors or 'stepping stones')	N	Y	N	N		
Early consideration of very local environmental knowledge	Y	Y	Y	Y		
3. Field trip to visit the pilot project terrain in which the grid is planned. WP1 only.						
Help public authorities involved in the planning and permitting of the project to understand the challenges on the ground,	Y	N	N	N		
Increase attention for the project and avoid the project to be a mere desk-paper-work for the authorities involved	Y	N	N	N		
Sensitise for environmental concerns and/or challenges related to the project.	Y	N	N	N		
Build relationships which might smoothen up the process at a later stage.	Y	N	N	N		
Local NGO participates	Y	N	N	N		

Additional ideas									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal communication campaign on the need of the project with TSO/NGO partnership on the local level • General education for local authorities • Online forum discussion with moderator → communicate the need • Random sample questionnaires over a six month period (need, but also covering other areas to observe changes in opinion) • Scenario development: What happens if the project is not been built (cost for citizen if line is not built) 									