Introducing BESTGRID’s pilot projects

Each pilot project is a goal development. National Grid and development recommendations projects that have been selected for the project planning approach are collaboratively developed and implemented throughout the project implementation. The implementation of the project will take place in phases, each phase focusing on a specific aspect of the project, such as planning, design, testing, and implementation. NGOs during the project planning phase (Germany) will receive advice from (Germany), Elia (Belgium), and TenneT (Netherlands). Operators in charge of a pilot project that is planned and realized by one TSO, the TSOs participating in BESTGRID. The same approach is used for each of the pilot projects, ensuring that each project is different from each other, and complementary at the same time. Thus, they enable BESTGRID to assess best practices pertaining to large electricity infrastructures and environmental, social, and regulatory conditions.

Projects of common interest (PCIs)

Pilot project A: National Grid will develop recommendations for offshore interconnectors.

Pilot project B: Sonne’s pilot project in Germany will test the integration of export from the offshore wind power generation from the North Sea into the German transmission system. Length is over 5 km in the North Sea.

Pilot project C: Elia’s pilot project in the Walloon Region of Belgium will test the integration of transmission lines that are intended to transport electricity from offshore and onshore wind generation from the North Sea to the consumer in Northern Germany. Length: ~40km.

Pilot project D: 50Hertz’s 380kV cross-border transmission line from the UK to the USA will cross the English Channel. Length: ~800km.

TLID (Transmission lines in the Mediterranean basin) is a long-term Energy Infrastructure in Europe. It contributes to the following objectives on a European scale:

1. security of supply,
2. integration of renewable energy sources,
3. social and economic welfare.

Introducing BESTGRID’s pilot projects

In May 2013, the EU regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure was due to come into effect. This legislation introduces a new procedure to identify “projects of common interest”, which contribute to the following objectives on a European scale:

1. security of supply,
2. integration of renewable energy sources,
3. social and economic welfare.

TLID (Transmission lines in the Mediterranean basin) is a long-term Energy Infrastructure in Europe. It contributes to the following objectives on a European scale:

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Rationale and research questions

A fourth project will focus on the role electricity grids at a corporate, regional and national level for achieving the goals of Paris. It will further develop the concept of a grid that will support the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. The project aims to

1. develop innovative solutions to ensure that electricity grids are capable of handling renewable energy and electric vehicles
2. assess the potential for and barriers to integrating renewable energy into grids
3. develop a framework to assess the impact of grid development projects on nature and the environment
4. develop methods to involve stakeholders in grid development projects

To RESTORE project, this project will focus on another aspect of grid development projects: public acceptance.

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative (Coordinator)

Contact

www.bestgrid.eu

www.bestgrid.eu

Imprint

RESTORE

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative is legally represented by the Climate Shop UG (haftungsbeschränkt)

10178 Berlin

Neue Promenade 6

www.bestgrid.eu

Capacity building & guidance:

RESTORE, BirdLife and Germanwatch will provide support to national NGOs to carry out pilot projects. This will help to build their capacity in engaging with grid developers and other stakeholders. The pilot projects will be designed to support the implementation of best practice exchange and to develop national guidelines for grid development projects.

Capacity building & guidance:

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Transmission system operator (TSO)

TSOs are responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of, and, if necessary, improving the transmission system in their area. They are also in charge of interconnections with transmission systems in other areas, and ensuring the long-term security of power supply. TSOs are responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of, and, if necessary, improving the transmission system in their area. They are also in charge of interconnections with transmission systems in other areas, and ensuring the long-term security of power supply. TSOs are obliged to strengthen the grid in order to maintain a high standard of security. These two objectives were often rather hard to align.

However, by now, they increasingly recognise that the grid infrastructure needs to be adapted to an energy system based on renewables. This, in principle, increases the overall flexibility of the system and improves its resilience. Many projects have both sides claim that conflicts can be reduced, and that they can work closely together to develop new grid development projects.

Historically, many grid development projects have encountered problems in the public acceptance of new power lines, and impacts will be evaluated by the respective pilot project; insights generated will contribute to learning how to improve the acceptability of new power lines.

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative (Coordinator)

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative is legally represented by the Climate Shop UG (haftungsbeschränkt). Headquarter: Barmbek-Süd, 20457 Hamburg. The Renewables-Grid-Initiative is legally represented by the Climate Shop UG (haftungsbeschränkt). Headquarter: Barmbek-Süd, 20457 Hamburg. The Renewables-Grid-Initiative is legally represented by the Climate Shop UG (haftungsbeschränkt). Headquarter: Barmbek-Süd, 20457 Hamburg. The Renewables-Grid-Initiative is legally represented by the Climate Shop UG (haftungsbeschränkt). Headquarter: Barmbek-Süd, 20457 Hamburg.

Goal oriented co-operation – the relationship between NGOs and TSOs

In the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will work closely together to develop new grid development projects in innovative and co-operative ways. They will share their insights and cooperate on renewable energy projects. The Renewables-Grid-Initiative is legally represented by the Climate Shop UG (haftungsbeschränkt). Headquarter: Barmbek-Süd, 20457 Hamburg.

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And what about other grid projects?

The nature conservation organisation BirdLife Europe, for instance, will use the insights generated during the BESTGRID project to improve the effectiveness of its networking and participation processes.

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And what about other grid projects?

The nature conservation organisation BirdLife Europe, for instance, will use the insights generated during the BESTGRID project to improve the effectiveness of its networking and participation processes.
Objectives

Capacity building & guidance: To support implementation of improved procedures and projects, as well as roundtables and workshops on grid development projects.

Dissemination: To make the results available widely through access across Europe through communication measures, such as workshops, bilateral meetings, or newsletters, as well as by making the results available online.

Best practice exchange: To share best practices and lessons learned among the partners, as well as to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among the partners.

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Renewables-grid and public acceptance

Objective

To improve local public participation procedures to increase public engagement in energy development projects.

Goal oriented cooperation – the relationship between NGOs and TSOs.

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative has selected three current European grid development projects in innovative settings.

What does this cooperation look like?

Bilateral meetings, or newsletter. All lessons learned are developed with close cooperation between NGOs, TSOs and a research institute, and will be informed each other about the experiences they have gained and the measures that they use to support them in building local NGOs’ capacity for engagement in upcoming grid projects.

And what about other grid projects?

The nature conservation organization BirdLife is organizing training events for local NGOs on successful and constructive partnership between NGOs and authorities in Central and Eastern Europe. Partners in Central and Eastern Europe will contribute to learning how to improve cooperation and to support them in building local NGOs’ capacity for engagement in upcoming grid projects.

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BESTGRID is designed to support these partnerships through three current European grid development projects on the ground.

In the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will work together to identify better solutions for grid infrastructure needs and cooperation. During the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will work together to identify better solutions for grid infrastructure needs.

TSOs are responsible for operating, ensuring the maintenance of and, if necessary, extending the grid. They are also involved with the protection of nature and cooperation. During the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will work together to identify better solutions for grid infrastructure needs.

Many players have hard and false dilemma situations with overlapping responsibilities. This means that the three of the pilot projects will focus on the evaluation of selected best practice exchange tools. The transferability of selected best practice exchange tools will be evaluated by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) for the pilots by applying a framework of guidelines.

Pilot projects are driven by Pilot projects will be characterised by a mix of experience and insights gained from projects in their country. This should help other players to evaluate and to support similar efforts.

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union.

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EACI nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Any activities undertaken will be documented and impacts will be evaluated by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). The Project Team will be responsible for the costs of this publication.

Contact

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Impression

Renewables Grid Initiative (Coordinator)

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10178 Berlin

The Renewable Grid Initiative is implemented by the Climate Shop UG (haftungsbeschränkt), Haydnstrasse 1, D-12203 Berlin.

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein are the personal views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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Transmission system operator (TSO)

TSOs are responsible for ensuring, maintaining and improving of, and necessary measures to ensure the stability of the electricity supply and the safety and reliability of the electricity network. They are responsible for the management of the transmission system. TSOs are involved with the protection of nature and cooperation. During the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will work together to identify better solutions for grid infrastructure needs.

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Transmission system operator (TSO)
Renewables-grid and public acceptance

Historically, many grid development projects have been met with opposition and delay. However, by now it increasingly seems that NGOs and TSOs work together to identify best practices and create a framework for improving the permitting processes of other projects. NGOs and TSOs are obliged to consider the goals of the European policies in their business. TSOs, in practice, consider sustainability, the environment, and the public against cooperation. During the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will work closely together to develop a common understanding of procedures and the challenges of minimising environmental impacts and public participation. Any activities undertaken will be document by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the other project partners.

To BESTGRID project targets three main aspects of grid development projects: innovation and implementation, the acceptability of new power lines and the capacity for engagement in upcoming grid development projects on the ground.

In the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will create a set of innovative best practice exchange tools designed to help new and advanced intervention projects develop and share more information about strategies and results. The projects will be evaluated in terms of their capacity to improve grid acceptance. NGOs and TSOs will share their insights about the acceptability of new power lines. Towards the end of the BESTGRID project, the consortium will compile the experiences, tools, and indicators to develop a set of best practice exchange tools. The projects will share their experiences and the other on environmental protection procedures while proactively participating in ongoing projects.

All progress learned will be evaluated by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the other project partners. The projects will share their experiences about the acceptability of new power lines. Towards the end of the BESTGRID project, the consortium will compile the experiences, tools, and indicators to develop a set of best practice exchange tools. The projects will share their experiences and the other on environmental protection procedures while proactively participating in ongoing projects.

Goals:

1. To achieve transparency and participation in grid development projects.
2. To support implementation of renewable energy projects.
3. To develop a set of innovative best practice exchange tools.

Objectives:

1. To support implementation of renewable energy projects.
2. To develop a set of innovative best practice exchange tools.
3. To achieve transparency and participation in grid development projects.

Contact:

Imprint:

The Renewable Grid Initiative is implemented by the Climate Shop UK (UK registered charity 1116998), Neuer Promenade 6, 10178 Berlin, Germany.

Disclaimer:

The Renewable Grid Champion is recognised by the European Commission as a “Best Practice”, meaning that it has achieved high standards of performance in terms of the four key areas of innovation and implementation, the acceptability of new power lines and the capacity for engagement in upcoming grid development projects on the ground.

Transmission system operator (TSO)

TSOs are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of a reliable and economic operation of the high voltage network, usually in close cooperation between environmental protection and permitting procedures while proactively participating in ongoing projects.

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Goal oriented co-operation – the relationship between NGOs and TSOs

Many players have both similar interests and conflicts can be resolved, and that can be achieved with the protection of the environment, the intervention processes and the collective public. In addition, there are plans to develop new indicators.

In BESTGRID, NGOs and TSOs will work together to identify best practices and create a framework for improving the permitting processes of other projects. NGOs and TSOs are obliged to consider the goals of the European policies in their business. TSOs, in practice, consider sustainability, the environment, and the public against cooperation. During the BESTGRID project, NGOs and TSOs will work closely together to develop a common understanding of procedures and the challenges of minimising environmental impacts and public participation. Any activities undertaken will be document by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the other project partners.

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Introducing BESTGRID’s pilot projects

Each pilot project is a grid development. National Grid develop recommendations projects. A planned and evaluated by the for their ongoing approach or scalable projects. NGOs during the project planning phase (Germany). They will receive advice from (Germany), Elia (Belgium), and TenneT (Germany). These experts also perceive larger projects in the long-term (Germany). They will receive advice from further, substantial and environmental NGOs during the project planning phase. Social and regulatory conditions and strategies for transforming the energy system.

Projects of common interest (PCIs)

In 2013, the 132 European countries participate to basin-wide energy infrastructure, building on the new law for the build-up of a sufficient grid capacity for new and renewable sources. Large-scale renewable energy generation is central to the European Union’s effort to meet its emissions reduction commitments. Projects of common interest (PCIs) have been implemented through an EU framework for trans-European energy infrastructure. The framework facilitates cross-border electricity network development in order to enhance security of supply, particularly in the renewable energy sector. This is achieved through the establishment of common procedures for the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs).

- Security of supply
- Integration of renewable energy sources
- Social and environmental aspects

Pilots, new purchasing procedures will apply at the national level. Further BESTGRID’s pilot projects will be launched through the European Union’s Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Framework (CBEIF).

Best practices

The BESTGRID project aims to assess best practices in the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs), as defined by the European Commission’s CBEIF. The project will focus on two main aspects: the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs) and the establishment of best practices in the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will also focus on the development of a common framework for evaluating pilot project activities.

Timeline

1. Project governance and project steering / support of best practices development
2. Development of action plans
3. Development of a BESTGRID background paper
4. Compilation, write up and publication of results
5. Exchange and dissemination
6. Project governance and progress tracking / support of best practice exchange and dissemination
7. Coordination and project steering / support of best practice exchange and dissemination
8. Development of guides
9. Training sessions in Brussels and in Central/Eastern Europe

Partners

- KfW Group
- BirdLife Europe
- Nature Conservancy Council
- BirdLife International
- Greenpeace
- Germanwatch
- IIASA
- RGI
- Elia
- TenneT
- 50Hertz
- National Grid
- The Terna Group
- Terna
- Natgrid
- National Grid
- ETSO
- Brussels Academy

Pilot project A: National Grid will develop recommendations for the build-up of a sufficient grid capacity for new and renewable sources. This is achieved through the establishment of common procedures for the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will focus on two main aspects: the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs) and the establishment of best practices in the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will also focus on the development of a common framework for evaluating pilot project activities.

Pilot project B: TenneT’s pilot project is focused on the transmission of high voltage direct current (HVDC) power through the North Sea to the consumer in the UK. The project aims to ensure the efficient and sustainable delivery of energy from offshore wind farms to the UK grid. The project will focus on two main aspects: the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs) and the establishment of best practices in the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will also focus on the development of a common framework for evaluating pilot project activities.

Pilot project C: Elia’s pilot project is focused on the transmission of high voltage direct current (HVDC) power through the North Sea to the consumer in the UK. The project aims to ensure the efficient and sustainable delivery of energy from offshore wind farms to the UK grid. The project will focus on two main aspects: the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs) and the establishment of best practices in the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will also focus on the development of a common framework for evaluating pilot project activities.

Pilot project D: 50Hertz’s pilot project is focused on the transmission of high voltage direct current (HVDC) power through the North Sea to the consumer in the UK. The project aims to ensure the efficient and sustainable delivery of energy from offshore wind farms to the UK grid. The project will focus on two main aspects: the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs) and the establishment of best practices in the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will also focus on the development of a common framework for evaluating pilot project activities.

Pilot project E: National Grid will develop recommendations for the build-up of a sufficient grid capacity for new and renewable sources. This is achieved through the establishment of common procedures for the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will focus on two main aspects: the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs) and the establishment of best practices in the implementation of projects of common interest (PCIs). The project will also focus on the development of a common framework for evaluating pilot project activities.

INTRODUCING BESTGRID’S PILOT PROJECTS
Introducing BESTGRID's pilot projects

Each pilot project is a grid development. National Grid and development recommendations project that is planned and realised by the for their existing approach on stakeholder project planning phase (Germany). They will receive advice from NGOs during the project planning phase (Germany), Elia (Belgium), and TenneT (The Netherlands). They will assess whether best practices are being implemented, and determine the feasibility of the pilot projects for each TSO. The projects will then be implemented by the respective TSOs.

Projects of common interest (PCIs)

In 2013, the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure became law. This legislation introduces a new procedure to identify “projects of common interest”, which contribute to the following objectives on a European scale:

1. security of supply,
2. integration of renewable energy sources, and
3. social and economic welfare.

For PCIs, a new permitting procedure will apply at the national level. Furthermore, PCIs are eligible for funding from the European Union through the “Connecting Europe Facility”.

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The Terna Group is the Italian transmission system operator and the owner of the Italian transmission grid. It owns and operates a national high and very high voltage grid, with over 63,500 km of HV lines throughout the Italian territory. TenneT is Europe’s first grid operator in the Netherlands and Germany, one of the most advanced grid operators in Europe. It operates some of the most modern offshore grid connections in the world.

Renewable energy sources contribute to the following objectives on a European scale:

1. security of supply,
2. integration of renewable energy sources, and
3. social and economic welfare.

BESTGRID is a project that is planned and realised by the for their existing approach on stakeholder engagement. All pilot projects are different from each other, and complementary at the same time. Thus, they enable BESTGRID to assess best practices pertaining to large electricity infrastructures and environmental, social, and regulatory conditions.

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1. security of supply,
2. integration of renewable energy sources, and
3. social and economic welfare.
Each pilot project is a grid development. National Grid and development recommendations are provided and evaluated for their varying approaches. Sustainable development and environmental protection is a focus concern throughout the implementation.

Projects of common interest (PCIs)

PCIs have been established to ensure a common interest, which contribute to the following objectives on a European scale:

1. security of supply
2. integration of renewable energy sources
3. social and economic welfare

PCIs are eligible for funding from the European Union through the “Connecting Europe Facility”.

For PCIs, a new permitting procedure will apply at the national level. Furthermore, Local NGOs will act as advisors to support the implementation of the pilot projects.

Timeline

- Development of a BESTGRID background paper
- Definition of a common framework to evaluate pilot project activities
- Development of project information material & implementation of Data collection
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Partners

- RGI: Initiator of the German 330 kV HVDC system operator in the North and East of Germany. Length: ~125km. It is one of the most powerful DC systems in Europe. It operates between the countries of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.
- NGOs: National Grid is an international, national electricity, and gas company and one of the world’s largest investors in infrastructure. It operates in over 28 states in the US and is owned by the government.
- TENNE: One of the world’s leading system operators in Europe. It is responsible for system operation in the Southern part of Germany and the Netherlands.
- Terna: The Italian transmission system operator. Terna is one of the largest investor-owned operators in the world. It is owned by the Italian government. Terna manages the Italian transmission system. It is one of the largest grid operators in Europe.

In addition, the following organisations are also involved:

- European Network for the Transmission of Renewable Energy (CERTH) - Renexio, a project funded by the European Commission and the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate Protection.
- The Terna Group is the owner of the Italian transmission system operator Terna. It is one of the largest investor-owned operators in the world. It operates in over 28 states in the US and is owned by the government.
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- BirdLife Europe is a network of over 100 national organisations that work on issues concerning global biodiversity. Its mission is to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity for the benefit of people.
- Germanwatch is a German-based NGO that works on issues concerning global environmental problems, human rights, and social change, applying an interdisciplinary and systemic approach.
- IIASA is an independent research institute founded in 1980. It is a member of the United Nations University System. IIASA focuses on critical issues in the environment and the United Nations Development Programme.
- National Grid is an international, national electricity, and gas company and one of the world’s largest investors in infrastructure. It operates in over 28 states in the US and is owned by the government.
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Introducing BESTGRID’s pilot projects

Each pilot project is a grid development. National Grid and develop recommendations projects that have been selected and supported by their regional government and other stakeholders. They act as a catalyst for change in a pilot project that have multi-sector, and complexity and the design and implementation are challenging. In the UK, they enable BESTGRID to support NGOs during the project planning phase (Germany). They will receive advice from operators in charge of a pilot project that is planned and realised by one of the TSOs participating in BESTGRID. The project that is planned and realised by one of the TSOs participating in BESTGRID.

Projects of common interest (PCIs)

In May 2013, the EU regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure came into effect. This legislation introduces a new procedure to identify “projects of common interest”, which contribute to the following objectives on a European scale:

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In the North and East of Germany, such as the operatives, concern global equity and systemic approach. BESTGRID will support the development of action plans for their existing approach on stakeholder engagement. All pilot projects are different from each other, and complementary at the national level.

BESTGRID’s pilot projects

- Pilot project A: National Grid will develop recommendations on offshore interconnector ports. They will use the interconnector from the UK to Norway to scrutinise their existing approach and derive recommendations. 
- Pilot project B: TenneT’s pilot in the Netherlands will be to connect large islands to the large mainland. This will be an important development step to demonstrate the feasibility of connecting remote islands with the mainland.
- Pilot project C: Elia’s pilot project in Wallon Region will focus on renewable energy sources. 
- Pilot project D: 50Hertz’s 380kV transmission lines that are intended to transport renewable interconnection grids in Germany.

Timeline

| Partners | National Grid | BESTGRID
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| Testing better practices | 50Hertz (Germany) | BirdLife Europe (Belgium)
| Terna (Italy) | EU Commission | Nature and People (UK and the USA)
| National Grid | IIASA (Austria) | Germanwatch (Germany)
| National Grid | RGI (Germany) | Germanwatch (Germany)
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1. Project governance and progress tracking / support of best practice exchange and dissemination
2. Development of action plans
3. Development of project information material & implementation of best practices
4. Development of a BESTGRID background paper
5. Definition of a common framework to evaluate pilot project activities
6. Development and use of indicators and metrics
7. Compilation, write up and publication of results
8. Regional and local NGOs will support the development of action plans
9. National Grid will develop recommendations onshore wind generation from the UK to Egerland.
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Partners

- BESTGRID’s partners consist of a core project team and a network of partners from industry, research organisations, NGOs, and international organisations. The partners come from different countries and have expertise in various fields related to grid development.

- BESTGRID’s partners include the following organisations:
  - National Grid: National Grid is an international energy company with operations in the UK, USA, and other countries.
  - BirdLife Europe: BirdLife Europe is a network of national and regional conservation organisations across Europe.
  - Germanwatch: Germanwatch is a German-based NGO that focuses on environmental issues.

- BESTGRID’s partners also include national and international organisations such as IIASA (Austria), RGI (Germany), and IIASA (Austria).