D5.2 Report on 10 days presence of mobile citizen office, information events and stakeholder meetings

50Hertz, Dirk Manthey

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Grid development needs dialogue

Final Report EU Project BESTGRID
Project overview and essential results: BESTGRID – a challenge with perspective

This final report by 50Hertz, the transmission system operator for the north and east of Germany, gives an overview of thirty months of public participation in the construction project for the 380-kV overhead line between Bertikow and Pasewalk. Why this final report? The reasons are twofold.

1. Even though public dialogue regarding the line construction project between Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania continues, the approval procedure has only just started, contrary to the EU project.
2. The experiences from the BESTGRID project have strengthened 50Hertz’s intentions to continue the intensive stakeholder dialogue it has been practising.

50Hertz would like to use this occasion to expressly thank the European Commission for its readiness to provide an institutional framework in the search for good professional practices with a European perspective, together with the Renewables Grid Initiative.

BESTGRID created an environment in which the scientific, civil and economic project partners could work together in all trust. Too often, mistrust has prevented a constructive exchange of thoughts in the public dialogue on grid development projects and stood in the way of an improved and less intrusive planning. The stakeholder groups affected by the line construction project also had the same experience, as can be deduced from the later pages on the project assessment results.

This final report mentions the initial questions and
formulates tasks, provides an overview of the most important results and lists essential conclusions from a stakeholder survey that 50Hertz carried out in the final stage of the project. Finally, all dialogue measures, which were extensively reported on the course of the project several times already, have been compiled into one document. This enables a chronological as well as a systematic overview per measure category.
Summary and Deliverables

The three main objectives that the BESTGRID partners sought to achieve were:

1. to improve the public acceptance for the grid development through the development of a good professional practice and transparent planning processes in the scope of five pilot projects,
2. where possible, to speed up the approval procedure, in which environmental interests were considered at the earliest convenience,
3. to establish best practices for the development of the transmission system in view of the Projects of Common Interest (PCI) of European importance.

Correspondingly, five transmission system operators from Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Italy are working together with environmental organisations and scientists within the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI).

Through the project, 50Hertz wanted to gain further insights:

1. How should different communication measures interact in a timely and optimal manner for different target groups in the scope of early public participation?
2. Can a mobile citizen office reach local target groups and offer specific information on electromagnetic fields (EMF)?
3. How should such an EMF information offer be organised and which relevant competences need to be on board?

A summary of the most important findings:

- 50Hertz’s mobile citizen office visited 11 towns and cities, most of which were located right along the old line, where it mainly reached target groups that had not participated in the more centralised information meetings.
- The measure added a useful link to the chain of other information measures. Contact with local stakeholders was cemented in this manner and supported a trust-enhancing collaboration with the local administrations.
- The mobile office tour was a special occasion for local media to report on the project. Information on participation measures, the approval procedure and the framework conditions of the infrastructure project could be conveyed better as a result.
- 50Hertz gained a large number of positive experiences during the organisational implementation. The rotation of different teams worked well and offered many engineers and planners the chance to establish direct contact with local residents and discuss the themes they are concerned about.
- The information offer on electromagnetic fields could be thoroughly revised. Residents gladly took up the offer. The transparent approach concerning highly technical aspects of line construction were experienced as positive.
- The dialogue with environmental authorities and project partner NABU Deutschland resulted in a series of constructive pointers, led to a faster exchange of specialised information and enabled a more concrete answer to many technical questions.
Information: Goals and direction of the dialogue

Dirk Manthey, Project Communication and Head of Pilot Project BESTGRID

“One of the greatest challenges is to ensure continuity of dialogue. Only then can we create trust and cooperate with all parties involved.”

The approval procedure for a high-voltage transmission line is not a daily occurrence. In order to correctly inform local residents, public authorities and relevant stakeholders, intensive information activities are a prerequisite. Even though a 220-kV overhead line already spans the distance between the substations of Bertikow and Pasewalk, the approval procedure is new: for the first time, the competent authority for cross-state projects, namely the Bundesnetzagentur, has organised a project conference.

Workshop to find the best routes of corridor in Pasewalk
For the dialogue with stakeholders, local authorities and citizens, a tiered approach was chosen to establish the information and participation process:

- All regional authorities and many representatives were first informed of the expected order of events and the legal framework of the approval process through separate round table sessions. This meant we also had to be willing to attend information meetings on short notice if required.
- In March 2014, the first planning results were discussed during two regional workshops in Prenzlau and Pasewalk. For the first step of the federal sectoral planning, alternative corridor routes for a possible line had to be indicated. The insights from the workshops, with about 40 participants each, were integrated in the first draft request as per §6 if the Grid Expansion Acceleration Act (NABEG) for the public project conference.
- Along with the workshops, press and media activities were also launched. Local media reported on the meetings and planning. An important aspect was to communicate 50Hertz's further information offer: the project website, newsletter and hotline. The objective is to offer interested parties a channel for feedback to the contacts at 50Hertz early on in the project and to document all important procedures for the general public afterwards.

Choosing the right time is important for public dialogue. 50Hertz decided in favour of reaching a broad public through a series of pilot surveys and preliminary consultations. This gave interested stakeholders easy access to the discussion of possible alternatives and realistic solutions.
Participation: listen to arguments and understand motivations

Teréz Jánossy, Project Leader for Approval

“The officially available information often does not take into account the still ongoing planning. Via the stakeholder dialogue, we can fill this gap early on in the procedure and integrate the information in our deliberations.”

Mobile citizens office in Prenzlau

On the one hand, BESTGRID partners RGI, Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH), Germanwatch and NABU Deutschland took part in 50Hertz's information measures on the project in order to add their perspective to the exchange of experiences. On the other hand, the EU project also provided special dialogue formats of the project partners themselves.
1. Deutsche Umwelthilfe moderated two regional workshops with electromagnetic fields as the main topic. These workshops offered stakeholders from the project region access to expert knowledge and provided opportunities to discuss important basic questions.

2. NABU Deutschland gathered regional at two meetings to answer environmental questions that related to the project. The question revolved around the relevant data, the need for additional nature conservation surveys and the available findings on the risk of different bird species flying into the lines in the Oder catchment area, which is an import German region for bird protection.

3. The Renewables Grid Initiative ensured an international exchange of provisional results and different points of view during its five conferences. For the project region, this meeting took place in Berlin on 25/26 October 2014.

The exchange and comparison of different perspectives resulted in many reports and publications over the course of the project. The most important of these are resumed on these pages.

Selection of BESTGRID publications

- Participation and Transparency in Power System Planning. Part 1 of the manual on recommended actions of the BESTGRID project (drawn up by Germanwatch)
- Nature Conservation in Power System Planning. Part 2 of the manual on recommended actions of the BESTGRID project (drawn up by BirdLife and NABU Deutschland)
- RGI has published an overview of all project partner reports and the results of the qualitative and quantitative analyses of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis from Laxenburg (Austria) on the BESTGRID website. Most documents are available in English. (http://www.bestgrid.eu/publications/bestgrid-documents.html)

50Hertz also offers online documentation on its pilot project. This can be found by following this link: http://www.50hertz.com/de/Netzausbau/BESTGRID
Acceleration: Faster distinction between important/unimportant

Martin Heumüller, Technical Project Leader for line engineering

“The new NABEG procedure makes a number of surveys necessary at an earlier stage. For this procedure, however, we can also separate relevant from irrelevant questions earlier than expected. Whether this will allow us to implement everything more quickly, has yet to be seen.”

Today, the public grants much attention to the subject of acceptance for grid development. In any case, the legislator has already created an extensive regulatory framework in order to take public interests into consideration for large infrastructure projects such as an overhead line. In the end, whether these interests were always served also has to stand up to close scrutiny in court. That is why 50Hertz sought to exchange ideas on the nature, methodology and scope of the required surveys together with its project partners. The objective was to gain a better common understanding of the assessment of the technical and geographical solutions.

The central theme of the early phase of the federal sectoral planning was the search for an appropriate route corridor. Although there was already an existing route corridor, it was necessary to check whether

1. the old line area was suitable for the new overhead line with its higher capacity,
2. the old line could be upgraded to handle bottlenecks "better" for the purposes of other stakeholder groups,
3. new nature conservation areas have been designated since the construction of the old line in the 1950s, which requires a new assessment of the old line route,
4. there are other alternative routes that can be bundled with other existing infrastructures, which would result in a more favourable total assessment.
The first request draft by 50Hertz, the discussion during early public participation and the project conference as well as the survey framework determined by the authority competent for approval, for instance, allowed the specification of the further course of tests and surveys, which to some degree can be deduced from the comparison of both overview charts with alternative corridors. A corridor is a long strip of 500 to 1000 metres in width in which a specific line route is later sought. For this project, which concerns the distance of almost 30 kilometres between Bertikow and Pasewalk, there were ultimately 26 corridor segments instead of the 13 alternative routes, which in turn could be combined into a multitude of routes.

The various workshops, which were in part organised and moderated by BESTGRID partner NABU Deutschland, led to a constructive, professional discussion. It might not have yielded a unifying answer to all questions, but common topics could be deduced from previously unique ones. 50Hertz is convinced that this approach enables us to consider interests early on, clear up positions and, as such, resolve initial differences in opinion in a constructive and early manner.
The documentation of this procedure was made available to the general public via specialist workshops and is also fit to control the communications risks a major project such as this offers. The political authorities verify to what extent their interests are taken into account, while the complex specialised questions can be discussed at round table discussions. That is why this 50Hertz project was closed in September 2015 at a workshop with a wide range of participants. Here, 50Hertz once again expressed its hope that the practice of dialogue would not end after the conclusion of the project.
Focus on electromagnetic fields: measure - classify - understand

Michael Hahne, CityAnalytics at TU Berlin

“When interested citizens are given the opportunity to express their requests and 50Hertz also addresses these specifically and individually, trust can be built on this communication. This makes it easier for citizens to put the subject into its general context and determine to what extent it affects their own particular situation.”

From the very start, the mobile citizen office played an important part in the initial consultations of 50Hertz for the BESTGRID pilot project. If the new line is constructed in the existing route of the 220-kV line, this might give rise to questions on possible changes and differences with the current situation. In principle, the challenge involved in informing people on a technically challenging theme is how 50Hertz can adequately dispense relevant knowledge.

The mobile citizen office listened and gathered questions from the population regarding the planning state immediately after the public project conference held on 24 September 2014 in Torgelow (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania). Based on measurements observed on the current line, a dialogue on electromagnetic fields was opened with local residents. For more remote locations, a short film was produced as an introduction to electric and magnetic fields.
This specific offer was met with amiable interest from local residents of the region. In general, the number of direct enquiries remained rather limited. Nevertheless, the later telephone survey (see "topics of interest"), the results of which are included in this report, showed that the subject area still faces a general degree of uncertainty and that there is still a basic need for information.

Looking back, the experience of an inspection accompanied by experts, the explanation of the results of that day’s measurements and the general geographical situation on site offered a very good introduction to the theme based on individuals' initial questions. Instead of expanding their grasp of the theory, the mobile office enabled an actual experience and appraisal of the local situation. From there on, it was possible to look at the planned new line or to address many other topics. That is why face-to-face conversations on the chosen experience allowed 50Hertz’s local representatives to broach other subjects.

Regarding the description of the gathered experiences, there was some critical feedback later on, concerning the measurement on the existing line, with its lesser capacity, was not a minimisation of the expected development. Actual on-site experience did not corroborate this, however. The main concerns here were the correlation between distance and decreasing field strength. Furthermore, the planned alteration was always taken into account. In general, the option of a situation-specific dissemination was considered highly valuable.

In conclusion, the measure was almost without exception evaluated as positive in the assessment of the feedback. 50Hertz decided to consult two universities for the implementation. The University of Duisburg-Essen provided support for the series of technical measurements and TU Berlin examined the communicative behaviour of the 50Hertz team. This made it clear that the attitude towards dialogue of the local representatives as well as the supporting information material are important factors that aid the successful implementation of this approach.

From 50Hertz's point of view, the mobile citizen office does not only represent the experience of a successful communication measure, but also an incentive for future activities. The results were used for the design of a brochure on the subject: "Electromagnetic fields: measure - classify - understand". They were also included in the project team briefing, so that the team was better informed in their conversations with citizens.
Statements by project partners RGI, Nabu, Germanwatch, Terna, IASSA

Antina Sander, RGI

1. What was the most surprising experience you had in the 2.5 years of the BESTGRID project?

“How often the implementation of planned measures had to be rescheduled or their content had to be adjusted because of altered circumstances. How difficult it therefore became to have planned measures actually implemented.

Before the project started, I had expected the other partners to be somewhat sceptical of certain planned measures. I was all the more surprised how positive their feedback was afterwards.”

2. Which recommendations from the pilot projects can be used in other European countries?

“With the project team, we compiled a list of insights that can be applied "uni
versally". In short, these are:

1. You must adapt to the project-specific circumstances when planning and implementing measures.

2. Personal relationships often make the difference and have to be maintained.

3. A 'stakeholder manager' is only taken seriously if he is backed in this role by the organisation and is allowed to reach agreements.

4. Even when the decision on the necessity of a line has already been made, it should be possible to explain it to new stakeholders in a plausible manner against a varied technical background.

5. Sound legislation can provide the framework for a qualitative stakeholder engagement process. However, it can never go into so much detail that the 'processing' of the law automatically leads to valuable stakeholder engagement.

6. It can take a very long time before the positive effect of measures is noticeable. Ideally, you might not notice 'anything at all', as conflicts are solved before they can arise.
7. To have a meaningful dialogue, common understanding needs to be achieved first.

8. Early participation by NGOs makes the development of better projects possible.

9. Exchanging thoughts with core stakeholders, even on specific projects, is helpful and important and contributes substantially to a more simple collaboration on specific projects.”

3. How much standardisation is advisable for communication measures in grid development projects and how much case-to-case adjustment is necessary?

See points 1 and 5 above.

4. How will the RGI organisation make use of the BESTGRID learnings in the future?

“On two levels:

1. As before, we will continue to share the garnered experiences with our direct stakeholders in our communications and frequent presentations at conferences etc. These stakeholders are the industry and civil society as well as employees of such institutions as the European Commission, regulatory authorities, approval authorities, ministries, but also political decision-makers and academics.

2. We will use our good experiences to intensively promote a solution to continuously enable/finance the cooperation established between TSOs and NGOs in the BESTGRID project. In the long term, we hope to create an independently managed fund to finance collaborations that last longer than a non-recurrently financed project such as BESTGRID.”

Rotraut Hänlein, Germanwatch

1. What was the most surprising experience you had in the 2.5 years of the BESTGRID project?

“Through BESTGRID, I have discovered new representation formats. The most surprising one to me was the speed-dating at the London BESTGRID conference. These short exchanges yielded two particularly inspiring ideas: the vision of a high-voltage transmission line around the Mediterranean Sea as a project to promote both energy, climate protection and peace, as well as the project of Denmark's Energinet, where the local population is independently planning a section of a high voltage power line.”
2. Which recommendations from the pilot projects can be used in other European countries?

“Information and early dialogue well ahead of the planning procedure help identify conflicts at an early stage and develop relief options for the regions. Furthermore, the project planners require the support of politics and society to explain why new lines are required for the decentralised, climate-friendly and renewable electricity system.”

3. How much standardisation is advisable for communication measures in grid development projects and how much case-to-case adjustment is necessary?

“Line projects often differ greatly. Dialogue offers should therefore always be adjusted to match the specific character of the relevant project. Involving regional players is very important in this regard.”

4. How will Germanwatch make use of the BESTGRID learnings in the future?

“On the one hand, we are discussing a follow-up project with the partners to maintain the social learning curve. On the other hand, the experiences gained in the BESTGRID project will be integrated in Germanwatch’s daily activities through concrete processes and problem-solving strategies, for instance to have a stable foundation of arguments but also to motivate why certain processes do not need to be undone and restarted from scratch.”

Eric Neuling, NABU

1. What was the most surprising experience you had in the 2.5 years of the BESTGRID project?

“Our expectations of BESTGRID, namely the constructive and direct exchange on nature conservation issues, were met. This makes us hopeful that for future projects, trust can be established despite major handicaps resulting from ongoing projects without sufficient participation and transparency. It would be a great success if joint discussions on sensible conservation areas and habitats, tower types, bird populations or alternative corridors could also be held early on for all future projects.”

2. Which recommendations from the pilot projects can be used in other European countries?

“The special role of nature conservation organisations and their legal claims create a challenge for system operators to find the most eco-friendly solution for line construction with the highest degree of legal certainty. The early involvement of organisations makes it possible for them to gather important information on potential areas of conflict prior to the start of the project. These can already be
integrated in the application. Environmental protection organisations can simultaneously gain knowledge on the technical limitations and challenges of the system operator in order to integrate natural conservation interests in the right places. Spreading finished planning documents over the course of a few weeks is therefore not enough to create acceptance. An involvement free of prejudice makes nature conservation organisations partners instead of petitioners.”

3. How much standardisation is advisable for communication measures in grid development projects and how much case-to-case adjustment is necessary?

“Official meetings targeted at the public and offices responsible for public policy are necessary to delineate the planning scope. They do not however suffice to address all local conflicts. The system operators should receive support to talk to individual stakeholder groups well ahead of the formal procedure. Information obtained through these talks should be communicated in an open manner and both the opportunities and limits of participation have to be made clear. Formats such as round table discussions make it easier to understand, consider and assess the individual claims.”

4. How will NABU make use of the BESTGRID learnings in the future?

“NABU strives for an environmentally friendly energy transition which in addition to energy economy and efficiency measures also incorporates the further development of renewable energy sources as well as the grid development and new storage technologies this requires. Keeping nature intact is not only necessary but also possible. Organisations should therefore be willing to accept that vulnerable species and habitats have to be protected locally. NABU strives to have good approaches to early participation, such as BESTGRID, introduced successfully in other aspects of the energy transition as well.”

Fiorenca Roghi, Terna

1. What was the most surprising experience you had in the 2.5 years of the BESTGRID project?

“I was surprised when I realised that the BESTGRID team was actually making the written proposal happen. Despite the fact that we had complicated tasks and huge goals, especially those partners with a pilot project such as 50Hertz, we managed to realise almost all the planned actions and gathered important lessons. As a TSO employee, I know it is a big challenge that involves managers, technicians and project teams in a new activity with strict rules and deadlines. Another impressive experience was the active participation and cooperation among the consortium partners, even in
secondary activities such as the best practice exchange tools. I found it easy to collaborate with the group, to communicate and receive feedback."

2. Which recommendations from the pilot projects can be used in other European countries?

“All of the BESTGRID recommendations should be considered in every grid project in Europe, requiring adaptation to specific circumstances (as specified in the lessons learned). Professional NGOs in the field can provide great help in applying this adaptation in order to transfer best practices in an effective way. TSOs need to understand at all their internal levels that a real stakeholder engagement requires a lot of effort, but after some time it yields great results.”

3. How much standardisation is advisable for communication measures in grid development projects and how much case-to-case adjustment is necessary?

“The common goal should be to communicate as transparently and as early as possible, but afterwards, case-to-case adjustments, based on the project characteristics and on the knowledge of the local territory and people, are fundamental.”

4. How will Terna make use of the BESTGRID learnings in the future?

“This is the one million dollar question! I can't see the future, but I really hope we will spread and consider the BESTGRID learnings in the future. The approach is slowly changing, it takes some time to improve and to show evident effects, but I think Terna is going in the right direction. This year we have organised the first open days for the direct dialogue with citizens and the experience from TenneT's info markets has been very inspiring and helpful. When there are issues to be solved in innovative ways, we have many other valuable ideas and examples thanks to the pilot projects. We are part of RGI and we plan to keep in touch with BESTGRID partners to maintain a sort of “advice network”.

Nadejda Kommendantova, IASSA

1. Which was the most surprising experience you made in the past 2,5 years in BESTGRID?

“The most surprising experience during the years in BESTGRID was to see and to feel in the field how emotional the opposition can be. I remember a public information event in Elfenhausen which turned into public demonstration. A person who was standing nearby me asked me if I am working for a TSO.
If not then I may still stand close to him. Such things could be grasped only being directly in the field and observing the events. Even demonstrations being shown on TV do not provide equal feeling.”

2. Which recommendations from the pilot projects can be used in other European countries?

“That the issue of working with stakeholders is an issue which requires constant capacity and attention. And if some concerns are addressed other concerns, not addressed, or new concerns could be appearing. In light of this, there was a requirement from several stakeholders and on the site of several information events that creation of a capacity center, settled maybe at the level of local municipality and working permanently with stakeholders and inhabitants would be required. Such center should have fixed working hours and be easily accessible for anyone who would be interested in its activity.”

3. How much standardisation is advisable for communication measures in grid development projects and how much case-to-case adjustment is necessary?

“I think that the content of information really depends on case to case bases but some procedural things could be standardized also. As our research showed stakeholders highly evaluated the possibility for a direct talk with employees of TSOs and this form of communication provided more clarity on contested questions as, for example, distribution of printed information. At the same time, each group of stakeholders would require also a tailor-made approach. For instance, as our research shows, young stakeholders would require different channels of information then their middle-aged peers.”
Documentation stakeholder survey: 380-kV-Freileitung Bertikow-Pasewalk - familiarity with, attitudes towards and assessment of the communication measures

In this section, 50Hertz documents the stakeholder survey carried out for the 380-kV overhead line Bertikow-Pasewalk in the scope of BESTGRID. The survey was carried out by logos Unternehmenskommunikation in Munich. It consists of two parts: 1) A representative telephone survey of the population older than 18 years (750 people) 2) A set of qualitative interviews.

The main purpose of the study is to assess the communication measures implemented in the region. This pertained particularly to what extent certain measures, such as the central information meetings or the public project conference, were known. In addition, the survey and interviews also served to determine the attitudes towards central topics such as grid development and the qualitative appraisal of the stakeholder dialogue held by 50Hertz.

The subject category "credibility of information sources on electrical and magnetic fields (EMF)" was taken from a BESTGRID evaluation questionnaire so that the data could be compared. The representative telephone survey was carried out between 9 and 29 April 2014. The questions were directed at the German-speaking population over 18 years of the municipalities of Göritz, Schönfeld, Damerow, Rollwitz and Pasewalk (north region) and Bertikow, Grünow, Prenzlau, Schenkenberg and Dreesch (south region).

For the qualitative study, 13 people in total were interviewed during 11 sessions. The interviewees were people with functions in the media, local, regional and state administrations or civil society organisations.

Summary of the results by logos Unternehmenskommunikation

Both studies - representative and qualitative - reflect a generally successful communication campaign in support of a line construction project that overall caused little concern in the region. Compared to the initial situation for the critical Uckermark line in the neighbouring region, this is no small feat.
The expert interviews confirm a smooth professional approach in the scope of these measures. This satisfaction with 50Hertz’s approach can be used as an important input variable for the quantitative survey: as the important disseminators were reassured, the citizens apparently had no cause for greater concern. That is why it is not surprising that the familiarity with and number of participants in this project were lower than for controversial projects.

Logos Survey: “Have you ever heard about the project?”

The reputation of certain communicators (with regard to EMF) mattered little, remarkably enough. We cannot substantiate this but assume that this also applies to other subject categories. Aside from the direct personal environment, there is no specific instance that is trusted without question. The answer: personal dialogue in order to talk to as many ‘trustworthy persons’ as possible and ‘create alliances’ (BNetzA, BUND, …) to establish a broader basis of legitimation with regard to critical themes.
The results show that the package of information and dialogue options can be used to address different target groups. Thus, it is important to identify the options but then using them only in a limited or collaborative manner, underlines the above.

Logos Survey: “General attitude towards the project?”

Apparently, the information and dialogue measures that were offered sufficed to achieve broad social knowledge on the project. The often general cry for more participation heard in the public debate met its practical limits here: the relevance of the topic for the regional population.

The point-per-point improvement proposals with regard to planning material (maps) and the continuity of contact should be accepted as constructive comments and viewed as details that can still be refined for the communication approach.
Generell ihre Haltung zum Netzausbau-Projekt „Pasewalk – Bertikow“
Ich habe keine Informationen, mir ist das Thema egal

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Logos Survey: “General attitude towards the project?: The topic is irrelevant.”

Generell ihre Haltung zum Netzausbau-Projekt „Pasewalk – Bertikow“
Ich habe wenige Informationen zum Projekt und sehe das Thema mit Sorge

Logos Survey: “General attitude towards the project?: I`m concerned.”
Logos Survey: “General attitude towards the project?: I’m informed sufficiently and view the topic in a relevant manner.”
Informationsmaßnahmen zu einem Netzausbauprojekt in der Region Pasewalk – Bertikow

Vergleich: Davon gehört – teilgenommen bzw. genutzt?

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Logos Survey: “Measures of information. Have you participated or heard of it?”

Themen von Interesse beim Netzausbauprojekt in der Region Pasewalk – Bertikow

Beeinträchtigt der Ausbau landwirtschaftliche Flächen oder Grundstücke?

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<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region Süd</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Logos Survey: “Topics of interest: Does the project impair agricultural fields or private property?”
Logos Survey: “Topics of interest: Route of the power line?”

Logos Survey: “Topics of interest: Rating of the different topics”
Logos Survey: “Topics of interest: What is the impact on the environment?”

Logos Survey: “Topics of interest: Rating of the different topics”
Logos Survey: “Topics of interest: Is there an impact on human health due to the influence of electrical and magnetic fields?”

Logos Survey: “Trust in information sources to electrical and magnetic fields?”
Informationsquellen zu elektrischen und magnetischen Feldern (EMF)
Wer ist glaubwürdig? (I)

- Familie
- Wissenschaftler
- Freunde
- lokale politische Amtsträger

Logos Survey: “Credibility of information sources concerning electrical and magnetic fields?”

Informationsquellen zu elektrischen und magnetischen Feldern (EMF)
Wer ist glaubwürdig? (II)

- Nicht-Regierungs-Organisationen (NGOs)
- Journalisten
- 50Hertz
- Internet

Logos Survey: “Credibility of information sources concerning electrical and magnetic fields?”
Logos Survey: “Classification of the project in the context of the energy transition.”

Logos Survey: “Spontaneous statements to the communication and information measures.”
Logos Survey: “Rating the information events in Prenzlau and Pasewalk.”

Logos Survey: “Rating mobile citizens office.”
Logos Survey: “Rating information at 50Hertz website.”

Logos Survey: “Rating the information given concerning the grid route.”
Logos Survey: “Rating the information given concerning the grid route.”

Logos Survey: “Other relevant topics.”
Positionen der Stakeholder: Relevante Themen, über einzelne Kommunikationsmaßnahmen hinaus (II)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thema</th>
<th>Wahrnehmung 50Hertz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Langer Projektzyklus:</td>
<td>Zweimal Kritik an 50Hertz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trassenplanung (und Bau) sind „Langläufer“. Es ist schwierig, über den gesamten Projektzyklus hinweg ein gleichmäßiges – hones – Informationsniveau zu sichern.</td>
<td>Stark mit der Kommunikationsarbeit gestaltet, dann allerdings nachgelassen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehrfachbelastung:</td>
<td>Kein Bezug zu 50Hertz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Logos Survey: “Other relevant topics.”

Fazit “Qualitative Interviews“:

> Beider Bundesländer verstehen sich jeweils als „Energieländer“. Ein notweniger Energieexport ist die logische Folge. Deshalb werden Diskussionen über Trassenaus- oder neubau nicht als „Ob-Diskussion“ (ja – nein), sondern als „Wie“-Diskussionen gesehen.
> 50Hertz bekommt gute bis sehr gute Noten für die bisherige Kommunikationsarbeit rund um das Projekt. Begründet wird dies damit, das das Unternehmen das Bedürfnis nach einem Dialog zum „Wie“ in der Summe vorbildlich bedient.
> Von den einzelnen Maßnahmen sind die Stakeholder vor allem die Antragskonferenz sowie die Informationsveranstaltung in Ponzlau und Pasewalk bekannt und wurden besucht. Die 50Hertz-Projekt-Webseiten stehen in der Wahrnehmung zurück, wurden aber von nahezu der Hälfte der Gesprächspartner genutzt (vorrangig für aktuelle Infos).
> Bei den Einzelmaßnahmen überragen die positiven Aspekte („Lob“) bei weitem die Kritik. Monierte Einzelpunkte sind primär ganz praktische Aspekte: Anmeldeprozedur zur Antragskonferenz, Qualität der Kartenmaterialien, fehlende Anschlussinformationen („wie geht das weiter?“ – „was geschieht mit den Hinweisen und Einwendungen?“)

Logos Survey: “Results of the qualitative interviews.”
Project results: grid development requires dialogue

The essential findings from the assessment by CityAnalytics of the mobile citizen office tour as well as the measurements of electromagnetic fields as a communication measure are:

**EMF measurements are suitable as a communication measure, but certain conditions need to be met.**

**The measurement**
- should relate to personal and first-hand experiences.
- is not self-explanatory and should be embedded in the written and verbal communication offer.
- should be carried out directly underneath the line, otherwise comparisons or the visual aids could be misinterpreted or seen as manipulative.
- should be made as soon as the subject becomes more important to the population or even proactively.
- should be documented. (Documentation should be made available to the citizens.)

**The communicator**
- should discuss different perspectives and the scenarios that represent these in order to disprove these using the measurement.
- shall be familiar with the content and be able to disseminate and translate it as well as communicate in a target-oriented, understandable and empathic manner.

**The information**
- should be selected in advance in order to avoid an information overload.
- should make it clear how the subject relates to people’s daily lives.
- should go into more detail on subjects so that people may perceive the measurement as transparent.
Appropriate as a communication measure, but room for improvement as to materials used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive aspects</th>
<th>Room for improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The transparency of the offered measures is to be considered positive.</td>
<td>- Film footage on EMF and grid development was hardly used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Face-to-face conversations were well-suited.</td>
<td>- The online game was not fully developed and therefore used only sparingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Knowledge of the region was an advantage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Citizens’ requests or concerns were answered in a transparent and balanced manner.</td>
<td>- During personal conversations, it is important to let citizens have their say and to stimulate them proactively to express their fears, questions and concerns at all levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Communicators displayed a high degree of openness for the requests by the population.</td>
<td>- In addition to qualitative questioning techniques, assessment questionnaires could offer an important contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The comparison to people’s daily context was meaningful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The principle of fairness was implemented well.</td>
<td>- Communication on underground cables was somewhat one-sided, with a strong focus on the disadvantages, especially with regard to the construction- and installation-related consequences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Positions of opponents were described in a most balanced manner, existing conflicts were referenced.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Criticism was allowed.</td>
<td>- There was no information on how citizen participation was included in the planning so far.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reliability: A procedure was available to document citizens’ requests and integrate these in the further planning.</td>
<td>- The brochure “Successful Participation” might have made a substantial contribution to reliability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- However, this was not very practical and seldom used.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project findings: Grid development requires dialogue

Olivier Feix, Head of Communications / Public Affairs

“Our cooperation with different environmental organisations over the years confirms our willingness to search for good solutions for line construction projects together with others. The European platform offered by the Renewables Grid Initiative gave direction to our purpose. As such, we have learned to jointly develop better solutions across a wide range of levels.”

Olivier Britz, Head of Subsection Nature Conservation and Permits

“All project partners confirm that we require specific communication solutions for line construction projects. In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Brandenburg, a current topic that requires particular attention is nature and bird conservation. In the future, we want to search for even more joint solutions with all stakeholders.”

Dirk Manthey, Project Communication and Head of Pilot Project BESTGRID

“All colleagues contributing to the 380-kV overhead line construction project to connect Bertikow and Pasewalk had to go the extra mile for the pilot project in the scope of BESTGRID to ensure that in addition to all technical coordination efforts, the coordination for an EU project was also in order. This emphasises our willingness to cooperate and enter into dialogue. BESTGRID offered a platform for a trusting and constructive exchange. We look forward to building on this meaningful experience.”
The following eight points summarise 50Hertz's experiences within the BESTGRID pilot project.

1. **Success of the mobile citizens office**

   The mobile citizen office proved to be a powerful tool for a targeted, localised and individual approach. The intention to visit two towns per day was fulfilled. Using a prototype, many experiences were gathered on the appropriate and functional furnishing. In the meantime, these experiences have been integrated in the features of the permanent mobile citizen office. 50Hertz is convinced that a mobile citizen office will mainly be useful for projects of 100 kilometres in length to create an information offer for a large area.

2. **Mobile citizen office and corridor workshops are a good starting point for wide-range information.**

   The informational tour of the mobile office contributed to the communication of important facts on the planning progress and the approval procedure via the media. Media reporting remains the most important channel to inform people in a development region on the project, its background and the participation options. Even when a project is not controversial, 50Hertz wants to inform citizens on the project in a transparent manner.

   The survey carried out in the spring of 2015 delivered the following result: mostly those residents living close to the existing line took note of the intention of 50Hertz to make the project transparent to the general public and its offer to enter into dialogue. The reports on both corridor workshops on federal sectoral planning in March 2014 also contributed to the transparency.

3. **Positive experiences with the direct exchange between 50Hertz planners and stakeholders**

   The direct exchange with stakeholder groups and residents provided 50Hertz's planning engineers with valuable pointers that were already included in the first draft application for federal sectoral planning. The general meetings repeatedly served as the point of departure for further exchanges.

   The joint workshops with NABU Deutschland encouraged mutual understanding of the circumstances and framework conditions to search for a corridor and later line route. The project also yielded organisational conclusions for communication planning: several 50Hertz colleagues took turns staffing the mobile citizen office. From an organisational point of view, this limits the additional demand on
employees’ time and moreover brought a larger number of colleagues into direct contact with local residents and shareholders groups to exchange experiences.

4. Information offer on electromagnetic fields is effective

Many residents’ questions mostly concerned their specific situation, allowing an immediate response. The mobile citizen office offered residents and interested parties a direct exchange on electromagnetic fields at the existing line itself, which took place in a respectful and objective atmosphere. During these exchanges, 50Hertz communicators gathered additional experience on useful supporting information material. There were also further conclusions on how the quality of the dialogue between experts and laymen can be improved.

5. Well-oriented information and dialogue offer

The communication measures complemented each other well for contact with different target groups. 50Hertz decided to visit the small towns and municipalities along the existing route with its mobile citizen office. As such, it was able to establish contact with entirely different people than those participating in the local meeting formats.

6. Trust grows through permanent dialogue

The mobile citizen office and the thematic meetings together created a chain of measures that ensured the continuity of the dialogue. One of the most important positive experiences is that the regular exchange as well as the possibility and establishment of close contacts are decisive elements to increase mutual understanding. This created room for trust. To this extent, it remains a challenge for project owners such as 50Hertz to ensure regular exchanges during approval procedures that span many years - especially when no new information has been available for some months, for instance because expert reports are being drawn up.

7. Trust is a rewarding risk to take

50Hertz is convinced that the organisational frame of BESTGRID has helped ensure continued dialogue. BESTGRID positively influenced the quality of this dialogue and boosted the fundamental
willingness to strengthen ties, work together and trust each other. For the public meetings, this provided the basis for an objective debate on technical subjects. Polemic during public meetings was limited to a few individuals. The willingness to mutually exchange information instead proved worthwhile in and of itself.

8. Expand common ground for dialogue

In general, BESTGRID created the opportunity for project communication at 50Hertz to assess and improve the quality of its measures. The dialogue with the expert NGOs involved was established in such a way that the question of which elements of the exchange could be maintained outside of the organisational frame of BESTGRID was already given much thought before the project's conclusion. In this regard, 50Hertz considers the successful termination of BESTGRID as the start of a new project: the development of useful interfaces with NGOs during the planning phase.
Overview of communications measures

- Continuous stakeholder dialogue
- Workshops on routes of corridors
- Workshop on electrical and magnetic fields
- Conference issues of bird protection

Jan Feb Mär Apr Mai Jun Jul Aug Sep Okt Nov Dez
2014

Jan Feb Mär Apr Mai Jun Jul Aug Sep Okt Nov Dez
2015

Stakeholder meetings
Mobile citizens' office
Closing event BESTGRID
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Continuous stakeholder dialogue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Facts (scope, participants, place, audience)** | **Scope:**  
+ Showing willingness to communicate with and inform every stakeholder at any time. For example, 50Hertz informed the citizens of Dreesch in a village meeting.  
**Participants:**  
+ Citizens, residents, local politicians and authorities as well as companies, chambers and other institutions.  
**Place:**  
+ The dialogue with the stakeholder conducted directly, via phone or email and – if desired – on-site.  
**Audience:**  
+ Everyone who is affected or interested. |
| **Response, impact, statements** | Particularly technical and functional advice; especially for  
+ Possibilities of bird protection  
+ Public information  
+ Compensation measures |
| **BESTGRID related document** |  
+ Brochures informing about the project 380-kV-Freileitung Bertikow-Pasewalk  
+ Brochures informing about electrical and magnetic fields. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Stakeholder meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>01/2014 – 02/2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Facts (scope, participants, place, audience) | Scope:  
  + Informing of officials and public agencies about the planned project and possibilities of participation.  
|                     | Participants:  
  + Members of German parliament with a local constituency  
  + Members of the relevant state parliaments  
  + District Administrators  
  + City mayors and members of city and municipal councils  
  + Environmental protection organisation  
|                     | Place:  
  + Offices of the respective dialogue partners  
|                     | Audience:  
  + People with an official function or democratic legitimization in the specific area  
| Response, impact, statements | Particularly technical and functional advices; especially for  
  + Possibilities of bird protection  
  + Public information  
  + Compensation measures |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Workshops concerning corridor routes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period</strong></td>
<td>11.03.2014 (workshop Prenzlau)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13.03.2014 (workshop Pasewalk)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Facts (scope, participants, place, audience)**

**Scope:**
- Two workshops near the start and end point of the planned reconstruction, in Prenzlau and Pasewalk to show possible corridor routes

**Participants:**
- Officials and members of public agencies, NGOs and citizens and local companies

**Place:**
- City halls in Prenzlau and Pasewalk

**Audience:**
- Open; to all concerned and interested
| Response, impact, statements | Particularly technical and functional advice; especially for  
+ Public information  
+ Compensation measures  
+ Possibilities of bird protection |
| Evaluation/ overview document | + Documentation of the workshop in Prenzlau  
<p>| | + Documentation of the workshop in Pasewalk |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Workshop on electric and magnetic fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>18.09.2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Facts (scope, participants, place, audience) | Scope:  
+ Workshop on the issues and impacts of electrical and magnetic fields.  
+ Presentation of the state of planning.  
Participants:  
+ Member organisations of BESTGRID: NABU (BirdLife Europe), Germanwatch and the Renewables Grid Initiative  
+ Federal Network Agency Germany  
+ Scientific institutes  
+ Local authorities and local public administration  
Place:  
+ City hall in Pasewalk  
Audience:  
+ Mainly specialized audience  
Response, impact, statements |  
+ Professional exchange about specialized and scientific issues.  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Mobile citizens office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>09.10.-17.10.2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facts (scope, participants, place, audience)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Meeting with the people and residents that are directly affected by the reconstruction. The mobile citizens' office visited eleven cities and villages in close proximity to the present grid. Citizens were invited to come inside the mobile, ask the 50Hertz engineers and communication managers questions, and offer their thought on the project.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ The measure was supported by the member organisations of BESTGRID. Furthermore scientists from the university of Duisburg-Essen explained issues surrounding electric and magnetic fields and offered measurements under the present grid to interested parties.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participants:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Citizens, residents, local politicians and companies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Place:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Eleven villages and cities in the states of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Brandenburg.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Audience:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Every interested citizen.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Picture</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ <a href="image">Image of a mobile citizens office</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response, impact, statements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Numerous indications by citizens, local politicians, agricultural and forestry companies, operators of wind turbines related to possible corridor routes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Information of citizens in eleven towns and villages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Building trust with concerned citizens and residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
50Hertz enhanced its visibility as project developer

| Evaluation/ overview document | + Different articles and reports in the local and regional media  
<p>|                              | + Scientific evaluation by TU-Berlin associated institute City Analytics |
| BESTGRID related document    | + Documentation by Germanwatch |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Conference issues concerning bird protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>13.04.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facts (scope, participants, place, audience)</td>
<td>Scope:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ The conference was hosted by the NABU, a member organisations of BESTGRID. The main topic was discussing different possibilities of saving birds from colliding with conductor ropes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participants:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Member organisations of Bestgrid: NABU (BirdLife Europe), Germanwatch and the Renewables Grid Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Scientists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Engineers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Regional and local authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Citizens, residents, local politicians and companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ City Hall Pasewalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audience:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Mainly specialististic audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response, impact, statements</td>
<td>+ Scientific and professional exchange with benefits for the technical planning of the reconstruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BESTGRID related document</td>
<td>+ The protocol of the conference is included in the final report concerning the BESTGRID project Bertikow-Pasewalk by NABU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure</td>
<td>Closing event BESTGRID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>09.09.2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Facts (scope, participants, place, audience)**

**Scope:**
- Summary of the communication activities, events and measures of the BESTGRID Project. The event had a focus on communication and issues concerning electric and magnetic fields.

**Participants:**
- Member organisations of BESTGRID: NABU (BirdLife Europe), Germanwatch and the Renewables Grid Initiative
- Federal Network Agency Germany
- State Ministry for Energy and Infrastructure Brandenburg
- State Office for Mining, Energy and Geology Brandenburg
- Action groups and local initiatives
- Members of the State Parliament Brandenburg
- NGOs, such as Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH)
- Scientific institutes
- Local and regional companies

**Place:**
- Commercial and industrial chamber Potsdam

**Audience:**
- Open audience; to everyone interested or concerned

**Response, impact, statements**

Joint conclusion of the member organisations of Bestgrid
- Communication and contents must be transparent and comprehensible
- Building confidence is necessary
- Involvement of external stakeholder generates confidence
- Change of culture in the field of participation and dialogue will be
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation/overview document</th>
<th>+ Documentation by the NGO Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BESTGRID related document</td>
<td>+ Final report for transparency and participation in the field of grid planning by Germanwatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Final Report of the BESTGRID Project by BESTGRID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>