Workshop
The Future of Social Acceptance
SuedLink – BESTGRID pilot project

Wed, 21st May 2014, Hamburg, Germany
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German development and environmental NGO
Founded in 1991, 40 employees in Bonn and Berlin, Germany
Focus on politics and economics of the North and their global impact
Issues: climate change, corporate accountability/CSR, education for sustainable development
Strong engagement for the transition towards a low carbon energy future
Founding member Renewable Grid Initiative (RGI)
Best Grid Partners agreed on 5 guiding principles:

- Explaining the need for grids
- **Transparency**
- **Early participation**
- Nature protection
- Local benefits

Germanwatch

- Provides feedback on TSO plans and tests for innovative grid planning
- Engages in consultations within the German grid planning procedure
- Organises expert workshops to discuss BestGrid project experiences
- Develops guidelines on transparency & participation

→ **Challenge: Participation paradox**
The scope of citizens’ influence is largest in the early stages of the planning, but then the engagement of affected citizens is very low.

The desire for involvement is highest towards the end of a planning process, but then the scope of influence is very small.
Transparent National Grid Planning in Germany
5 Steps

- Scenario Framework
- Network Development Plan
- Federal Requirements Plan
- Federal Sectoral Planning
- Planning Approval

Grid Planning: Is the line needed?

Corridor / Route Planning: Where shall the line be built?

→ SuedLink Dialogue: finding the corridor
SuedLink Events – Impressions

• Good timing: before the beginning of the formal planning procedure
  → Planning scope has not been fixed, peoples‘ concerns and proposals can still be addressed

• Good setting: „market place style“
  • Large number of participants
  • Large number of staff from TSO TenneT & planning authority BNetzA; friendly & well trained staff, active role of BNetzA

• Provision of detailed maps showing the priority corridor and alternative routes

• Room to submit individual comments: 2 questionnaires, 1 by TenneT, 1 by the research institute IIASA;
  Option to send comments by E-Mail
  → TenneT: commitment to respond individually to written feedback
SuedLink Events – Suggestions by Germanwatch

• Provide additional maps on power grid extension throughout Germany to give the bigger picture → Planning authority BNetzA

• Provide additional information on further 380kV projects in the same area

SuedLink Events - Suggestions by RGI

• Feedback: Provision of a summary explaining which suggestions were picked up and why

• Additional 3D-visualisation to help understand impacts on the landscape
Reactions & Suggestions in Expert Workshop on Participation by IZES & Germanwatch, 8 May 2014

- Citizens action group member: alternative corridor routes have not been displayed sufficiently
- Market place style doesn’t entertain opposing viewpoints
  → Additional methods of discussion needed
Conclusion

• **Early participation:** Innovative approach
• **Transparency:** Clear explanation how stakeholders can be involved
• **Discussing alternatives:**
  • Focus on priority corridor or present more alternative corridors?
• **Methods:** which methods are best for power grid extension dialogue and information events on extra high voltage power lines?
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