

## Deliverable 9.9: Debrief bilateral meetings with stakeholders

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### Renewables Grid Initiative

#### Contact



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## **1. Background**

Dissemination of the experiences made and the lessons learned was a vital component of the BESTGRID project. One of the project's objectives was to spread the lessons learned widely across Europe and to establish an intensive exchange of best practices. Therefore, the project consortium addressed key stakeholders - other grid operators and non-governmental organisations, environmental and planning authorities, policy makers and regulators at both EU and member state level – for updates about the pilot projects and to engage in an exchange of best practices in grid development.

In order to ensure that all relevant stakeholders of grid development in Europe were aware of BESTGRID and its pilot projects and to increase engagement of relevant stakeholders the consortium, and in particular RGI engaged in bilateral meetings with key stakeholders on both member state and EU level. These meetings aimed to present the results of the BESTGRID project and to encourage the implementation of the lessons learned in other EU member states. This document contains a short debrief of activities undertaken in this respect by end of October 2015. For more information about the presentations held about BESTGRID, please see document D.9.8 Debrief summaries of at least 10 presentations of BESTGRID.

## **2. Bilateral talks/ meetings**

BESTGRID has been one of the most important activities for the Renewables Grid Initiative during the past years. This is why it has been part of numerous discussions with different stakeholders. Below, you can find an excerpt of people RGI has met since April 2012. During the meetings, people have been introduced to the overall project idea and the current status of BESTGRID. All target groups have been addressed: decision-makers (see European Commission, European Parliament, authorities), practitioners (see TSOs and NGOs) and supporters (see other stakeholders).

## **1. European Commission, DG Energy**

**Date/place:** 03 June 2014 in Brussels

**Participants:** Catharina Sikow-Magny, Antonella Battaglini

**Discussion topics:** implementation status of the TEN-E legislation

**Date/place:** 16 September 2015 in Brussels

**Participants:** Nicole Versijp, Antonella Battaglini

**Discussion topics:** implementation status of the TEN-E legislation; special focus on North Sea grid

**Follow-up:** Inquiry of Nicole Versijp to present BESTGRID project results at one of the PCI Regional Group meetings

## **2. European Parliament**

On 08 October 2014, Antonella Battaglini (CEO of RGI) met the following MEPs in Brussels to introduce RGI and BESTGRID:

- Deirdre Clune (EPP, Ireland)
- Cornelia Ernst (LIBE, Germany)
- Dr. Markus Pieper (EPP, Germany)
- Thomas Zdechovsky (EPP, Czech Republic)
- Klaus Buchner (Greens, Germany)
- Renate Weber (EPP, Romania)
- Rebecca Harms (Greens, Germany)
- Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland)
- Margrete Auken (Greens, Denmark)
- Massimiliano Salini (EPP, Italy)

Further meetings:

**Date/place:** 4 June 2015 in Brussels

**Participants:** Manuela Kropp (staff of Cornelia Ernst), Antonella Battaglini (RGI)

**Discussion topics:** 10% interconnection target; state of the Energy Union; implementation status of TEN-E regulation

**Follow-up:** speaking slot for Antonella Battaglini at conference “What kind of Energy Union do we need? The proposals of the European Commission under Debate” from Delegation DIE LINKE. in the European Parliament

**Date/place:** 14 October 2015 in Brussels

**Participants:** Karolina Stelmokaite, Energy Advisor for Green Party Group in EP, Antina Sander (RGI)

**Discussion topics:** Introduction of RGI, the BESTGRID project and specifically the handbooks, furthermore discussion about the draft report on achieving the 10% electricity interconnection target

### **3. ENTSO-E**

**Date/place:** 27 September 2013 in Brussels/ regular phone calls

**Participants:** Konstantin Staschus, Secretary-General ENTSO-E; Antonelle Battaglini, RGI

**Discussion topics:** There is a regular exchange between Antonella Battaglini and Konstantin Staschus on all relevant issues of the two organisations RGI and ENTSO-E. During these discussions, Antonella kept Mr. Staschus informed about the progress of BESTGRID and experiences gained that are relevant for ENTSO-E and its member organisations.

**Date/place:** 4 June 2015

**Participants:** Susanne Nies, Manager Corporate Affairs at ENTSO-E; Antonella Battaglini, RGI

**Discussion topics:** Current work plan of RGI (incl. BESTGRID), further options to collaborate, e.g. for annual conference

### **4. Authorities**

**Date/place:** 20 August 2015

**Participants:** 7 members of the German BESTGRID team (3 TSO members, 3 NGO members, RGI representative) and 7 employees of the Federal State planning authority Bundesnetzagentur: the head and an employee of the department for participation, the head and an employee of the department for environment, the head of the Bertikow-Pasewalk planning department and staff of the Suedlink

permitting department

**Discussion topics:** Lessons learnt from the BESTGRID projects pilot SuedLink and Bertikow-Pasewalk on public participation; perspectives of continuing a BESTGRID type of collaboration in the future

## **5. Transmission System Operators**

**Date/place:** 18 June 2013 in Dublin

**Participants:** EirGrid: William Mongey (Senior Consultant Grid25), Frank Groome (Sustainable Power Systems), Des Cox (Senior Co-ordinator Public Planning & Consents)

RGI/BESTGRID: Antonella Battaglini (Executive Director)

**Discussion topics:** Introduction of BESTGRID and request for EirGrid to join Advisory Board

**Date/place:** 22 January 2015 in Berlin

**Participants:** Theresa Schneider (RGI), Rotraud Hänlein (Germanwatch) met with Barbara Fischer (Amprion)

**Discussion topics:** current status of grid development in Germany and implementation success factors derived from BESTGRID

**Date/place:** 24 June 2015 in Brussels

**Participants:** Pierre Bornard, Jean Verseille and Chloé Latour (RTE); Antonella Battaglini, Antina Sander, RGI

**Discussion topics:** current work plan of RGI (incl. BESTGRID), further areas of cooperation (e.g. event at COP)

## **6. NGOs**

**Date/place:** 01 October 2013 in Berlin

**Participants:** Andreas Reinhardt, Kristina Steenbock, Theresa Schneider (RGI); Masako Knoishi, Climate Change Project Leader WWF Japan

**Discussion topics:** energy transition in Europe and Germany; grid planning procedures; BESTGRID

**Date/place:** 03 September 2015 in Brussels

**Participants:** Ania Drazkiewicz, CAN Europe; Theresa Schneider, Stephanie Bätjer, RGI

**Discussion topics:** further cooperation on communication activities, including BESTGRID

## **7. Other stakeholders**

**Date/ place:** 29 January 2014 in Brussels

**Participants:** Paul Kreutzkamp, project manager for Grids and Markets team at 3E and Antina Sander, deputy executive director at RGI

**Discussion topics:** the meeting was set up to elaborate about possible synergies and possibilities about future cooperation of the two IEE-funded projects BESTGRID and NorthSeaGrid. During the meeting, it became clear that while both projects are dealing with the development of the European electricity grid, the focus is clearly different. While BESTGRID is mainly considering stakeholder engagement and evaluates actions from a social science perspective, NorthSeaGrid has a strong interest in financial risks and regulatory issues of grid projects in the North Sea.

**Date/ place:** 13 May 2014 in Strasbourg

**Participants:** Council of Europe: Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy (DG II); Ulrich Bunjes, Special Coordinator and Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, Head Democratic Initiatives Department

RGI/BESTGRID: Antonella Battagni, Executive Director; Antina Sander, Deputy Executive Director; Ivan Scrase, RSPB/BirdLife/ member of RGI board

**Discussion topics:** The meeting was set up to discuss further cooperation opportunities between RGI and the Council of Europe, such as a Good Practice of the Year award or a joint organisation of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Grid Conference. Other activities of the Renewables Grid Initiative, such as BESTGRID, were introduced.

**Date/place:** 30 July 2015 in Berlin

**Participants:** Ingmar Streese, vzbv (Association of German Consumer Organisations); Theresa Schneider, Antina Sander, RGI

**Discussion topics:** introduction to RGI and its work programme, including BESTGRID

**Date/place:** 27.10.2015 in Berlin

**Participants:** Christine Metz-Schmid, Eon; Theresa Schneider, RGI

**Discussion topics:** introduction to RGI and its work programme, including BESTGRID

### **3. Analysis**

- The project and its result was of particular interest for grid operators not involved in BESTGRID. Some were informed regularly through Advisory Board meetings, others attended the public workshops. Additional bilateral meetings were mostly not necessary.
- Interest in presentations was higher towards the end of the project when findings and lessons learned were already available.
- It was easier to steer the interest of people if presentation of BESTGRID could be combined with current topics on the political agenda, such as the implementation of the TEN-E legislation or the review of the 10% interconnection target.
- Stakeholders appreciated combined meetings, i.e. with different stakeholder groups, so that discussions were possible after the presentation of results. This is also recommendable considering the resources spent by the consortium.
- Feedback survey showed that bilateral talks rank among the three most important means for people to receive information about BESTGRID.