

The Future of Social Acceptance

Grids - Politics – Media – Society – Democracy – SuedLink

The BESTGRID pilot project SuedLink is one of the evident contributions to the German 'Energiewende'. It will transport wind from North Germany to its Southern industrial centres where nuclear power plants will be shut down. Similar to a highway without exit roads, SuedLink will cross major parts of the country. There will be visual impacts for many people, however the benefits are not as evident for most. Public irritation has stirred a political debate on the need for SuedLink and further major grid projects, partially withdrawing previously existing political support.

In times where the majority of players recognises the need to better inform and engage stakeholders, public opposition has nonetheless developed to a great extent in some locations. At the same time, several TSOs are partners in "BESTGRID – Testing better practices", an EU-funded project, set up to test and understand better what works and what doesn't.

The workshop will be hosted by TenneT Germany as part of "BESTGRID – Testing better practices", a project financed by the European Commission (see www.bestgrid.eu).

Key questions:

- BESTGRID pilot projects from Germany and Belgium – what can we learn from experiences so far?
- Innovative participatory approaches – what is working on the ground?
- European grid planning – enabler or preventer of local acceptance?
- Political culture – how do participatory processes shape our democratic system?
- Stakeholder support and the role of politics and the media?

Agenda

- 9:00 *Registration, tea & coffee*
- 09:30 Welcome by Antonella Battaglini, Renewables-Grid-Initiative (RGI)
- 09:45 **What is BESTGRID?**
Antina Sander, RGI/ Project Leader BESTGRID
- 10:00 **SuedLink – BESTGRID pilot project 1**
- Dr. Christoph Thiel, TenneT, Project Leader SuedLink
 - Marius Strecker, TenneT, Stakeholder Integration
 - Rotraud Hänlein, Germanwatch
- 11:00 *Tea & coffee*
- 11:30 **Waterloo – BESTGRID pilot project 2**
- NN, Elia
 - NN, Fédération Inter-Environnement Wallonie (cooperating NGO)
- 12:30 *Networking lunch*
- 13:30 Parallel discussion sessions:
- Session 1*
EU communication campaign: European messages as a contribution to local acceptance?
Impulse speaker: NN, Roland Berger
- Session 2*
Innovative participatory approaches
Impulse speaker: Dr. Jan-Hendrik Kamlage, tbc
Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI Essen)
- Session 3*
From participation to ownership – give energy back to society?
Impulse speaker:
- Molly Walsh, Empowering people project, tbc
 - Wolfgang Neldner, Head of Berlin Energie, tbc
- 15:00 *Tea & coffee*
- 15:30 Report of discussion session
- 16:00 *Panel discussion*
The future of social acceptance and lessons learned from Bavaria?
- Joëlle Bouillon, Amprion
 - Marius Strecker, Stakeholder Integration, TenneT
 - Rotraud Hänlein, Germanwatch
 - Guido Franke, Citizen Action Group “Südkreis”, tbc
- 17:00 *End of workshop*