Project no. 608472

INSPIRE-Grid

IMPROVED AND ENHANCED STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION IN REINFORCEMENT OF ELECTRICITY GRID

Instrument: Collaborative project
Thematic priority: ENERGY.2013.7.2.4 – Ensuring stakeholder support for future grid infrastructures
Start date of project: 01 October 2013
Duration: 36 months

D1.4

FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Ricerca sul Sistema Energetico – RSE SpA (Partner No. 01)

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential , only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Submitted

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Abstract
In this deliverable the minutes of the First General Assembly of the project are reported. The General Assembly was held in RGI premises in Berlin on 30th of October 2014 and was attended by project partners, observers; moreover, an ACER representative gave an invited speech..

Revision history

Date	Version	Author(s)	Comments
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INSPIRE-Grid is an EU-funded research project that stands for “Improved and eNhanced Stakeholders Participation In Reinforcement of Electricity Grid”. With ten partners from six different countries, INSPIRE-Grid aims to increase stakeholder engagement in grid expansion projects, better manage conflicts, and speed up the permitting process. By way of an interdisciplinary approach, INSPIRE-Grid will develop stakeholder-led processes and design an expert-led European good practice guide. Methods to facilitate decision-making will be newly combined with engagement tools and tested with stakeholders from existing or concluded grid development project case studies. The start date of the project was the 1st of October 2013 and it is expected to have a duration of 36 months.

In this deliverable the minutes of the first annual General Assembly are reported. The General Assembly was held in RGI premises in Berlin on 30th of October 2014 and was attended by project partners, observers. A representatives of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) was also present as an invited speaker. In the meeting the project activities for the first year were presented and the progresses achieved in the frame of each Work Package were illustrated and discussed. Moreover two invited presentations took place, the first describing the BESTGRID project, aimed at improving local public acceptance for grid development, and the second describing ACER mission and activities and giving some highlights of the progress of pan-European network implementation.

1 PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

The first General Assembly was held at RGI's premises in Berlin on 30th of October 2014 and was attended by project partners, observers and an ACER representative.

1.1 List of participants

Name	Institution
Antonio Negri, Stefano Maran,	RSE
Amélie Lafragette, Marjorie Bastard, Vivien Molinengo	RTE
Anna Scolobig, Leonard Späth	ETH Zürich
Alessandro Luè, Simona Muratori	Poliedra
Guillame Audard, Patrick Schalbart	ARMINES
Antonella Battaglini, Andrzej Ceglarz, Jon Lilley	PIK
Antina Sander, Theresa Schneider	RGI
Jan Hildebrand, Arabella Gawrich	IZES
Bente Rudberg, Irene Medal, Julie Evensen	Statnett
John Swanson	UK NGrid
Matilde Anker, Hans Jørgen Bihli	NVE
Fiorenza Roghi	Terna
Rotraud Hänlein	Germanwatch
Dirk Gotzmann	CIVILSCAPE
Riccardo Vailati	ACER

1.2 AGENDA

Welcome address and introduction
Introduction to the INSPIRE-Grid Project
State of the art and progresses of the Work Packages
The BESTGRID Project: state of the art and future development (A. Sander, BESTGRID coordinator)
Progress of pan-European network implementation (R. Vailati, ACER)
Conclusion and next step for the second year

1.3 REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

INSPIRE-Grid Grant Agreement – Annex I (part A and B)
WP Leaders presentations (available at www.inspire-grid.eu)

2 SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

Antonella Battaglini, Executive Director of RGI – Renewable Grid Initiative, welcomed the participants and said a few words about the Mercator Foundation, who was hosting the meeting. Antonio Negri, coordinator of the Project, recalled the main issues and goals of the INSPIRE-Grid project, giving also a brief update of the main progresses achieved during the first year of activity and highlighting the further steps to be performed.

2.1 State of the art and progresses of the Work Packages

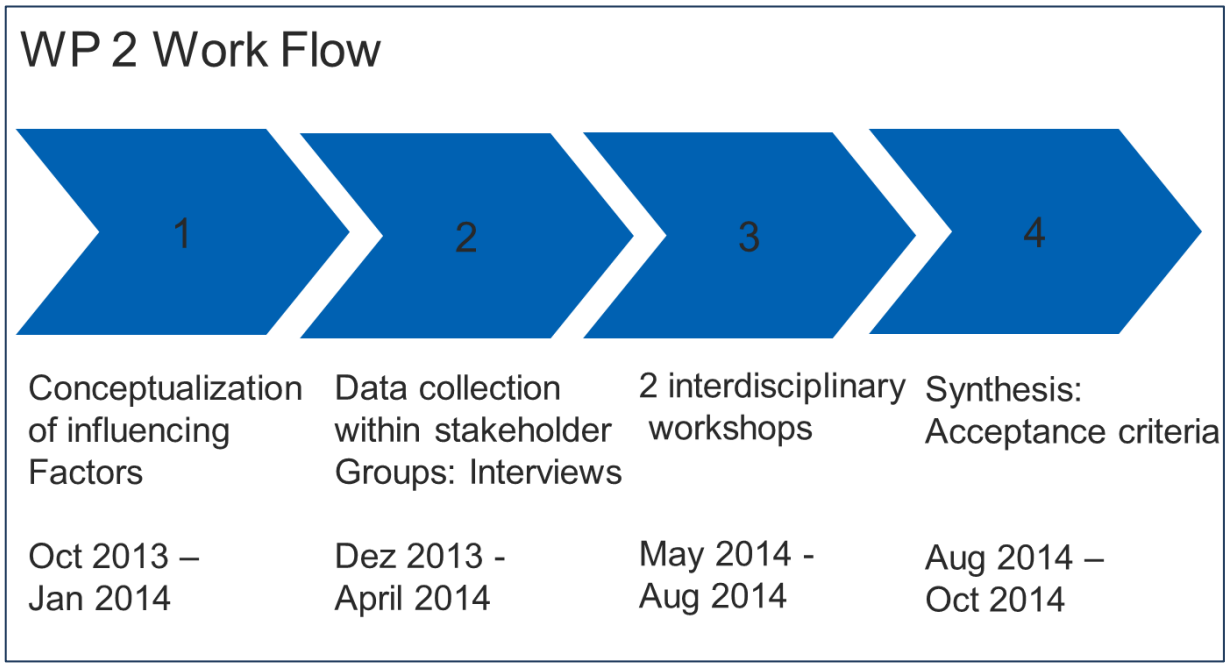
The meeting focused then on describing the progress achieved in each Work Package. In particular:

WP 2 - presented by Jan Hildebrand (IZES).

The main WP 2 goals can be synthetized as follows:

- Analysis of stakeholder concerns and needs at different stakeholder levels
- Analysis of acceptance/conflict relevant factors
- Identifying involved stakeholder groups regarding their visions, interests, motives and needs
- Identifying formal and informal communication structures between the different stakeholder groups in respect to the possibilities of public involvement within planning procedures.

Jan described the work flow of the WP (see the following figure), discussing the main achievements of each step.



In the frame of WP, after a review of the relevant literature, 12 interviews – with experts and stakeholders – and 2 workshops/meetings have been conducted.
One of the main results of the WP 2 is the construction of a general stakeholder map, where the different concerns and needs are listed and the complex inter-relationships among them are shown.

WP 3 - presented by Leonhard Späth (ETHZ).

The main WP 3 goals can be synthetized as follows:

- Assessment of the state of the art and the analysis of current forms of public and stakeholder involvement
- Comparison of the different permitting procedures, highlighting strengths and weaknesses of each procedures
- Establishing the best practices and determining a 'tool box'

Leonhard described the activities performed, with some emphasis on the review activity, starting from the recent Roland-Berger report, where some other methods and experiences from TSOs such as RTE, Statnett and Swissgrid were added.
Moreover, after a review of academic literature, criteria for good participation have been selected for an evaluation of current planning processes for power lines. These criteria have been applied to 15 grid expansion projects in France and Norway (see the following table summarizing the general results).

Evaluation of processes - main results

Criteria	Variable	France	Norway
Early involvement	Early discussion of stakeholders' needs	-	+/-
Representativeness	Representation of stakeholders groups	+/-	+
Task definition	Stated task definition	+	+/-
Structured decision making mechanisms	Participatory decision-making methods	-	-
Influence on outcome	Stakeholders' influence on outcome	+/-	+/-
Independence of participants	Independence of key participants	+/-	+/-

In conclusion of the evaluation of processes in France and Norway, the two main shortcomings identified in current procedures are:

- A poor discussion of stakeholder needs in the early phases of projects and wrong assumptions about the aims of stakeholder engagement (e.g. tool of legitimation of decisions rather than investigation of citizens' needs)
- Missing structured participatory decision-making mechanisms allowing the management of stakeholder input.

WP 4 - presented by Alessandro Luè (POLIEDRA).

The main WP 4 goals can be synthetized as follows:

- Improvement of the existing methodologies to estimate and to represent the effects (impact and benefits) of transmission projects in Europe using a multi-criteria and multi-stakeholder framework.
- Improvement of the entire decision-making process making it transparent and repeatable and establishing the conditions for a proactive participation in the process of the stakeholders.

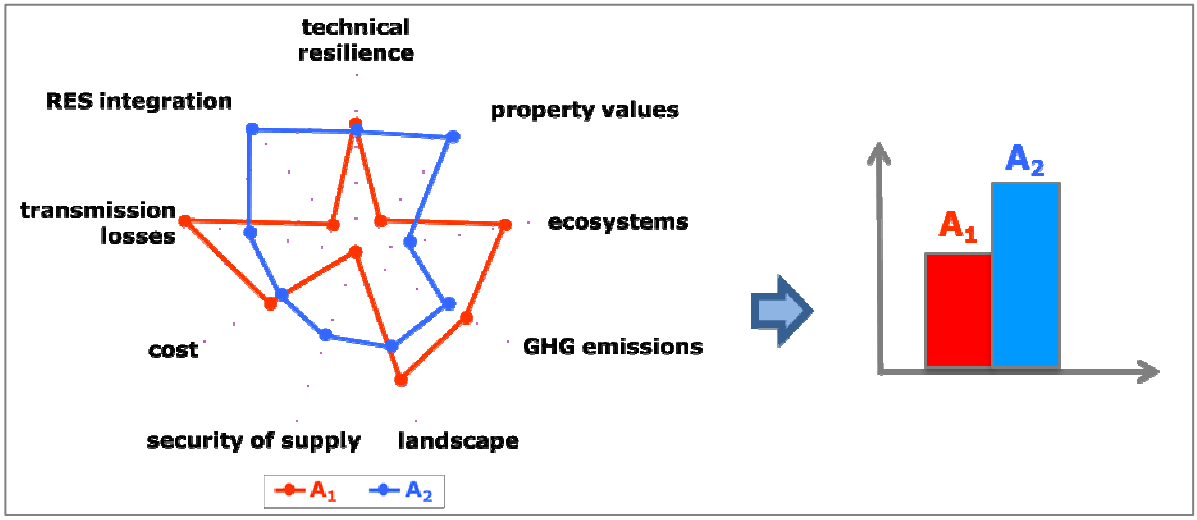
The activities of the WP have been structured according to three main directions, namely the estimation of the effects, the comparison of infrastructure options, and the spatial estimation and representation.

Guillaume Audard (ARMINES) described how the estimation of effects has been addressed with the development of methodologies for the life cycle assessment. Up to now the following activities have been completed:

- Scope definition (Functional unit and system boundaries definition)
- Inventory analysis (Life cycle inventory data collection, power flows modelling on theoretical cases)
- Selection of indicators for impact assessment.

As for the comparison of infrastructure options, Alessandro Luè (POLIEDRA) described the main steps of the Multi Criteria Analysis:

- Identification of objectives and indicators, stakeholders, alternatives, and scenarios.
- Estimation of the effects of the alternatives
- Comparison of the alternatives (see next figure).



The next steps will be the application of MCA to two case studies in Norway and the development of guidelines for the application of MCA to transmission reinforcement projects.

Stefano Maran (RSE) briefly introduced the web-GIS and its possible usage in the framework of the project. In particular, it can be valuable in order to present the spatial relationships of the grid infrastructure with the main features of the landscape and the main results of the assessment phase. Moreover, it can foster the involvement of the general public by making available a user friendly interface and allowing the TSO to receive feedback from the users. Presently, the needs of, and data availability for, each case study are being collected and, depending on this, the most appropriate tool will be selected.

WP 5 - presented by Jon Lilley (PIK).

The goal of WP 5 is to provide an analysis of the stakeholder engagement and participation processes and to suggest possible improvements. Jon described the theoretical framework that was developed during the first year of activity. The framework is structured around nine groups of characteristics, which can be further condensed into two overarching categories – project and stakeholder characteristics – and a third, cross-cutting category which describes the temporal characteristic of the project and refers to the phase the project is in. All three categories can affect stakeholder attitudes toward the development of new transmission lines. The project phase and the characteristics of a project can affect stakeholder attitudes directly (by setting constraints on, and parameters around, the project) and indirectly (through influencing the make-up of the impacted stakeholders).On this basis, an illustrative classification of projects has been developed:

Characteristic	**Example typology 1**	**Example typology 2**
Purpose	New line to connect new sources of renewable energy	Upgrade to an existing line to increase capacity
Scale	Regional	Local
Landscape	Rural – likely to include nature reserves, forests, farmland	Urban – residential
Stakeholders	TSO National/regional policy makers Regulators Permitting authorities Local elected officials Environmental NGOs Power producer Adjacent rural communities Land owners Land users Local citizens' initiatives	TSO National/regional policy makers Regulators Permitting authorities Local elected officials Adjacent urban communities Local citizens' initiatives
Past local experience	None	Previous experience with the existing line
Concerns	Visual impacts Environmental impacts	Visual impacts Health impacts – EMF Property values
Relevant societal values	Happiness Equality Freedom National security A world of beauty	Happiness Equality Freedom Family security A world of beauty A comfortable life
Relevant energy system values	Availability and affordability Autonomy and freedom Social justice Fairness, honesty and transparency Long-term trajectories Improvement and quality Reliability Reduced use of fossil fuels Environmental protection Nature and naturalness	Availability and affordability Autonomy and freedom Social justice Fairness, honesty and transparency Long-term trajectories Improvement and quality Reliability Safety

WP 6 - presented by Amélie Lafragette (RTE)

The main objectives of WP 6 were summarised as follows:

- To evaluate whether and under what conditions the tools tested in WP 6 contribute to increased support for the decision-making process of grid projects
- To complete and validate the research approach whose results will feed the handbook of guidelines.

Amélie illustrated the work plan of the WP 6; in the first year of activity, the preliminary identification of methodologies to be used in case studies and their selection has been completed. In this respect it is necessary to point out that these outcomes are the result of two iterative processes, the first between TSO project managers and the INSPIRE-Grid researchers and the second within INSPIRE-Grid between the methodological WPs (in particular, WP 4 and WP 5) and the present WP, dedicated to implementation in the case studies.
After reviewing the EU context for grid development and the transition towards a low carbon society, Amélie explained the criteria adopted for the selection of methodologies and case studies and illustrated the three selected case studies (see next figure).

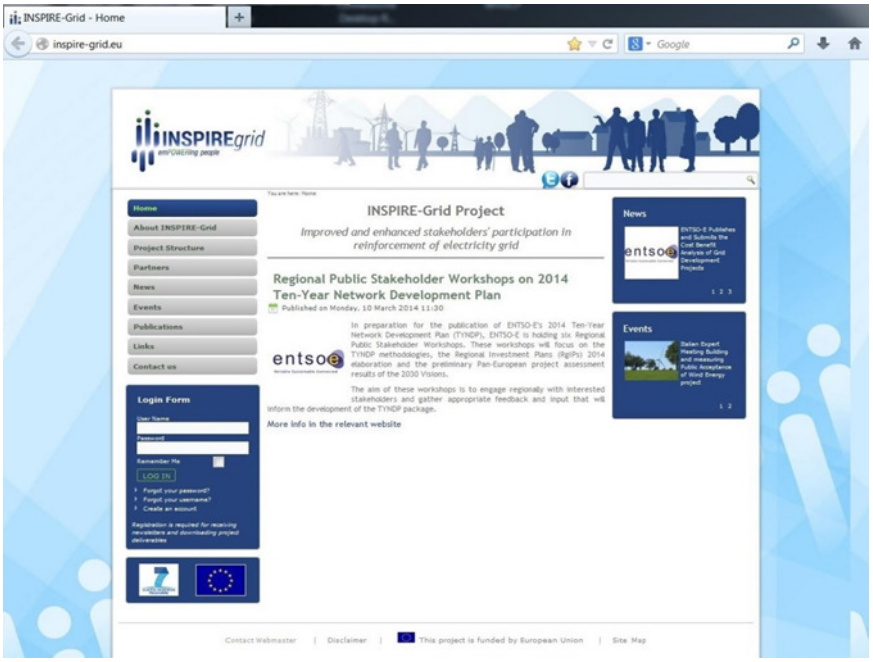
Project	Cergy – Persan (France)	Bamble – Rød (Norway)	Klæbu-Viklandet/Aura (Norway)
Phase	permitting	construction	permitting
Technical function	Upgrading the voltage from 225 to 400KV of an existing overhead line (20 km)	New 420 KV power line (34 km)	Rebuilding a 420 kV power line to replace the existing 300 kV power line (130 km)
Tool(s) experimented	- environmental assessment with concrete experimentation (ex post LCA) - added value of the methodology in the engagement process	"criteria" assessment (ex post MCA)	"criteria" assessment (ex ante MCA) with concrete experimentation

The next year will be devoted to the implementation of the selected methodologies in all three case studies.

WP 8 - presented by Stefano Maran (RSE)

The main objective of the Work Package is to disseminate project results within the project as well as to the scientific community, stakeholders, decision makers and policy makers and to provide readily-accessible information to the general public by means of a website.

Stefano briefly illustrated the Communication Plan, developed mainly by RGI, which is aimed at identifying communication objectives and audience/target groups and defining the most appropriate procedures for interacting with external entities. Moreover it has defined the base messages to be transferred according to the audience characteristics and has identified the channels and the communication tools to be used and the relative procedures (website, flyers, newsletter…).
The first activity was the development of the project website (www.inspire-grid.eu) which, after a test period at the beginning of the year, has been online since 24th February 2014. Stefano illustrated its structure and provided some basic statistics about the website.



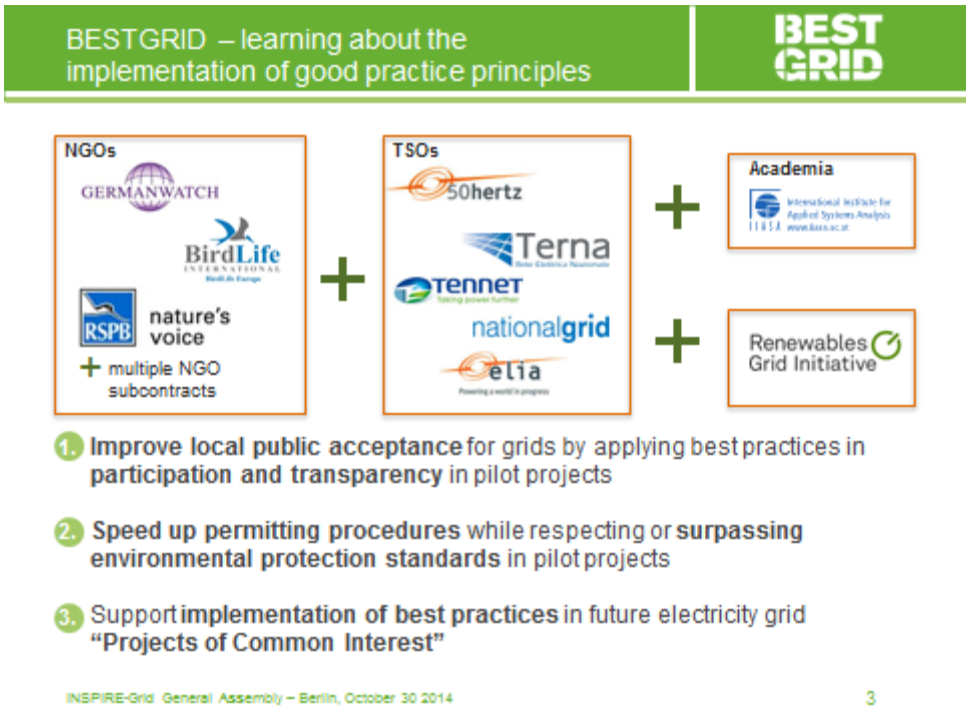
Through the website, in October 2014 the first newsletter of the project was sent to more than 1100 recipients. Moreover, a brief description of the participation of INSPIRE-Grid researchers in external events was provided (i.e. the TSO R&D Gaps and Status Interaction Workshop and INNOGRID2020+).
Theresa Schneider (RGI) completed the description of WP 8 activities illustrating the first draft of the INSPIRE-Grid Flyer and explaining the next activities which will focus on the delivery of the brochure, newsletters, policy briefs, and the organisation of workshops.

2.2 Invited presentations

After the presentation and discussion of the Work Packages progress, two invited presentations took place.

The first presentation, given by Antina Sander (RGI), dealt with the BESTGRID project (www.bestgrid.eu). Co-funded by the EC through the program *Intelligent Energy for Europe* and launched in April 2013, the BESTGRID project approaches current European grid development projects in innovative ways, through a close cooperation between environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and transmission system operators (TSOs) from the UK, Belgium and Germany. The project aims at improving local public acceptance for grid development processes, speeding up permitting procedures while proactively addressing or even surpassing environmental

protection standards, and encouraging the implementation of constructive public engagement in permitting procedures for European Projects of Common Interest (PCI).
This approach is being tested in four pilot projects, in different European countries (UK, Germany and Belgium). In each pilot projects, the local TSO, with the advice and collaboration of NGOs, is organising several initiatives in order to improve local public acceptance by applying best practices and to speed up permitting procedures while respecting environmental protection standards.

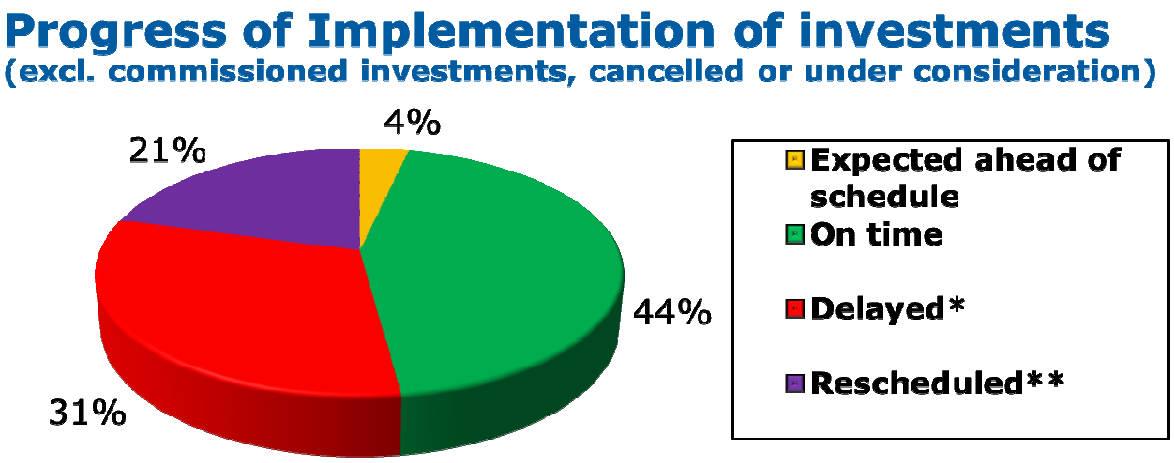


The project has been able to reach the following conclusions:

- Each project is unique – an effective project management needs to find the right balance between a-priori planning and ad-hoc implementation
- It is crucial for inter-sectoral projects like BESTGRID to embrace the heterogeneity of the partners
- Active NGO involvement does make a difference for achieving higher public acceptance and environmental standards in grid development project.

The second presentation, given by Riccardo Vailati (ACER), dealt with the progress of pan-European network implementation. The presentation started by describing the role and main functions of ACER, the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. In particular, Riccardo summarises ACER activities in the fields of network development, methodology and project selection, and regulatory treatment of PCIs. Then, the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) was described, with a particular focus on the current TYNDP 2014, on which ACER is preparing its comments. As for stakeholders' participation in the preparation of this plan, Riccardo underlined that the present draft TYNDP 2014 is another step forward compared to the previous TYNDP, ENTSO-E and TSOs strive to improve the TYNDP according to comments received and, following up to a recommendation by ACER, ENTSO-E has set up a stakeholder participation framework in 2012 (Long Term Network Development Stakeholder Group).
In this framework, the assessment methodology plays an important role and the current approach is based on the Cost Benefit Analysis, developed by ENTSO-E, on which ACER commented and

delivered an opinion in January, 2014; in particular ACER recommended further monetisation of benefits as an enabler for identification of best projects and communication of infrastructure needs to stakeholders.
Another important activity of ENTSO-E is Monitoring the implementation of investments included in the TYNDPs. Riccardo highlighted as almost one third of the investment components encounter delays (see the following figure).



ACER has identified the following main reasons affecting the progress of investments (8 for delays, 5 for rescheduling, 7 for cancellation):

- 66% of the investment components are delayed due to permitting issues; environmental reasons and re-routing, siting of substations and national law changes affecting permitting.
- A significant proportion (58%) of investment components have been rescheduled due to changes on generation and demand side or changes in the overall planning data inputs.
- 18% of rescheduling is related to priority given to other transmission investments.
- A significant proportion (59%) of investment components has been cancelled due to changes on the generation or demand side or in the overall planning inputs.
- 25% of investment components have been cancelled due to other transmission investments or because the study never turned into a planned investment.

ACER will prepare a consolidated report on implementation of PCIs and of TYNDP projects in the first half of the next year, based upon the reports PCI promoters will deliver at the beginning of 2015 on the progress of implementation.

2.3 Concluding remarks

Antonio Negri (RSE) acknowledged the relators of the meeting and pointed out that the project development is on time and, in particular, the following milestones, expected for the first year of activity, have been reached:
MS1: Case studies selection
MS2: Preliminary methodologies and tools to be applied to case studies

He also highlighted the commitment of the project with ACER vision and the strong relationships with other EU project, like BESTGRID, with which INSPIRE-Grid initiatives will be coordinated in the next year.