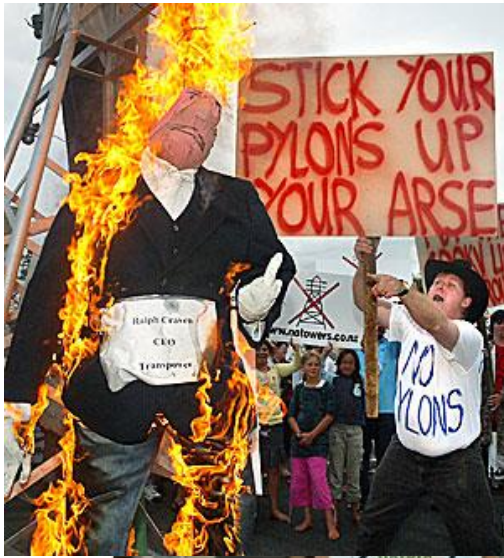


# The Renewables Grid Initiative

September 2017

Antina Sander and Andrew Carryer

# Grids are not very popular



# RGI – a unique coalition of industry and civil society

## Focus of TSOs:

“We need to build up the power system without delay while minimising impacts on nature and people.”

## Focus of NGOs:

“We need to grow renewable energy much faster to reach our climate targets while ensuring an environmentally sensitive development of the power system.”



“We want a grid built in time that supports the further steady growth of renewables while respecting environmental objectives and people's concerns.”

# Geopgraphical scope

European organisations



# Our mission statement

RGI is a unique collaboration of NGOs and TSOs from across Europe. We promote transparent, environmentally sensitive grid development to enable further steady growth of renewable energy and the energy transition.

# RGI's main topics of expertise



Nature conservation



Public acceptance



Need for grids



PCIs & TYNDP



Offshore grids



Underground cables



Compensation



Grid aesthetics

# What makes RGI so special: industry and stakeholder are teaming up

Jointly daring to think differently & venturing new grounds

Challenge each other

Co-creating solutions and narratives

Sense of trust and responsibility

NGOs speak up for industry

Industry speaks up for NGOs

Quality of partners > quantity of partners

# What we want to focus on today

- Stakeholder engagement and Transparency
- The “European context” – pan-Continental grid planning: Existing processes and challenges
- Question and answer session



# Stakeholder Engagement

Andrew Carryer

# As mentioned... grids are not very popular



# There are many very reasonable reasons for this..



EMF and health concerns



Private economic concerns



Visual amenity and cultural heritage



Nature concerns

# But also.. no consensus in society on what infrastructure to build

TSOs look to plan and realise projects in the most economic way



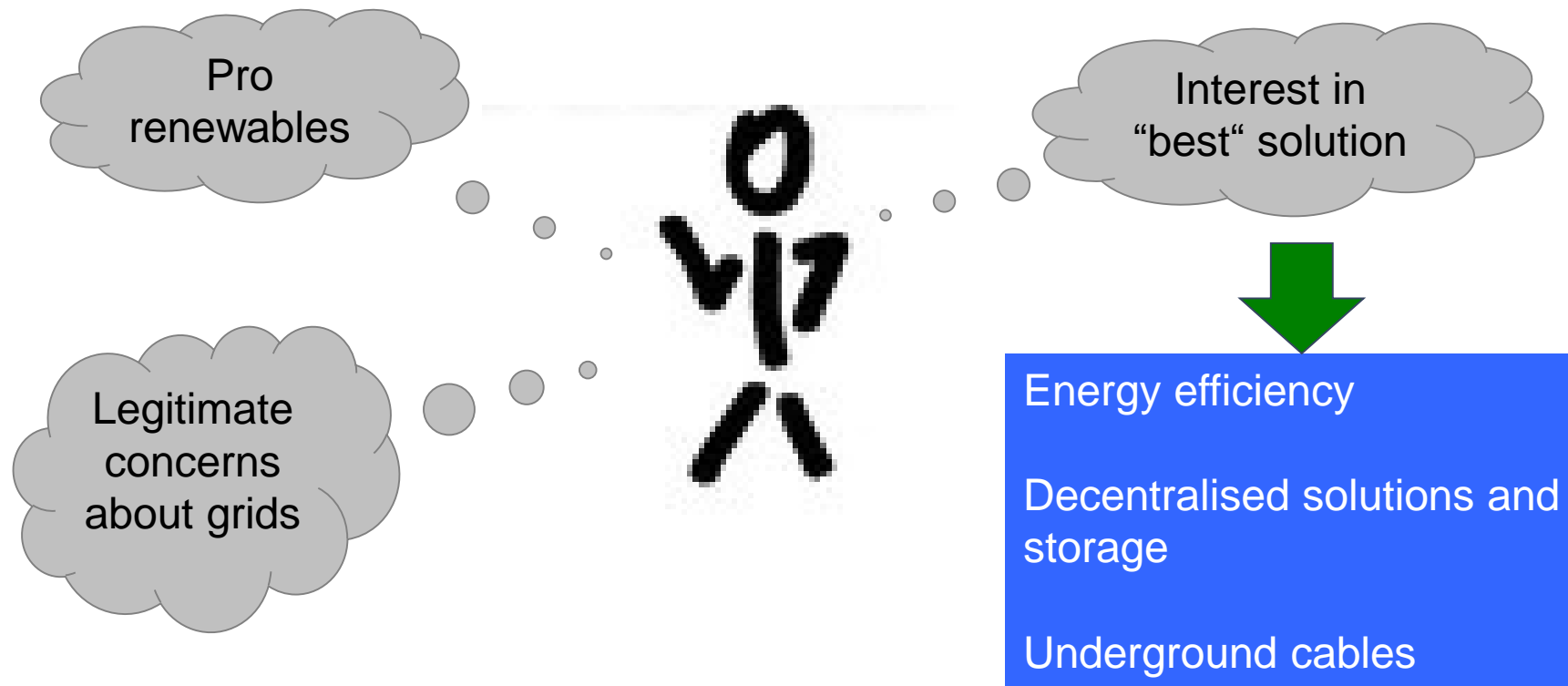
Some groups often oppose grid projects due to a **strong belief in localisation and decentralisation of control**



Affected population then also question the need for such infrastructure



# Not all people are fundamentally against grids - but they hope for easier solutions



Some people are the famous NIMBYs – but by no means all of them

# “Stakeholder engagement” therefore must address both...

- the legitimate practical concerns of local stakeholders on the ground.
- societies legitimate questions regarding the *need* for such infrastructure and what system society wants.

# Elements of successful stakeholder engagement....the theory

Access to information		Public participation		Access to justice	
Fairness and Transparency	Information	Continuous Involvement	Considering all Parts of Society	Conflict Resolution	Bindingness & Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear communication of purpose</li> <li>• Clear procedural rules</li> <li>• Clear/fair/transparent decision process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive information</li> <li>• <b>Accessible</b></li> <li>• Inquiries possible</li> <li>• <b>Trusted source</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public integrated part of process</li> <li>• <b>Early involvement</b></li> <li>• Influence on agenda</li> <li>• Influence on decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All stakeholders involved in balanced way</b></li> <li>• Access to resources</li> <li>• Actively involve weaker groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively managing conflict</li> <li>• <b>Foster mutual understanding</b></li> <li>• Dispute settlement where possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binding results</li> <li>• Avenues of recourse</li> </ul>

Legal provisions normally insufficient to establish an acceptable stakeholder engagement process

# 50Hertz - “Mobile citizens office”



- Project: Proposed 40Km upgrade from 220kV to 380kV.
- Bus **visited 11 locations** in the area.
- To discuss **routing, visual amenity, EMF and nature protection issues**
- **Joint EMF monitoring done with participants.**
- **Significant involvement of NGOs** throughout the design and implementation of the project.





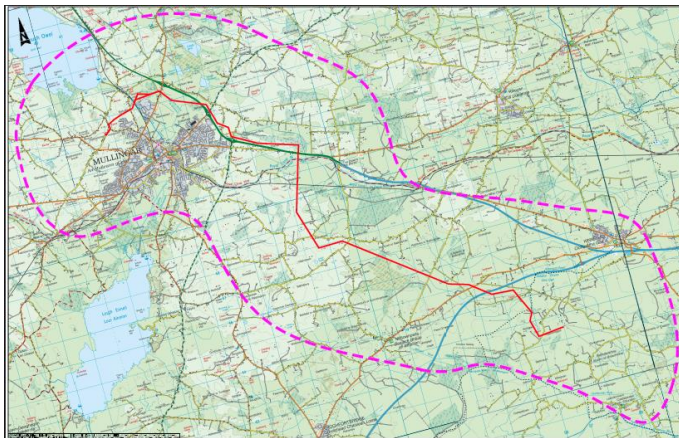
# Tennet - “Info Markets”



- Project: SuedLink – Proposed **800Km - 500kV DC line**
- “Info markets” held in **40 different locations**
- **Very early stage engagement** – pre planning – looking to gain initial feedback and input.
- Organised and run in **cooperation with both National and Regional NGO groups.**
- Although the project was eventually postponed (due to a change in legislation) important lessons were learned.



# EirGrid - “Community gain”



- Payment package to financially support local initiatives and improve acceptance.
- 1<sup>st</sup>: **Proximity payment** for those within 200m of the line.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Financial grants on offer to local charitable institutions - with the **money dispensed by a mixed “Evaluation committee”**.
- Projects had to be **within 3 Km of the line** and in the pilot.
- The money went to **Bee keepers, mother and children's groups and a swimming club** among others.

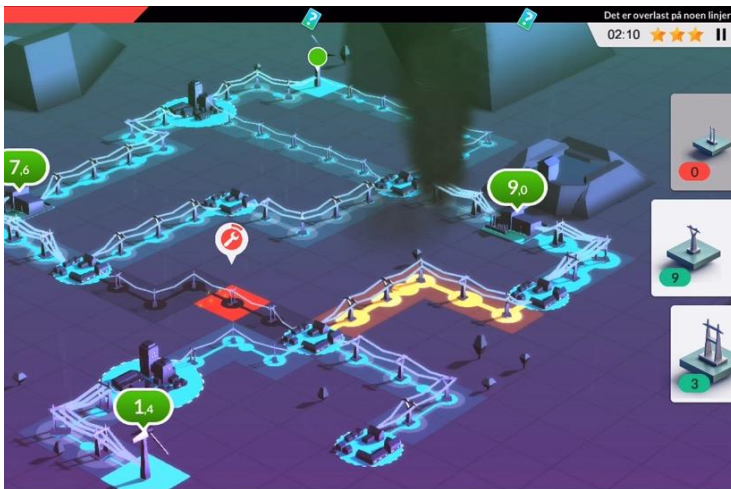
# EirGrid – “Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow ”



- National consultation on EirGrid’s draft grid development strategy.
- **Over 60,000 people reached** with over 3,000 responses received..
- Consultation collected through online platform, social media, workshops, face to face meetings and a post drop to increase awareness.
- Looked to **enhance public awareness , promote dialogue and get feedback** on strategy.
- Comments **provided direct input** into the final grid-development strategy.

# Statnett – “Balance”

Statnett



- Gaming app for mobile devices
- Simplified puzzle game where you play the manager of the grid
- Real world challenges such as **grid congestion, intermittency etc.**
- Looking to **engage people with the electricity system** and the challenges it is facing.
- **Top 10 game in 35 countries with over 3 Million downloads!**

# What can we learn from these case studies more generally?

1. Different channels and formats for different target groups
2. Be proactive! Go out there before someone else does
3. Understand your stakeholders, their needs and the context you operate in
4. Monitor stakeholder engagement policies and update regularly

# How does RGI help spread and help implement good practices?

- Good Practice of the Year award  GOOD PRACTICE OF THE YEAR
- Webinars and workshops
  - Underground Cables – June 2017
  - Subsea Cables – September 2017
  - Future Scenario series – On-going
- Best Practice Fair (with wind Industry) – Feb. 2018
- IRD – Joint on the ground projects with TSOs and NGOs

# European cross-country grid planning

Antina Sander

# European cross-country grid planning - Agenda

- **European Grid planning – how does it work**
- Stakeholder engagement for European power lines
- Critical reflection



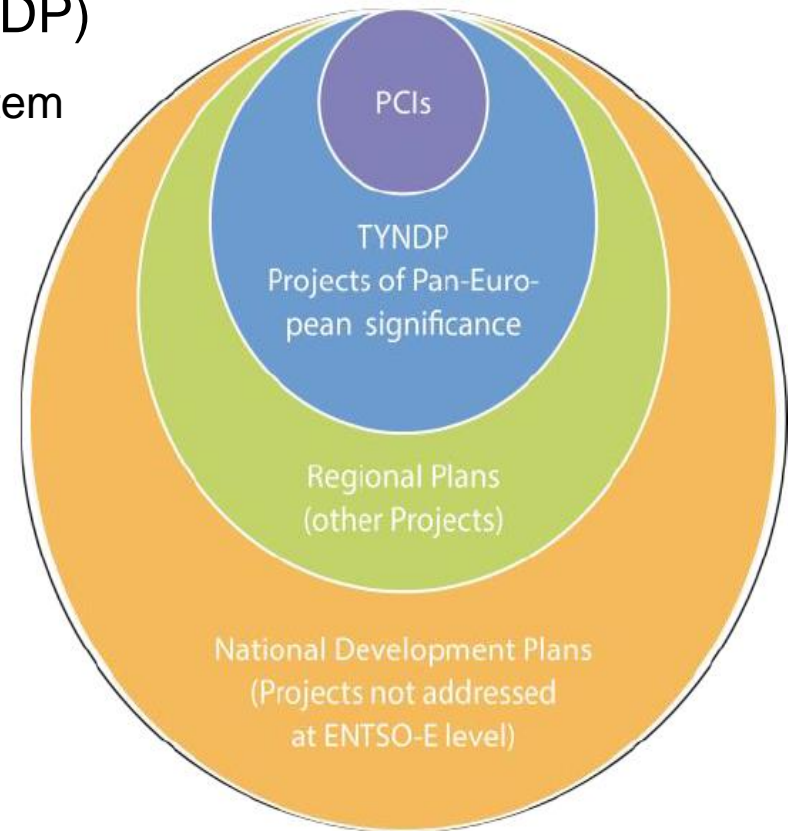
# Two main tools to determine and promote European Grid priorities

## Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP)

- Done by European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E)
- Evaluates projects of Pan-European significance
- Basis for PCI selection

## Projects of Common Interest (PCI)

- Ranked by expert groups, final decision by COM, approved by European Parliament
  - More efficient permit granting procedures
  - Improved regulatory treatment
  - Possibility to access financial support

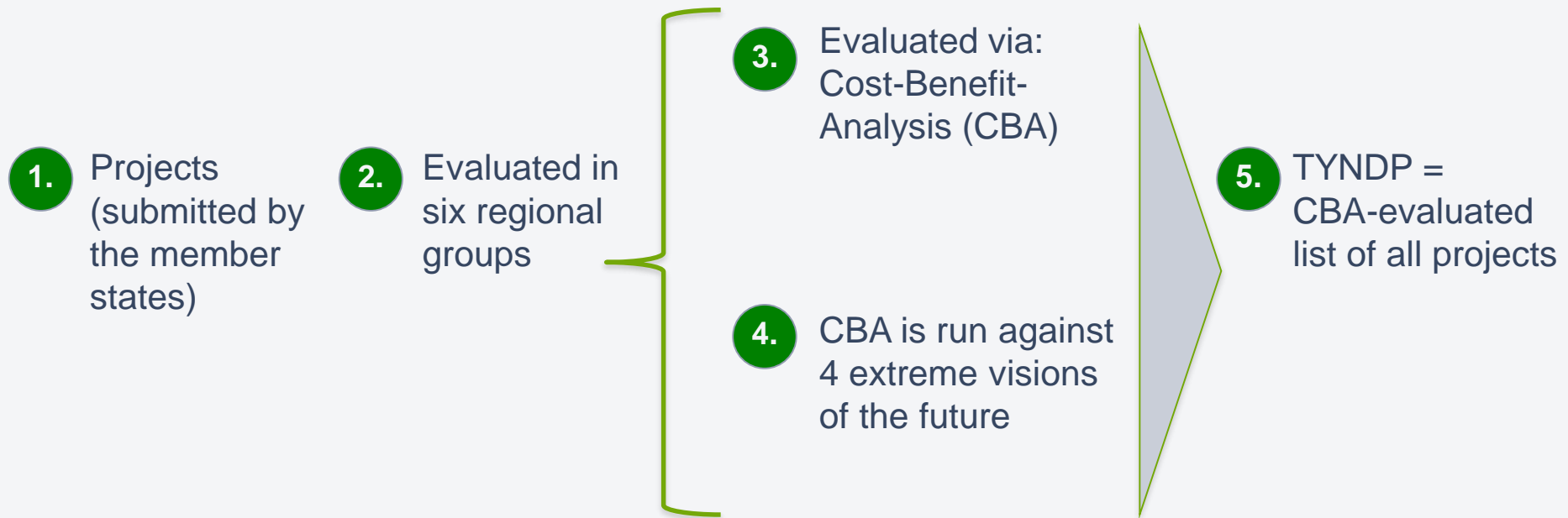


Source: ENTSO-E

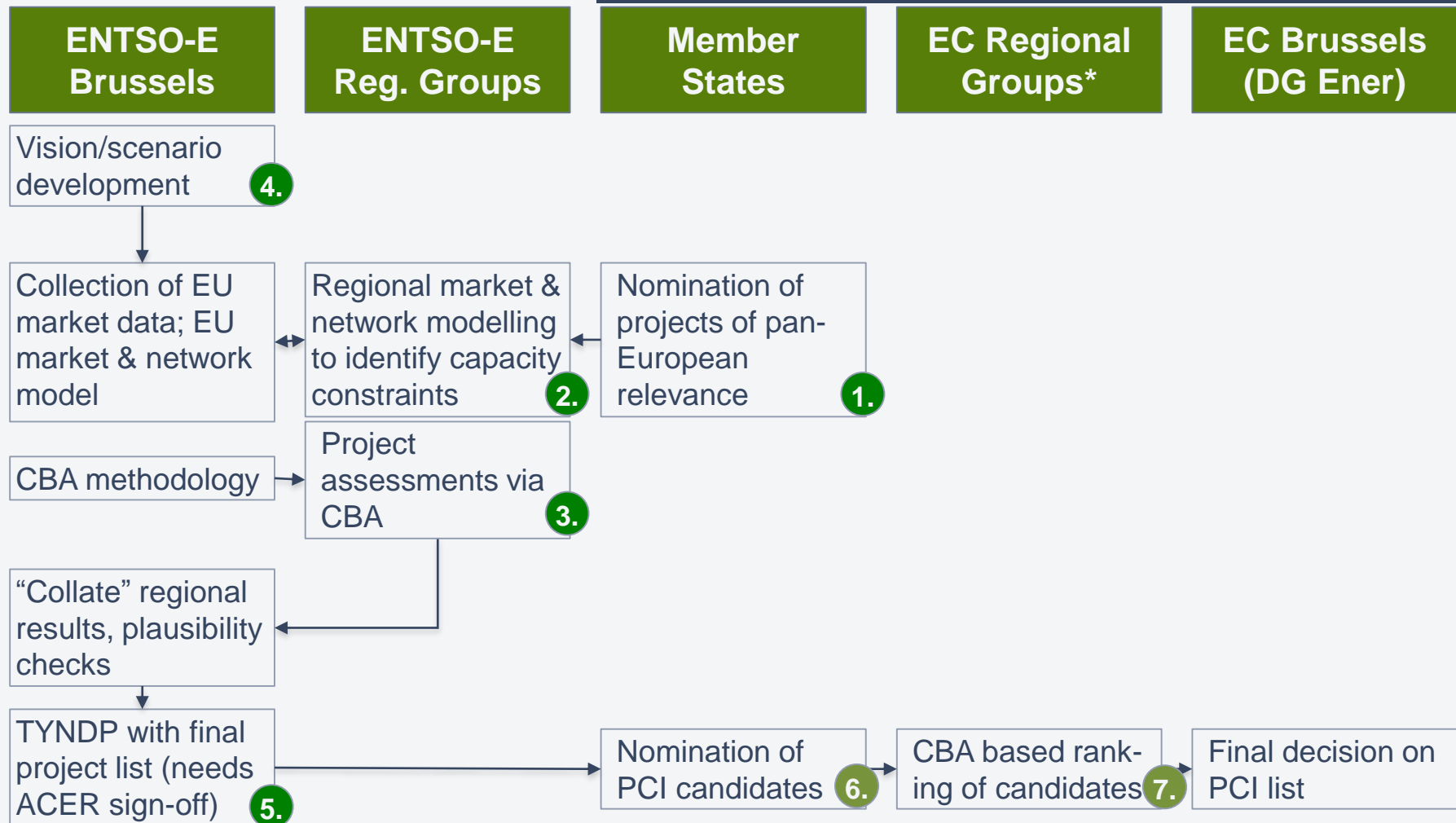
# What is ENTSO-E?

- European Network of Transmission System Operators
- 41 electricity TSOs
- 34 countries
- Extending beyond EU borders
- Established, given legal mandate by Third Package for Internal Energy Market in 2009

# The TYNDP: A project assessment of projects of pan-European interest

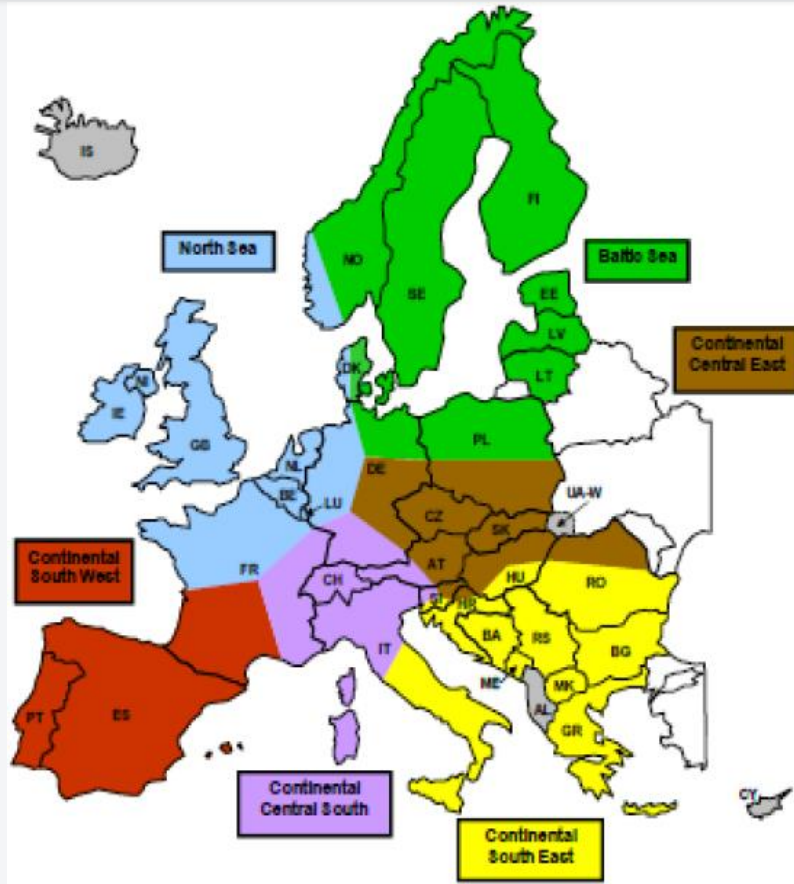


# From TYNDP to Projects of Common Interest

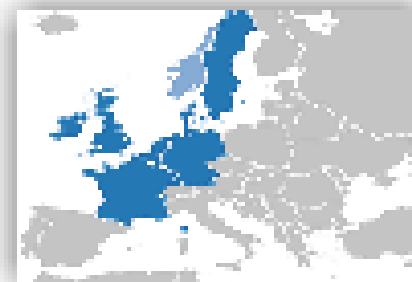


# Main body for both TYNDP and PCI selection are different regional groups

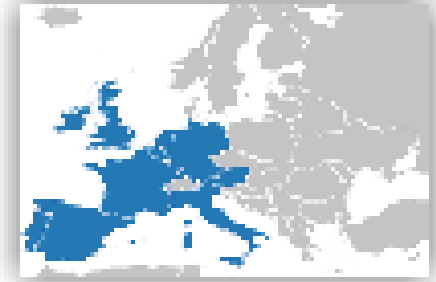
6 ENTSO-E Regional Groups → TYNDP



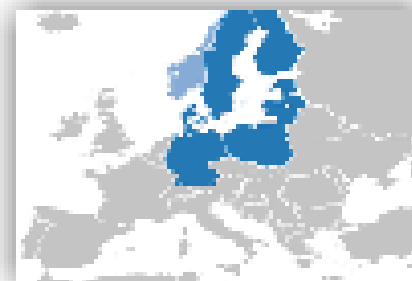
4 EC Regional Groups → PCIs



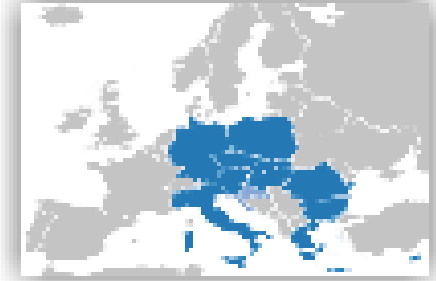
Northern Seas offshore grid



NSI West Electricity



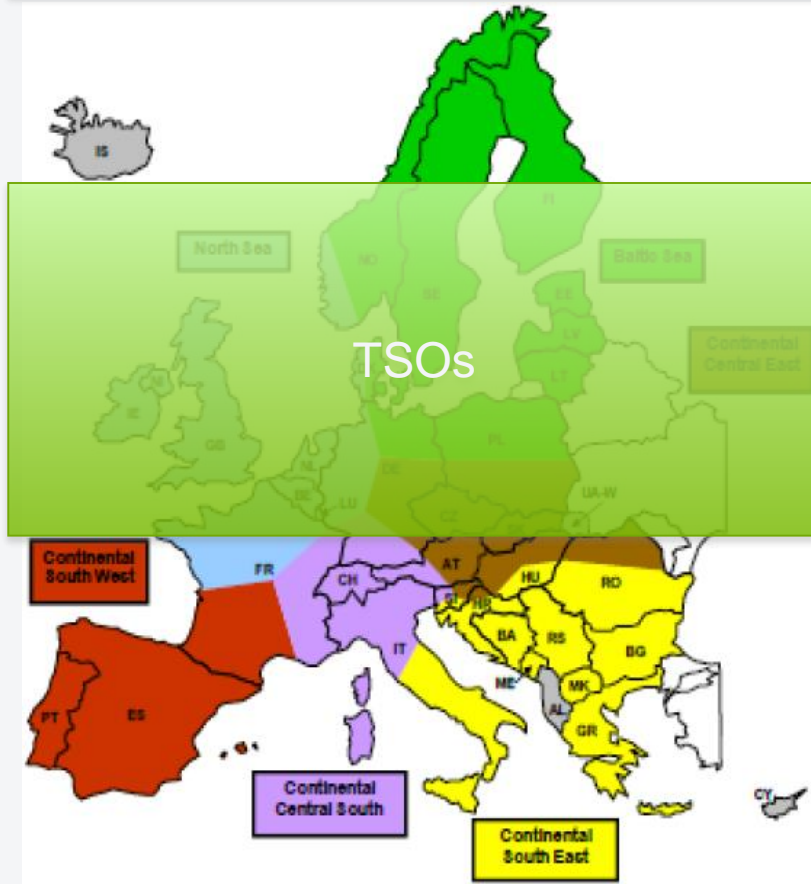
BEMIP Electricity



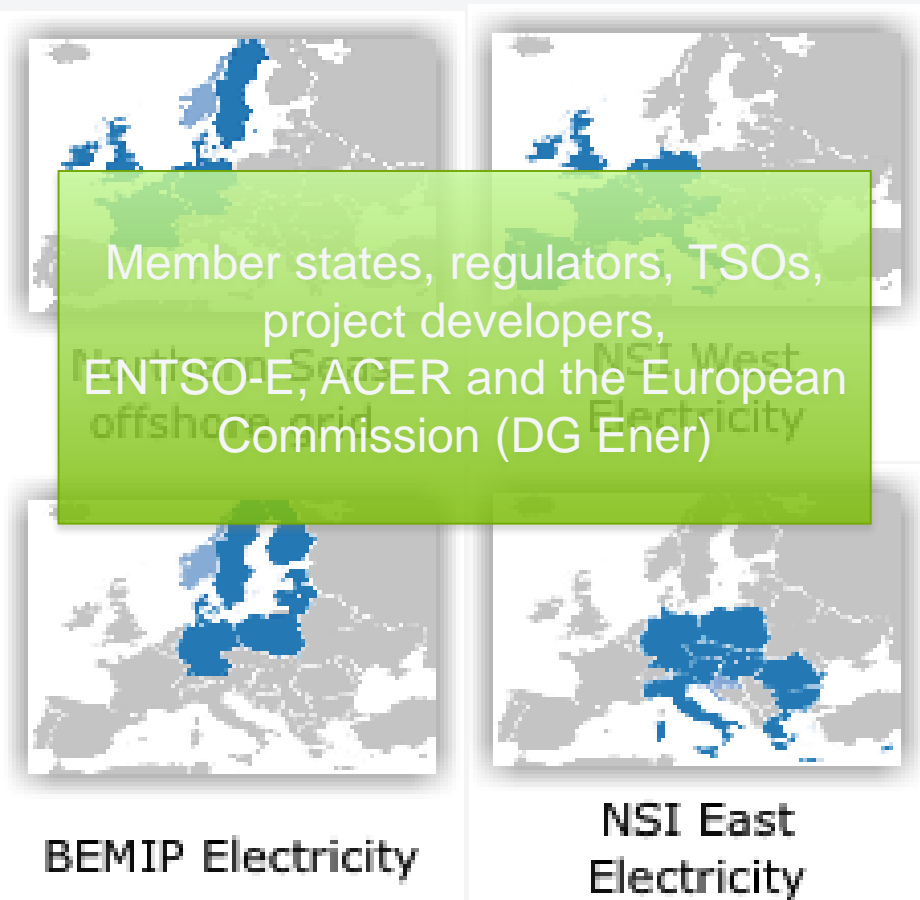
NSI East Electricity

# Main body for both TYNDP and PCI selection are different regional groups

6 ENTSO-E Regional Groups → TYNDP



4 EC Regional Groups → PCIs



# Agenda

- European Grid planning – how does it work
- **Stakeholder engagement for European power lines**
- Critical reflection

# Stakeholder engagement for cross-country power-lines

## On the TYNDP

- Consultation on
  - CBA methodology
  - Scenarios
  - Candidate projects
- Public workshops
- Network Development Stakeholder Group

## On PCI selection

- Consultation on
  - PCI candidate list
  - Methodology to evaluate candidates
- Public cross-regional information events

## PCI projects

- Legal requirement of
  - Clear concept
  - Certain information materials
  - Web page
  - Certain events
- Minimal alignment between two countries required



# Agenda

- European Grid planning – how does it work
- Stakeholder engagement for European power lines
- **Critical reflection**

# TYNDP as basis to determine European grid needs is being questioned

TYNDP the only tool to officially explain the need for grids from a European perspective

Low transparency of underlying modelling

CBA to complex, data gaps

Modelling accused of being incoherent

Real European perspective is missing

Extreme (decentralised) scenarios are (still) missing

All this is a problem, because it prevents our NGOs from defending the European plan towards their local members and thus 'on the ground'  
→ More *meaningful* transparency is needed

# PCI status criticised to does not provide the needed legitimacy

- Overly complex methodology of ranking PCIs
- Actual decision making excludes stakeholders
- PCI status not yet seized to really prioritize
- No mechanism to add important projects to the list
- Further consideration of local concerns while selecting PCIs needed

→ European umbrella groups which generally support grid development find TYNDP/PCIs insufficient to give reassurance to national/local partners

# This being said it is of course amazing that....

- ... there is a European process to determine grid priorities
- ... it does recognise the need for stakeholder engagement
- ... both ENTSO-E and the EC try to improve in what they do
- ... they increasingly move from consultation to collaboration with stakeholders

By the way: RGI has a big role in driving improvements