

INSPIRE-Grid: main lessons learned



<https://wallpapers.wallhaven.cc/wallpapers/full/wallhaven-112387.jpg>



Conference on public participation
Brussels, 25.01.2017

Main lessons learned - Outline

Context

INSPIRE-Grid findings around three challenges

Forthcoming challenges

Questions

Why do we need new lines?

- Aging grid
 - New consumption patterns (cities etc.)
 - New production patterns
-
- EC Goals: >90% carbon-free electricity by 2050



Stakeholder opposition

Due to different factors:

- Health concerns
- Environment damages
- Estate value loss
- Landscape disruption
- Low trust in process



How to handle this?



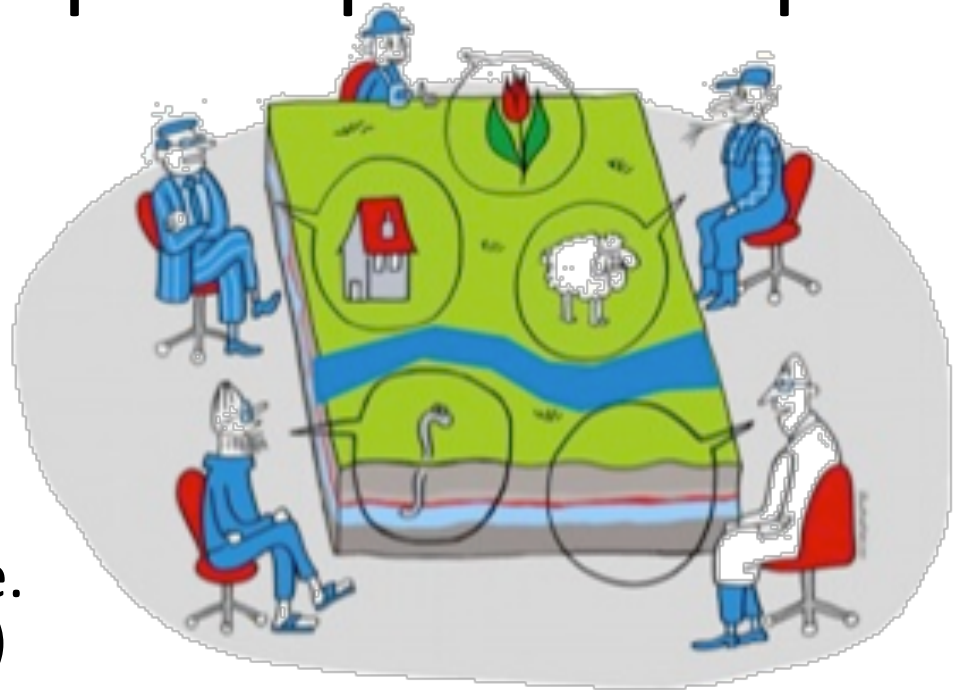
Main assumption: participation helps

Stakeholder participation
as a way to help
top-down-steered
processes.

...it helps to **know more**
about the issue and its frame.
(integrating local knowledge)

...it **legitimizes** a process.

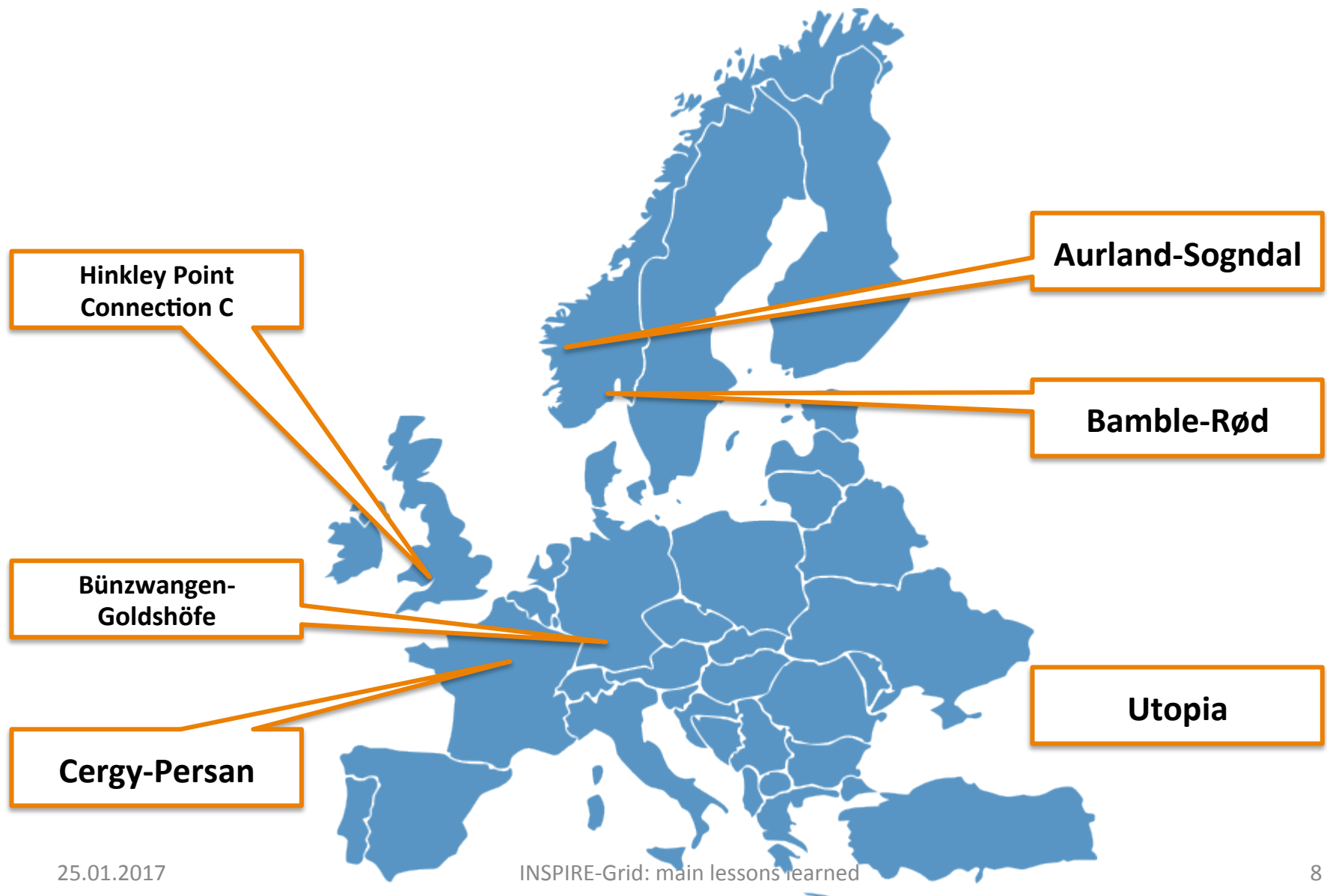
...it is **democratically right** to do so.



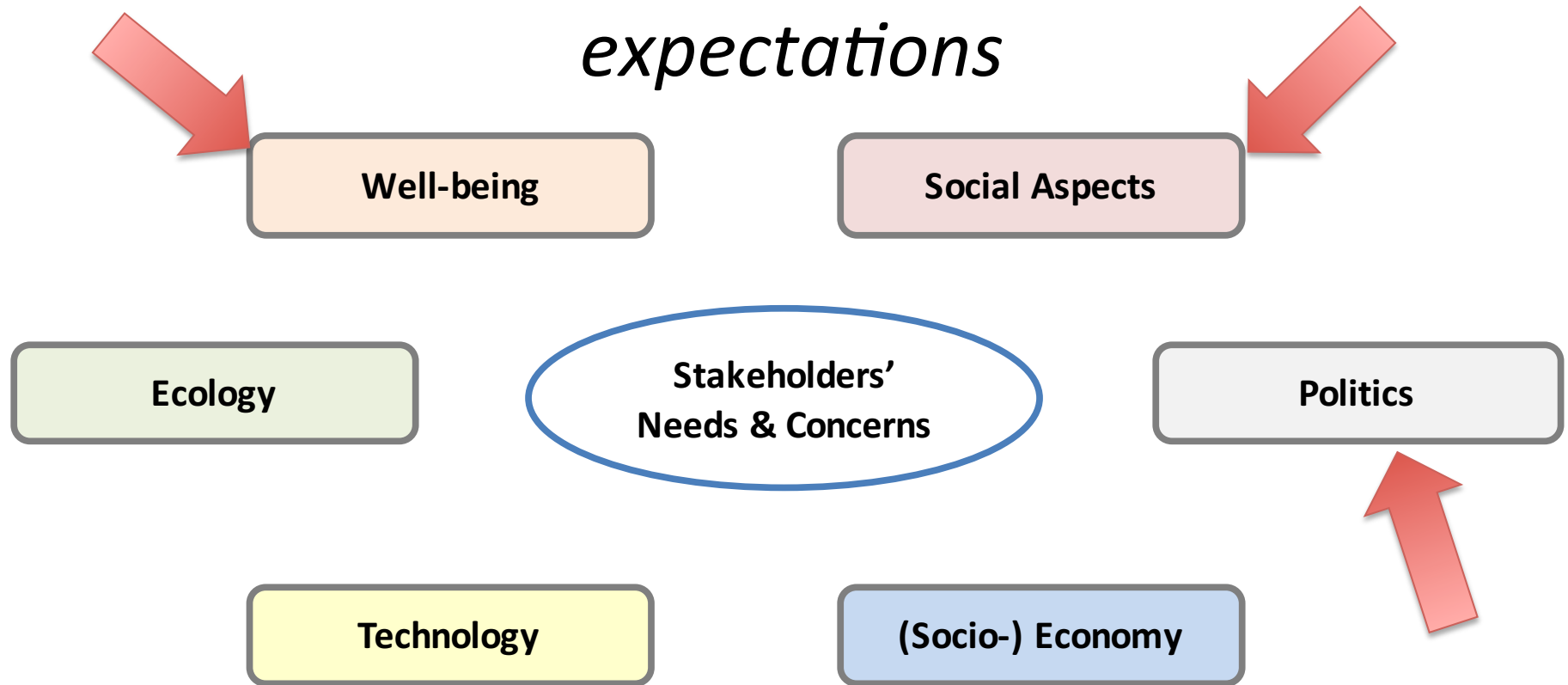


- Develop a **theoretical and methodological framework** to analyze the social processes of acceptance (and opposition)
- Identify and demonstrate **new or improved approaches** to engage stakeholders
- Suggesting practical **measures to build stakeholders' support** for new grid infrastructures.

3 case studies + 3 validation workshops



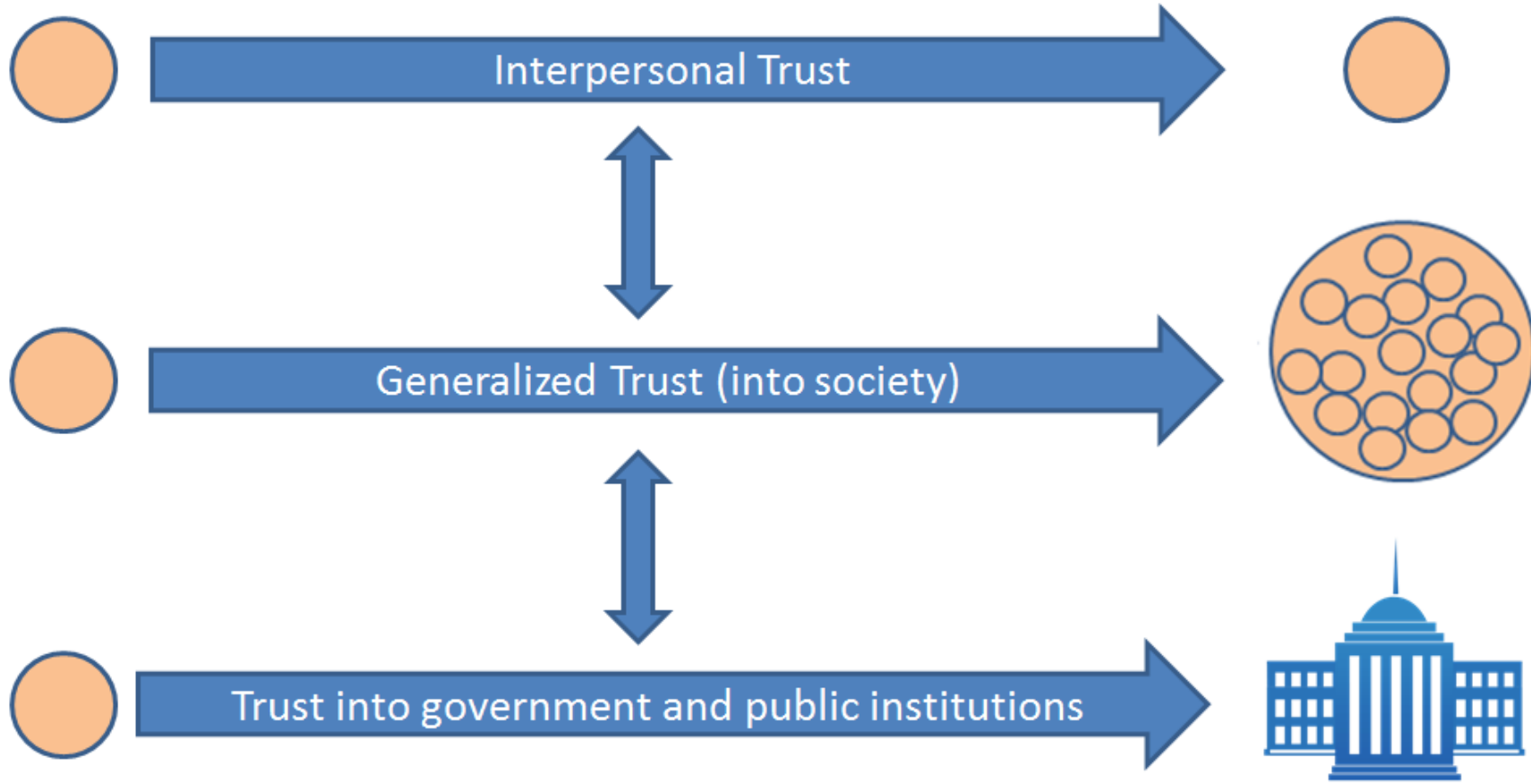
Challenge 1: Addressing stakeholder expectations



Needs and concerns: some are not addressed in planning processes yet

Challenge 1+: The importance of trust

TRUST



Challenge 2: Participatory decision-making: the methods

Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)

***Web Geographical Information System
(Web GIS)***

Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA)

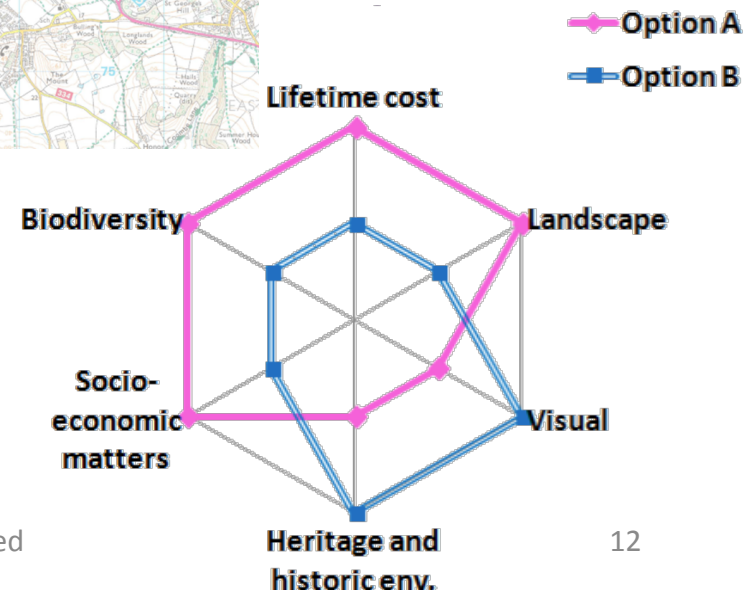
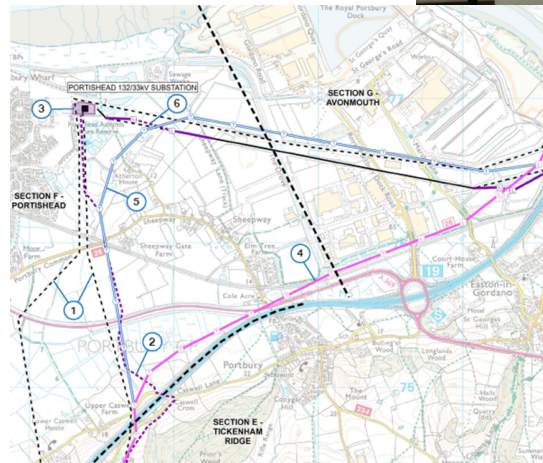
Challenge 2: Participatory decision-making: the methods

Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)

A formalized method to reach synthesis conclusions regarding the choice among alternatives, considering conflicting criteria measured in different units

Tested in INSPIRE-Grid by means of three validation workshops and two case studies, verifying that MCA:

- **can foster stakeholder participation.**
- **can be used to properly understand conflicts and support the choice of a compromising alternative**

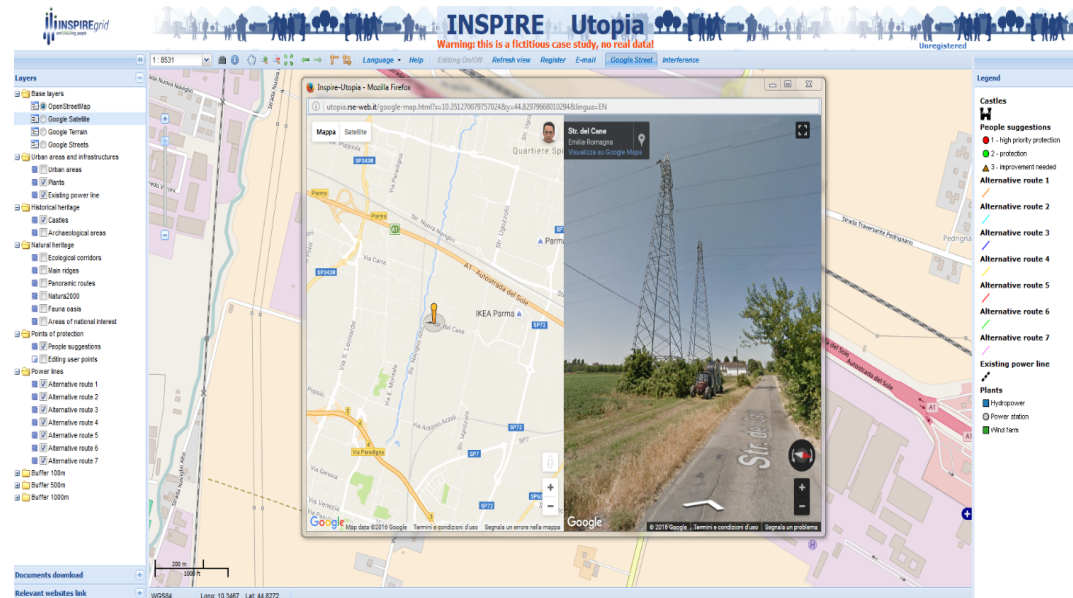


Challenge 2: Participatory decision-making: the methods

Web GIS

A Geographical Information System distributed through the web. You can:

- access project documentation more effectively
- carry out customized elaborations
- send comments with a spatial reference
- express your preferences



Tested in in **five workshops**:

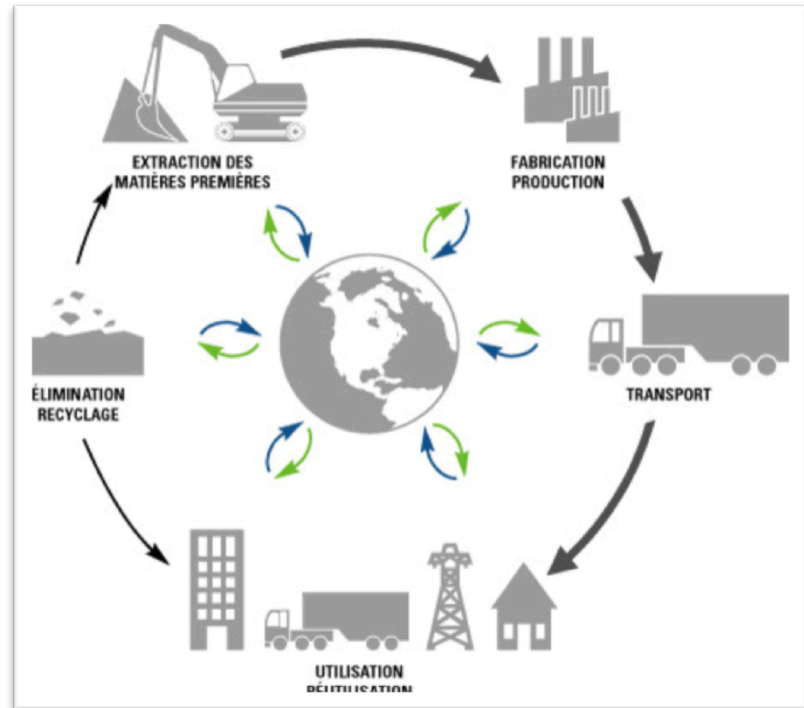
- Web GIS is considered useful to communicate spatial preferences and to send comments
- Main problems are the representativeness of the responding people and the possible bias in the answers - *relevant only if preferences are used directly in the decision making process*

Challenge 2: Participatory decision-making: the methods

Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA)

*Applied on a case study :
Cergy-Persan (France)*

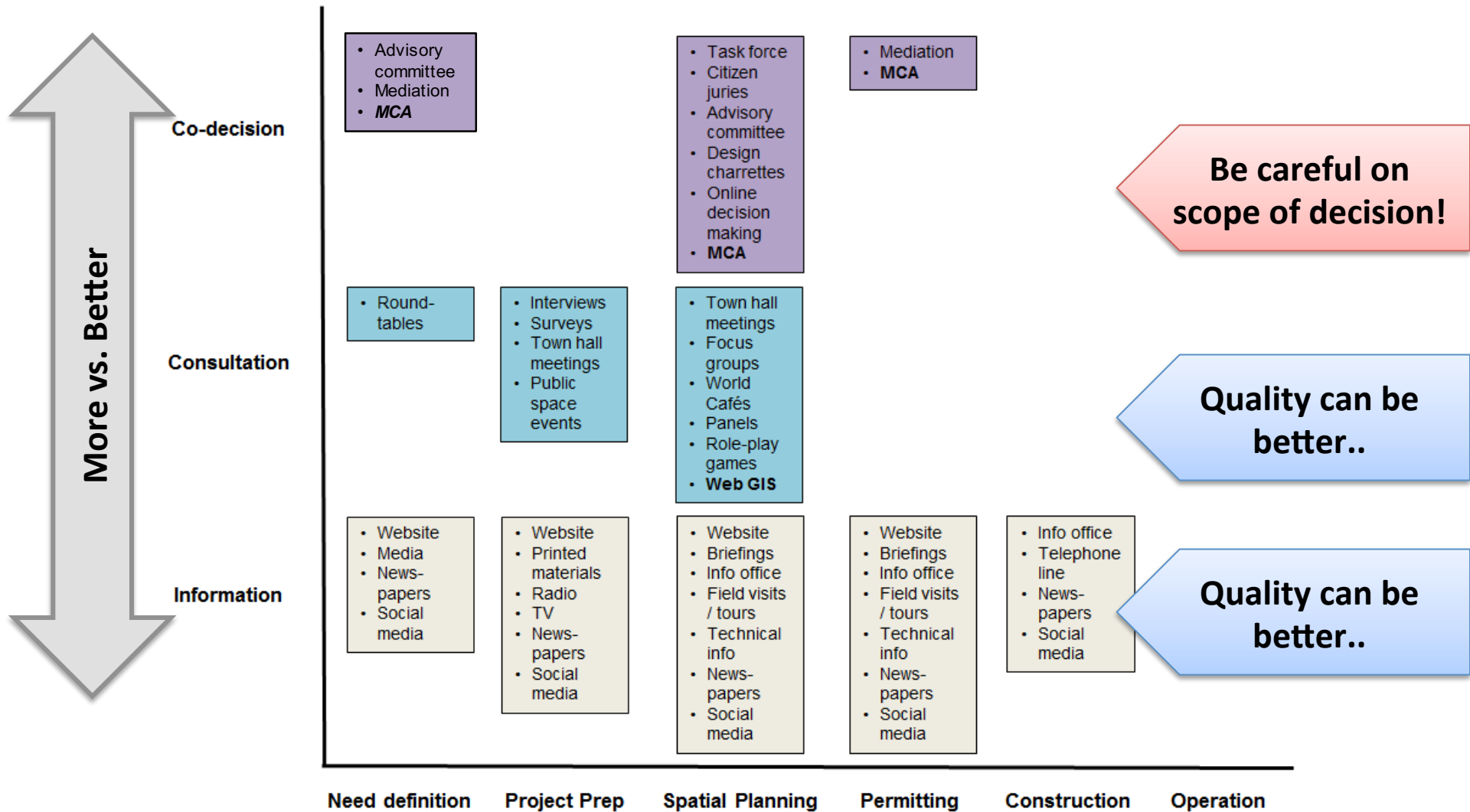
Workshop with stakeholders



Findings

- LCA helps to evaluate the need for grid extension by calculating global impacts
- Complexity of its output: requires expert knowledge
- Difficult to communicate to a non-specialist audience

Challenge 2: Participatory decision-making: The context of the methods



Challenge 3: Untapping potentials of stakeholder participation: trust and perceived justice

Needs not understood = less acceptance

Initiating a dialogue about energy transition

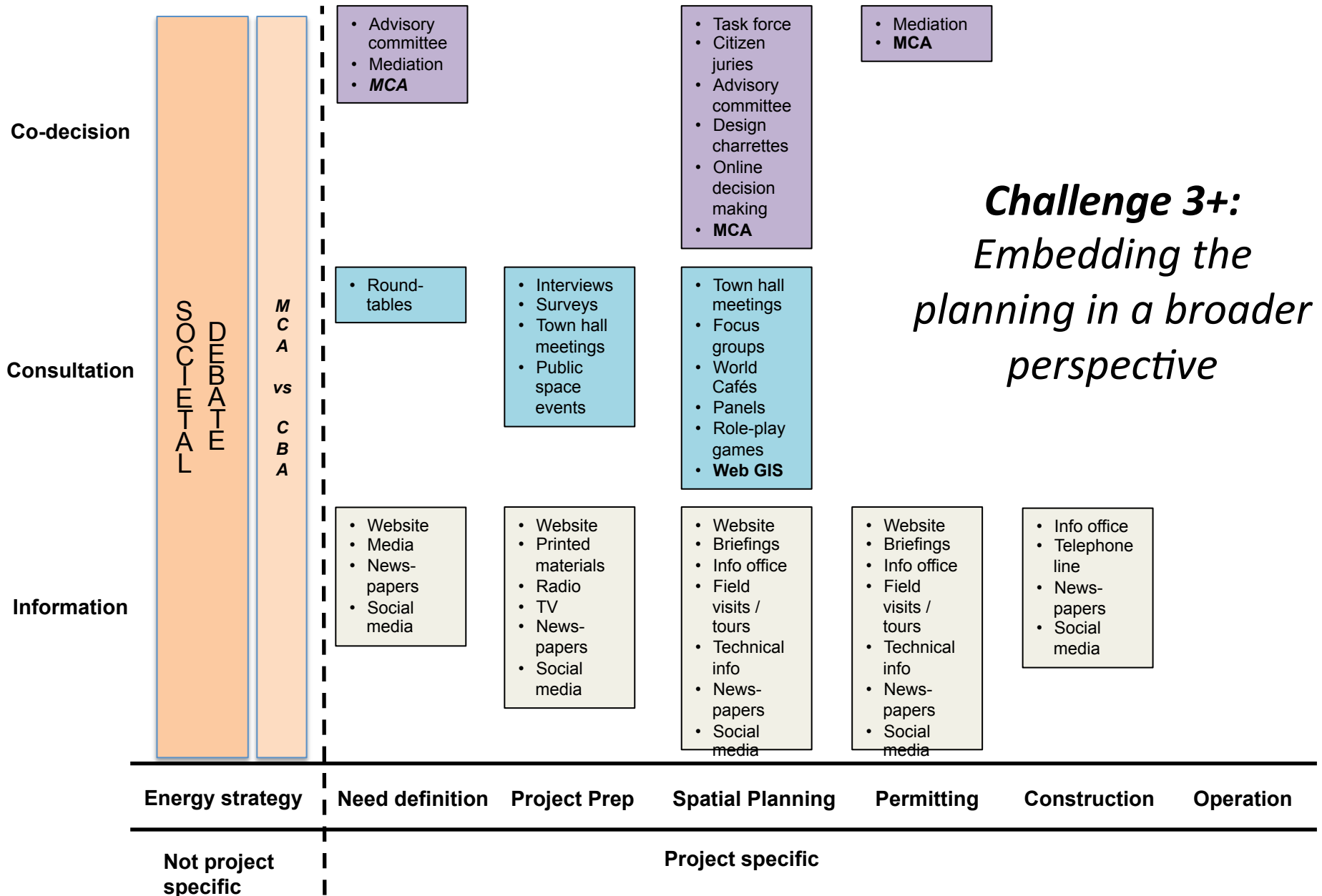
This also includes:

- The 'system question' in a comprehensive way
- The aspects of decentral vs. central energy production
- The high degree of interconnections to neighbor countries

Maximization of individual benefits = less acceptance

Communication focusing on the 'consciousness of society'

- infrastructure is **a fundamental condition** of people living together



Challenge 3+: Forthcoming challenges

Issue of planning costs:
How to keep them low?

If quality can be improved:
How to control stakeholder
engagements' quality?



Bridge the local-national divide (harsh local conflicts for national-level decisions): How to harmonize planning procedures at different levels / between different sectors?

How do these elements fit in the regulatory schemes?

Conclusion

Early, fair and trustworthy involvement of stakeholders is a key aspect for a constructive planning process.

A clear communication on what is to be decided and a careful selection of stakeholder engagement methods considering their strengths and weaknesses are a key for a streamlined planning process.

An embedment of the planning process in an energy transition context can increase acceptance of the needs for grids.

Thank you!

