GOOD PRACTICE OF THE YEAR

AWARD

Examples for actions that characterise Good Practices

The award is not meant to honour an entire grid project, but rather one practice or action (that of course is part of a bigger grid development project) that is really outstanding, innovative and an improvement to actions in this area so far. The below list shall serve as an orientation showing which possible areas of good practice can be addressed in this competition.

Please note that this is only meant as an inspiration on what kinds of practices could be submitted and not as an exhaustive list.

Promotion of RES targets

To be considered a good practice the action should be connected to renewables

- The line was needed for the current, short or medium term integration of renewables
- The practice visibly promotes renewables targets

Nature Protection

Environmental protection good practices should ensure a high level of protection of Europe's biodiversity and natural environment by avoiding, minimising and mitigating negative effects

- Instead of building an entirely new corridor, existing infrastructure has been ugraded or bundled with a new line
- A mapping of species at appropriate scales based on accurate survey data was done
- Studies and evaluations of biodiversity conservation as pertaining to the specific site were conducted

GOOD PRACTICE OF THE YEAR

AWARD

- NGOs and scientific experts provided advice on environmental protection
- NGOs and scientific experts were involved in developing mitigation measures
- Environmental assessments were undertaken at the earliest possible planning stages
- The practice is an example for the application of full-scale SEA
- Strategic spatial planning actions were taken/actively supported
- Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments were conducted
- The qualification of all professionals employed in EIAs or SEAs has been ensured
- The implemented solutions effectively prevent high incidences of bird mortality
- Relevant legislation and guidelines were respected, including those relating to:
  - the Birds & Habitats Directive
  - the Marine Strategy Framework
  - the Natura 2000 network
  - the Bonn Convention
  - the Bern Convention
  - the Budapest Declaration
  - the Renewable Energy Directive
  - the Water Framework Directive
- The action made a positive contribution to the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- The action contributed to the development of common standards/methodologies in nature protection
- The ecosystem was restored to its original state or even enhanced (i.e. underground cables: soil has been restored)
- Relevant knowledge about nature protection has been shared with peers

Monitoring

- The impacts of the power lines are being monitored
- The impacts of the mitigation measures are being monitored
- Additional solutions/new approaches have been found based on monitoring results
- Relevant knowledge about monitoring has been shared with peers

AWARD GOOD PRACTICE OF THE YEAR

Public and stakeholder engagement

Participation good practices should facilitate a process of open dialogue with stakeholders and the wider public to build trust, resolve conflicts and improve involvement and acceptability

- Appropriate awareness was created by promoting the project through various channels, including:
  - political and policy forums
  - administrative and regulatory bodies
  - umbrella groups/membership organisations
  - affiliates/subsidiaries
  - contractors
  - customers
  - media (esp. local media)
- A stakeholder mapping was carried out and used to identify and actively approach relevant stakeholders to take part in the consultation process
- State and local politicians have been involved in the planning procedure early
- A concept was written on how to engage with stakeholders and the public and how to assure they are reached
- Stakeholders and the public were invited to take part in and comment on:
  - corridor sitings
  - line sitings
  - pylon selections/sightings
  - the best/most appropriate mitigation/compensation measures
  - the best participation formats/tools
  - technology options
- Stakeholder and public concerns were heard before the actual application process
- Stakeholders and the public were given the opportunity to raise their concerns before major decisions (corridor, routing, technology...) were taken
- The consultation included elements of direct dialogue and deliberation
- Cooperation with local/municipal stakeholders led to changes in corridor finding
- Working groups consisting of various stakeholder groups were installed (either overarching ones or pertaining to the project)
- Alternatives suggested by stakeholders and the public were seriously

considered/implemented

- Stakeholders of conflicting interest groups admit that the route decision is a compromise they can live with
- Community engagement beyond the submitted practice was sought (e.g. capacity building, open days etc.)
- The practice contributed to the development of common standards/ methodologies on public engagement
- Cooperation with authorities and NGOs beyond legal requirements was successfully pursued - to inform the public or to jointly find the best solutions to protect the nature/social environment
- Relevant knowledge about stakeholder engagement has been shared with peers

Use of innovative technologies

- All/new technology options have been explored:
  - offshore meshed grid
  - HVDC
  - underground cabling
  - high temperature (super) conductor
  - temperature monitoring
  - new pylon design
- The technology/pylon chosen was reasonable and has been explained in a transparent and comprehensible way
- The practice was specifically dedicated to testing new technology
- Measures were taken to reduce EMF
- Relevant knowledge about the use of innovative technologies has been shared with peers
- Bundling options (also with same voltage level/different voltage level) have been realised

Landscape

- Visual impacts have been considered
- Landscape architects/experts and the local population have been consulted
- 3-D simulations were used for landscape planning and to explain the "before and after" to the public
- Relevant knowledge about landscape considerations in grid planning has been shared with peers

Exchange of good practices

- ◎ The good practice approach was shared with peers as well as other relevant organisations (e.g. ACER, ENTSO-E, authorities)

- ◎ Studies that underpinned the good practice approach have been shared with peers as well as other relevant organisations (e.g. ACER, ENTSO-E, authorities; other TSOs/DNOs)

- ◎ The action has actively contributed to overarching guidelines for information sharing

Management

- ◎ There has been organisational restructuring to support the implementation of new, better practices

- ◎ The good practice process has been organised professionally, e.g. via external facilitators

- ◎ All relevant employees have been trained/are receiving training with regard to good practice approaches

Alongside project developers, NGOs are also actively encouraged to submit good practices in grid development from their point of view. Many good practice fields for NGOs are already included in the above list. However, should NGOs not identify with any of the above, good practices also include but are not limited to:

- ◎ Active support of a good practice approach listed above

- ◎ Taking a self-motivated stance to support certain projects

- ◎ Successfully offering counsel regarding nature protection, monitoring, public engagement, transparency etc

- ◎ Actively contributing to joint learning

- ◎ Actively furthering capacity building amongst one's own stakeholders

- ◎ Moderating a dialogue/information campaign or participating in information/dialogue events