

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SECOND LIST OF PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST

1 Summary

This report presents the results of the public consultation on the projects submitted for consideration in view of the 2nd list of Projects of Common Interest (PCI). The consultation was conducted with the aim of seeking views on the need for electricity, smart grids, gas and oil projects, from an EU energy policy perspective, as contributing to achieving a fully-integrated internal energy market bringing together security of supply, competition and sustainability and ending the isolation of some Member States from Europe-wide energy networks.

The public consultation was accessible on the EU Survey website and open from 22 December 2014 until 31 March 2015. A complementary public consultation was opened covering only additional candidate projects, resulting from the exceptional reopening of the TYNDP 2015 for the gas sector. This last consultation was opened from 29 July until 22 October 2015. In addition, the public consultation on smart grids projects was conducted independently between 5 March 2015 and 15 April 2015.

In total, 652 questionnaires were submitted within the online public consultations, with 507 citizens, 41 public authorities, 22 companies, 10 industry organisations, 8 NGOs, 7 environmental organisation, 7 consumer organisations, 2 trade unions, 2 SMEs and 46 other entities having taken part. The largest number of participants were from Germany (578), followed by Ireland (28) and Spain (8), with the total of 17 nationalities participating in the consultation.

2 Process

Guidelines on transparency and public participation in the PCI selection process are outlined in the TEN-E Regulation, which states that *"Each Group shall consult the organisations representing relevant stakeholders — and, if deemed appropriate, stakeholders directly — including producers, distribution system operators, suppliers, consumers, and organisations for environmental protection. The Group may organise hearings or consultations, where relevant for the accomplishments of its tasks."*

The consultation consisted of a questionnaire, available in all EU languages, inquiring about the projects' contribution to market integration, sustainability, security of supply and competition from an EU energy policy perspective. The public consultation complied with the Commission's minimum consultation standards, including the 12 week minimum duration (from 22 December 2014 to 31 March 2015 respectively 29 July – 22 October 2015).

Projects assessed in the questionnaire by type and corridor:

Electricity		Gas		Oil
BEMIP	31 projects	BEMIP	21 projects	6 projects
NSI East	86 projects	NSI East	77 projects	
NSI West	48 projects	NSI West	56 projects	
NSOG	30 projects	SGC	29 projects	
Smart Grids	3 projects			

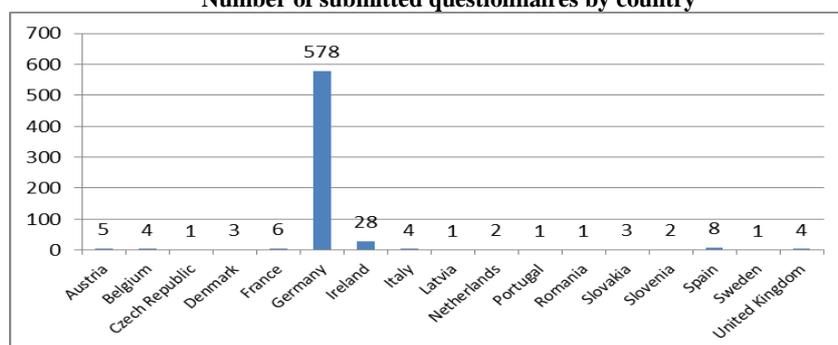
The list of PCI candidates has been published on Your Voice in Europe and DG ENER websites. Links to the project information were available in the national languages on Ministry and/or project promoters' websites. Additional information could also be obtained on the ENTSO-E and ENTSO-G websites. Information about the consultation was communicated to stakeholders via websites of the respective national Ministries.

Contributions from stakeholders could be submitted via online questionnaire that was available on the EU Survey. Given that participation in the public consultation was voluntary and based on self-selection, the views expressed by respondents are not necessarily representative of the views held by all stakeholders in the EU.

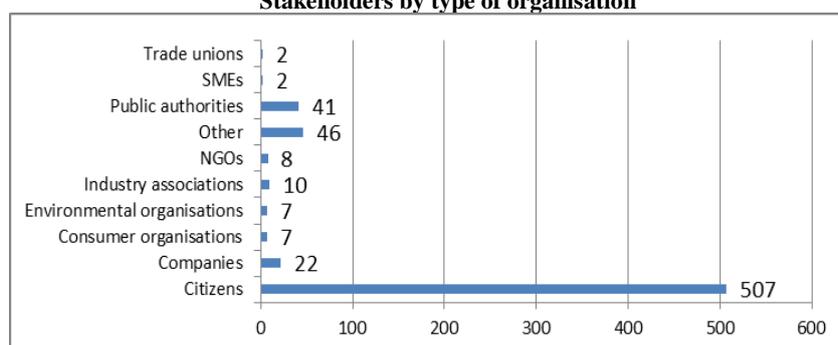
3 Stakeholder coverage

Overall 652 questionnaires from 17 Member States were submitted via the EU Survey platform. In total, 507 citizens, 41 public authorities, 22 companies, 10 industry organisations, 8 NGOs, 7 environmental organisation, 7 consumer organisations, 2 trade unions, 2 SMEs and 46 other entities contributed their views to this consultation.

Number of submitted questionnaires by country



Stakeholders by type of organisation



A few additional responses, 15 submissions, were submitted outside the online public consultation, providing among others general comments on the PCI selection process. The justification for this was that respondents found the question format not flexible enough to accommodate all types of comments.

4 Consultation Results

The public consultation inquired about the following closed question:

"In your opinion, is a proposed project significantly contributing to market integration/sustainability/security of supply/competition and therefore needed from an EU energy policy perspective?"

For each investment items in the questionnaire, participants could answer either "yes" or "no" and then provide their comments. Frequently, respondents only provided a "yes" or "no" answer without giving an argument for their choice. The graphics shown below reflect the overall output including the answers without comments and thus the picture of the results is only partially reinforced through justified answers. This report will **only** detail on the main comments received on projects in each priority corridor.

Electricity corridors received on average a higher number of comments than the gas corridors. Moreover, the number of negative comments submitted for **each of the electricity corridors exceeded the number of positive ones, while gas project generally received more positive responses.**

For the smart grids projects, 11 comments were received related to the 3 proposed projects. In what concerns oil, there were received around 10 comments, most of them being repetitive for all the 6 projects.

4.1 General comments

A number of stakeholders emphasised in their comments the need for the PCI selection process to respect the existing environmental standards. It should be stressed, that the PCI status of a project is without prejudice to the existing EU legislation, including on environmental protection.

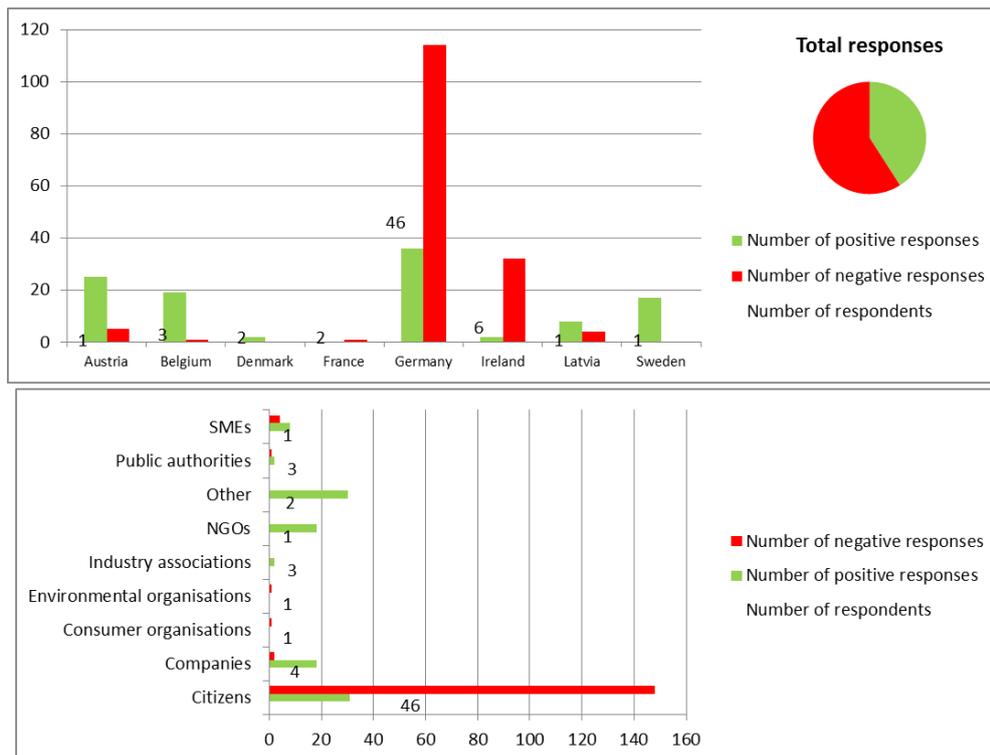
Several participants complained about high confidentiality and lack of transparency in the PCI selection process and highlighted the need for a more comprehensible format of information that was provided in the public consultation.

Moreover, some stakeholders also argued that storage facilities are being promoted by Member States' national companies, which they deemed is in conflict with the target model of the European regulation.

4.2 Electricity corridors

4.2.1 BEMIP electricity

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the BEMIP electricity priority corridor



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Overview of the main comments received to specific projects:

Kriegers Flak CGS

A few stakeholders stated that the project will increase interconnection between the Nordic and German electricity systems on the basis of offshore wind grid connection, allowing for better utilisation of offshore wind farm cables, increased trade and competition. Moreover, participants indicated that the project has significant strategic dimension as a pilot project for a combined offshore grid solution involving both AC and DC technology never built before and should, therefore, be prioritised.

LitPol Link Stage 1

Interconnection Estonia – Latvia

Nordbalt (LV reinforcement)

LitPol Link Stage 2

One participant in the survey assessed these projects as beneficial from the EU energy policy perspective, indicating that the cluster will establish connection of the Nordic area which is rich in low carbon resources with Eastern Europe. As such, these projects will support market integration a sustainability energy transition and security of supply both short and long term.

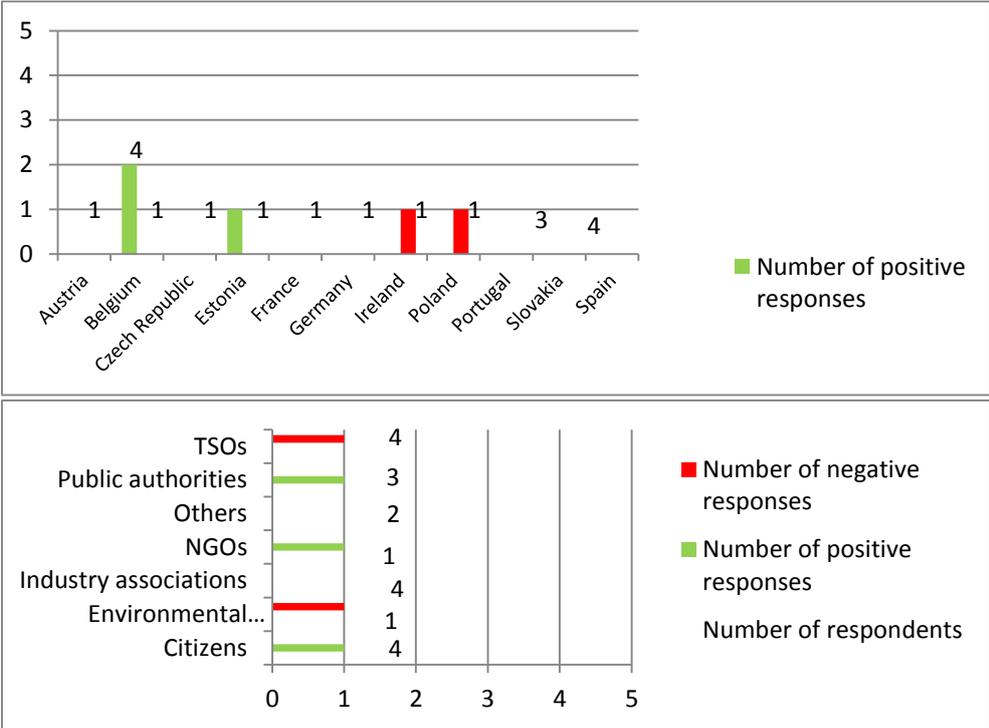
Kruonis HPSPP extension

One stakeholder opposed the project due to fact that it is promoted by Lietuvos Energija which operates the Lithuanian transmission network through its affiliate Litgrid. The

stakeholder stated that this kind of asset should only be developed by deregulated companies because storage is a market activity.

Overview of the additional project in BEMIP electricity as a result of the complementary consultation (29 July until 22 October 2015)

Generic project on various aspects of the integration of the Baltic States' electricity network into the continental European network, including their synchronous operation



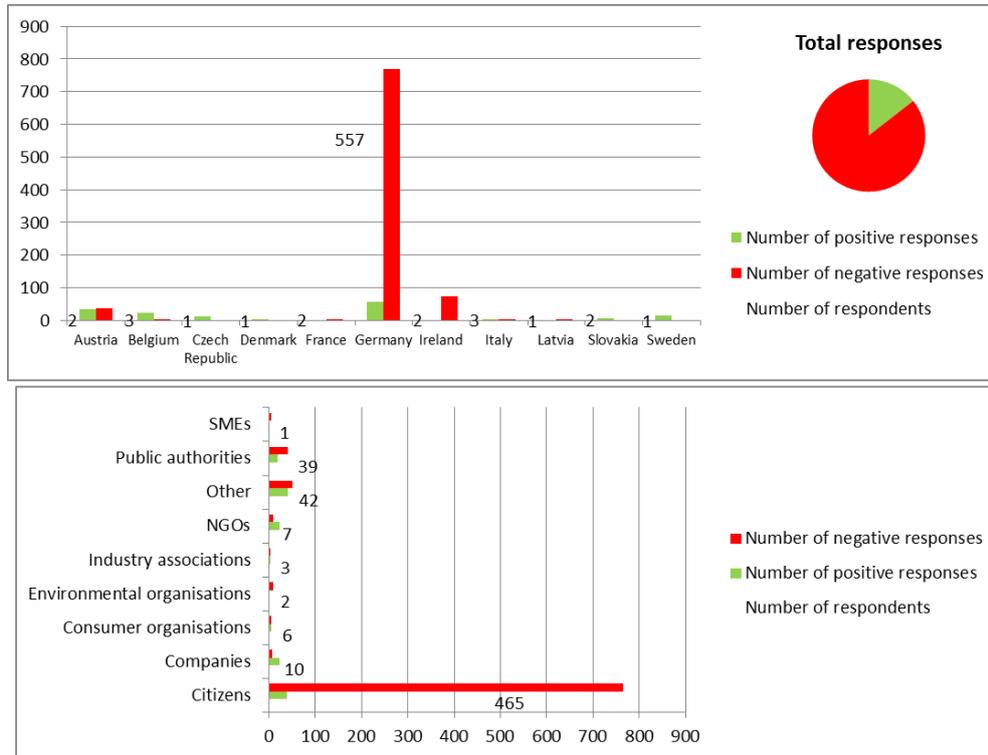
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Positive comments underlined that the inclusion of the generic project of synchronisation in the PCI list will enable conducting a comprehensive study on the technical details and interconnection aspects of different options of Baltic States desynchronisation from UPS/IPS and synchronisation with the European network. The synchronisation project should be viewed as a cluster that unites all different investments and actions that are necessary parts of the secure and reliable Baltic synchronisation achievement.

One stakeholder mentioned that the study of variants synchronisation stated that there is no technical and economic argumentation for switching synchronisation of Baltic States from IPS/UPS and the results indicated that implementation on Polish side is impossible due to identified risks. Without second cross-border link synchronisation is not possible.

4.2.2 NSI East electricity

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the NSI East electricity priority corridor



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Overview of main comments to specific projects:

Czech North South Corridor – Phase 2

One stakeholder pointed out that the project is focused on the re-building of lines in existing corridors, which minimises environmental impact, to enable market exchanges and generation connection. According to the stakeholder, this reinforcement strategy also enables the power flow from north-western border to south-eastern border. The two projects represent common benefits as a whole due to their strong dependency and projects all together should meet requirements to facilitate future market exchanges in the direction North to South and vice versa.

AT – DE

A number of stakeholders stated that the prompt completion of the “Salzburgleitung“ is one of the most important energy infrastructure projects to be realised in Austria to complete the 380-kV ring. They added that high-voltage grid in the centre of Europe has to be strengthened and electricity produced by hydro power from the Danube and wind power from Lower Austria as well as Burgenland must be transmitted. One stakeholder further suggested that the pump storage scheme Limberg III should also be included in the PCI list in this context.

SK - HU interconnection - phase 1 and 2

It was pointed out by one participant in the survey that the increased cross-border connectivity could enhance both Slovak and Hungarian systems reliability and improve security of supply through increased flexibility. The stakeholder added that this will also play a not negligible role in any comprehensive loop flow solution caused by relatively massive RES electricity generation, while cross-border trade is essential to induce competition into national markets and contribute to the development of regional markets.

CZ West-East (West)

One stakeholder suggested that this project is required to ease power flows from West to East and enable market integration of generation with high flexibility in to the power grid. It was also pointed out that the project consists of 400kV OHL lines in the existing corridors, which minimises environmental impact by building new double circuit with target capacities of 1700MVA per circuit. Furthermore, the stakeholder indicated that evacuation of power generation from the new brown coal high efficient unit with installed capacity of 660 MW and the new CCGT unit with installed capacity of 880 MW should not be possible without this project.

North South Eastern German Corridor (one of 6 projects)

Inclusion of this project in the 2nd list of PCI candidates triggered the biggest number of negative responses. While 14 stakeholders gave the project a positive feedback, 543 were against its development. In majority of the negative comments, the stakeholders argued that the project would have severe negative impact on the environment by destroying landscape. In addition, a number of stakeholders indicated that construction of the high-voltage lines will create a more rigid internal market in Germany and complicate integration of regionally produced energy. Also, some participants stated that the development of this project will result in higher electricity prices. Furthermore, several participants complained about the lack of transparency in the information process and disregard of the opposition from the affected cities, municipalities and their citizens. Some comments referred to the Energy Dialogue in Bavaria which, they claim, clearly demonstrated that the development of HVDC grids is oversized and - especially the south-east line (Corridor D) –mainly used for the future supply of lignite power.

North South Eastern German

One participant stated that the full realisation of the German grid plan is important for further development of the internal European Energy market and thus in direct connection to the fulfilment of all energy policy objectives referred to in the survey.

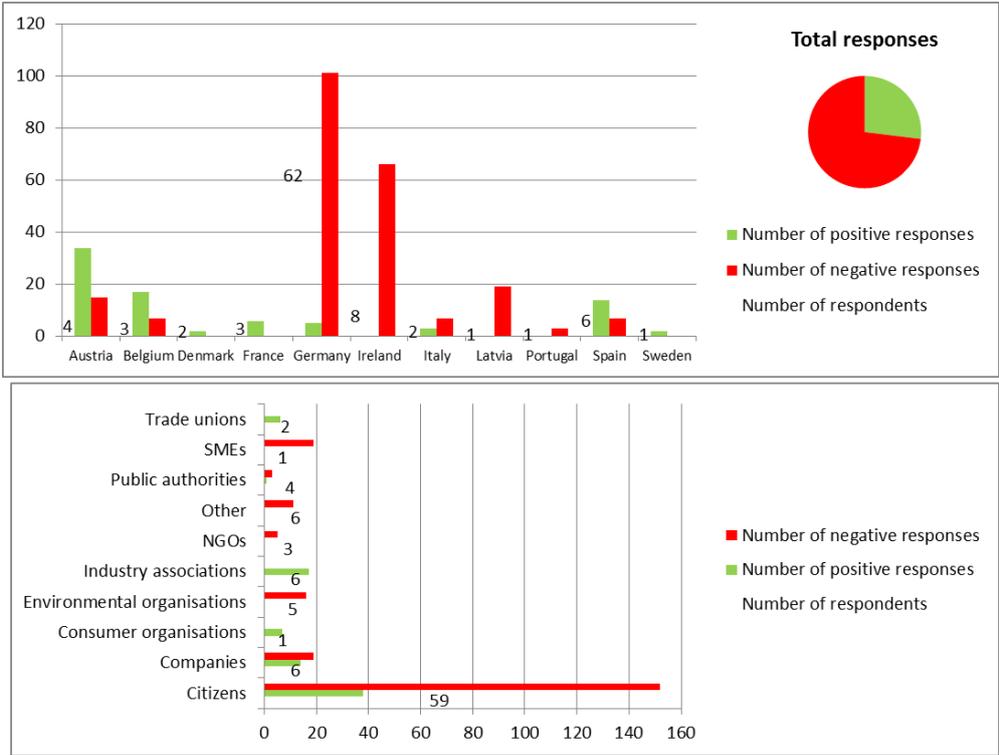
However, numerous stakeholders gave negative feedback to the project and claimed that the project is based on an old and centralised model of energy supply while Energiewende should promote flexible and more decentralised power grid.

HPS Complex Agios Georgios and Pyrgos (HPS Amfilochia) Hydro-pumped storage in Bulgaria-Yadenitsa

One stakeholder opposed these projects, stating that in order to fulfil the liberalisation and internal market principles, this kind of asset should only be developed by deregulated companies because storage is a market activity. Given that the project promoters are affiliates of the national TSOs, the projects should not be awarded the support entitled to the PCI list.

4.2.3 NSI West electricity

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the NSI West electricity priority corridor



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**Overview of main comments to specific projects:
RES in north of Portugal**

One stakeholder indicated that the additional power generation capacity of the project is currently not necessary, arguing that the hydroelectric pumping capacity in Portugal is now 2500 MW, compared to the official government target of 2000 MW. Moreover, the stakeholder pointed out that the electricity market is evolving rapidly towards decentralised production and storage and higher interconnection of Iberia with the European continent, which reduces the need for storage through the hydroelectric pumping.

Interconnection Portugal - Spain

Several stakeholders suggested that there is no need for a new interconnection between Portugal and Spain as the current interconnection capacity is greater than the minimum 10% requirement threshold and market prices are already aligned. Instead, the respondents argued that the focus should be shifted on the Spanish-French interconnection which suffers from structural market congestion between zone prices, with congestion rate of 62% in 2013.

Western interconnection FR-ES

A number of participants welcomed the proposed interconnection between France and Spain through Biscay Gulf, stating that the project is essential for overcoming the historical Iberian Peninsula isolation and building the united European energy market. Stakeholders who deemed this project beneficial also stated that it would allow consumers from both sides of the interconnection to gain the most competitive price of the electricity. Therefore, one participant suggested that improvement on communication policies to obtain public acceptance is needed even if alternative execution projects imply a raise of costs.

However, it was also stressed that this project would still not be sufficient to reach the 10% interconnectivity objective and that there are currently no further interconnection projects other than the BRITIB under joint consideration of the respective TSOs. In that respect, one respondent urged prioritisation of this PCI and the Commission and the involved stakeholders in this region to decide on additional PCIs to reach the 10% interconnectivity objective as soon as possible.

Still, some participants raised their concerns regarding the enormous cost of reinforcements proposed in the interconnection. Several participants indicated in their comments that there are other cheaper solutions that could increase exchange capacity in the same way as the conversion into DC tripole of the Hernani-Argia-Cantegrit 400 kV AC axis. At the last European Interconnections Summit held in Madrid on the 4th March, the proposal of two new interconnection projects through the Pyrenees, adding 3000MW was agreed. As these projects are less expensive than the subsea cable, several stakeholders proposed that the development of those projects should be carried out prior to any submarine interconnection between Spain and France.

Italy - North Africa

The project received positive feedback from stakeholders who welcomed its contribution to the integration of renewables into the market, given that African countries are endowed with the possibility to cheaply produce electricity from renewable sources, e.g. photovoltaics. Stakeholders stated that the introduction of an interconnection between Italy and North Africa will also improve reliability of the system, security of supply and enhance sustainability, while increasing competition between producers and resources and alleviating the relative electricity isolation of the region. Participants in the survey also referred to a report published by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre which further emphasises benefits of this interconnection.

North South Western German Corridor (one of 5 projects)

Two stakeholders stated that this project is necessary for the full realisation of the German grid plan and is key for further development of the internal energy market. In addition, they welcomed the strengthening of the internal north-south transmission capacity which will strongly contribute to RES integration, support a sustainable energy transition and strengthen security of supply as well as the further development of the internal market in the central power system of Germany.

On the other hand, some stakeholders argued that the project will delay development of a more decentralised power grid in Germany and lead to an increase in electricity prices for consumers and environmental degradation.

North South Eastern German Corridor (one of 6 projects)

Several participants in the consultation indicated that this project is crucial for the internal German grid development designed to relieve north-south internal congestions in Germany. The comments indicated that this will significantly reduce the extensive cross-border capacity and allow for a planned inflow of renewables in North West Germany and the expected increase in trade from the Nordic market. However, one stakeholder expressed concern whether the dimensioning of the internal German grid reinforcements, in particular the Suedlink of 2x2 GW, is sufficient with regard to the current and expected future increase of on-shore generation capacities in Schleswig Holstein and the rapid grow of German re-dispatch costs.

At the same time, a number of stakeholders gave this project a negative assessment, stating that the high-voltage lines are based on an old and centralised model of energy supply while Energiewende should promote flexible and more decentralised power grid.

BRITIB

In general, stakeholders evaluated the project as beneficial since it increases the interconnection capacity between Spain and France. At the same time, they stressed the importance of evaluating and comparing alternative solutions. Some participants deemed this project too expensive as well as unrealistic in terms of proposed costs and sustainability of its business plan. It was therefore pointed out that another three proposals for interconnection projects between France and Spain (overhead lines between Navarra-Bordeaux; Sabiñanigo-Marsillon and Monzon-Cazari) deserve further consideration.

Extension of the pump storage powerplant Kaunertal

The project received positive comments from two stakeholders who indicated that it would enable large scale integration of volatile renewable energy resources on a European scale, which is only possible with sufficient energy storage available. They also welcomed the project's contribution to the grid security and stability and the positive by-effects for the region, stemming from inflow of new orders for the construction industry and improved traffic infrastructure.

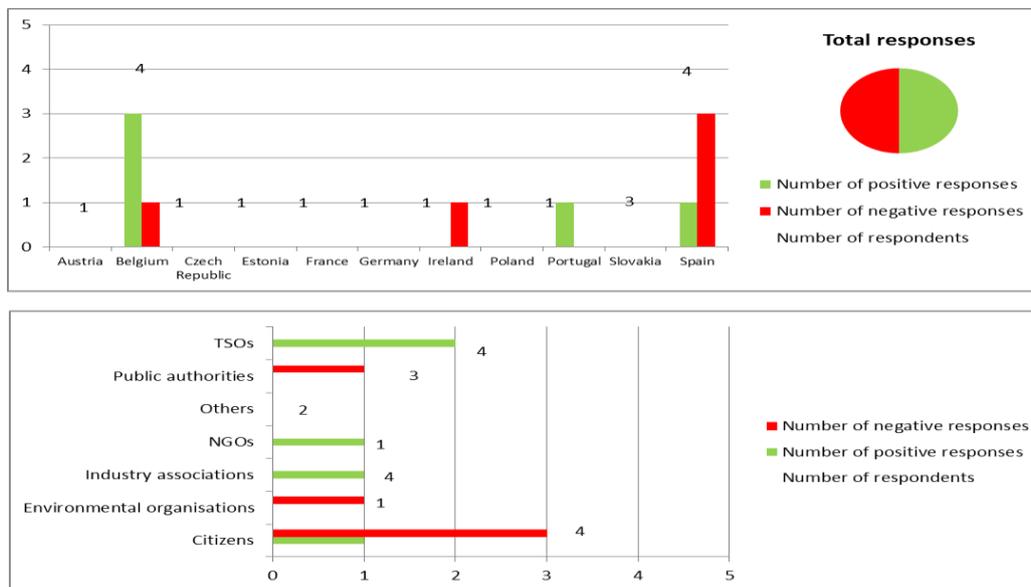
On the other hand, a number of stakeholders opposed this project and argued in their comments that the Kaunertal extension is not admissible on national level as the water rights for parts of the extension project were awarded to the municipality of Sölden. In addition, participants commented that certain parts of the project are electricity production and claim that these are not needed for the pump storage construction and operation.

Hydro Pumped Storage Pfaffenboden in Molln

Four survey participants deemed the project beneficial in view that the hydro pumped storage plant comprises a closed-loop water system whose components are largely underground or located on an existing industrial site and thus make the plant especially environmentally friendly and sustainable. In addition, the stakeholders stated that the project is essential for the further increase of renewable energy production in Austria, as well as the neighbouring countries, like Germany or the Czech Republic.

Overview of the additional project in electricity as a result of the complementary consultation (29 July until 22 October 2015)

Generic project to reach 10% interconnectivity ES/FR



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Generic project to reach 10% interconnectivity ES/FR

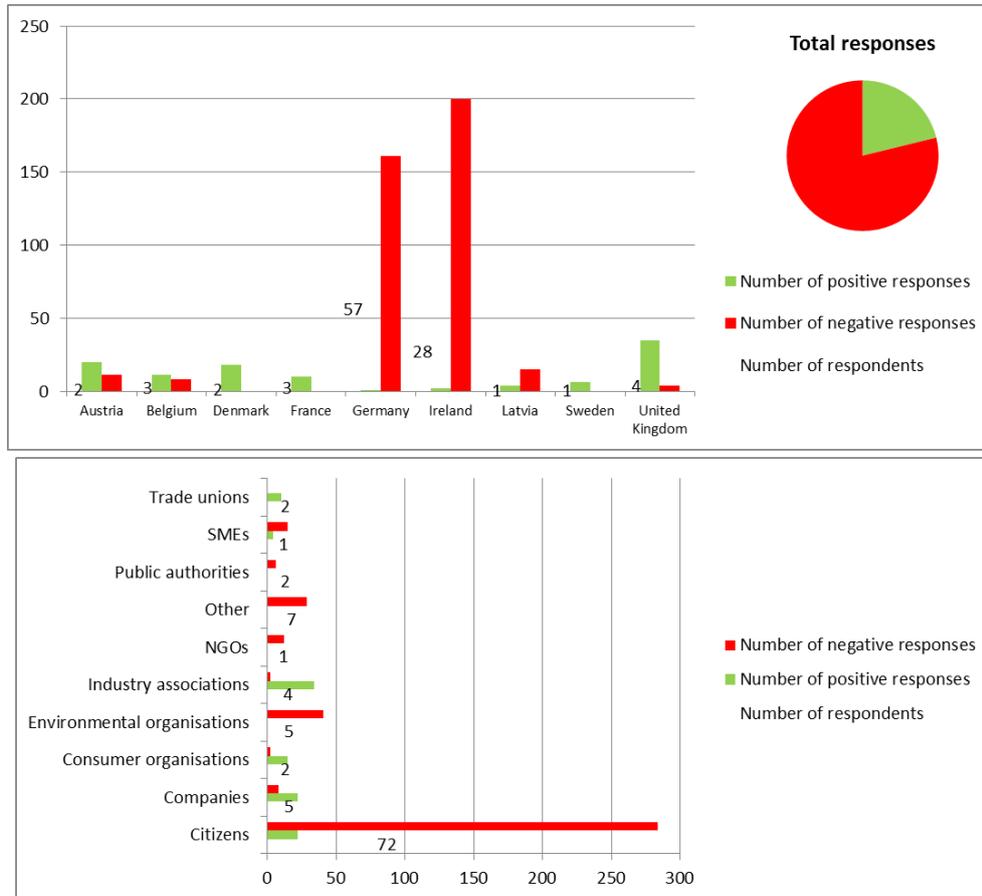
A comment was made on behalf of ENTSOE RG Continental South West stating that ENTSOE acknowledges that the generic project to help achieving the 10% target for Spain has been included in the draft PCI list. The TSOs of FR, ES and PT are working together in ENTSOE Continental South West Regional Group in order to translate this concept project into concrete geographically determined projects and assess costs and benefits in the upcoming TYNDP2016.

Some other feedback underlined the existence of shortcomings: lack of information and participation of civil society and the public, independent study on interconnection needs; cost-benefit studies in time of budgetary restrictions.

Another comment referred to the fact that the Iberian Peninsula is a RES producer while the rest of EU still has a nuclear and fossil dominant position and thus, there are SoS benefits deriving from these complementarities.

4.2.4 North Sea Offshore Grid

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the NSOG priority corridor



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Overview of main comments to specific projects:

Thames Estuary Cluster (NEMO)

One stakeholder pointed out that the project will create the first direct electrical connection between the Belgian and the British electricity networks. Great Britain currently has four interconnectors with capacity of 4GW, representing 5% of generation capacity in 2014, but this is low compared to the European interconnection target of 10% by 2020. At 1GW NEMO Link would represent a beneficial 25% increase in GB interconnection. The stakeholder also referred to the OFGEM final decision from 2nd December 2014 in which it confirmed that NEMO will provide social welfare benefits resulting from trade between the GB and Belgian markets

At the same time, one participant raised concern about high costs of this project and suggested that projects that improve energy security at lowest cost should be prioritised.

Celtic Interconnector (IE-FR)

A number of participants in the survey opposed this project, stating that Ireland already has a 9% interconnection with the EU grid and ample generating capacity that requires no additional sources. At the same time, several stakeholders expressed their concerns that the project is too costly and might lead to higher electricity costs for the end users. Moreover, one stakeholder made reference to a recently published study by the Irish TSO Eirgrid which concluded that the regional power imbalances in Ireland can be solved by infrastructure upgrade such as the installation of series compensation technology to increase power transfer capacity.

Norway - Great Britain (NSN)

Several stakeholders pointed out that the Great Britain currently has four interconnectors (4GW) representing 5% of generation capacity in 2014. This means that at 1.4GW, the NSN project would represent a beneficial 35% increase in GB interconnection. In addition, one stakeholder made reference to the ENTSO-E's TYNDP which suggests that the project has high potential of enabling a better use of RES as GB can call on flexible Norwegian hydropower when wind generation is low in GB and vice versa. Another participant suggested that the NSN project could also be considered as flagship project for a meshed offshore grid to facilitate system integration of offshore wind energy, in particular with the possible integration of offshore wind power plants in the Dogger Bank offshore wind concession zone in UK waters.

Viking DK-GB

In general, participants welcomed the planned interconnection between Great Britain and Denmark, stating that the project will represent a beneficial 25% in the British interconnection and will thus contribute to the EU energy policy objective for greater integration of the EU internal market. Stakeholders also argued that the project will also enable Great Britain to gain access to low-cost energy from hydro, nuclear, and wind generation from Nordics. Moreover, several stakeholders emphasised that there is a low correlation of wind yields in GB and DK, allowing this interconnector to be an important facilitator of renewables build out in both GB and DK.

Greenlink, Greenwire IE-GB Greenwire IE-GB

Feedback on the Greenlink and Greenwire projects was mostly negative. It was highlighted by a number of participants that the projects are not connected to the Irish Grid and will only supply energy to the UK customers. At the same time, several stakeholders made reference to the recent statement of OFGEM not to award the Greenlink project a cap and floor regime due to lack of benefits for the UK consumers. It was also pointed out by some respondents that there has been no SEA carried out so far.

Irish-Scottish Links on Energy (ISLES)

While two stakeholders stated that the project is particularly valuable for an integrated offshore grid development and prevention of renewable energy spillage, several participants opposed development of this project due to its high costs.

NorthConnect: Norway-Great Britain

Several respondents indicated that the NorthConnect project is among the top ranked in terms of socioeconomic benefits and increased renewables integration and therefore should be given high priority on the current PCI list. It was suggested that the Commission should specifically support and prioritise such PCIs as flagship projects for the first leg of an integrated Northern Seas offshore grid.

North South Eastern German Corridor (one of 6 projects)

Two stakeholders suggested that the project is crucial for increasing cross-border capacity from the Nordic market by relieving congestion in northern Germany while contributing to the integration of RES in the German power system. Moreover, it was pointed out that these internal transmission lines have an important impact on the neighbouring power systems by alleviating loop flows and thus reducing the need of expensive curtailment and re-dispatch measures by the TSOs.

However, a number of respondents opposed the project, stating that the project will lead to an increase in electricity prices and hamper development of a decentralised renewable energy generation in Germany.

Interco Iceland-UK

Two participants gave positive feedback to the project, indicating that Ice Link will create the first direct electrical connection between the Icelandic and Great British electricity networks and increase the current GB capacity by 20-30%. Moreover, it was pointed out that Iceland is one of the few countries in the world to generate all its energy from renewable sources, meaning that the interconnection could also contribute to an increased integration of RES into the GB power grid.

Still, several stakeholders voiced their concerns regarding the project's costs and technical challenges and emphasised the need for a thorough CBA.

MAREX (Sea Water Pumped Storage at Glinsk, Mayo and transmission line from Glinsk, Mayo (IE) to Connah's Quay (UK))

One participant welcomed the project and suggested that it would support the integration of volatile, intermittent renewable energy resources, in particular off-shore wind parks and power plants utilisation tidal currents and wave energy. He also added that this project will feature completely new challenges due to the use of seawater as storage medium. Thus, the experience gained with these technologies will further develop this market position and

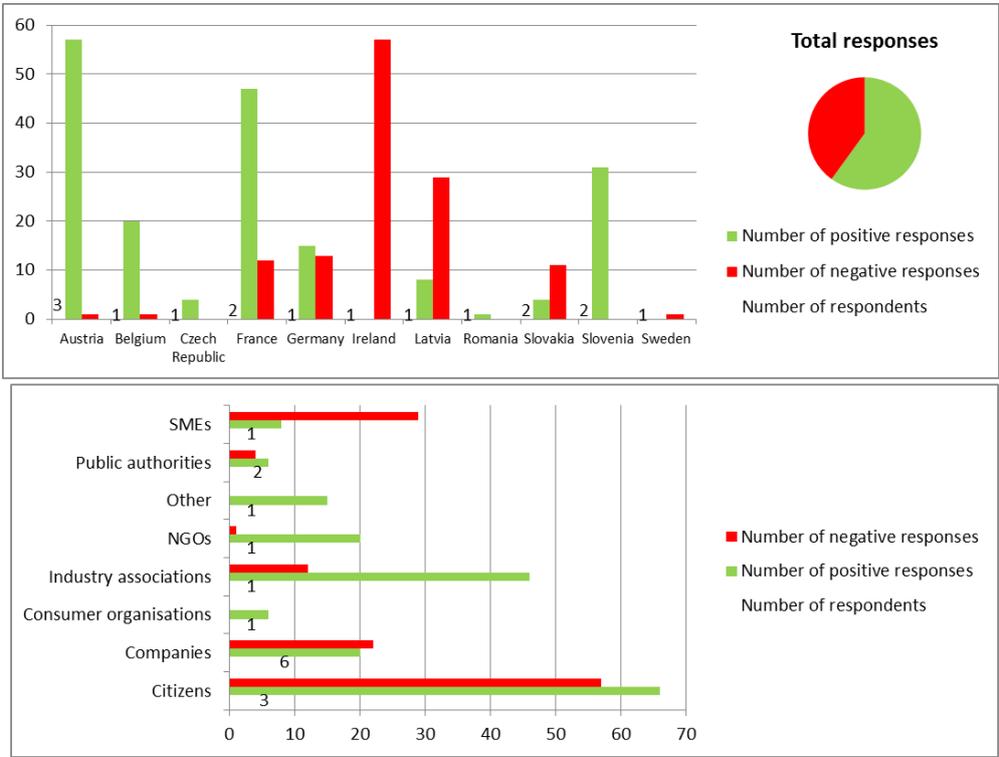
technological leadership, thereby generating a high level of EU content and value added also for export.

Nevertheless, a number of stakeholders emphasised that the project is not connected to the Irish Grid and therefore does not contribute the security and sustainability of provision of electricity in Ireland. Furthermore, respondents opposing the project added that Britain's renewable energy needs are already served by existing and planned wind farms in Scotland, offshore, and a new interconnector between it and Norway.

4.3 Gas corridors

4.3.1 NSI East gas

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the NSI East gas priority corridor



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Overview of main comments to specific projects:

It should be mentioned, as an overall remark regarding this corridor that the analysis done and the graphics displayed above shows that a "no" answer without comments was introduced by a group of Irish citizens, to all the projects to be consulted in relation to this corridor.

Expansion of the virtual storage operated by RWE Gas Storage in the Czech Republic (CZ)

According to one stakeholder, the project will increase maximum withdrawal rate of the storage that will be made available to the market and will strengthen the security of supply in the Czech Republic as well as the adjacent countries, in particular Poland. The stakeholder

also noted that storage extension should enable more flexible deliveries of gas to customers and ensure a higher level of supply flexibility throughout the season.

Depomures (storage in Romania)

One stakeholder pointed out that the project contributes significantly to market integration as the increase in storage capacity could also benefit neighbouring markets, mainly Bulgaria and Greece, which currently have none or limited storage capacities. Moreover, given the additional flexibility of the storage in case the project is implemented, it will contribute to improving seasonal and peak flexibility in Romania and the neighbouring countries.

Interconnection Dolní Bojanovice storage to the Transmission network of NET4GAS and improvement of flexibility

One participant stated that the project will enable better integration of both Czech Republic and Slovakia in case of a reverse flow. Moreover, the interconnection of UGS Dolní Bojanovice to the Czech high pressure transmission pipeline, which is the part of North-South interconnections priority corridor, will also place the storage facility on junction of East-West and North-South transmission corridors and therefore bring the positive externalities in the area of market integration.

Poland-Czech Republic Interconnection

One stakeholder stated that the project will be part of the Czech and Polish transmission systems and will increase cross-border capacity between these two countries by establishing a large transportation corridor that will allow a flexible bidirectional transport of gas in Central Europe in direction North-South. He added that the development the project will also increase security of supply not only in Poland and the Czech Republic, but also in the whole region by enabling the supply link with the European gas market and global LNG market via the terminal in Swinoujscie, Poland.

Interconnection of the Northern ring of the Bulgarian transmission system with Podisor-Horia pipeline and expansion of gas transmission capacity on Hurezani – Horia – Csanadpalota section

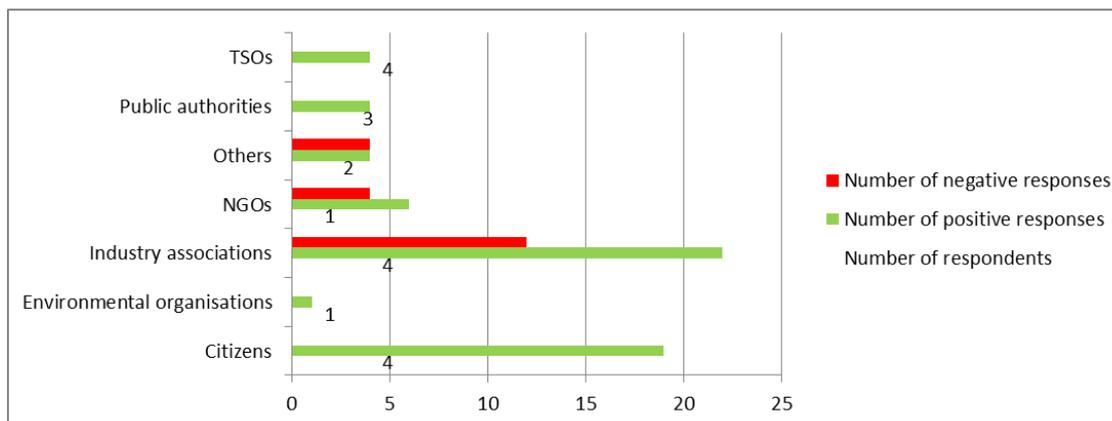
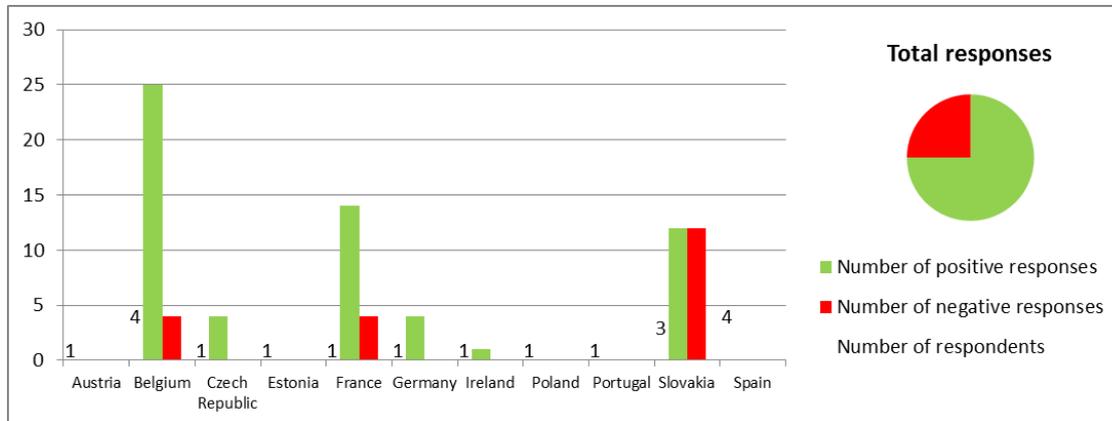
According to one participant, the project could contribute to market integration and to security of supply in the region. However, the stakeholder pointed out that the project should first be subject to a feasible commercial concept and should consider clustering of cross-border gas stream, whereby consideration should be paid to the existing interconnection points between RO and BG in Negru-Voda and the new Interconnection Point in Giurgiu – Ruse.

Gas transmission from South direction (Serbia) towards Austria and Slovakia

One participant pointed out that the project intends to lift the current non-existence of physical gas supply alternative for the Romania, Moldova and Balkan countries, thus replacing the recently cancelled South Stream project. As such, the pipeline would (i) safeguard supply if Russian flows are disrupted and therefore it will increase gas supply security in the broader Central-South-East European region, (ii) allow access to alternative natural gas sources for Central, Western and Souther Europe and also (iii) create a platform

for a competitive and liquid internal gas market, while enabling the entry of new market players.

Overview of the additional project in NSI East gas as a result of the complementary consultation (29 July until 22 October 2015)



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Eastring (SK to BG pipeline - section in Bulgaria)

Part of the comments reflected the fact that the utilisation of existing bidirectional infrastructure, construction of interconnections with their connection to new gas sources with flexible gas deliveries, utilisation of gas storages is a basis how to ensure security of supplies. All investment decisions should be economically driven maximising synergy effects with the utilisation of existing gas infrastructure. The project Eastring meets these conditions connecting the existing gas infrastructure.

Also, it was pointed out that project is fully in compliance with EU legislation, creates a bidirectional conjunction between existing/future Turkish gas infrastructure and continental Europe, represents solution for security of supply by diversification both supply sources and supply routes not only in the most vulnerable region of Europe but to the whole Europe, secures natural gas supply for 100 percent of all Balkan countries' consumption.

Eastring (SK to BG pipeline - section in Romania)

It was underlined that Eastring will create a major European bidirectional conjunction. It will offer a direct route in between the Balkans and the rest of Europe. It will enhance the security of supply as

well as it will bring the opportunity of diversification of natural gas sources. In combination with Easting, a number of already existing projects will improve their flow potential, ensuring that their natural gas will supply many different energy markets within Europe.

Greek part of Tesla (pipeline system from Greece to Austria) project

One stakeholder stated that based on the publicly available information – the project does not fulfil declared criteria, unidirectional in south – north, no alternative gas source indicated, security of supply concern covered only partially not resolving Bulgaria and Romania indicated problems, TPA not confirmed, limited market integration potential due to unidirectional pipeline.

HU-UA Interconnector (Ukrainian section)

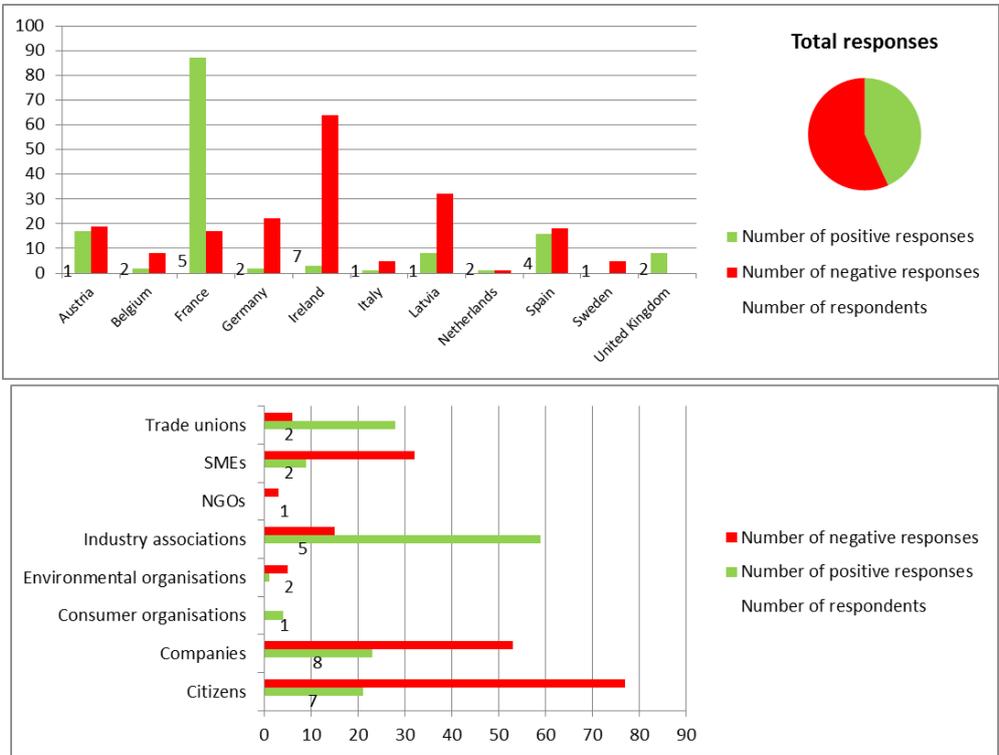
Participants stated that this project is essential to enhance free flow of gas throughout Europe and to improve security of supply, independent of - the future importance of existing Ukrainian transit routes - the realisation of a new Northern or Southern interconnection for Europe.

Poland – Ukraine Gas Interconnection

Positive comment were made substantiating the idea that this project is essential to enhance free flow of gas throughout Europe and to improve security of supply, independent of - the future importance of existing Ukrainian transit routes - the realisation of a new Northern or Southern interconnection for Europe. In view of the security of this region, the increased possibility of supply for Ukraine with gas from Europe is very important, politically and economically.

4.3.2 NSI West gas

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the NSI West gas priority corridor



**N.B! The graphics shown above reflect the overall output including the answers without comments and thus the picture of the results is only partially reinforced through justified answers.*

Overview of main comments to specific projects:

Porto Empedocle LNG in Italy

One stakeholder indicated that the LNG terminal would have a significant positive impact in both EU security gas supply and competition enhancement. The participant highlighted that the terminal would make an ideal gate for the prospective LNG supplies from the Southern regions (e.g. the Leviathan basin) and US. In addition, the regasification terminals and tanks can serve as immediately available storage and enhance resilience of the European gas system. The stakeholder also pointed out that the project could also make more gas available to North-West Europe once the reverse-flow upgrade on the Italian borders is completed.

It was further emphasised that the existing Italian LNG terminals suffer from structural inefficiencies such as the Panigaglia terminal which can receive only small-size vessels or Livorno OLT and Rovigo which are situated offshore and thus remain highly dependent on weather and sea conditions, in particular during winter time.

Eridan (development of natural gas transmission capacity between Saint-Martin-de-Crau and Saint-Avit)

One stakeholder suggested that the MidCat project should be first assessed as a project on its own before considering its grouping with other projects. The stakeholder added that it is not appropriate to assume that Eridan is a prerequisite for MidCat.

Iberian-French corridor: Eastern Axis - Midcat Project Est Lyonnais pipeline

Iberian-French corridor: Eastern Axis-Midcat Project (CS Montpellier and CS Saint Martin de Crau)

According to two stakeholders, the Midcat Project is key for overcoming isolation of the Iberian Peninsula and will allow consumers on both sides of the interconnection to benefit from a more competitive gas prices.

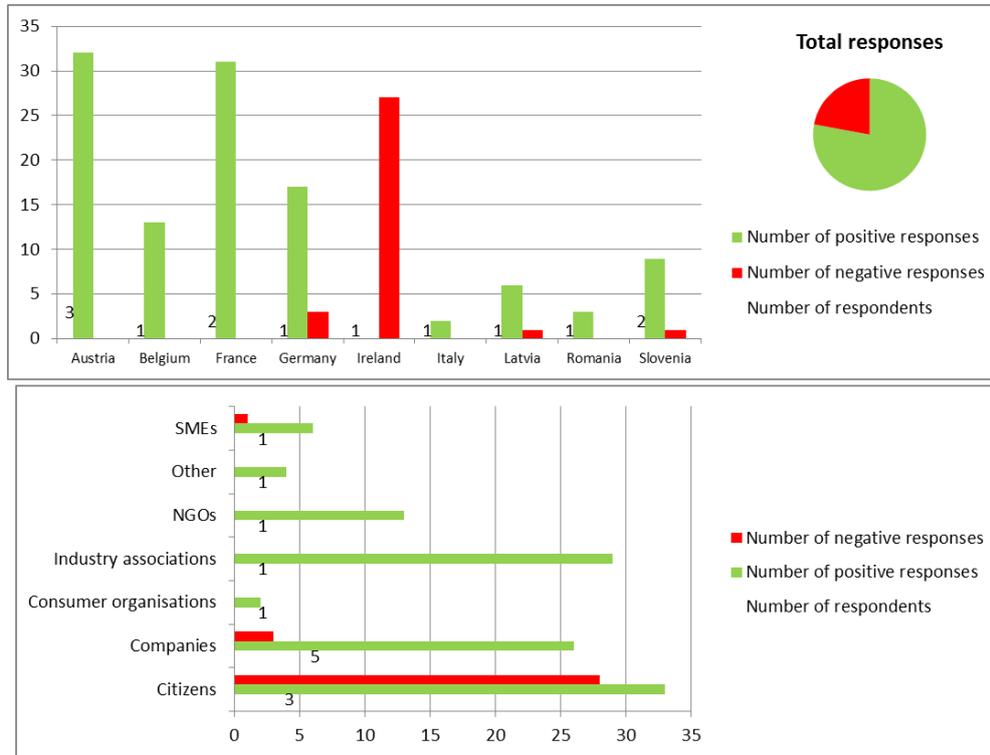
However, several participants argued that there is little rationale for the project as the existing infrastructure has always been utilised from France to Spain, and since in last upgrade in April 2013, it has never been congested. In addition, one stakeholder pointed out that the open season in 2010 showed a lack of market interest in this infrastructure and added that the Spanish LNG terminals are situated too far away from the areas of high consumption in North West Europe.

Interconnection ES-PT (3rd IP)

Several stakeholders suggested that there is currently sufficient gas transmission capacity between Portugal and Spain and that gas demand in Portugal is not significant enough to justify a third interconnection. In addition, the stakeholders indicated that the interconnection and the other necessary reinforcement of the transmission system would lead to higher prices for consumer in both countries.

4.3.3 Southern Gas Corridor

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the Southern Gas priority corridor



*N.B! The graphics shown above reflect the overall output including the answers without comments and thus the picture of the results is only partially reinforced through justified answers.

It should be mentioned, as an overall remark regarding this corridor that the analysis done and the graphics displayed above shows that a "no" answer without comments was introduced by a group of Irish citizens, to all the projects to be consulted in relation to this corridor.

Overview of main comments to specific projects:

Trans Adriatic Pipeline
TANAP - Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project
Expansion of the South Caucasus Pipeline
Trans-Caspian

A number of stakeholders highlighted importance of these projects for the development of the Southern Gas Corridor and accessing supplies in the Caspian region. The stakeholders stated that the projects will improve Europe's security of supply, competition and market liquidity and deliver benefits for consumers.

Development on the Romanian territory of the National Gas Transmission System on the Bulgaria – Romania – Hungary – Austria Corridor
GCA Mosonmagyaróvár

Two participants commented that the project can provide necessary integration of transmission systems in the region. One stakeholder pointed out that the project will also strengthen Baumgarten both as infrastructure as well as commodity trading hub.

Development on the Romanian territory of the Southern Transmission Corridor for taking over the Black Sea gas

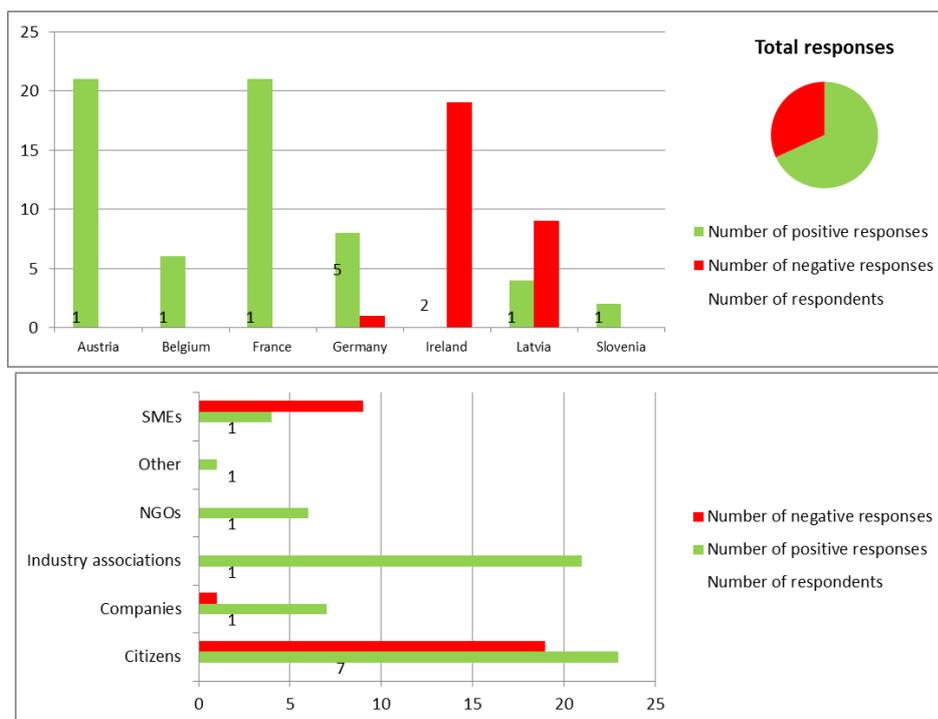
According to one stakeholder, this project would significantly contribute to market security of supply and competition in case of successful future commercial development of the potential gas resources in the Black Sea.

Interconnection of the national transmission system with the international gas transmission pipelines and reverse flow at Isaccea

One stakeholder indicated that connection of the Romanian national transmission system with the international transit pipelines is considered a necessary step to enable third party access to these transit pipelines. The stakeholder added that the planned completion of the project by 2018 is seen critical and actions which would allow earlier physical access to the international transit pipeline should be therefore considered.

4.3.4 BEMIP Gas

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the BEMIP gas priority corridor



**N.B! The graphics shown above reflect the overall output including the answers without comments and thus the picture of the results is only partially reinforced through justified answers.*

It should be mentioned, as an overall remark regarding this corridor that the analysis done and the graphics displayed above shows that a "no" answer without comments was introduced by a group of Irish citizens, to all the projects to be consulted in relation to this corridor.

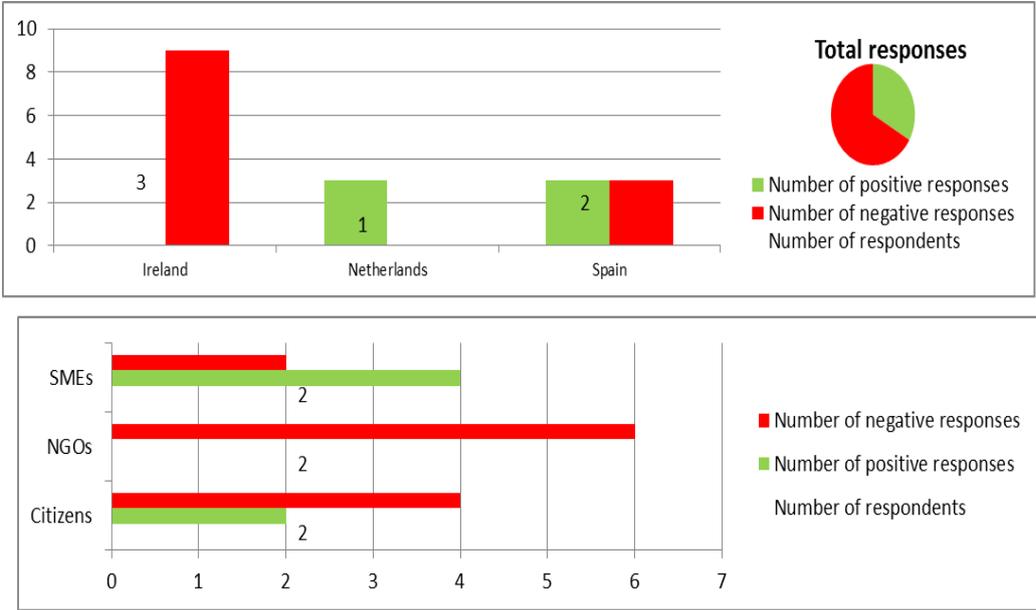
LNG terminal in Świnoujście, Poland

Klaipeda LNG terminal in Lithuania

Several citizens mentioned in their comments that the 2 projects are important in diversifying the sources of gas and in increasing the energy security of the whole Baltic region.

4.4 Smart Grids (separate public consultation conducted between 5 March 2015 and 15 April 2015)

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the Smart Grids priority corridor



**N.B! The graphics shown above reflect the overall output including the answers without comments and thus the picture of the results is only partially reinforced through justified answers.*

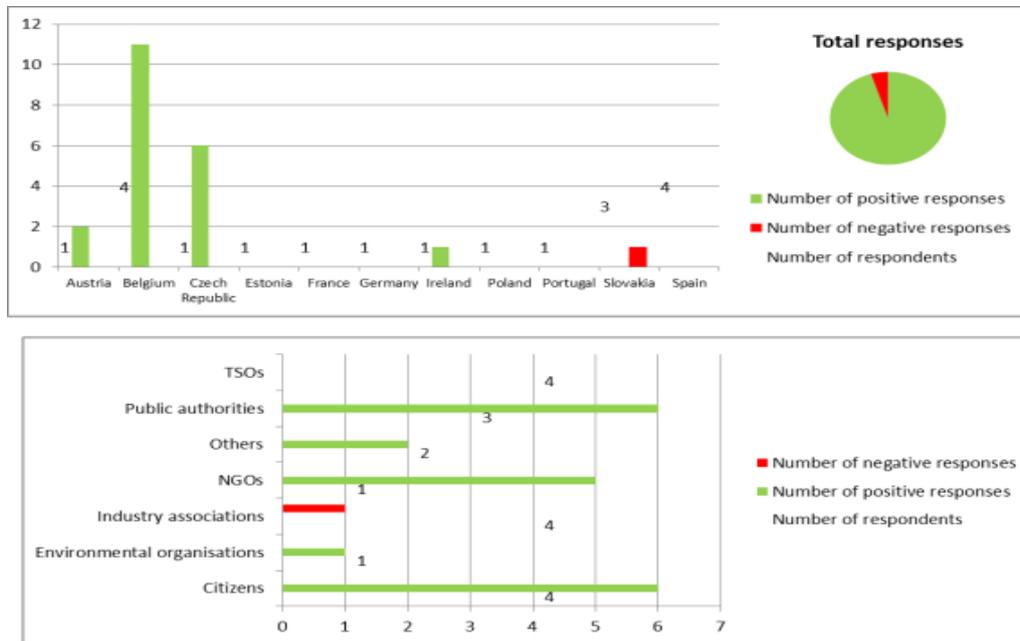
Overview of main comments to specific projects:

There was a majority of negative feedback without specific comments brought to this corridor mostly coming from Irish and Spanish citizens. The few comments that were made by some stakeholders mentioned that the projects are neither technically sound, nor beneficial and are not being assessed under the law.

The main positive comments reflect the idea that the innovation will lead to a better understanding for consumers regarding the character of the sources and will therefore also lead to a better understanding of the energy consumption.

4.5 OIL (complementary public consultation conducted between 29 July until 22 October 2015)

Overview of responses and types of stakeholders in the Oil priority corridor



*N.B! The graphics shown above reflect the overall output including the answers without comments and thus the picture of the results is only partially reinforced through justified answers.

Overview of main comments to specific projects:

Bratislava-Schwechat-Pipeline: pipeline linking Schwechat (Austria) and Bratislava (Slovak Republic)

Comments brought by different participants concluded that the construction of the BSP is of pivotal strategic importance as it closes the gap in the Trans-European pipeline network, in particular by closing the existing 80 km gap between the Western Oil Pipeline Network and the Southern Druzhba. BSP would result in higher transit of oil and considerably strengthening the EU-pipeline network. It will be of strategic importance for AT as it will enable the delivery of crude oil from RUS and will therefore considerably reduce ATs dependency on AWP and TAL.

Expansion of the Pomeranian Pipeline, including construction of oil terminal in Gdansk

A comment referred to the fact that the project has strategic importance for the region and is complementary to the oil pipelines network and especially to the Litvinov-Spergau Pipeline.

TAL plus Pipeline

A participant emphasised the fact that TAL Plus can effectively contribute to further diversification and flexibility of crude oil supply to European refineries.