Stakeholders Contribute to the Socio-Political Acceptance of Low-Carbon Scenarios

The ENCI-LowCarb project set out to develop scenarios for transition to low-carbon societies for Germany and France. To develop energy-economy scenarios reflecting feasibility on a socio-political level, the project team organized stakeholder dialogue meetings for the scenario design process.

Stakeholder dialogue meetings were held in two rounds. In Germany, during the first round, two sectoral meetings included 12 to 15 stakeholders from the transport sector and the electricity sector. The second round included again sectoral meetings for the two sectors. In France, the first round of stakeholder dialogue meetings consisted of three sectoral meetings on the transport, the electricity and the residential sector with 15 stakeholders in each meeting. The second round consisted of a joint meeting with cross-sectoral feedback discussions on the scenario resulting from the policy measures included in the model.

Two steps preceded the involvement of the stakeholders:

**Step 1 - Securing the Foundation of the Model**

Experts’ meetings

In sectoral experts’ meetings, the scientists clarified with experts that the assumptions of the model were technically and economically realistic.

**Step 2 – Selection of the stakeholders**

To identify stakeholders for the sectoral meetings, a “Power versus Interest Grid” was used. From a list of stakeholders, those placed highest along the interest-axis were selected. The stakeholders that were selected included trade unions, energy companies, NGOs, consumer organisations, industries and banks.
In this process, NGO-partners in a project team can play a key role as they often are well embedded within the civil society.

The maximum number of participants in the stakeholders’ meetings was set to 15 for each sector to ensure in-depth discussions.

**Stakeholder Dialogue Meetings**

**In the first round** of the dialogue meetings, the ENCI-LowCarb Project was presented first, including the project’s methodology. Then the main questions and challenges for the sector in question were introduced, followed by detailed presentations and discussions of the selected sub-themes. At the end, the stakeholders filled out prepared questionnaires to share their vision on acceptable or realistic policy measures and technology choices.

The information collected at the meetings was then translated into the model’s relevant parameters.

**In the second round** of the stakeholders’ dialogues, the revised scenarios were presented first, including a description of how the feedback from the first round had been included in the new scenarios. Next the new scenarios were examined closely. Their feasibility, as well as their possible social and political effects, were discussed. In addition, this time the methodology of the project was discussed with the stakeholders.

Once again, the results of the stakeholder’s dialogue meetings were integrated into the model. In this way the dialogues contributed to construct the scenarios around more realistic and socio-political acceptable elements. They also provided knowledge on the strength of support and opposition that a given scenario can expect in the consulted sectors.

**Meeting with the Stakeholders**

**More information:**
The final reports and articles from the German and French scenario development processes are available on the website: www.enci-lowcarb.eu.

The materials of the ENCI-LowCarb Project are available on the Network’s website www.lowcarbon-societies.eu.

The established “Low Carbon Societies Network” will continue its work. Researchers and CSOs with interest in low-carbon scenarios are welcome to join the Network. At the Network’s website, you can find relevant contacts and links as well as a collection of low-carbon scenarios.

**ENCI-LowCarb project partners**


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