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# Stakeholder engagement – benefits, challenges, best practice



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## What are the expected and actual benefits of stakeholder involvement?

- Expected benefits:
  1. Getting a better understanding of the current status and future possibilities or plans of different sectors
  2. Getting a better understanding of how much can be expected from innovative technologies
  3. Receiving suggestions for national targets, policies and measures
  4. Avoiding debates at the stage of adoption
- Actual benefits:
  - In practice, there was progress towards benefits No. 1, 2, and 3 and we will see about No. 4
  - However when assessing an input, it is not always easy to distinguish lobbying from facts
  - Sometimes stakeholders prefer to gain information instead of providing it



## Challenges encountered? Capacity problems, etc.

- The process of the preparation of the NECP is definitely struggling with capacity problems – partly due to the fact that the governance regulation was negotiated in parallel with writing the NECP
- Lack of time between the adoption of the political provisions and the final legal texts and the submission of the drafts
- How to identify and contact all interested stakeholders if the topic of the NECP is so broad?
- Slow and evasive responses, especially within the government sector
- Reorganization of the Ministry after national election in April



## Best practice examples – what has worked? Lessons learnt?

- What was done until now regarding NECP?
  - Workshop concerning innovation in energy
  - A meeting with more than 10 NGOs dealing with environmental issues
  - Written consultation on policies and measures
  - As the NECP is being established on the new National Climate Change Strategy (under adoption by the Parliament) and the update of the National Energy Strategy (being drafted now), we could use the results of the previous consultations on these strategies, including sectoral working groups
- Lessons learned: written consultations work surprisingly effective as many responses were received, although there is a place for personal workshops at least in a kick-off stage



## **Distinction between involvement during planning and in implementation?**

- The nature of the two is quite different as during the planning it is primarily the responsibility of the government to search for opportunities to consult while during the implementation, consultation usually takes place when some stakeholders are not satisfied with the progress
- During the planning, early involvement is more beneficial to both sides



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# Thank you for your attention

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