

Questionnaire to NRAs on Gas Regional Investment Plans (GRIPs)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Background

Article 12 of Regulation (EC) 715/2009 related to “Regional cooperation of transmission system operators” establishes that transmission system operators (TSOs) shall establish regional cooperation within the ENTSO for Gas to contribute to the tasks referred to in Article 8(1), (2) and (3) of the same Regulation and publish a Gas Regional Investment Plan (GRIP) every two years. Based on the GRIPs, TSOs may take investment decisions. It also stipulates that TSOs shall promote operational arrangements in order to ensure the optimum management of the network.

Pursuant to Article 6(9) of Regulation (EC) 713/2009, the Agency shall monitor the regional cooperation of TSOs, and take due account of the outcome of such cooperation when formulating its opinions, recommendations and decisions.

Pursuant to Article 7 of Directive 2009/73/EC, the regulatory authorities where Member States have so provided or Member States shall promote and facilitate the cooperation of TSOs at a regional level, including on cross-border issues with the aim of creating a competitive internal market in natural gas, foster the consistency of their legal, regulatory and technical framework and facilitate integration of the isolated systems forming gas islands that persist in the Community. The Agency shall cooperate with NRAs and TSOs to ensure the compatibility of regulatory frameworks between the regions with the aim of creating a competitive internal market in natural gas. Where the Agency considers that binding rules on such cooperation are required, it shall make appropriate recommendations.

6 Regions have been defined: North-West, South, CEE, BEMIP, Southern Corridor, South-North Corridor:

- **North-West:** 9 countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom
- **South:** 3 countries: Spain, Portugal and France.
- **Central Eastern Europe (CEE):** 10 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia
- **Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP):** 7 countries: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark and Sweden
- **Southern Corridor:** 9 Countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia
- **South-North Corridor:** 6 countries: Italy, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

GRIPs are developed following a de-centralised approach, based on regional TSO co-operation, covering in detail topics of regional importance, but also relying (partly) on TYNDP 2017 data and modelling. While National Development Plans (NDPs) are focused on the national systems, GRIPs should focus on the coordination of plans across systems to allow for example a better alignment of capacities at Interconnection Points (IPs).

First and second editions of the GRIPs were published in 2011-2012 and in 2014, respectively. During 2017, the third editions of the GRIPs were published on ENTSOG's website.

Useful links:

[GRIPs](#)

[EU-TYNDP 2017](#)

Objective and Approach

The questionnaire is intended to collect NRAs' input on:

- Experiences, awareness and impressions on the role of GRIPs;
- Perceived level of regional TSO cooperation in GRIPs;
- Level of NRA/other authority's involvement in the development and supervision of GRIPs;
- Role of GRIPs in network development – vis-a-vis NDPs and EU-TYNDP; and
- Recommendations for future GRIPs

NRA input will allow for the identification of positive elements in current GRIPs as well as areas for improvement. Findings may be used in future Opinions and Recommendations of the Agency.

Possible next steps could be discussed once the NRAs' input is received, analysed and presented in the GITF.

Respondent's Contact Information

* Reporting NRA's Member State

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

* Indicate full name of the NRA

* Name and surname of the contact person in your NRA

* Email address of contact person

Telephone number of contact person

Survey on GRIPs

* (1) In which GRIP(s) is your Member State involved?

- North-West
- South
- Central Eastern Europe
- BEMIP
- Southern Corridor
- South-North Corridor
- Not part of any GRIP

* (2) Does your NRA review “ex-post” GRIPs (once they have been published)?

- Yes, in detail
- Yes, superficially
- No, due to lack of time
- No, NRA is not required to do so
- No, but NRA plans to review it in the future

Provide a brief explanation in case your NRA monitors several GRIPs and the level of ex-post review is not the same

300 character(s) maximum

* (3) Does your NRA review “ex-ante” draft GRIPs (before they are published)?

- Yes, in detail
- Yes, superficially
- No, due to lack of time
- No, NRA is not required to do so
- No, but NRA plans to review it in the future

Provide a brief explanation in case your NRA monitors several GRIPs and the level of ex-ante review is not the same

300 character(s) maximum

* (4) How does your NRA assess the level of regional TSO cooperation in GRIP developments?

- Excellent
- Good
- Acceptable
- In need of significant improvements
- Not able to assess
- Not applicable (not part of any GRIP)

Please provide a brief explanation on the level of TSO cooperation, especially if your NRA monitors several GRIPs

400 character(s) maximum

* (5) Is your NRA or other public authorities involved in the development of GRIPs?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

If yes, in which way?

- NRA is consulted on a draft GRIP, but is not required to approve it
- NRA approves the GRIP
- NRA is invited to GRIP events (meetings, presentations)
- Others

Please provide a brief explanation, in particular if Others is chosen

350 character(s) maximum

* (6) Do GRIPs play a role in gas national network development plans (NDPs) in your country?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

If yes, in which way?

- GRIPs are referred to and taken into account in national legislation governing NDPs
- Proposals from GRIPs joint regional analysis of network developments directly feed into NDPs
- GRIPs are relevant for reinforcement of Interconnection Points (IPs) or the alignment of cross-border capacities on both sides of IPs
- Others

Please provide a brief explanation

350 character(s) maximum

In particular if "Others" is chosen or if GRIPs do not play a role, for example because GRIPs are seen as duplicates of NDPs

* (7) Besides for developing NDPs, does your NRA use GRIPs as a reference for other tasks?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Which elements of the GRIPs and for which tasks?

350 character(s) maximum

Why not?

300 character(s) maximum

(8) In comparison to **NDPs**, what is the added value you see in the 2017 edition of the GRIPs?

- GRIPs feed ideas into NDPs and facilitate technical TSO cooperation on cross-border issues
- GRIPs do not bring any added value and do not complement NDPs
- Others
- Not able to assess

Please provide a brief explanation, in particular if "Others" is chosen

500 character(s) maximum

(9) In comparison to **EU-TYNDP**, what is the added value you see in the 2017 edition of the GRIPs?

- GRIPs facilitate technical TSO discussion and cooperation on cross-border issues
- GRIPs do not bring any added value and do not complement EU-TYNDP
- Others
- Not able to assess

Please provide a brief explanation, in particular if "Others" is chosen

400 character(s) maximum

* (10) Which aspects developed in the 2017 edition of the GRIPs are relevant to your NRA and not covered in detail in the EU-TYNDP?

- Country/region specific market analysis assessments (hub development, traded volumes, hub price correlation, etc.)
- Analysis of aggregated x-border interconnection capacities per MS border
- Analysis of utilisation of x-border interconnection points/capacities and of pipe and LNG entry points in the previous years
- Country specific remarks on long-term policy visions and government plans
- Case studies: projects of specific relevance in the region
- Gas quality and calorific value (L/H gas) problematic
- In depth analysis of infrastructure resilience
- Off-grid market developments (e.g. LNG fuelling stations, bio-gas)
- Narrative detailed description of key investments and its rationale
- Updates on regional initiatives other than infrastructure
- Others
- No aspects
- Not able to assess
- Not applicable (no GRIPs to monitor)

Please provide a brief explanation, in particular if "Others" is chosen

400 character(s) maximum

(11) Do you regard it as positive that GRIPs build (partially) on TYNDP 2017 data, projects and modelling?

- Yes, it streamlines and simplifies the data collection process
- Yes, for other reasons
- No, because the TYNDP does not include physical (hydraulic) network modelling
- No, for other reasons
- Not able to assess

Please provide a brief explanation

400 character(s) maximum

* (12) Do you believe that the current level of infrastructure planning (EU-wide in TYNDP; regional in GRIPs; national in NDP) is adequate?

- Yes
- Yes, but it could be streamlined
- No, the regional dimension is to a large extent a duplicate of the TYNDP and should focus on specific complementary aspects
- No, for other reasons
- Not able to assess

Please provide a brief explanation

400 character(s) maximum

(13) When do you think GRIPs should be prepared?

- In the same year/period as the TYNDP
- In the year when the TYNDP is not published
- No need to prepare GRIPs because they do not offer added value
- Not able to assess

Please provide a brief explanation

400 character(s) maximum

E.g. why you suggest a specific time for the preparation of GRIPs (ensure consistency with TYNDP, complementarity with TYNDP, others)

* (14) Do you consider TSOs' consultation with stakeholders on GRIPs to be properly arranged?

- Yes, consultation with stakeholders takes place and is adequately advertised
- No, it could be improved
- Not able to assess
- Not applicable (no GRIPs to monitor)

Please provide comments on TSO consultation process and proposals for improvements (if any)

500 character(s) maximum

(15) Would you suggest ACER to issue a stand-alone Opinion on the GRIPs 2017?

- Yes, because other projects than TYNDP/PCI may be listed in the GRIPs and may deserve regulatory scrutiny
- Yes, because some regional-specific analyses deserve assessment and may be a good (or bad) practice for the entire Europe and the TYNDP
- Yes, for other reasons (please explain)
- No, for priority-related reasons
- No, for resource-related reasons
- No, for other reasons (please explain)

Please provide a brief explanation

400 character(s) maximum

* (16) Should GRIPs play a more prominent role for the coordination of cross border investments?

- Yes
- No
- Not able to assess

Please provide a brief explanation

400 character(s) maximum

(17) Please provide recommendations for improving future editions of GRIPs and any other comments you may have on GRIPs

800 character(s) maximum

* I have read the Privacy Statement

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