

# Public participation for facilitating the German energy transition

## Potentials and limits of discursive approaches

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# German Energy Transition

- ✓ Energy security
- ✓ Nuclear phase-out
- ✓ Competitiveness
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Power grid extension
- ✓ Economic growth

# Governance Challenges

- Efficient and effective risk management, avoiding post-decisional regret
- Inclusion of citizens and stakeholders (“affected parties”) in decision making processes
- Implementation of public and stakeholder participation which is compatible with the legal framework

# Social Acceptance

## Key Criteria

- Insight in beneficial change
  - Why do we need change?
- Perceived individual and/or collective utility
  - What is in it for me/us?
- Self-efficacy
  - Does this limit my options?
- Identity
  - Am I personally engaged?

# Public Engagement Panacea for Social Acceptance?



# Lessons Learnt

- Paradox of Participation
  - Planning
  - Analysis
  - Decision-making
- New Culture of Protest
  - Green versus Green
  - Demographic Change
- Social Learning
  - New forms of participation

# Public Engagement Criteria for Success

- Quality control
  - Ensuring competence
  - Inclusion of epistemic and local knowledge
- Transparency
- Compatibility
  - governance processes
  - legal framework
  - political agenda
- Independence

# Thank you!

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