

○ Public participation, insight from France

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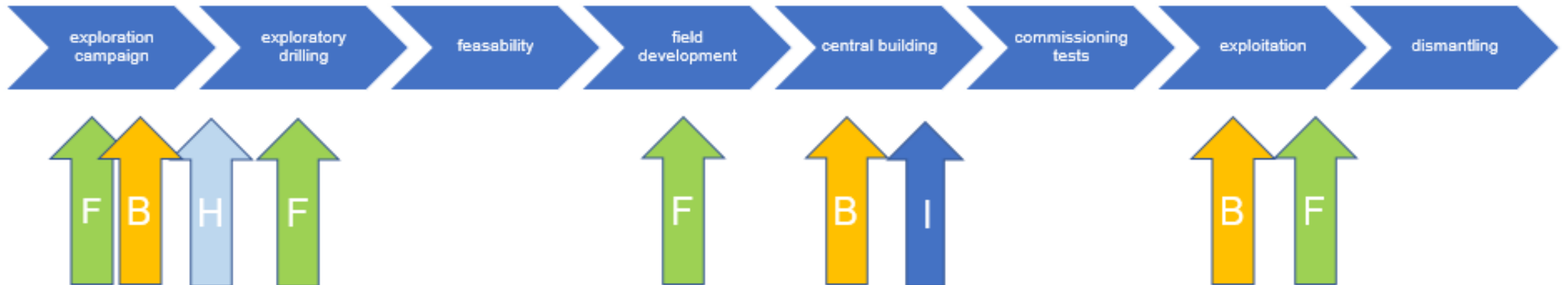
All WP4 partners

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○ FOCUS on the public inquiry/development consent

- Shared minimum legal requirement < Directive 2003/35/EC on public participation/national law
- Different implementations in the countries (based on the contribution of the consortium project developers)



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○ Common issues

- Not necessarily reflect the public opinion on a project
- ≠ public engagement, = legal requirement
- “Their function [of the public inquiries] seems to be more to satisfy legal requirements [...] than to encourage public participation” (Blatrix 1996, quoted by Chavot & al. 2019)

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○ Focus on the French case

French public inquiry

- Organized by the Préfecture (deconcentrated state)
- With an independent investigating commissioner (IC) appointed by court
- Participatory phase: public is invited to consult information on the project and gives its opinion
- Report of the IC sent to the promoter who provides answers
- Consultative conclusions of the IC

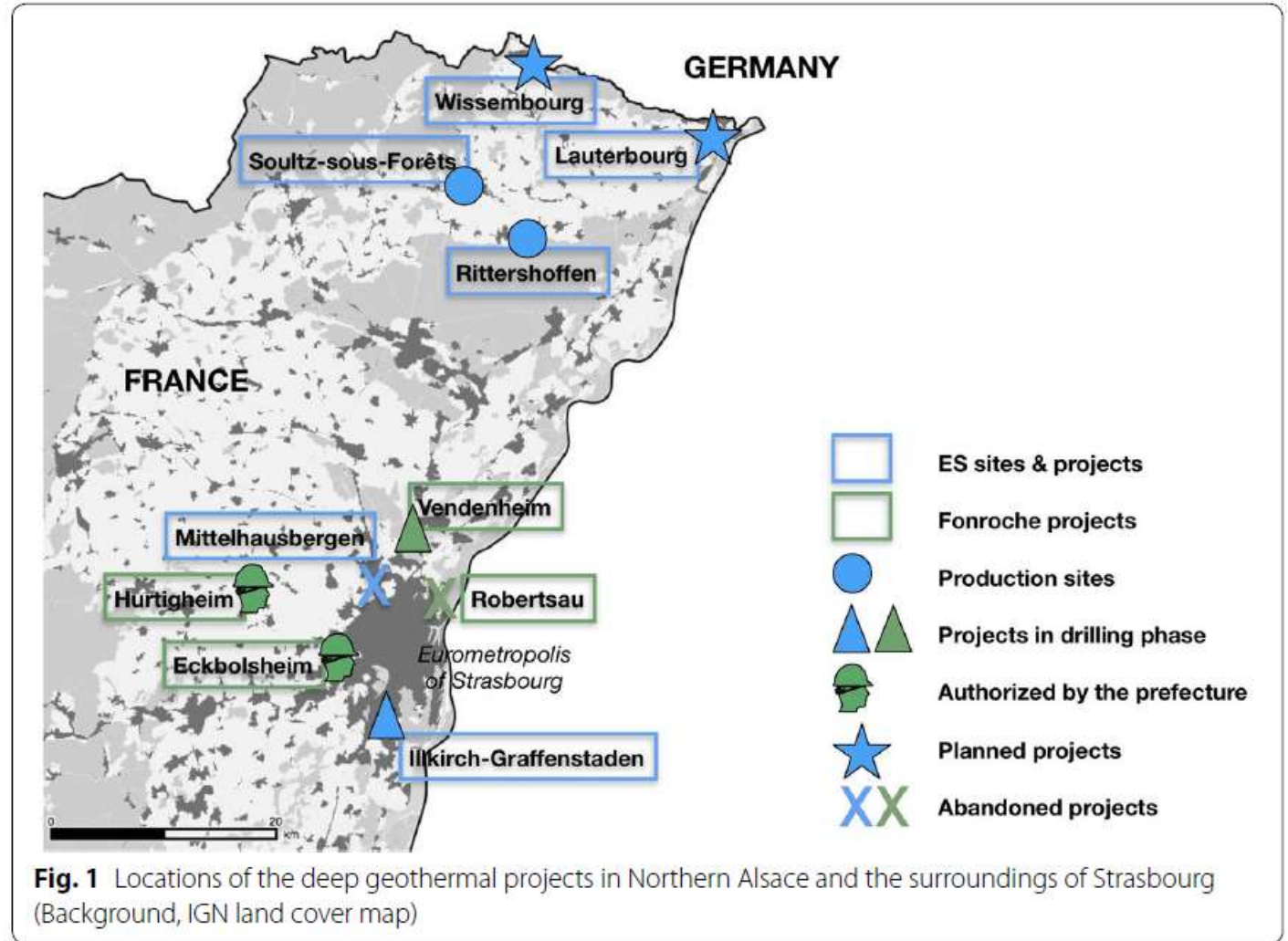


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○ Alsace exemple

(< Philippe Chavot & team works)

- Different situation for the conventional Deep Geothermal Energy
- “[...] the apparent misunderstanding between citizens who feel poorly informed - even misinformed - and project promoters who think they appropriately communicated”



Philippe Chavot, Christine Heimlich, Anne Masseran, Yeny Serrano, Jean Zoungrana, et al.. Social shaping of deep geothermal projects in Alsace: politics, stakeholder attitudes and local democracy. *Geothermal Energy*, 2018, 6 (26)

○ Alsace example

Different reactions:

- Importance of the social and cultural dimension of the territory
- Importance of the relationship between the promoter and the local governance

Development of a citizen expertize

Table 3 Participation in public inquiries held in Alsace in 2015/2016

Sites, operators, dates of public inquiries	Total	Negative/positive opinions	Investigating commissioners conclusions
Illkirch-Graffenstaden (ES) April–May 2015	19	12/7	Positive with reservations
Mittelhausbergen (ES) April–May 2015	138	134/4	Negative
La Robertsau (Fonroche) April–May 2015	135 (Fr) [+ 756 Ger]	130/5	Negative
Eckbolsheim (Fonroche) April–May 2015	86	130/5	Negative
Vendenheim (Fonroche) Sept–Oct 2015	40	34/6	Positive
Hurtigheim (Fonroche) Oct–Nov 2016	10	–	Positive

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○ recommendations

1. Deepen the process: aiming at a good quality dialogue
 - Beyond legal minimum requirements
 - Open, informed, two-way communication about all aspects of a geothermal project
2. Expand the perimeter
 - Geographically: neighboring cities
 - Governance: local authorities, associations representing the general public
3. Adapt the timing
 - Pro-active and early and continuous communication
4. Adapt the process to the territory
 - Tailored communication, information, and participation processes

Thank you for your attention

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