

NGI101x - 2.5D - Actor analysis step 3

We are now going to look at formal relations in the network.

The first thing we try to find out is what formal Rules and regulations apply to windmills at sea. Checking the internet will reveal there are at least three European Guidelines with respect to construction at sea:

- The Birds and Habitat Guideline,
- the Framework Directive Marine Strategy and
- Natura2000.

In the Netherlands there are at least five laws to consider:

- Law on Nature protection
- Electricity Law
- Law on Town and Country planning
- Water Law
- Law on control of state public works

So that's a lot. We're now going to construct a map.

When constructing the map on formal relations we start with the statutory framework. Our problem owner, Economic Affairs, is responsible for the Dutch energy policy; and- through one of its agencies - administers the subsidies for sustainable energy.

Infrastructure and Environment is responsible for planning at sea and the choice of locations, they have a Directorate North Sea responsible for this subject

When looking into more detail and checking out policy documents we soon find additional agencies and departments within the Ministries managing other subsidies and implementing European laws and regulations. For instance relating to the EU Energy Law and the Guidance for Birds and Habitat protection.

But, for now, we think we know enough and we try to map the formal relations and responsibilities. And We put these two Ministries on the top of our map and by putting them in a box jointly we show that they belong to one organization.

Next, the offshore wind consortia. They are dependent on Economic Affairs for their subsidies; and on Infrastructure and Environment for the location permit and the Nature 2000 permit. Private investors and Environmental organizations like Greenpeace are participating in these offshore wind consortia.

And the energy companies respond to Economic Affairs on behalf of the Energy law and they need permits from the Planning Ministry for their installations on-shore

According to the Electricity law, Economic Affairs is supervising and Tennet the net coordinator. The Energy companies have intensive relations with TenneT and the offshore consortium.

Oh, and it might be nice to put in the current users of the North Sea the fisherman and nature protection organization, the shipping agents and others who are lobbying the Ministries to protect their interests.

We have now taken the first three steps in our actor analysis. We started by taking the problem formulation of our problem owner as point of departure.

We then made a long list of all actors having influence on the problem or its potential solutions and those actors holding an interest. We have many methods for doing this; we saw how we can use a causal or systems model for finding actors, but also social science methods like position, reputation or demographic characteristics came along.

As sometimes your list is too long to reasonably work with, you may need to reduce its length and make a shortlist of the most relevant parties. A smart way to do this is by using a so-called stakeholder analysis technique: by making a power/interest grid.

Then as a third step we mapped the formal relations to see what hierarchical and legislative rules apply in our case.