

Regional Dialogue Forum (RDF)

Case Study: Enlargement of Frankfurt Airport

Country: Germany

Due date: February 18th, 2013

Background Information:

Plans for the enlargement of the airport in Frankfurt have given rise to a great deal of public protest. Regional stakeholders were therefore involved in a so called "Regional Dialogue Forum" to confirm the measures for protecting the public that were identified in an earlier „Mediation Process“ and to supervise their implementation in the licensing procedure. The work resulted in a number of recommendations, some of them enshrined in a memorandum that was signed by most of the parties involved.

Phase of decision making process

Enlargement of the airport Frankfurt licensed in Dec. 2007,
Start of construction in Jan. 2009

Formal framework of decision making process

Required regional planning procedure (Raumordnungsverfahren), in 2002, and a license base on the "plan approval procedure", Sept 2003 - Dec 2007). Since 1998 involvement of public besides the formal process: from 1998 - 2000 "Mediation Process", from 2000 till 2008 "Regional Dialogue Form" (RDF), since 2008 Forum Airport and Region (Forum Flughafen und Region) (FFR)

Objectives of the process

The objectives of the process were:

- Early involvement and consideration of public concerns,
- to gain acceptance,
- to avoid conflicts.

Which tool was used?

In this case the results of the participation were partly enshrined in agreements signed by all members. Within the Regional Dialogue Forum, working groups consisting of delegates of the involved stakeholders were established in which in depth discussion of specific topics took place. These groups fed their results into the General Assembly, which was responsible for preparing final recommendations.

Status: completed

Objectives and outcomes of stakeholder engagement

Objectives of the stakeholder involvement in general were:

- To discuss the development of Frankfurt Airport and the effects for the region Rhein/Main (environment, job situation, traffic increase, noise pollution);
- To continue the work of the Mediation Process on those topics which have not been finalised; Consideration of public concerns;
- To create win-win situations;
- RDF recommendations especially suggestion of measures to reduce the noise pollution so called “Anti-Lärm-Pakt” and demand of prohibition of flights at night;
- To develop long term perspectives for the region;
- To accompany the implementation of outcomes of the earlier Mediation Process in the formal decision making process; License limits the number of flights at night;

The objectives of the Regional Dialogue Forum (RDF) were:

- To discuss the development of Frankfurt Airport and the effects for the region Rhein/Main (environment, job situation, traffic increase, noise pollution);
- To continue the work of the Mediation Process on those topics which have not been finalised;
- Consideration of public concerns;

Outcomes are:

- A common statement of operator (Fraport AG), representatives of industry, the chairman of RDF and the parliament of Hesse to implement the proposed measures for noise reduction (“Anti-Lärm-Pakt”),
- the license limits the number of flights at night;
- Minutes of meetings published on website.

In general

- results: some hints for trust building e.g. comparatively few objections were made in the formal process,
- public showed relatively high trust in RDF in relation to noise reduction measures, but signature of common statement accompanied by a lot of protest from public and some citizen initiatives.

Involved Stakeholders

Selection partly based on former Mediation Process, balance between those who are for and against the enlargement of the airport.

Implementer of the participation process details

Proposed by Mediation Process, established by parliament (“Landtag”) and Cabinet of Hesse, funded one half each by Fraport AG and the State Hesse, administrated by State Chancellery.

Financing

For the financing of the Regional Dialogue Forum (RDF) the Government of Hesse created a fund which is fed by budget resources from the Government of Hesse (50%) and on a voluntary basis by members of the RDF especially the FRAPORT AG (50%). Each year a budget of 2.5 Mio. EUR was provided. The fund was controlled by the State Cancellary and managed by the office of the RDF.

Points to consider

Two environmental groups laid down their mandates to show their protest against the agreement. Stakeholders not willing to renounce the right to file a lawsuit in the formal process, RDF can commission experts for special topics, decision who will be commissioned has to be done in full agreement. External experts give scientific support.text

Further tools used in this case study

Websites, different printed media, press information, interviews, public meetings, Citizens Information Office.