

Citizen dialogue on policy instruments for the reduction of reactive nitrogen in Germany

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The introduction into the topic of reactive nitrogen and the collection of ideas for mitigation was focus in the regional conferences. From every regional conference six volunteers were sent to the conference of delegates. There the most important measures were selected, merged and developed to policy instruments (measures).

These results were finally given to an online assesment, which was open to all participants of the regional conferences. The measures were accompanied by scientific statements on the impact, made by the project partner adelphi. 45 people participated in the online assesment. All these results were aggregated in a citizens report.

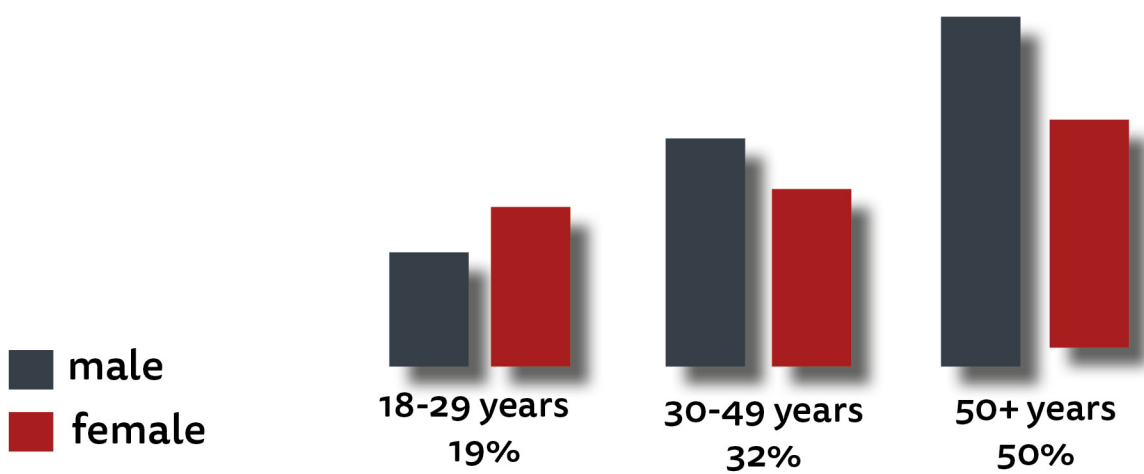


Fig. 1: Participants by age and sex, n=110

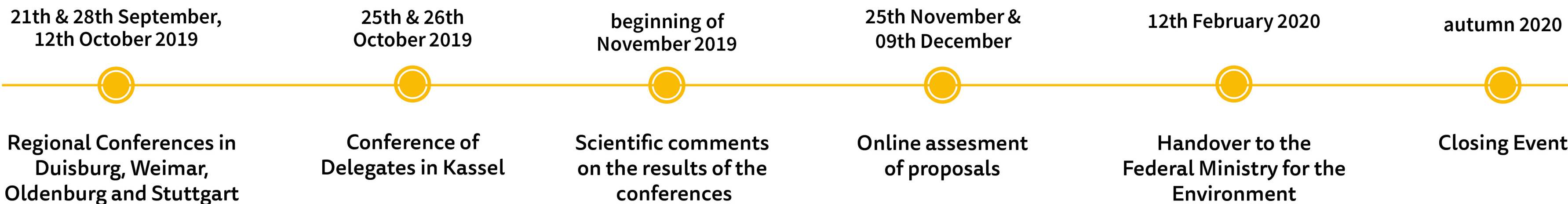


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PARTICIPANTS

A total of around 17,000 people were invited, selected by random sampling. 110 people finally participated in the process. Figure 1 shows the distribution of age groups by both sexes: slightly more men than women, the majority was older than 50 years. The majority of participants was well educated (highschool or academic degree) and held a general political interest. More than 75% stated that they have already read about nitrogen and would like to learn more about it (based on statement at registration).

PROCESS



CITIZENS' MEASURES TO REDUCE NITROGEN EMISSIONS

MEASURES RATED WITH 5 POINTS	MEASURES RATED WITH 4 POINTS	MEASURES RATED WITH 3 POINTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improvement of the line management of the public transportTax for nitrogen budget per holdingRelocation of freight transport from road to railFederal law to expand the usable area per livestock to mitigate nitrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tariff for public transport: 1€ per day (as in Vienna)Information on environmental impacts of value chainsModernisation of industrial plants and facilities of energy supplyModernisation of marine engines in inland navigationCongestion chargeAnalytical control of total nitrogen emissions on agricultural land for fertilisation planningModification of subsidies for freight transpor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Car-free sunday in citiesIncrease the value-added tax to increase the price of meatIntroduction of a label for a transparent account of nitrogen emissions during the production of productsConsultant for an economical and environmentally friendly crop rotationReduction of factory farming through subsidies on species-appropriate farming

Rating regarding the implementation of measure:
5 Points (very important), 3 Points (neutral), 1 Point (irrelevant)

Tab. 1: Title and average rating of policy measures from the citizens dialogue's online assesment

CITIZEN ADVICES AT A GLANCE

- A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**
Discuss nitrogen in context of other environmental challenges
- MORE INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING**
Addressing the nitrogen problem in public and educational systems
- POLLUTERS AND CONSUMERS EQUALLY IMPORTANT**
Measures need to address individuals and producers
- MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION**
Existing rules are already effective in some areas
- ENCOURAGING GOOD PRACTICE**
Financial incentives are advocated
- MORE EXPERIMENTS**
Measures should be actively approached, implemented and tested
- ACTIVELY INVOLVE CITIZENS**
Dialogue between citizens, experts and politics pays off

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