

STAVE :
Interview with Mr. Henri Boyé
(French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainability and Energy)

Nina Schneider (NS): Mr Boyé, you were very involved in developing and testing the STAVE tool and process. Which insights would you say you have gained through this experience?

Henri Boyé (HB): Just to give you the context. I'm now in the French Ministry of Ecology and Energy but before that I was a long time working at EDF (*French national electricity utility*) and before that also in Energy. Marc Poumadère asked me to join, as a Policy Person, the Pachelbel Project and this is where I heard the first time about STAVE which is for me a participative process in order to have people coming from different horizons speaking about any subject. I was involved in particular on an issue in France which is the development of electronic communicating meters called Linky, connected to what we call the smart grids. This was my commitment to STAVE. In this framework there were groups of discussions with people on the field (end users) connected to these smart meters. The groups were in two places in France: Château-Renault close to Tours and in Lyon.

NS: What do you think the strengths of the STAVE tool are?

HB: I would say that the first strength is that it exists.

Basically, there are very few participative processes involving several people let's say smoothly. When you ask questions within a poll for example, answers are very often 'yes' or 'no' and when it is in between, then what is the level of this in between? My experience of the discussion groups connected to Linky is that it (the process) took some time, people were involved and there was some time between one meeting and the next one (that enabled people) to think about it (the subject) and some new ideas were coming and were more connected to the real experience and return of experience; so it is something more precise and probably more secure because basically the answers were not 'yes' or 'no'. They were much more definite.

NS: After your experience within STAVE and the project PACHELBEL, would you recommend this tool to other of your colleagues or policy people?

HB: Why not. Yes I could recommend it to the Policy people. But you know, very often we are involved in big projects and these big projects very often have lot of open-endedness and it is difficult to say who is going to decide on a project or another. I would say that a participative process is something useful. The problem is: will it be considered as something honest, I mean not used by who is going to pay for it in order to get an agreement?

In any case, it's a tool, it's a process and the answers could be considered as being more reliable and more secure because there is as I said a hint of experience. That is why I would not hesitate to recommend it.

NS: Thank you very much Mr. Boyé

HB: Yourare welcome