

Recommendation Group 2

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Topic 3 - The Site Selection Process

1. National Strategy and Site Selection Process

- Before to start the site selection process, the first step: Definition of a project for waste management at the national level
- This is not the responsibility of the local communities, but they should be involved
- Key step to be sure that in the following steps the local community will not be alone but will act in the framework of a national project
- This strategy has to accommodate the interest of the different levels of the society (e.g. national parliamentarians, local elected people, operators, NGOs,...)
- The efforts made by the local community have to be recognised and acknowledged
- Safety is paramount
- The strategy must address the sustainable development of the local community, taking account of: social, economic, environmental, health issues
- There is a danger that a local community might promote itself as a candidate only to get financial compensation without considering seriously the responsibility in long term perspective
- As part of the discussion on sustainable development, alternative economic solutions for the area should be considered

2. Relationship between National and Local Communities

- Conditions for succeeding in the process responsive to the local communities and the national needs:
 - Necessity to establish a clear contract between all the partners and acknowledge the common concern on radioactive waste management
 - Provide the possibility for regular revisions of this contract
 - a clear decision making process at the beginning of the site selection process :
 - clarification of the link between the different researches
 - who is in charge to decide what?
 - the objective of the technical researches
 - ...
 - Quality of information provided to the local communities and the promotion of dialogue forum, exchange of experiences...
- The concepts defined at the national levels will have to be discussed again at the local level during the implementation process and could be changed or improved
- Increasing role of the European Union: Aarhus Convention, Preparation of European Directive... (to be further investigated)
- Case of several candidates: competition is likely, but each local community should be encouraged to cooperate with the others

3. The role of Local Communities and Veto

- The role of the local communities and their interaction with other parties should be clearly defined
- The process of site selection process would be make easier if the local communities have a veto
- Importance of introducing a stepwise process where all the partners have some obligations
 - evolution of the veto according to the steps of development of the project
 - when, how and for what purpose the veto could be used?

4. Proposals for Monitoring in all phases with the Involvement of Local Communities

- Need to address the question of who will be involved and which pluralistic expertise will be available
- Provide training to the local stakeholders in order they get enough background to have a grip on the situation
- Local communities need:
 - to be informed
 - to have access to the information but have not to be considered as responsible of the management of the waste
 - to be able to inform the local population
 - to be involved in forum and consultation process
 - to give their advices on the management of the waste

5. Financial Compensation

- Need to define a framework for financial compensation which is ethical and which provides a long term legal guarantee
- This framework must be acknowledged and shared by all the stakeholders
- Necessity to state how will evolve the financial supports at each phase of the project

- Need for the financial arrangements to be externally audited and transparent

6. Sustainable Development

- Impossibility to set a nuclear facility without specifying what kind of advantages it will bring to the concerned territory
- Reflection on the future and sustainable development of the area has to start quite early in the process
- For nuclear waste, the question of compensation is of different nature than in the case of other nuclear installations
- Need to consider not only the operation phase but also the surveillance over long periods
- Site acceptance must not become a "handicap" for the territory: This is a national challenge

Topic 4 - Influence of the Local Actors on the National Nuclear Waste Management Framework

1. Type of Actors

- Local actors are all the communities who consider themselves concerned with the management of radioactive waste
- Need to involve different types of actors:
 - local politicians and elected people
 - local citizens concerned by the key issues on environment and local economic activities
 - experts mandated by local communities
 - ...
- Plurality of the local stakeholders will be a key component: they will provide a pluralistic expertise on the different dimensions at stake: safety, environment, economic, political,...

2. Type of Decisions

- Importance to allow the local communities to have an influence on the different options considered at the national level
- As soon as the option is selected, provide flexibility to the local communities for influencing the technical concepts:
 - for example, give room to the local communities for the organisation of the retrievability concept

3. "Tools" for Participation

- Two main tools were identified:
- There is a need for the local communities to be organised in a national/or EU network:
 - key element for favouring the participation of the local communities in the more general debates
 - ensure that their concerns will be considered
- Importance of the involvement of the Parliamentarians representing the local communities concerned by the radioactive waste management