

Public assessment of the emergency preparedness and response in the nuclear field: an overview of the NTW analysis

International Round Table
on the Emergency Preparedness and Response
in the Nuclear Sphere
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Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Working Group (WG)

- EP&R working group was established with creation of NTW in November 2013
- The aim of EP&R WG is:
 - to carry out an evaluation of the existing European and national EP&R provisions from the civil society point of view,
 - to inform public on the findings and
 - to provide guidance for further activities of the interested public.
- Worked focused on:
 - Position paper of NTW on Emergency Preparedness & Response situation in Europe,
 - Report of NTW on Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) work.
- 10 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Ukraine, Sweden and Slovenia) and 21 participants from 15 organisations.

A growing concern for EP&R at the European level since the Chernobyl accident

- Major differences in the responses of European countries to the Chernobyl accident in April 1986.
- After the Chernobyl accident, various European countries attempted, in a bilateral or multilateral framework, to harmonize different aspects of off-site EP&R, though often with limited success.
- The European dimension of EP&R:
 - EU project EURANOS (2004-2009) - local actors & civil society was a key stake at the local, national and European level and assures quality of EP&R. The NERIS platform, created at the end of EURANOS took this concern on board.
 - Civil society has taken different initiatives on EP&R at the national level:
 - development by the ANCCLI's guidance on off-site emergency plans, crisis exercises, and iodine distribution campaigns,
 - project in Slovenia, Croatia and Romania on assurance of preparedness in local municipalities and trans boundary context.

The post-Fukushima context: what has changed in Europe?

- The Fukushima accident in March 2011 has intensified European concerns about EP&R:
 - The EC & ENSREG initiated the process of stress tests – it however focused on safety and did not include off-site EP&R,
 - At the occasion of the stress tests, civil society organisations (e.g. Greenpeace), pointed out the need to assess the off-site EP&R,
 - HERCA formed a working group on “Emergencies” in June 2011,
 - In 2012, the Aarhus Convention & Nuclear process organised 2 European roundtables respectively on post-accident (February 2012) and on nuclear safety (December 2012),
 - In 2013 DG ENER commissioned a “Review of current off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response arrangements in EU member States and neighbouring countries”.
 - In Nov. 2013 NTW decided on a first working group WG EP&R,
 - WENRA and HERCA published new AtHLET approach: extension of EP&R provisions.

Objectives of the EP&R WG work:

- To identify key challenges regarding nuclear EP&R from the point of view of civil society,
- identify main needs for improvements of existing EP&R provisions in Europe at the local, national and European level:
 - concerning the content of EP&R arrangements (exposure standards, intervention levels, zoning, trans boundary arrangements,...),
 - concerning the decision-making processes for EP&R in the perspective of the Aarhus Convention.
- identify strategic opportunities to push forward key changes in the perspective of strengthening EP&R at the local, national and European levels.

Main activities within the EP&R WG -1

- **Inception seminar in Paris, February 2014**
 - **29 participants from 7 countries**, NTW CSO, IRSN, HERCA, EC
 - Session 1: Hearings, principles and existing reviews of **EP&R provisions in the EU**, feedback from the Fukushima experience
 - Session 2: Working Group Session - **Identification of priorities**
 - Session 3: **Examining Priorities and Drafting Action Plan** at national and trans-boundary level
 - Session 4: Working Groups - **How to investigate identified thematic and organize national and trans-boundary activities?**
 - Session 5: the **Steps Forward**
- **The methodology of working group on EP&R, April 2014**
- **The guidelines for preparation of national inputs, June 2014**

WG Inception Seminar

Paris, February 6&7, 2014



Main activities within the EP&R WG -2

- **1st WG meeting** in Brussels, June 2014
 - 18 participants from 7 countries, NTW CSO, experts organisation, EC,
 - Methodology of information collection for EP&R
 - Reports by individual countries on the progress
 - Reports from and discussion on Round Table Cattenom
 - Planning of the future Round Tables
 - Information from DG ENER on ENCO Study and EC activities in the field
 - Plans for future work
- **The draft of questionnaire based investigations on EP&R:**
information from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany (Rheinland-Pfalz, Saarland), Luxembourg, Slovenia
- **National overviews on public available information on EP&R with interviews with representatives of responsible institutions**

WG Meeting, Brussels, June 9&10, 2014



Main activities within the EP&R WG -4

Round Tables

- Trans-boundary EP&R Round Tables:
 - EP&R of **NPP Catenom**; Remich , Luxembourg, May 17 2014
 - EP&R of **NPP Temelin**; Hlobuka nad Vltavom, Czech Rep, September 27 2014
 - EP&R of **NPP Krško**; Brežice, Slovenia, October 20, 2014
 - EP&R of **NPP Kozloduy**, Sofia, Bulgaria, January 19 2015
 - EP&R in **Ukraine**, Kyiv, Ukraine, January 26 2015

- Objectives:
 - To **bring together key stakeholders** to discuss state of the art of national and trans-boundary provisions, practices and challenges of EP&R from a civil society perspective
 - To **trigger the multi-stakeholders process** of critical discussion in an open, fearless, critical and toward improvement of the situation oriented manner
 - To **encourage concerned citizens, citizen's initiatives and NGOs** in respective countries and provide them basic information, also on lessons learned from Fukushima and on-going EU activities in the field
 - To **support the cross border cooperation on trans-boundary EP&R issues**₁₀ between citizens and authorities

RT Cattenom,

Remich, May 17 2014,



[RT Temelin, Hluboka nad Vltavom, September 26]



RT Krško, Brežice, October 20



Main activities within the EP&R WG -4

Main findings from the RTs:

- **Inadequate response/ignorance of the operators and authorities and lack of participation of local inhabitants and municipalities** in case of RT Cattenom and Temlin.
- **Good collaboration with official institutions** in RT Krško although low level of information about the provision in Slovenia and even lower in Croatia has observed.
- **EP&R plans are based on rationality** of a planned top down administrative actions that **does not match with the chaotic reality**.
- **Information strategies and capacities seems to be the weakest point of EP&R activities** and are often based on message that sever nuclear accident is impossible to happen.
- There is **question of reality of scenarios** upon which the responses are based, **limited exercises**.
- **Trans boundary EP&R provisions are few and hampered by inadequate procedures and/or languages skills of responsible personnel.**

Main findings in EP&R WG -5/1

- Evaluation of EP&R provisions
 - EP provisions remains outdated, inadequate, delusional and not real in many cases
 - Evacuation (large scale) not possible in many cases
 - Lack of efficient radiation monitoring devices
 - Lack of local authorities (and local population) awareness and training
 - Inadequate medical support
- Assessment of Plans, including Citizens and stakeholders
 - Lessons of Emergency exercises & drills are not taken into account
 - Absence of Emergency plans updating
 - CS not involved in planning
- Trans-boundary dimension of nuclear accidents
 - EP&R is dealt at national level, with little trans-boundary cooperation
 - Heterogeneity of existing EP&R provisions is a real threat
- Emergency information
 - Total lack of communication between different concerned administration
 - On – site emergency is remit of operator and not shared with people
 - No use of new media for information dissemination

Main findings in EP&R WG -5/2

- On-site emergency management
 - Questions on the availability of human resources?
 - Protection of workers which was evident during Fukushima accident?
 - Availability of technical tools?
- Post-accident management
 - Nuclear accidents have (very) Long Term complex consequences that need to be addressed
 - Post-accident situations necessitates complex recovery processes involving the population
 - Only addressed by very few countries today (like France), with minor scenario – difficulties of local implementation, especially in case of trans boundary situation
- Liability
 - Abyssal gaps between accident costs and existing insurance provisions
 - Need for investigations on actual costs of accidents based on recent Fukushima experience (compensation)
 - Public liability replaces private liability?

Main recommendations in EP&R WG -6

- Need for detailed CSO evaluation in each country
- Need for CSO and public engagement in planning and management at local, national and trans-boundary levels
- Harmonise emergency provisions (emergency zoning on evacuation, sheltering, iodine distribution)
- Need for developing a legal framework involving CSOs at each level of preparation and decision in the spirit of the Aarhus Convention
- Develop a EU wide policy on EP&R (1) – EC should take the lead (like for updating of nuclear safety after Stress Tests)
- Need for appropriate resources for CSO and local communities to be involved
- Need for quality control procedures (QA/QC) including feed-back of new events, exercises & drills (learning process)
- Reconsider evacuation process in the case of large urban area
- Integrate rescue and radiation experts in civil protection staff
- Train medical staff
- Finance research activities in this area
- Develop Medium - Long Term post-accident policies
- Create a CS-EP cooperation to investigate liabilities for NPPs accident

Conclusions

- The NTW WG on EP&R will produce 2 main outputs:
 - Position paper of NTW on Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) situation in Europe
 - Report of NTW on Emergency Preparedness & Response (WG EP&R)
- The work will be finished in February 2015, it is planned to have a EU wide presentation of findings and recommendations
- Future activities:
 - Participation in HORIZON 2020 projects (collaboration with NERIS platform)
 - Proposition to EC to open EP&R activities which can be performed by NTW
 - Looking for other calls
- New members to WG will be invited (synergies with other clusters and WG of NTW)

The aim is: people (and CSO) are partners in EP&R since they are really those who are in nuclear events affected.

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- Thank you for your attention !

- More information on:

<http://www.nuclear-transparency-watch.eu/category/activities/nuclear-emergency-preparedness-and-response>