

SITEX.Network

European network of experts on RWM

Involving TSOs, Regulators and Civil Society Experts

General overview of the Network & Interactions with Civil Society

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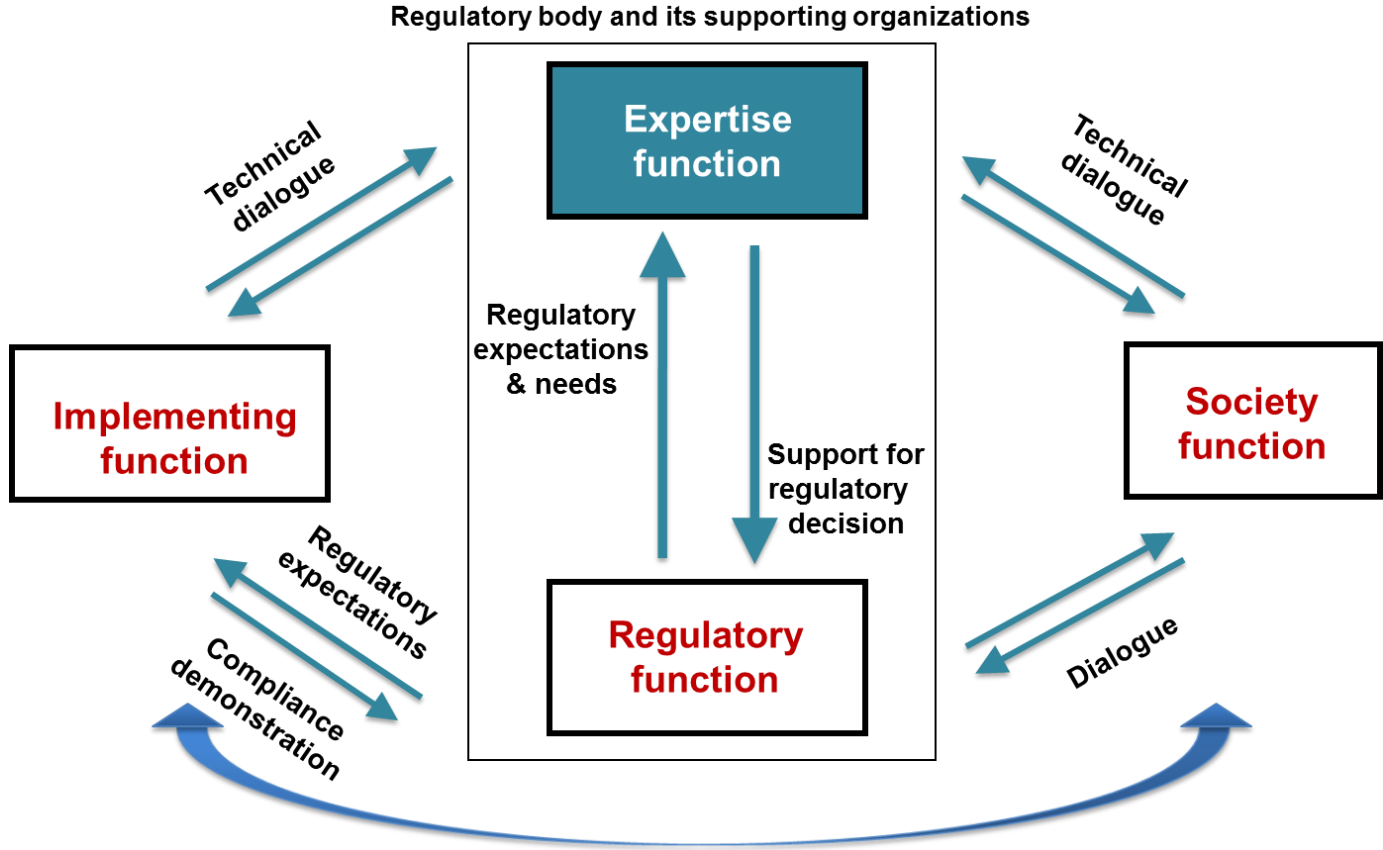
Outline of the presentation

- Context of the SITEX initiative
- From SITEX projects to SITEX.Network
- Activities and interactions with Civil Society
- Conclusions



Context of the SITEX initiative (1/3)

Main functions interacting in the RWM



SITEX.Network focuses on the *Expertise Function* and its links with the other Functions.



Context of the SITEX initiative (2/3)

The role of the Expertise Function

- Key mission of *Expertise Function* is to provide the technical and scientific basis for supporting the decisions made within the *Regulatory Function*.
- Article 6 of EC Directive 2011/70/Euratom (addressing safety of RWM) states notably:
 - Member states shall establish and maintain a competent regulatory authority;
 - Regulatory authority is functionally separate from Waste Management Organizations (WMOs).
- Independence and competence of the *Regulatory Function* calls for the support of a competent *Expertise Function*, independent from the *Implementing Function*.
- Typical activities of the *Expertise Function* include:
 - Contributing to the establishment of regulatory requirements;
 - Developing guidance for meeting these requirements;
 - Evaluating Safety Cases related to RWM facilities;
 - Develop and maintain its knowledge and skills.

Context of the SITEX initiative (3/3)

Develop and maintain the knowledge and skills of the Expertise Function

- For complex issues such as those associated to operational and long-term safety of disposal facilities, following activities are essential:
 - Performing and/or overseeing R&D activities;
 - Exchanging between expertise function organizations on practices;
 - Organize and/or participate in training activities to transfer knowledge;
 - Interacting with the civil *Society Function*.
- These activities are essential to build the expertise and the credibility (e.g. vis-à-vis the civil society) of the *Expertise Function*.
- For instance, Article 8 of the EC 2011/70/EURATOM directive requires all parties (i.e. *Expertise Function* included) *to carry out education, training and R&D activities*.
- Concerning R&D, IAEA safety guides stresses that *the Regulatory Body* (and thus its supporting organizations) *may need to conduct or commission R&D in support of regulatory decisions* (see IAEA GS-G-1.1 and IAEA GS-G-1.2).

From SITEX projects to SITEX.Network (1/4)

The born of the SITEX initiative



- In this context, several organizations fulfilling an *Expertise Function* and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) started the “**SITEX** initiative” in 2012 (participating organizations: see in following slides).
- What does SITEX mean ?
 - **S**ustainable network for **I**ndependent **T**echnical **EX**pertise of Radioactive Waste Management
- What is the overall objective?
 - Enhance and foster cooperation at international level to achieve a high quality *Expertise Function*.
 - Independent from Waste Management Organizations (*Implementing Function*).
 - Aiming at supporting the *Regulatory Function* and the *Society Function*.
 - In the field of radioactive waste management (including disposal).
- The start of this « SITEX initiative » was funded by the European Commission.

From SITEX projects to SITEX.Network (2/4)

SITEX projects paved the way to the SITEX.Network



SITEX project
2012-2013

SITEX-II project
2015-2017

SITEX.Network
Since January 2018

Preparatory phase

- Define needs and missions of the expertise function.
- Define objectives of the future SITEX_network.
- Define possible activities and interactions of the network.

Test phase

- Test the practical implementation of activities and interactions.
- Prepare the Terms of Reference of the future SITEX_Network.

From SITEX projects to SITEX.Network (3/4)

SITEX.Network foundation

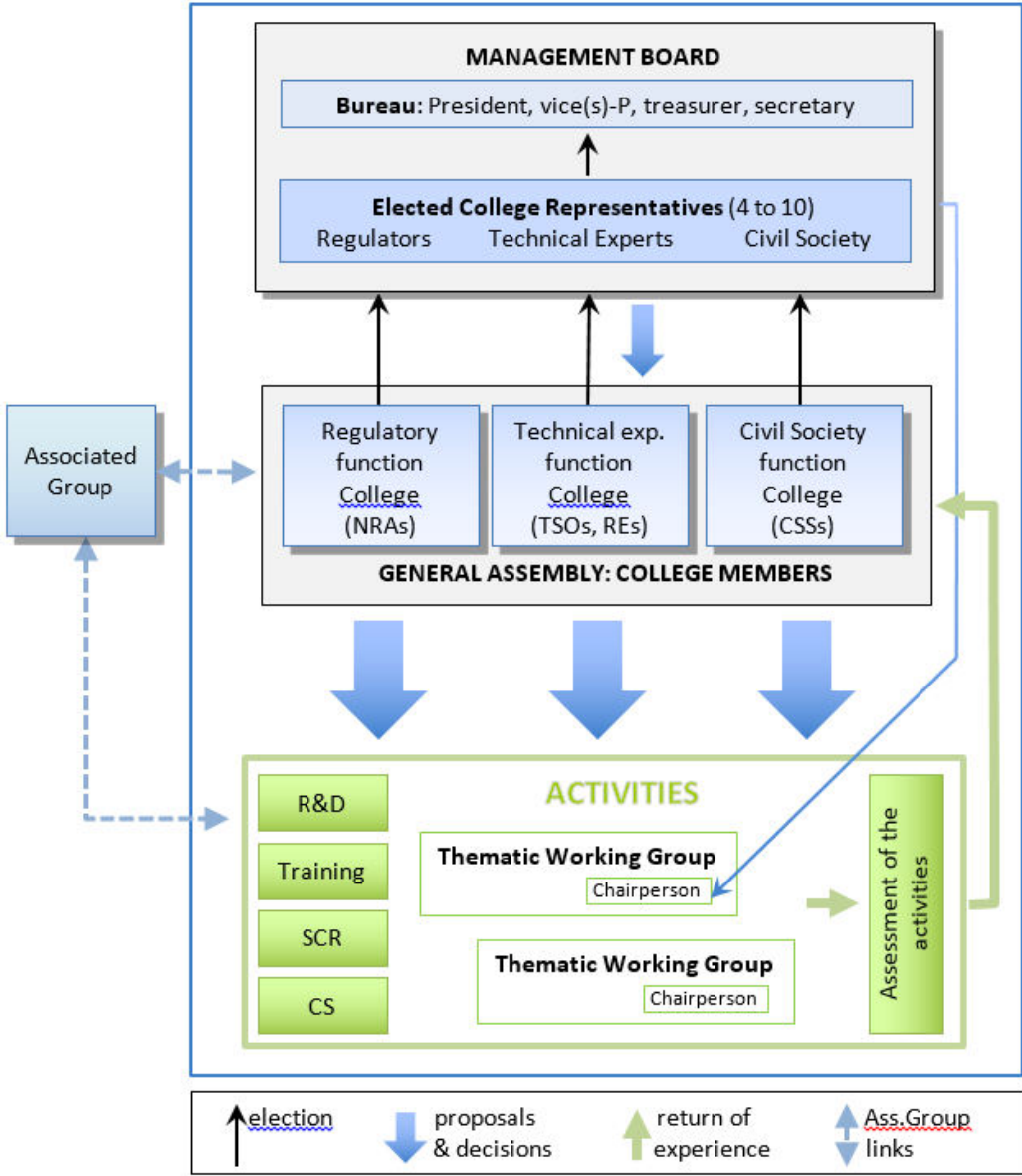
*Constitutive GA of SITEX_Network
January 2018*



- Founded as a French non-profit organization.
- Constitutive GA in 01/2018. 14 founding members, from 9 countries:
 - Expertise function: Bel V, EIMV, FANC, GI-BAS, IRSN, PSI, SURO, TS Enercon, VTT
 - Civil Society function: Energiaklub, MKG, Mutadis, NTW, SYMLOG
- With as purpose:
« Enhance and foster cooperation at international level in order to achieve a high quality expertise function, independent from organizations responsible for the implementation of waste management programmes, aiming at supporting the Nuclear Regulatory Authorities, as well as the Civil Society, in the field of safety of radioactive waste management. »
- Achieved through a close cooperation between its members with a plurality of actors and views: NRAs, TSOs, REs with an expertise function and Civil Society Organizations.
- This plurality of actors and views is seen as an added value of the network, compared to other existing networks.

From SITEX projects to SITEX.Network (4/4)

SITEX.Network structure



SCR: Safety Case Review
CS: Interactions with Civil Society

Activities and interactions with Civil Society

Overview



R&D



SCR



Training



Interactions with CS

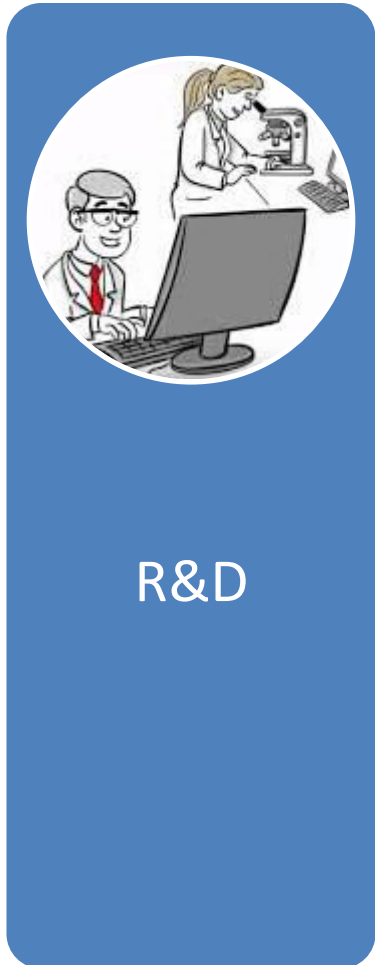
SITEX.Network activities and interactions with Civil Society

SITEX.Network activities and interactions with Civil Society (1/4)

- Coordination of the EURAD Joint Programme TSO College ;
- Exchanges about EURAD results **with all network members** ;
- Management of the SITEX.Network Strategic Research Agenda;
- Development of Social Sciences topics in the SRA foreseen in 2021 (**lead by CS College**).



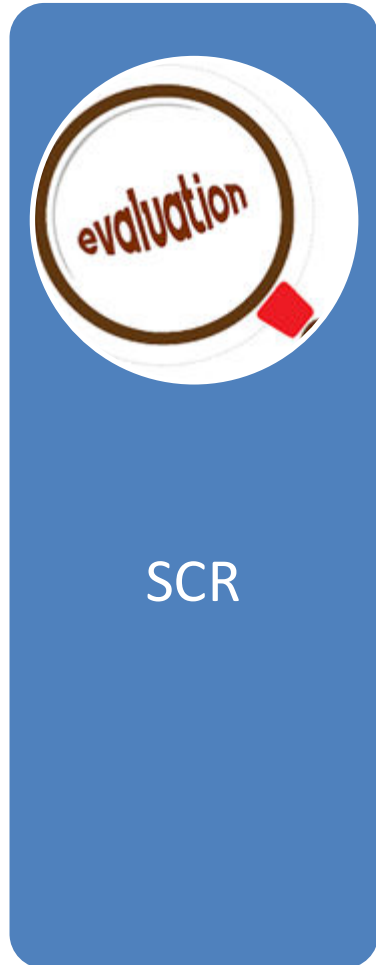
SITEX-II SRA



In red: interactions with CS

SITEX. Network activities and interactions with Civil Society

SITEX. Network activities and interactions with Civil Society (2/4)



- Organisation of Topical days for **all network members**:
 - 2019: Governance of radioactive waste management;
 - 2020: Deep Borehole Disposal.
- Production of a literature survey about Deep Borehole Disposal.
- Organisation of a Safety Case review benchmark:
 - Fictive SC for a Disposal Facility was built;
 - It was presented to participants **from all colleges**;
 - It will now be reviewed by TSO **and CS** college members;
 - Review outcomes will be presented and discussed;
 - Lessons learned from this exercise will be documented and possible recommendations shared.

In red: interactions with CS

SITEX. Network activities and interactions with Civil Society

SITEX. Network activities and interactions with Civil Society (3/4)



Training

- A training module for generalist experts was developed and given in 2020 in collaboration with ENSTTI.
- Participants from various kinds of actors, **as well as CS**.
- Good feedback from trainees.
- New training sessions and modules will be organised (still in discussion seen the COVID situation).



*SITEX-II training session,
Kaunas (Lithuania), 2017*

In red: interactions with CS



Interactions with CS

- Organisation of PEP sessions (foreseen in 2021).
- PEP: Pathway Evaluation Process
- This tool allows:
 - structured discussions
 - about possible waste management pathways
 - between actors and persons with various backgrounds (non « experts » from CS included).

General overview of SITEX_Network

Conclusions

- Participation of the Expertise Function in activities such as R&D, training and exchange on practices contribute to develop and strengthen its expertise and independence.
- In the context of RWM, SITEX_Network was founded to coordinate such activities at the international level. It is the result of a SITEX initiative that started in 2012.
- SITEX_Network allows interactions between Civil Society Organizations and the Expertise Function. Such interactions were tested in previous SITEX projects and found enriching by participants.
- SITEX_Network thus involves a plurality of views and actors (NRAs, TSOs, REs with an Expertise Function and Civil Society Organizations). This plurality of views is seen as an important added value of the network, compared to existing networks.