

Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R): Work of Nuclear Transparency Watch

Aarhus Round Table on **Emergency Preparedness and
Response of NPP Temelin**

October 20th 2014

Hluboka nad Vltavom, Czech Republic

Nuclear Transparency Watch

- Established on 7th of November 2013 in Brussels as non-profit association under French law on civil society associations.
- Objectives:
 - To ensure **greater vigilance and public involvement** in relation to all activities in the nuclear sector.
 - The principal focus is on **transparency as a means to guarantee safety and the protection** of human health and the environment.
- Supported by MEP acrosss political spectrum, chaired by Michelle Rivasi, MEP; members from: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Ukraine, Sweden and Slovenia.
- Areas to be covered:
 - siting and extension decisions,
 - nuclear safety,
 - waste management and
 - emergency preparedness and response (EP&R).

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 of guidance on off-site emergency plans, crisis exercises, and iodine distribution campaigns,
 - project in Slovenia on assurance of preparedness in local municipalities and trans-boundary context

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

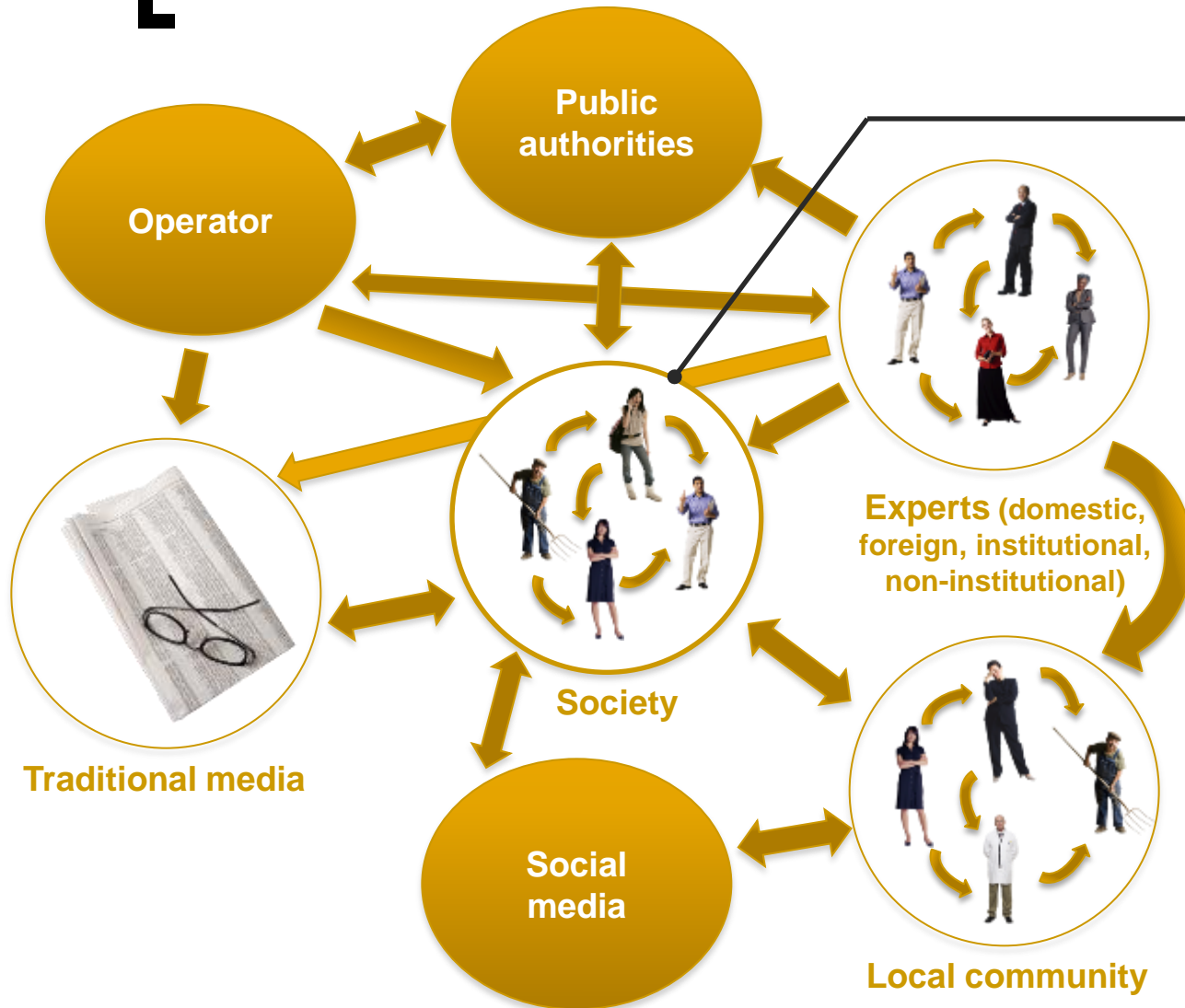
- The *Fukushima accident* in March 2011 has ***intensified European concerns about EP&R:***
 - The EC & ENSREG initiated the process of *stress tests* – it however focused on safety and did not include off-site EP&R,
 - At the occasion of the stress tests, civil society organisations (e.g. Greenpeace), 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 November 2013 NTW established *Working Group on Emergency Response and Preparedness* .

Objectives of the EP&R Working Group

■ Objectives:

- Identify **key stakes** 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, ...),
 - concerning the **decision-making processes for EP&R** in the perspective of the Aarhus convention (in particular Article 5.1.c) of the Convention).
- Identify **strategic opportunities** to push forward key changes in EP&R at the local, national and European level.

Aarhus convention art. 5.1.c)



Aarhus Convention art. 5.1. c):

'In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, **all information which could enable the public to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat**...**is disseminated immediately** and without delay to members of the public who may be affected'.