

Integral Communication Activities as a Support to the Site Selection for LILW Repository

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Paris, June 2010

Site selection process in Slovenia

- A new site selection process was started in 2004.
- This time a mix-mode approach was selected.
- It equally takes into consideration both technical criteria and social aspect, and presumes a high involvement of the public in the process.

How to reach a “social acceptability”?

- NIMBY syndrom also in Slovenia
- The first condition for a social acceptability: the site selection process takes place only in the municipalities which bid for the location voluntarily which is ensured by the mixed-mode approach.

Other factors that enhance social acceptability:

- communicating all the relevant information and scientific facts on the topic
- transparency of the site selection procedure
- involvement of the local public in the site selection process from the beginning
- providing financial incentives and other benefits bound to the placement of the repository
- siting near existing nuclear locations

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The ARAO communication strategy objectives were to :

- provide all the relevant information on the topic and dissemination of knowledge
- enable the local public to take part in the discussions, to express opinions, demands
- involve the local public in the decision making process within the legislation provisions from the very beginning
- build trust in ARAO and among participating parties

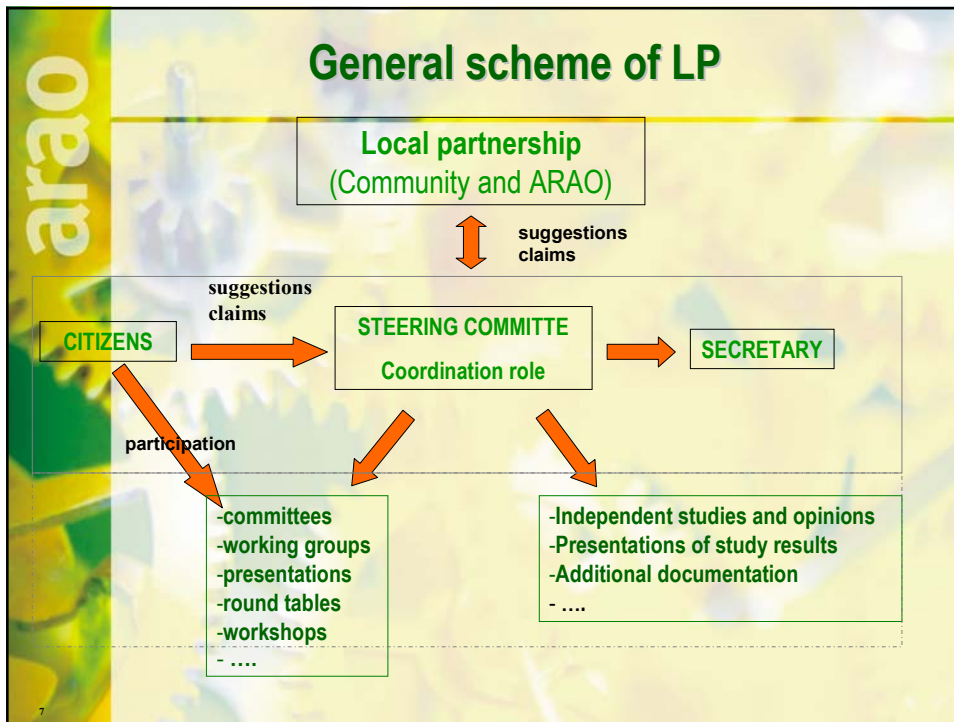
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Participation of local communities – consideration of Aarchus Convention

- Program for preparation of national spatial plan for LILW repository:
 - 1. phase: ARAO invites local communities to participate
 - 2. phase: prefeasibility assessment of the technical aspects and public acceptability in local communities
 - 3. phase: establishment and implementation of local partnership

Nov.2004	Apr.2005	May 2005	Jul.2005	Nov.2005	Jan.2006	Mar.2006-2009	December 2009
Invitation LC to participate	End of bidding process	Theses for local partnership	Pre-feasibility study	Govern. decision on 3 LP	Commun. activities	Signing and operation of LP	Regulation, passed by the government
Phase 1		Phase 2			Phase 3		



- ## Local partnership
- LP has an advisory role. The decision making process stays with local council and other bodies of local autonomy.
 - Funds for each LP per year:
 - 96.000 € administration costs, secretary, excursions, visits, reviews,
 - 41.000 € independant studies

Examples of local partnerships work (1)

- Presentations of site selection process and topics on radioactivity, RW for municipality council and local councils and citizens groups,
- Workshops, round tables
- Visits to nuclear facilities in Slovenia and abroad for specific groups of local residents,
- Cooperation with the local media – 3 to 4 articles per month,



Examples of local partnerships work (2)

Requested independent studies:

- Occurrence of cancer in municipality Brežice compared to the rest of Slovenia,
- Measurements of specific radionuclides in food samples harvested on the area of municipality Brežice and environmental radioactivity measurements,
- Feasibility study to assert citizens' rights to get a just compensation for negative impacts of the nuclear facilities by legal means
- Independent review of the Study of the variants of the LILW repository in Krško municipality

Experience with LP performance

- The majority of the population do not participate
- Members of the LP with strong opinion – for or against and personal interest (don not change their mind, but give the authenticity);
- Strong influence of local politics;
- High local appetites for financial compensation;
- Loose structure of the LP gives the opportunity for realisation of personal interests under the cover of public interest;

How would you decide on referendum regarding the construction of LILW repository? KRŠKO

	05/05	06/05	12/05	06/06	12/06	12/07	12/08	12/09
YES	32,5	32,3	37,5	31,5	33,5	38,0	35,8	41,8
AGAINST	54,0	47,0	49,5	57,8	51,3	48,5	44,5	44,3
Do not know	8,0	13,5	8,5	8,3	13,8	10,5	14,0	10,0
Would not take part	5,5	7,3	4,5	2,5	1,5	3,0	5,8	4,0

Public Opinion Poll, Krško, May 2009

- **Not the repository, financial incentives are the problem!**
- The public is interested in the topic and well informed
- The site selection procedure is perceived as legitimate by the majority of people
- The public is satisfied with the possibility of participation in the procedure (not in the 1500 m zone!)
- Low trust in institutions: ARAO, municipality

Recommendations (1)

- The public should be involved in the site selection process from the very beginning; it reduces dislike
- Regarding cooperation with the local public, accommodate to the expectations of the local community, but define clear objectives, rules of operation, competences (and the questions that can not be discussed - safety, total finance)
- Define the decision-making process clearly (the advisory and the decision-making role)
- Transparency of the procedure; the proposals of the public have to be treated seriously: accepted, if possible; never ignored or rejected without arguments.

Recommendations(2)

- Identify all relevant stakeholders and involve them in the siting process (representativeness of the actors)
- Everyone can participate, but focus on the most important stakeholders (not the loudest)
- Define clear and precise communication programmes (contents, forms of communication, schedules ,... so that all relevant questions are discussed)
- Build and maintain trust in your organization with all activities
- Foreign communication models can be followed, but must be adapted to the specific culture and circumstances