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Cross-sector Collaboration to Develop New Tools for Communication to Non-experts

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The N Square Innovators Network (NSIN) was created in 2017 to build a cross-sector community of innovators with the collaborative spirit, ingenuity and commitment necessary to accelerate progress towards agreed nuclear non-proliferation, security, and disarmament, goals. At the center of the NSIN is a small group of partners with diverse expertise, spheres of influence, networks and constituencies - not limited to the nuclear sector. The NSIN comprises four cross-sector teams, each with a different focus. One team is focused on verification and consists of members from the Rhode Island School of Design, the Princeton Nuclear Futures Lab, the Nuclear Threat Initiative, Veilos, N Square, Singularity University, and the Skoll Foundation.

A key problem identified by the “verification” team is that there are people outside of the nuclear safeguards community who may have solutions, ideas, or frameworks to contribute to the various challenges inherent in the fuel cycle verification process. However, because they are unaware of the challenges, and may not understand verification or safeguards, they do not know how to contribute. In addition, the experts involved in international safeguards struggle with messaging to lay-audiences and other non-experts about the ins and outs of their verification mission.

Utilizing proven innovation methods such as human-centered design, design-thinking, and systems-thinking, the Verification Team is working to better articulate problems and opportunities so that people without expertise understand the issues and feel empowered to contribute. The goal of the group is to create tools and messages necessary to communicate about verification in plain-speak, in order to highlight pathways for potential engagement that might lead to new approaches or methods. If selected our team plans to present a prototype of the tool (or tools) at the symposium.

One successful outcome for this effort may be to help both public and non-expert decision-makers better understand the importance of credible verification regimes, the mission of the IAEA within those regimes, and the value of supporting the IAEA to carry out its mission.

Which “Key Question” does your Abstract address?

TEC1.2

Topics

TEC1

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