



Relation between Romanian NGOs acting in nuclear field and other stakeholders

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ABSTRACT

TITLE:
Relation between Romanian NGOs acting in nuclear field and other stakeholders

BACKGROUND:
In Romania, 2 main NGOs act in promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy.
The organization with the longest road is the Romanian Association for Nuclear Energy (AREN), created by individual persons acting in nuclear field in 1990. In 2001, a number of Romanian and foreign legal entities having core competence or unfolding nuclear energy related industrial and research activities created the Romanian Industrial Forum (Romatom).
Both AREN and Romatom are active parts of European nuclear world: AREN is European Nuclear Society member and Romatom is Euratom member.
The 3rd NGO is Women in Nuclear Romania (WINRo) which registered in 2011. However, the women acting in nuclear field have become earlier active independent voices particularly in public communication on nuclear field matters. The debut was in 1993 when the women group acting in AREN became members of WIN Global, the organization that they trust would become a real opportunity to share their professional competences and improve their communication knowledge and skills in the light of the mission they decided to embrace, namely, that of clear, transparent and trustful communication with stakeholders, particularly the general public on peaceful use of nuclear energy. Today, WIN Ro is also part of WIN Europe where common European desiderates aim to establish and achieve.
Today, Romanian NGOs act to continue the trustful relations they have built with a large portfolio of stakeholders adapting their endeavors for answering to various stakeholders needs for transparency and effective communication on nuclear matters at national level.
At international level, the Romanian NGOs aim to register benefic experience for their organizational works and opportunities for promotion of the national good approaches, from relations with stakeholders acting in the international arena of nuclear world.
Relevant aspects on how the Romanian NGOs have approached relations with stakeholders will be presented.

GENERAL CONSIDERATION

Romanian NGOs promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy and having trust from other stakeholders may continue their active role but today first role to demonstrate transparency, public information and effective participation in the decision making process is now belonging to main actors with main roles and responsibilities in national nuclear system.

Council Directives 2011/70/Euratom or 2014/87/Euratom (amending 2009/71/Euratom "2014 Directive") ask but they do not explicitly mention what does mean that transparency, public information and effective participation in the decision making process are ensured, in terms of criteria/requirements that should be met by EU MS.

Ensuring effective transparency policy or process might be met when communication covers and proper addresses different and various stakeholders needs, interests or attitudes. This is not an easy task.

In public communication breaks are not affordable or permissible. License holders cannot afford breaks. Good results today are ephemera without professionalism and continuity in action.

In Romania are 3 important NGOs which are promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy: AREN (1990), ROMATOM (2001) and WIN Romania (2011).

At international level Romanian NGOs purpose to win important experience from the stakeholders who are involve in international areas and they share from theirs experience and promote good practices.

COMMUNICATION IS MULTIFACETED

It might be necessary to make difference through analysis, planning, action and monitoring, and control of the way the stakeholders and communication should be approached.

Sometimes stakeholders are confused and communication should make distinction between:

- Organization/licensee visibility
- Strategy, plans or programs to be launched, or
- Major projects planning and each phase of their development.

E.g. – Distinctive communication and stakeholders engagement plans are highly needed to be integrated in geological disposal planning National context risks to developing a sustainable geological disposal program induced by political and social factors include:

- Absence of national coordinated R&D
- Decision and responsibility for developing NGR are concentrated to Government and State authorities
- Society has no tradition and experience in involving the public in the decision making process
- Absence of governmental mechanism on recognition of NGR's host community role.



Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant – ROMANIA

TRANSPARENCY BY A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Main actors of the national nuclear system ensuring peaceful use of nuclear energy do well their jobs. As a result, major trustful opinions on their practices transcend a political or governmental governance shift.

Nuclear license holders as well as the State through the authorities with responsibilities in its name make clear how they ensure transparency, public information and effectively participation in the public decision process beyond the legal requirements and declarations. As a result, public expressions are that the public is not informed or it has not trust in any current or prospective projects would be sporadic and isolated.

NGOs with an active role in promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy and having trusted by other stakeholders should have a real partnership with professionals from communication acting for license applicants or license holders. As a result, NGOs messages and communication cannot be in discordance with licensee action or communication and thus, public trust is maintained or consolidates itself.



Veronica ANDREI and Mihaela STIOPOL – WIN Romania members at the "Alexandru Ene" drawing contest, organized by AREN and WIN Romania

CONCLUSIONS

Romanian NGOs promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy and having trust from other stakeholders may continue their active role but today first role to demonstrate transparency, public information and effective participation in the decision making process is now belonging to main actors with main roles and responsibilities in national nuclear system.



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