ABSTRACT

Relation between Romanian NGOs acting in nuclear field and other stakeholders

BACKGROUND:

In Romania, 3 main NGOs act in promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy. The organization with the longest road is the Romanian Association for Nuclear Energy (ARNE), created by individuals acting in nuclear field in 1990. In 2007, a number of Romanian and foreign legal entities having core competence or delivering nuclear energy-related industrial services joined the association forming ANR (Forum Romanian). Both ARNE and ANR are active parts of European nuclear world: ARNE in European Nuclear Society member and Romanians in Forum member. The organization with the longest road is the Romanian Alliance for Nuclear Energy (ABN), which registered in 2010. However, the women acting in nuclear field have become also active and independent voices, particularly in public communication on nuclear-field matters. The charity was also in 1992 when the women group of the nuclear community, already recognized, established AREN. Are the only independent organization that they thus would become a tool for their professional competencies and improve their communication knowledge and skills in the light of the issues they decide to evidence, namely, the importance of the role of women for enhancing opportunities for women stakeholders, particularly the general public on peaceful use of nuclear energy. Today, AREN is also part of WIN Europe where correct European decisionmakers aim to establish and achieve.

Romanian NGOs are to take the central role they have built with a large portfolio of stakeholders adapting their ecosystem for answering to various stakeholders needs for transparency and effective communication on nuclear matters at national level. They are responsible for representing Romania in international fora to register benefits experienced by their organization. They approach, as one of the many, the needs and opportunities for the role of women stakeholders. Relevant aspects on how the Romanian NGOs have approached relations with stakeholders will be presented.

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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 ephemer 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.

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.

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.

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.

CONCLUSIONS

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

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