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

NERIS-TP DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP
22 - 24 January 2014
Oslo, Norway

Nadja Železnik, Regional Environmental Center (REC), Slovenia
Vice president of NTW and WG EP&R chair

Nuclear Transparency Watch

- Established on 7th of November 2013 in Brussels as non-profit association under French law by civily society.
- 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 accros 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, 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 harmonise 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 prepardness in local municipalities and transboundary 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 Nov. 2013 NTW decided on a first working group WG EP&R.

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'.

Methodology of the proposed process

- The proposed process will rely on interactions between
  - National investigations led by EP&R WG members (in cooperation with other civil society organizations) at the national and/or local levels notably through national or regional Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN) roundtables (when appropriate),
  - Investigations at the European level (seminar, meetings, hearings, …) by NTW, integrating national views,
  - Support from EP&R WG: inception seminar, methodological and strategic advice, issuing of guidelines for national investigations, participation of NTW members to ACN roundtables.
- The proposed process will identify
  - Country-specific or site-specific issues (identified and addressed by national investigations),
  - Issues of European relevance for the viewpoint of civil society
  - Concrete conclusions & recommendations at the European and national level.

Structure of the proposed process (January – October 2014)

European level

Inception seminar organised by EP&R WG

Targeted investigations by EP&R WG at the European level

Possible missions of NTW members at the occasion of ACN national or regional roundtables

Cross-analysis of national conclusions and European level analysis

NTW meetings: drafting of conclusions of European investigations & proposal of ACN European roundtables

National/trans-boundary level

National investigations: examination of documents, hearings, cooperation with other CSOs. Preparing national or regional ACN Roundtable.

National or regional ACN roundtable

Issuing of conclusions of national investigations (national case studies)

The inception seminar (February 2014)

- A non-public event (6-7 February) with the objectives of
  - Training NTW EP&R WG members in EP&R issues through
    - Presenting a mapping of EP&R issues prepared by the WG on the basis of the available documents at the European level,
    - Hearings of key actors (e.g. independent CSO experts, public authorities (HERCA, ENSREG, national authorities), DG ENER, international organisations…).
  - Framing the EP&R WG investigations at the European, national and trans-boundary level
    - selecting key issues of European relevance and on strategic opportunities,
    - identifying a reduced set of issues that NTW will ask national investigations to address (to enable comparative analysis),
    - open the national and transboundary priorities and possibilities for investigation.

The EP&R WG activities (February - November 2014)

- The national /trans-boundary investigations – several activities addressing the national and cross-borders EP&R.
- EU investigations – like the in situ review of findings of EC study.
- EP&R WG meetings in order to prepare the conclusions of European investigations.

- Objectives:
  - Highlight key needs for EP&R improvement at the European level.
  - Propose concrete actions to be taken by civil society, local actors, experts and regulators in order to facilitate the implementation of these improvements.
  - Make proposals for the development of cooperation between civil society and technical support organizations (TSOs) at a European and national level.