

ARGONA project
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**Evaluation, Testing and Application
of Participatory Approaches in the Czech Republic**

- » Focused Science Shop
- » Consensus Panel
- » RISCUM Model Application

Hana Vojtechova
 Nuclear Research Institute Rez plc, Czech Republic

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- ❖ [The Focused Science Shop](#) on „Radioactive waste management and radiation risk in comparison with other hazardous waste and risk“
 - **Main Goal** - to increase awareness among the public of actual and potential effect of radioactive and hazardous waste and to prioritise questions/uncertainties that people might have in this field.
 - A step forward in the **communication between the experts and representatives of the local administration**;
- ❖ [The Consensus Panel](#) on „SNF management alternatives“
 - **Main Goals** - Identification of the main criteria's relevant to the assessment of the existing alternatives and determination their importance from the perspective of all stakeholders; Achieving at least a partial consensus on selecting the most suitable alternative management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel;
 - **A clarification of the main views of opponents and supporters of a deep repository in the Czech Republic**;

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Application of the RISCOC Model in the Czech Republic in the area of NWM

First phase of the RISCOC model implementation (Pre-understanding):

- **Establishment of the RISCOC Reference Group** with participation of all main stakeholders in the Czech nuclear waste management process, sociology scientist and foreign experts from Sweden (Karita and Wenergy).
- **Definition of main tasks and objectives of the RISCOC Reference Group** – It has the competence and takes responsibilities for decisions especially in the following areas:
 - ✓ Search of methods for inciting an interest of the general public and responsible organizations,
 - ✓ Identification of levels and topics for meaningful dialogue,
 - ✓ Decision on format of dialogues, establishment of information channels.

Second phase of the RISCOC model implementation (Learning Process):

- The **Public hearing** on the topic "Siting of repository - recommencement of the siting investigation of the particular sites for deep geological repository" (23 May 2009 in Chateau Stirin).

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- ❖ **For further discussion it is very important not only to ensure a safe space for meaningful communication among NWM stakeholders, but also:**
 - ✓ To increase the activities of relevant state institutions in communication with the public in the field of NWM and enhance public confidence in the state institutions.
 - ✓ To develop motivation programs as another way how to incite the public interest and to positively influence their attitude towards the issues regarding NWM.
 - ✓ To strengthen the political responsibility - a long-lasting consistent and clear political attitude of the government and government parties concerning the problems of the final disposal of spent fuel is lacking in the Czech Republic. The general public misses the necessary long-term guarantees.
- ❖ The **RISCOC model proved to be a very suitable tool for initiation of dialogue** among all stakeholders in the area of NWM in the Czech Republic and could be very well used in this field also in other European countries, which are in similar situation as the Czech Republic.
- ❖ **It is necessary to continue the activities that were initiated under the ARGONA project** – continuation of activities of the RISCOC Reference Groups and organization of various events (seminars, science shops, hearings) to ensure open and meaningful communication among NWM stakeholders.

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Preliminary recommendations for the organisation of future activities in the context of increasing active involvement of general public into the decision-making processes concerning NWM:

- ❖ Utilization of the RISCUM model as suitable methodology for discussion among NWM stakeholders
- ❖ Selection appropriate topics with clearly formulated questions to ensure a successful course of the discussion - at each stage of the dialogue may be discussed various topics and issues
- ❖ Using a mediator to facilitate communication among interested parties during the discussion. This applies mainly in the discussions on contentious issues such as selection of appropriate nuclear waste management alternative or the deep repository siting.
- ❖ Proceeding step by step and set smaller goals - The current situation in the field of NWM in the Czech Republic makes it impossible to achieve consensus among all stakeholders on controversial issues. Therefore in the present stage it is important to ensure a space for open and meaningful dialogue about these issues and explain the positions among all stakeholders rather than to try to achieve consensus upon any terms.

Thank you for your attention!