


www.carl-research.org



Researching Effects of Stakeholder Involvement on Decision-Making in Radioactive Waste Management

Conclusions from the CARL project (2004-2007)

Anne Bergmans - former project leader - UA
Uppsala – 17/03/2009

CARL

2

www.carl-research.org

Content

- A brief introduction
- The different stages in the project
- Reports
 - Reporting during the project
 - Final report

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Uppsala - 17-18/03/2009

CARL

www.carl-research.org

CARL

A Brief Introduction

4

www.carl-research.org

CARL

The CARL Consortium

	C	A	R	L
Belgium	Mun. Dessel, STORA , Mun. Mol, MONA , [PaLoFF]	<u>NIRAS/</u> <u>ONDRAF</u>	University of Antwerp	FANC
Slovenia	Municipality of Krško	<u>ARAO</u>	University of Ljubljana	SI Nuclear Safety Admin
Sweden	Mun. <u>Oskarshamn</u> and Östhammar	SKB	Göteborg University	SKI, SSI
UK	Local communities affected by nuclear facilities, NuLeAF	<u>NDA</u>	University of East Anglia	Environment Agency, SEPA, NII

Legend: **steering group members**; **country coordinators**; **sponsors**

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Purpose of the Project

- Platform for interaction and collaboration
- Exchange of experiences and ideas
- Develop insights into SI in RWM and the outcome of such processes
 - Influence of contextual factors
 - Integration of participatory initiatives and technical programmes
- Integrating research and networking activities

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Project Phases

2004 -2005

- October 2004: start of the project
- February 2005: first small-scale workshop
 - discussion of research intentions
- **2005: country analyses**
- Fall 2005: first drafts country reports
- November 2005: workshop in Antwerp
 - presentation of country reports and discussion on four topics: nuclear communities, localisation of decisions, stakeholder competence, institutions and engagement

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

2006

- February – March 2006: final versions country reports and summaries
- **2006 – 2007: thematic analyses**
- April 2006: first comparative report
- April 2006: topics for further research and research protocol
- November 2006: workshop in Troon
 - presentation of first comparative report and country up dates
 - thematic discussion sessions (research and networking)

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

2007

- Summer 2007: first drafts thematic reports
- September 2007: final seminar in Oskarshamn
 - presentation of project history and thematic reports
 - group discussions on lessons learnt (networking and dissemination)
- January 2008: final versions thematic reports
- March 2008: final report

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Reports

Country Reports

- Analyses of processes of SI in all countries
- Focus on:
 - particularity of national context
 - dynamics of frames used to look at the question of RWM
- 2005

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

First Comparative Report

- Basic typology of stakeholders and stakeholder groups on national and international level
- National and international contextual factors influencing RWM policy
- Framing and reframing of the RWM issue: impact of crises
- 2006

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Six Thematic Reports

- The framing of RW risk
- From government to governance?
- Stakeholder networks
- Decision domains for SI in RWM
- Reconciling technical and social aspects
- Limits to stakeholder involvement
- 2007

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Final Report

"Wanting the Unwanted"

- Frame:
Long term RWM = 'wicked' or 'messy' problem (complex; unstructured; difficult to define; depending on political judgement for closure)
- Key Findings Thematic Research Lines
- General Conclusions
- 2008

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Multiple Framings of RWM

- Believers and non-believers in the manageability of the waste problem
 - culture of confrontation in the public debate
 - luxury of principled discussion
- More nuanced and pragmatic framing in nuclear communities
 - pragmatic acceptance or rather pragmatic tolerance ('putting up with')
 - social psychological factors
 - structural factors

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Changes in governing RWM (1/2)

- Participation: a sign of the times
 - top down pressure: Aarhus convention, EU regulations, ...
 - bottom up pressure: growing citizen expectations
- Participation in RWM:
 - seems to go further than in most other sectors;
 - in many respects unique and innovative
 - Sweden, Belgium and Slovenia: focus on local acceptability of more or less pre-defined waste facilities
 - The UK: initiation of an options appraisal process, setting a European precedent for national-level SE
 - But: no full power sharing or co-governance

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Changes in governing RWM (2/2)

- Burden remains on affected communities themselves to assure adequate level of engagement
 - Importance of actively seeking alliance with others in the same situation
- But: RWM agencies have also to gain from good relationship with potential hosts
- Closest thing to co-decision making to be found in siting processes at the local, operational level (as long as no 'national intervention' is needed)
- Strategic decision making remains at best consultative

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Social and Technical Aspects (1/2)

- Almost universal recognition of importance of social aspects of RWM
- But: no thorough integration yet of the socio-political and the techno-scientific
 - Decisions on technical aspects remain largely prerogative of the techno-scientific community
 - SI often focussed on the **social aspects**
 - In practice this is often even further reduced to the socio-economic
 - But: it is also about securing a sustainable relationship with the waste and the waste management system; about feeling safe; about trust in technical options; about what constitutes legitimate knowledge; ...

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Social and Technical Aspects

(2/2)

- Technical-social divide: largely artificial
 - definition of what is waste
 - choice for deep disposal of HLW
- Recognition of existence and importance of social aspects in RWM and participatory turn has already led to impressive results (cf. Sweden and Belgium)
 - need to safeguard what has been gained so far
 - look for ways to deepen even further interaction between experts and affected citizens
 - look for ways to continue ensuring convergence between technical requirements and neighbours expectations on design, accessibility, monitoring, and so forth of the repository site

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009

Final Conclusions

- We are witnessing a process that may still not have reached full maturity
- Biggest challenges for the future:
 - opening up the technical 'black box' to the mutual benefit of both experts and society
 - working towards a closer integration of the technical and the social ⇒ to arrive at creative and sustainable solutions to a problem that is technically, socially, politically and economically complex

ARGONA End-Users Conference - Upsala - 17-18/03/2009