



# Newsletter No. 2

January 2015

**Building a platform for enhanced societal research related to nuclear energy in Central and Eastern Europe**



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# Why do we need national strategies on research in social, societal and governance issue in nuclear domain?

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National research strategies, prepared within the PLATENSO project, are intended as instruments to include social, societal and governance aspects into the nuclear decisions and operations of the governments and industry in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Countries. On the other hand, the motivation behind the strategies is to make social research on nuclear an important factor of national decision-making processes concerning the future of nuclear energy.



All the CEE countries participating in PLATENSO project are currently facing challenges to take certain decisions in the nuclear matters: it might be continuation of the existing nuclear energy sector, building new units or shutting down operating nuclear power plants. Whichever direction the policy actions will go, a reflection on the social, societal and governance aspects of them is much needed.

Nuclear energy has always been raising social controversies related to risks, unintended consequences and possible long-term effects. Also today, especially after the Fukushima accident in 2011, nuclear policy requires inclusion of various – often contrasting – views and opinions, finding consensus and mutual understanding and fostering public dialogue. This can be done by paying more attention to social, societal and governance issues in decision making and strategic research on nuclear.

At the moment social research on nuclear is rather scattered over various research projects, with only little connection to each other and modest influence on policy actions. The same is valid for research teams, initiatives and institutions, which often do not compose an effective research community but rather operate on their own.

Proposed research strategies will help to overcome the problems: integrate different research milieus, include experiences and knowledge gained in other research activities, connect it to existing nuclear research and incorporate into strategic thinking on nuclear energy. We believe that including the social, societal and governance aspects into nuclear research will not only help to lead a more effective nuclear policy, but also enable to better respond to the needs of various stakeholders.

# Project activities in brief



## Lessons learned from earlier projects (WP1)

Results from WP 1 will be published in the beginning of 2015. Some of the major issues are:

- Experiences in social matters and governance derive mostly from the siting of waste management which is too narrow for PLATENSO aims. This seems to be a “green field of research” to be included in research strategies.
- Research needs to be broadened and include all phases of decision making (policy making, setting national programme and its implementation in siting, operation, decommission, etc.)
- Too few policy-makers recognize that stakeholder participation represents the best way to build sustainable decision making processes. More effective interfaces between research and policy making are therefore needed.

## Empowerment of national research capacities (WP2)

The National Contacts approached the already mapped research institutions by motivation letter with the aim to inform them about the PLATENSO project, to elicit the research institutions's interest in the project and their will to join the national network. Response to the letter shows interest of a number of the Research Institutions to join the Platenso's National Networks. Those networks will be established around the National Contacts who will lead agenda of the Network and the first meetings of the National Networks will be organized in each participating CEE country. National Networks will be an open forum to share knowledge, questions and answers on social, societal and governance issues related to nuclear energy.

## The Science, Politics and Ethics of Nuclear Technology Assessment (WP3)

The first PLATENSO WP3 workshop took place in Warsaw on 11 June 2014. The draft of the extended report was prepared by the Polish organisers and hosts of the workshop. In the form of an official PLATENSO deliverable, it will also serve as inspirational input for the preparation of the next WP3 workshops, to take place in Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia in the run of 2015. The discussions from the WP3 workshop in Warsaw showed that there is a need for more debate among the authorities, the private sector and civil society about the situation of nuclear in Poland, and we suggested the idea of organising similar meetings outside of the context of the PLATENSO research project, taking into account that the initiative for these meetings would need to be taken by the authorities. On 21 November 2014, Gaston Meskens (WP3 coordinator) made a presentation to the National PLATENSO meeting in Bucharest in the frame of the preparations of the Romanian WP3 workshop. A first synthesis report with reflections on the WP3 discussions is foreseen after summer 2015.



### Forming a research strategy (WP4)

With the purpose of developing recommendations for a research strategy for social, societal and governance (SSG) issues concerning nuclear energy in new member state countries, 3 different scenarios are investigated and described:

- *Scenario 1:* Continuation of the current situation with reactors in operation and reactors planned to be built in respective countries
- *Scenario 2:* Phasing out nuclear power
- *Scenario 3:* A nuclear energy policy scenario based on Generation IV reactors.

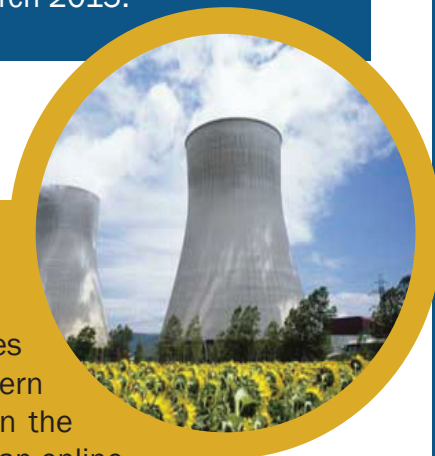
These 3 scenarios are prepared based on the inputs from all partners and address the situations in countries regarding relevant nuclear developments in question, the societal, social and governance challenges in front and connected topics which will need to be analysed in the future. The scenarios are going to be used in the strategies development for all Platenso CEE countries.



### Testing of research strategies and their implementation (WP5)

The aim of WP 5 is to test the national strategies proposed in WP 4 and indicate how they can be implemented in central and eastern Europe countries. The strategies will be tested in a broad political, social and economic context. Testing will identify how the strategies correspond with social and governmental problems of nuclear energy development in the EU. Prepared will be the compatibility of the prepared research strategies with the existing energy policies in participating countries and in the EU. Secondly, consultations will be held with stakeholders about how the strategy fits with general tendencies and challenges of the energy sector in specific conditions of each country.

The activities will start after development of draft strategies in March 2015.



### Establishing a social platform for energy related issues (wp6)

The primary focus is to propose a platform bringing the social issues related to nuclear energy up-front, particularly in Central and Eastern European countries. For this, one of the actions to be launched in the following months is the 'Virtual Information Centre' (VIC). VIC offers an online space to foster collaboration between research institutions at national level as well as between different countries. VIC will be composed of a searchable directory of research institutions interested in being involved in research projects in the field of governance, social and societal aspects related to nuclear energy. If your institution would like to be part of this directory, please do not hesitate to contact the National Contact in your country.





## PLATENSO project partners

at Partners Meeting in Barcelona, November 25-26, 2014



### Dissemination (wp7)

In order to reach set objectives we work on ensuring the overall visibility of the project within the nuclear community, reaching out to the identified target groups and stakeholders in the nuclear field in order to increase their knowledge we created a website, prepared 1st issue of the newsletter and also promoted the project in several other events (e.g. Nuclear energy in the World and in V4 (Visegrád Four) countries - Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia). Further outreach activities are planned for 2015.



# News, reports and publications

**Open Seminar of ETRACK.** Compilation of presentations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Seminar of ETRACK (Energy Transparency Centre of Knowledge) held in Amsterdam on 23 October 2014 <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/default/files/Final%20Draft%20-%202013.08.2014.pdf>

**E-TRACK/RWM 2014 Annual Activity Report** The “Energy – Transparency Centre of Knowledge” (E-TRACK) is a joint initiative of two Directorates-General (DGs) of the EC: the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC92394/lbna26961enn.pdf>

**Challenges in establishing a national programme for research, development and demonstration** important for each waste management programme that has the mandate to develop geological disposal facilities for long-lived wastes. Prepared by Piet Zuidema and Lawrence Johnson, Nagra, Switzerland at EC Conference on the Management of Radioactive Waste (Euradwaste 13) 14-16 October 2013, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Paper: <http://www.igdtp.eu/index.php/secretariat/210-news-events-of-interest/104-challenges-in-establishing-a-national-programme-for-rd-d>

Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQeXK6MMA1U>

**ARCADIA Newsletter #1** <http://projectarcadia.eu/#deliverables>

**PETRUS III Newsletter #1** <http://univ-lorraine.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5b412574afa0c29deb54f19e&id=c7e27f8a25&e=7049a6e9c5>

**EAGLE Report on public views across EU on education and information in the post-Fukushima context (D3.1)** <http://eagle.sckcen.be/en/Deliverables>

## Upcoming events

**NNIC 2015** Nuclear International Conference, 22-25 February 2015, King Hussein bin Talal Convention Centre, Jordan, <http://tinyurl.com/k645vb9>

**PIME 2015**, Conference on Public Information Materials Exchange 1-4 March 2015, Bratislava, Slovakia <http://www.euronuclear.org/events/pime/pime2015/>

**WNFC 2015** World Nuclear Fuel Cycle, 21-23 April 2015, Prague, Czech Republic, <https://www.etches.com/ehome/96167/208700/?eb=152697>

**SENIX conference** The Role of Social Sciences in a Low-Carbon Energy Mix; 25-27 May 2015, Stockholm, Sweden, [www.delegia.com/senix2015](http://www.delegia.com/senix2015)

**RICOMET 2015** International conference on Risk perception, communication and ethics of exposures to ionising radiation, 15-17 June 2015, Brdo, Slovenia, [http://eagle.sckcen.be/en/Project-Events/20150615\\_RICOMET](http://eagle.sckcen.be/en/Project-Events/20150615_RICOMET)

**NENE 2015** 24th International Conference Nuclear Energy for New Europe, 14-17 September 2015, Portorož, Slovenia, <http://www.nss.si/nene2015/>

**REM00 2015** 5th International Conference & Workshop, 23-24 September 2015, Maestral Resort, Budva, Montenegro, <http://www.renecon.eu/html/remoo.html>



## Project partners

The project consortium consists of nineteen organisations from twelve different countries, see them listed below:

Karita Research AB (KARITA), Sweden



The Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK•CEN), Belgium



The Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD), Bulgaria



Galson Sciences Limited (GSL), United Kingdom



Institute of Sociology Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ISAS CR), Czech Republic



ÚJV Řež, a.s. Nuclear Research Institute (NRI), Czech Republic

Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute Applied Communication (EKL), Hungary



**ENERGIAKLUB**  
CLIMATE POLICY INSTITUTE  
APPLIED COMMUNICATIONS

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Hungary/Slovenia



**REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**  
Slovenia

Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI), Lithuania



Collegium Civitas (CV), Poland

**Collegium Civitas**  
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES

Nicolaus Copernicus University (NCU), Poland



Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology (INCT), Poland

University of Ljubljana (UL), Slovenia

University of Ljubljana

Matej Bel University (MBU), Slovakia



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Slovak Academy of Sciences – Institute for Research in Social Communication (UVSK SAV), Slovakia



Environmental Social Science Research Group (ESSRG), Hungary



environment  
research  
science  
society  
**essrg**

Merience Strategic Thinking (MERIENCE), Spain

**merience**  
strategic thinking

University of Bucharest (UB), Romania

Institute for Nuclear Research Romania (INR), Romania



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