

International Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Public Engagement of the Back End of Fuel-Cycle

On October 12 2018, the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), hosted in its premises at Frascati (Rome) a one day workshop to debate best practices and lessons learned from national and international experiences on the public engagement in the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Public engagement is a critical aspect of the process of establishment of a repository for nuclear wastes. The workshop participants discussed the topic in international and European perspectives, as the success story of the public engagement for the Swedish Spent Fuel Repository and the lessons learned by the experience of French low-level waste disposal site.

After the welcome by Aldo Pizzuto (ENEA) and the opening remarks of Matteo Gerlini (Sapienza University of Rome), the first panel of the workshop consisted in a presentation of the outcomes of Horizon 2020 project "History of Nuclear Energy and Society" (HoNESt) - granted by the European Commission in the frame of EURATOM actions. HoNESt contributes to share knowledge on success stories, and criticalities among the stakeholders to improve the quality of public acceptance of nuclear energy management in various countries, both for those exiting from nuclear and for those investing in new plants. The lessons learned were presented in perspectives provided by history and by social sciences. The presentations were delivered by Albert Presas i Puig (University Pompeu Fabra), Maria del Mar Rubio (University of Navarra), Josep Espluga (University Autònoma Barcelona), with the chairing of Giovanni Paoloni (Sapienza University of Rome).

The second panel dealt with two relevant national experiences in the radio-nuclear waste disposal and repository: France and Sweden. Valérie Renaud (Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs - ANDRA) gave a presentation on the French low-level waste disposal site "Centre de l'Aube". Björn Dverstorp (Strålsäkerhetsmyndigheten/Swedish Radiation Safety Authority - SSM) gave a presentation on the Swedish Spent Fuel Repository.

The final panel was with the three main Italian stakeholders, who dealt with the issues of public acceptance of the radioactive nuclear waste disposal programme in Italy, and with the future plan for the implementation of the national repository. The presentations were by Giuseppe Sedda of the National Inspectorate for Nuclear Security and Radioprotection (ISIN), Angelo Paratore of the Nuclear Plants Management Company (SOGIN), and Paride Meloni of the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy, and Sustainable Development (ENEA).

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