



Faire avancer la sûreté nucléaire

Stakeholder Involvement for the Orientation of the Research Agenda of a Technical Support Organisation: Experience of IRSN

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Sylvie CHARRON (IRSN)
Caroline SCHIEBER (CEPN)

General Context

OPERRA Periodic Meeting - WP4 - Task 4.3

June 2016



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➤ CONTEXT

- IRSN - Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety - is the French national public expert in nuclear and radiological risks.
- For more than ten years, IRSN has developed approaches to open expertise to society by involving many stakeholders at the heart of its research, expertise and monitoring missions.
 - 2007 Creation of a 'Research Policy Committee' (COR)
 - 2009 « Charter on openness to society »
 - Increase transparency around its activities
 - Share its knowledge
 - Accompany the actors of the society in the acquisition of the skills necessary for their implication and build with them the evaluation of the risks

➤ The Research Policy Committee

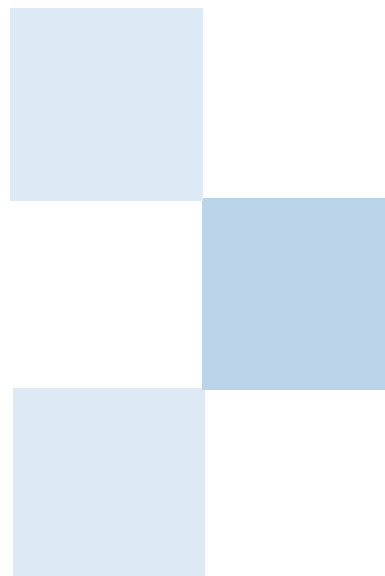
- Advisory body to the IRSN Board of directors, giving opinions on research objectives and priorities in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection.
- Objective: to develop an overall approach, including social and political aspects to give pluralist advices on the orientation of the Institute's research strategy
- Made up of members of the authorities, companies, professional bodies, employees from the nuclear sector, elected representatives, associations, research bodies, and experts from other countries
- It submits recommendations to the IRSN's Board of Directors with respect to objectives and priorities for research to be conducted in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection.
- Work methodology
 - Plenary sessions at least once a year
 - Hearings
 - Work groups

➤ The Working Groups

- **Low Doses Research** - WG FAIDO (2009)
- **Radioecology Research** - WG COR-ENVI (2011)
- **Major Accident** - WG COR-Acci (2014)
- **Opening to the Society in Research** - WG 4 (2014)

These WG organise regular hearings of various kind of stakeholders (national or international level): experts, research bodies, representatives from NGO's - patients, workers, environment protection, local commission of information,... - ,...

Key outcomes from 2016 workshop with Stakeholders involved in GT-FAIDO and COR-ENVI



➤ Some details of the workshop

■ Around 30 representatives:

- Environmental associations
- Local information committees
- NGOs (*Cancer League...*)

■ 1 day meeting: 9:30 (a.m) – 5:00 (p.m)

■ 4 presentations with discussions

- IRSN strategy in [radiobiology research](#) on low doses
- IRSN strategy in [epidemiology research](#) on low doses
- [Strategic research agenda in radioecology](#), in France and in Europe
- The involvement of SHs in the [European research on post-accident management](#)

➤ IRSN's changes over the past 5 years, following stakeholders' expectations

■ IRSN has:

- Progressed in interdisciplinary research work
- Share experiences with European and international researchers

■ Research topics have also evolved:

- Non-cancer effects related to ionising radiations
- Multifactorial exposures

■ IRSN has worked on dissemination and communications of the results

- Availability of scientific publications on the IRSN website
- Articles and bibliographic synthesis written in destination to public
- Regular presentations in local information committee

➤ Examples of some Stakeholders' expectations on radiation protection research topics

■ Expectations on research dedicated to low doses:

- Effects from multifactorial exposures (chemical-radiological combination)
- Chronic exposures
- Consideration on individual radio-sensitivity
- Intensification of studies on genetic effects
- Integration of subcontractors employees in nuclear epidemiological survey
- Support for the creation of national cancer registries in France

■ Expectations on research dedicated to Radioecology

- Effects of radionuclides other than cesium (e.g. plutonium and polonium)
- Decontamination strategies in contaminated environments

■ Expectations on research dedicated to Post-accident

- Research on human and organizational factors
- Investigation on how to avoid a social collapse in post-accident situation

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➤ The stakeholders' willingness to be involved in the research process as a whole

■ Involve stakeholders at the earliest stages of the research process and discuss with them possible directions

- Debate on research hypotheses made by researchers
- Discuss the scientific methods used and justify it (choices of models, exposure conditions, types of radionuclides ...)

■ Develop participative research

- Promote research taking into account the actual living conditions of people in their environment
- Train local residents to the measurement of radioactivity and set up shared databases

■ Work for a better dissemination and communication of research results

- Allow access to results in an understandable way
- Clarify the involvement of research findings into management systems. *How are the research results integrated by authorities in charge of radiation protection?*

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➤ Example of new action of IRSN following Research Committee Policy Recommendations : Towards a pluralist approach for research on chronic exposure

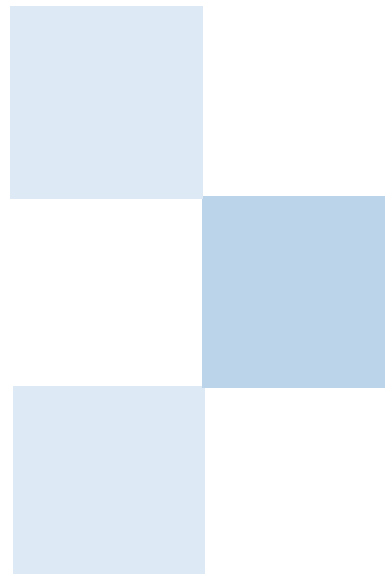
■ Regular demand from stakeholders and recommendations from the Research Policy Committee

- Consider the multiplicity of sources of exposures (not only radiations) in the research on the effects of chronic exposure to low dose radiations

■ Creation of a Working Group with other Research Institute

- WG ORRCH - Pluralist orientation of research and chronic risks
- Favor a multidisciplinary approach in research by involving other research institute
- Involvement of new stakeholders (from outside the nuclear sector)

Some lessons learned on stakeholder involvement process



➤ Lessons learned from IRSN experience

■ A long term process initiated more than 10 years ago ...

- It's necessary to have time to build confidence
- A process initiated to build a pluralist expertise by involving SHs
- A learning process for both stakeholders and experts

■ ... Through different modalities

- Working Groups
- Technical National Dialogues (waste management, ...)
- Local dialogues on specific topics (radon, nuclear facilities, ...)
- ...

■ Some remaining issues

- Stakeholders identification
- Question of the representativeness of SHs regarding civil society
- A necessary learning process for researchers to know how to explain their work in a comprehensive way and to integrate the expectations of SHs in their own research agenda
- A necessary learning process for SHs to understand what is at stake in the research strategies

Thank you for your attention