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| **Legal document analysis (international and national) related to stakeholder engagement in nuclear/radiological emergencies** |

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| **Abstract**  This milestone focuses on the international and national legal frames, and implementation of international and national legal requirements related to transparency in nuclear emergency management (preparedness, response and recovery) towards different stakeholders. 28 EU Member states have been evaluated on their national implementation of requirements related to public information, participation and transparency towards different stakeholders.  Results brought forward a variety of challenges associated with transparency towards different stakeholders, in particular towards general public, during a nuclear or radiological emergency. These challenges include: avoidance of rumors, panic, confusion, and unsettlement; and the provision of reliable and proper information. It is challenging to avoid contradictions, to provide information to stakeholders in a timely manner, to balance the provision of secure information, the handle the amount of information, to ensure that sufficient information is available and to present it in plain language. Furthermore, the responses from MS indicate that it is challenging to keep the balance between: the right of the public to be informed and national regulations on emergency planning; the truth and frightening people; and a desired highest level of transparency on the one side and a reliable and deliberate crisis communication on the other side. Several MS indicate that they report directly to the parliament on duties concerning transparency related to nuclear emergencies: parliamentary questions, emergency plan and annual reports. In most MS the responsibility and the authority to draft public information documents are shared among different actors and is not limited to nuclear regulatory organisations (NRO). Monitoring and review of regulatory process related to EP&R to ensure openness and transparency towards stakeholders occurs in several manners: intern procedures, internal audits, stakeholder consultation, NRO quality process, feedback, science and technology, experiences. Several MS indicate that there are committees or governing bodies that are responsible for the oversight of transparency related to emergency preparedness and response e.g. oversight is done by stakeholders, general transparency bodies or specific governing bodies. |

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# Introduction and WP1 overview

The ENGAGE project, funded under the H2020 CONCERT, aims at *ENhancinG stAkeholder participation in the GovernancE of radiological risks* (ENGAGE, 2017)*.* It is a two-year project that started in November 2017, and which seeks to identify and address key challenges and opportunities for stakeholder engagement in relation to medical use of ionising radiation; post-accident exposures; and exposure to indoor radon. In all these situations, stakeholder engagement is a key issue for improving the governance of radiological risks and the radiation protection of the exposed individuals.

The project aims are:

1. to assess why, when and how stakeholders engage in radiation protection;
2. to develop novel approaches to analysing stakeholder interaction and engagement, and provide guidance to meet the challenges and opportunities identified in response to (a);
3. to investigate the processes for enhancing radiation protection culture and their role in facilitating stakeholder engagement, and develop guidelines for building radiation protection culture; and
4. to build a joint knowledge base for stakeholder engagement in radiation protection.

ENGAGE WP 1 on *Rationales and frameworks for stakeholder engagement in radiation protection* will clarify the rationales for stakeholder engagement in radiation protection and the related legal or contextual drivers (why does stakeholder engagement occur, who is involved and for what purpose). WP1 will examine institutional and non-institutional stakeholders (e.g. EU bodies, national governments, responsible decision makers, responsible organisations, nuclear lobby, civil society organisations and other groups), what their attitudes and involvement are in relation to public participation into radiation protection issues, and finally if and how these positions can be aligned with the demands of Aarhus and other conventions, EU directives, international and national guidelines, bottom-up guidelines (e.g. from Citizen Science organisations), and general demands for public participation.

The investigation will be focused on the participation analyses at macro-level and will look at the European and international discourse for stakeholder engagement, what is prescribed and required, how these prescriptions are transposed at national level in participating countries and what is the extent and justification for stakeholder engagement. Based on the obtained information and analyses within the WP1, the conceptualization of the frameworks in which stakeholders are engaged in radiation protection will be developed.

In the frame of Task 1.2 on stakeholder engagement in relation to emergency and recovery preparedness (EP&R) and response an analysis of documents will be performed, such as BSS directive, OECD-NEA guidelines, ICRP publications, and other. This milestone report focus on the international and national legal frames, and implementation of international and national legal requirements related to transparency in nuclear emergency management (preparedness, response and recovery) towards different stakeholders.

# Legal requirements related to transparency towards different stakeholders

The revision of the Article 8 of new Nuclear Safety Directive focuses on increasing the transparency of the regulatory authorities and operators of nuclear power plants with their obligation to make necessary information available in relation to the safety of the nuclear installations and its regulation, with specific consideration to local authorities, population and stakeholders in the vicinity of a nuclear installation both in times of normal operation and in the event of incidents and accidents.

***Article 8 (NSD)***

***Transparency***

*1. Member States shall ensure that necessary information in relation to the regulation of nuclear safety of nuclear installations and its regulation is made available to the workers and the general public, with specific consideration to local authorities, population and stakeholders in the vicinity of a nuclear installation. That obligation includes ensuring that the competent regulatory authority and the licence holders, within their fields of responsibility, provide in the framework of their communication policy:*

*(a) information on normal operating conditions of nuclear installations to workers and the general the public in the fields of its competence; and*

*(b) prompt information in case of incidents and accidents to workers and the general public and to the competent regulatory authorities of other Member States in the vicinity of a nuclear installation.*

*2. Information shall be made available to the public in accordance with relevant national legislation and international obligations instruments, provided that this does not jeopardise other overriding interests such as, inter alia, security, which are recognised in national relevant legislation or international obligations instruments."*

*3. Member States shall, without prejudice to Article 5(2), ensure that the competent regulatory authority engages, as appropriate, in cooperation activities on the nuclear safety of nuclear installations with competent regulatory authorities of other Member States in the vicinity of a nuclear installation, inter alia, via the exchange and/or sharing of information.*

*4. Member States shall ensure that the general public is given the appropriate opportunities to participate effectively in the decision-making process relating to the licensing of nuclear installations. in accordance with relevant legislation and international instruments.*

In addition, the new BSS with its Article 77 on transparency (EU, 2014) requires that:

***Article 77 (BSS Directive)***

*“Member States shall ensure that information in relation to the justification of classes or types of practices, the regulation of radiation sources and of radiation protection is made available to undertakings, workers, members of the public, as well as patients and other individuals subject to medical exposure. This obligation includes ensuring that the competent authority provides information within its fields of competence.”*

# Stakeholders definition in legal documents related to the nuclear/radiological emergency field

In its Article 66 on estimation of doses to the members of the public, BSS Directive requires the competent authority to make radiation doses also available to *stakeholders*, while Art. 73 establishes consultation with *stakeholders* regarding control of exposure in contaminated areas. Article 102 establishes the involvement of *stakeholders* in decisions regarding the development and implementation of strategies for managing exposure situations. Finally, Annex XI includes *stakeholder involvement* into the emergency management systems and emergency response plans as referred to in Articles 69, 97 and 98. Stakeholders are not mentioned in Articles 70, 71 or 99 of the BSS Directive.

While the term “stakeholder” is neither mentioned in IAEA EPR Public Communication (2015) nor in IAEA GSR Part 7 (2015), IAEA guidance on public communication (2012) highlights their importance without clearly defining the term. Only in its publication on Stakeholder Involvement[[1]](#footnote-1), the IAEA provides an overview of possible stakeholder definitions: “*A broad definition of a stakeholder is anyone who feels impacted by an activity, whether physically or emotionally.”* The document acknowledges that this definition makes it difficult to identify all relevant stakeholders in particular circumstances, as some stakeholders may be self-selecting and situational.

The IAEA Handbook on Nuclear Law[[2]](#footnote-2) states that: “*Owing to the differing views on who has a genuine interest in a particular nuclear related activity, no authoritative definition of stakeholder has yet been offered, and no definition is likely to be accepted by all parties. However, stakeholders have typically included the following: the regulated industry or professionals; scientific bodies; governmental agencies (local, regional and national) whose responsibilities arguably cover, or ‘overlap’ nuclear energy; the media; the public (individuals, community groups and interest groups); and other States (especially neighbouring States that have entered into agreements providing for an exchange of information concerning possible trans-boundary impacts, or States involved in the export or import of certain technologies or material)*”.

A useful distinction sometimes used, which touches on the IAEA Handbook on Nuclear Law quotation above, is between ‘statutory’ and ‘non-statutory’ stakeholders. This distinguishes between those organizations and bodies that are by law required to be involved in any planning, development or operational activity and those that will be impacted, directly or indirectly, by it. From a facility or programme proponent or operator’s perspective, such ‘statutory’ stakeholders therefore include: the regulator, local or national planning authorities, various service related bodies (power, water and emergency planning) that will service or be impacted by a development and national and local government entities involved in policy making and implementation. ‘Non-statutory’ stakeholders include those organizations and individuals who feel in whatever way impacted or affected by an activity (thus some stakeholders in this category may be self-selected). Local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) fall into this group, and recognition of their importance cannot be overestimated. Their adequate inclusion or exclusion, for whatever reason, can contribute significantly to the success or failure of a nuclear facility project.

The IAEA Handbook on Nuclear Law (2003) states in Chapter 2.3.6 on public information “*Although it is not referred to in the Convention on Nuclear Safety or the Joint Convention, most regulatory bodies have programmes for the provision of information to other stakeholders (the public, the media, the legislature, local government and industry) about issues and activities relevant to nuclear and radiation safety. Indeed, public confidence that nuclear material and techniques are being used safely is closely linked to the regulatory body’s track record of providing prompt, accurate and complete information on such issues and activities. Independence is also relevant in this context. National legislation should make it clear that the regulatory body is authorized to communicate its requirements, decisions and opinions, and the basis for them, to the public independently. Furthermore, it should enable the regulatory body to communicate directly with high level governmental authorities when communication with them is considered necessary for the effective exercise of the regulatory body’s functions. Finally, legal authority is needed in order to ensure that the regulatory body can make available, to other governmental bodies, international organizations and the public, information on incidents and abnormal occurrences, and other information, as appropriate.[[3]](#footnote-3)*”

The OECD/NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence identifies a stakeholder as: “*any actor-institution, group or individual with an interest in or a role to play in the societal decision-making process*”.[[4]](#footnote-4) Also, the OECD/NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence Annotated Glossary (2013) provides a large list of possible stakeholders (in no particular order) regarding radioactive waste management processes: the general public, demographic groups (like young people), residents, representatives or elected officials of local communities, national/regional government ministries/departments, regulators, national/local NGOs, local pressure groups, trade unions, the media, the scientific research community, implementing organisation, the nuclear industry, contractors, waste producers, international organisations.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The public or members of the public likely to be and actually affected are regularly mentioned in documents instead of stakeholders, for instance in Art. 70 and 71 in BSS.

EURATOM Article 70 BSS speaks about requirements to inform “members of the public likely to be affected”. Article 71 BSS establishes information requirements related to “members of the public actually affected”. A “member of the public” is defined in the IAEA GSR Part 3 Basic Safety Standards as follows: “*For purposes of protection and safety, in a general sense, any individual in the population except when subject to occupational exposure or medical exposure. For the purpose of verifying compliance with the annual dose limit for public exposure, this is the representative person.[[6]](#footnote-6)”*

In the traditional understanding the BSS (along with IAEA EPR Harmonized Assistance Capabilities [2017][[7]](#footnote-7)) distinguishes between “members of the public” and “workers” in relation to their protection from ionizing radiation. BSS continues to use the term “members of the public” in relation to their information in emergencies, but looking into international guidance on public information, the term “the public” is mostly used regarding their information, distinguishing between population groups with specific information needs (language, etc.) and between different emergency zones, which are defined by the individual country.

IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GS-R-2 (which has been superseded by IAEA GSR Part 7 on Emergency Preparedness Response[[8]](#footnote-8), see below) establishes the requirements for an adequate level of preparedness for and response to a nuclear or radiological emergency in any State, and specifies that “*Aspects of preparedness important for mitigating adverse psychological effects involve providing useful, timely, truthful, consistent and appropriate information on the nature of any hazards and providing clear instructions on the actions to be taken“*[[9]](#footnote-9).It also requires that “*Arrangements shall be made for: providing useful, timely, truthful, consistent and appropriate information to the public in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency; responding to incorrect information and rumours; and responding to requests for information from the public and from the news and information media*”[[10]](#footnote-10).

IAEA GSR Part 7 on Emergency Preparedness Response[[11]](#footnote-11) obliges the government in its Requirement 13 to “*ensure that arrangements are in place for communication with the public throughout a nuclear or radiological emergency[[12]](#footnote-12)*.” But it does not define “the public” or “members of the public”. GSR Part 7 does not recommend, which members of the public should receive prior information. According to GSR Part 7 the goals of emergency response are “to keep **the public** informed and to maintain public trust” in a nuclear or radiological emergency without a differentiation. According to Article 4.10. “The government shall [...](i) [to] coordinate effective communication with “**the public”** in preparedness for a nuclear or radiological emergency” without distinction between members of the public, workers, emergency workers and patients. In addition, it explicitly establishes requirements for arrangements to be made to provide promptly a warning and instruction to permanent, transient and special population groups or those responsible for them and to special facilities in the Precautionary Action Zone (hereinafter referred to as PAZ) and the Urgent Protection Action Planning Zone (hereinafter referred to as UPZ) upon declaration of an emergency class. Thus, authorities responsible for emergency communication shall include instructions in the languages mainly spoken in these zones on the immediate actions to be taken. According to this review, most countries inform the public within the emergency preparedness zone (EPZ), some decide who to inform depending on the distance from facility or depending on local or regional government boundaries.

Regarding information requirements, GSR Part 7 indicates that the term “the public” summarizes all groups of individuals:

* “Special population groups” are those members of the public for whom special arrangements are necessary in order for effective protective actions to be taken. Examples include disabled persons, hospital patients and prisoners.[[13]](#footnote-13)
* “vulnerable members of the public”: e.g. children, pregnant women, etc;
* Members of the public directly affected by an effluent discharged to the environment;
* Members of the public in the vicinity of a nuclear installation;
* **Emergency Preparedness Zone (EPZ)** comprises the precautionary action zone (PAZ) and the urgent protective action planning zone (UPZ).
* **Precautionary action zone (PAZ):** An area around a facility for which emergency arrangements have been made to take urgent protective actions in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency to avoid or to minimize severe deterministic effects off the site. Protective actions within this area are to be taken before or shortly after a release of radioactive material or an exposure, on the basis of prevailing conditions at the facility.
* **Urgent protective action planning zone (UPZ):** An area around a facility for which arrangements have been made to take urgent protective actions in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency to avert doses off the site in accordance with international safety standards. Protective actions within this area are to be taken on the basis of environmental monitoring — or, as appropriate, prevailing conditions at the facility.
* **Emergency Planning Distance (EPD**) comprises the extended planning distance (EPD) and the ingestion and commodities planning distance (ICPD).
* **Extended Planning Distance (EPD)** extended planning distance (EPD). Area around a facility for which emergency arrangements are made to conduct monitoring following the declaration of a general emergency and to identify areas warranting emergency response actions to be taken off the site within a period following a significant radioactive release that would allow the risk of stochastic effects among members of the public to be effectively reduced. The area within the extended planning distance serves for planning purposes and may not be the actual area in which monitoring is to be conducted to identify areas where early protective actions such as relocation are necessary. While efforts need to be made at th preparedness stage to prepare for taking effective early protective actions within this area, the actual area will be determined by the prevailing conditions in an emergency. As a precaution, some urgent protective actions may be warranted within the EPD to reduce the risk of stochastic effects among members of the public.
* **Ingestion and Commodities Planning Distance (ICPD):** Area around a facility for which emergency arrangements are made to take effective emergency response actions following the declaration of a general emergency in order to reduce the risk of stochastic effects among members of the public and to mitigate non-radiological consequences as a result of the distribution, sale and consumption of food, milk and drinking water and the use of commodities other than food that may have contamination from a significant radioactive release. The area within the ingestion and commodities planning distance serves for planning purposes to prepare for emergency response actions to monitor and control commodities, including food, either for domestic use or for international trade. The actual area will be determined on the basis of the prevailing conditions in an emergency. As a precaution, some urgent protective actions may be warranted within the ingestion and commodities planning distance to prevent the ingestion of food, milk or drinking water and to prevent the use of commodities that may have contamination following a significant radioactive release.

# Implementation of transparency requirements towards different stakeholders in EU countries

For the ENGAGE project, authorities responsible for nuclear emergency management have been contacted in order to collect implementation of international requirements related to transparency towards different stakeholders. The ENGAGE questions have been included in a questionnaire distributed in a context of the project "*Study on good practices in implementing the requirements on public information in the event of an emergency, under the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive and Nuclear Safety Directive*" supported by DG Energy (Perko et. al, 2019). Representatives of authorities from 26 Member States out of 28 responded to the questionnaire (information is missing for United Kingdom and Portugal). The following ENGAGE topics are explored: main challenges associated with transparency during a nuclear or radiological emergency, reporting to the parliament on duties concerning transparency related to nuclear emergencies, monitor and review regulatory processes related to emergency preparedness and response to ensure openness and transparency and committees/governing bodies responsible for oversight of transparency related to emergency preparedness and response.

Challenges of authorities in transparency towards different stakeholders

Results show that, a variety of challenges concerning transparency during a nuclear or radiological emergency are brought forward by the authorities. These challenges include: avoidance of rumors, panic, confusion, and unsettlement; the provision of reliable and proper information. Additional challenges mentioned by the respondents include avoiding contradictions, providing information in a timely manner, balancing the provision of secure information, handling the amount of information, ensuring that sufficient information is available and presenting it in plain language. Furthermore, keeping the balance between the right of the public to be informed and national regulations on emergency planning; the truth and frightening people; the desired highest level of transparency on the one side and a reliable and deliberate crisis communication on the other side are also mentioned as challenges associated with transparency. Some countries, like Slovenia and Slovakia state that they do not see any particular challenges regarding transparency during a nuclear or radiological emergency. Other countries, like Malta, state that this issue has not been explored.

Reporting on transparency to the MS parliament

Eight countries indicate that they report directly to the parliament on duties concerning transparency related to nuclear emergencies. Reporting to parliament occurs in three manners: parliamentary questions (Austria, Greece, Lithuania), Emergency plan (Bulgaria), and Annual reports (Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Romania and Spain). In some cases, like in France, there is no systematic procedure planned but the Nuclear Regulatory Organisation (NRO) can be required to report on this topic through parliamentary hearings.

Monitoring and review of regulatory process related to EP&R to ensure openness and transparency

Fifteen countries indicate that the NRO does not have the sole authority to draft public information documents it deems appropriate concerning nuclear or radiological emergencies. This indicates that in most countries this responsibility and the authority thereof is shared among different actors. Twelve countries indicate they monitor and review their regulatory processes related to emergency preparedness and response to ensure openness and transparency. Monitoring and reviewing occurs in several manners: intern procedures, internal audits, stakeholder consultation, NRO quality process, feedback, science and technology and experiences. Seven countries indicate that in their respective countries there are committees or governing bodies that are responsible for the oversight of transparency related to emergency preparedness and response. Of those countries that indicate that these committees or governing bodies exist, one indicates oversight is done by stakeholders (Austria), three indicate oversight is kept by general transparency bodies (Croatia, France, Spain) and four indicate oversight of transparency is done by specific governing bodies (Spain, Lithuania, France and Cyprus).

# EXAMPLES of public participation and transparency based on the legal document analysis

## Belgium: Public participation and transparency

FANC is in charge of disseminating objective and neutral information about radiation risks, according to Article 26 of the Law of 15 April 1994. FANC has the duty to communicate with the public. Therefore, they answer any questions and requests for information received from the Government, Members of Parliament or any other parties. Interested parties that are informed by FANC comprise:

* the general public and the media:
* FANC and Bel V have their own web sites. The FANC web site allows the general public to contact and ask questions to FANC;
* media are informed by the FANC management and the FANC communication office. Important events give rise to press releases and conferences;
* laws and regulations are published in the Belgian official journal (“Belgish Staatsblad-Moniteur Belge”), as well as notification of decisions (licensing of class I facilities, recognition of experts in health physics …). A consolidated version of the regulations is available on the FANC web site
* the general public is consulted (“public inquiry”) in the frame of the licensing process of high risk facilities (Class I and some Class II), with the possibility to attend information meetings organized by the FANC;
* the supervising Minister and the Parliament through the answers given by FANC to questions addressed by the Parliament’s members to the minister;
* the government commissioner who attends the meetings of the Board of Directors;
* the annual report submitted to the parliament;
* the follow-up by the parliamentary commission of Home Affairs;
* the licensees: several formal and informal communication mechanisms are in place;
* other interested parties: The Royal Decree of 20 July 2001 (GRR-2001) laying down General Regulations regarding the protection of the public, workers and the environment against the hazards of ionizing radiation foresees that other parties are notified of the FANC decisions: For example, Article 6.8 prescribes notification of the granted licenses to local authorities, to some federal administrations, to the civil security, to ONDRAF/NIRAS, to the European commission and other European countries when relevant.

The government and the public are also informed by FANC’s annual report. This report is published on the FANC web site, together with the Bel V annual report. Parliament members can also ask questions to FANC supervising minister.

## BULGARIA: Public participation and transparency

The Republic of Bulgaria considers establishing a process to consult, where appropriate, the interested parties, including the public, during the licensing process so that they are able to present their views, and their concerns are addressed. In respect to public involvement in the licensing process, a text has been prepared for amendment of the Regulation on the Procedure for Issuing Licenses and Permits for Safe Use of Nuclear Energy.[[14]](#footnote-14)

Special attention is paid to the public awareness on emergency planning through the preparation of information materials, brochures, meetings with students, meetings with local authorities and population.

The information policy of Kozloduy NPP upon activation of the emergency plan aims to provide the public informed about the emergency and transparency of the implemented actions and measures, undertaken to protect plant personnel and to limit the consequences of the accident.

## CYPRUS: Transparency and public participation

The regulatory authority in collaboration with the administration and other authorities and institutions is involved in reviewing and updating the National Action Plan in case of radiological emergencies.

## CROATIA: Public participation and transparency

The Croatian nuclear and radiological emergency management system is based on the Regulation on Measures for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation and Interventions in Case of Emergency (OG 102/12).The Ordinance on the Scope and Content of the Plan and Program of Measures in the Event of an Emergency and of Informing the Public and Competent Bodies prescribes the scope, contents and other issues related to the emergency plans which have to be prepared by the users of radioactive sources, by the performers of nuclear activities and by the operators of nuclear objects.

In a Project Upgrading of the Croatian Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and Harmonization with Neighbouring Countries", 2013/2014 Croatia identified public information as one component of emergency management systems, which should be harmonised with (neighbouring) countries[[15]](#footnote-15).

## CZECH REPUBLIC: Public participation and transparency

Communication with the public and public awareness is a responsibility of the licensee. Ministry of Interior Decree No. 328/2001 includes principles of crisis communication and connection within the integrated rescue system.

According to the Czech National Report for the Convention on Nuclear Safety (2017), ČEZ, a. s. has been making substantial efforts on a long-term basis to establish friendly and mutually beneficial relationships with the towns, municipalities and population in the vicinity of the power plants.

In the region of Dukovany NPP, representatives and residents of municipalities living in the plant's vicinity, the Civil Safety Commission (OBK) and the general public have been allowed to inspect the plants premises, including the information centre and both spent nuclear fuel interim storage facilities, their questions and comments have been answered. The public in the region is regularly informed about the current situation at the nuclear power plant through the printed periodical publication “Zpravodaj”, which is distributed by the power plant with a print run of 40,000 issues to every household within 20 km from the power plant.

The Information Centre of Temelín NPP is used to inform the general public and especially schools using 3D projection, interactive models, and tailor-made technical tour equipment, promoting technical education among schools and kindergartens. Media representatives receive daily information, direct coverage from the power plant and more than 150 press releases per year.

The SÚJB, just as the other central state administration bodies, provides the public with information pursuant to Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on Free Access to Information and Act No. 123/1998 Coll., on the Right to Environmental Information. Increasing the SÚJB's credibility, as much open public communication as possible, is one of the priorities set for 2016. The SÚJB website was created to facilitate gathering information concerning the performance of state supervision in the field of utilization of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation, and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The most relevant information is subject to the mandatory disclosure on the so-called “official notice board”, e.g. Acts and Decrees as well as instructions to the population upon the occurrence of an extraordinary event”. Annual reports, national reports, important decisions, and safety guides and recommendations are published in the “Reports” section. The SÚJB provides not only information on the current state of performance of the nuclear power plants in the Czech Republic but also on the events occurred at NPPs. The SÚJB has also its facebook page to publish brief information and curiosities, for example, from the field of nuclear industry, ionizing radiation utilization, nuclear safety and radiation protection for the general public.[[16]](#footnote-16)

## FINLAND: Public participation and transparency

Since the interest in nuclear power in Finland is increasing, communication and information sharing with media and the general public on nuclear and radiation safety has become an increasingly important success factor for STUK and utilities. Regulatory processes and decisions have to be clear and understandable to general public. Due to the challenge, STUK has initiated a strategic communication development project in spring 2016 to address both changing communication environment and the use of modern communication tools. In addition, STUK has also initiated a project to develop its crisis communication capabilities. This work is based on the experience on recent events as well as past emergency exercises. The Finnish Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) is responsible for informing the public and media on radiation and nuclear safety. STUK aims to communicate proactively, openly, timely and understandably. A prerequisite for successful communication is that STUK is known among media and general public and the information given by STUK is regarded as truthful. Communication is based on best available information. STUK’s web site is an important tool in communication. It is important that the web pages are professionally edited and updated regularly. The information on web pages must be easy to find and understandable. Internal communication provides the personnel information about STUK’s activities and supports its capability in participating in the external communication. STUK publishes information concerning significant events (INES ≥ 1) as press releases. Information from other events is published on STUK´s website. STUK describes the events also in yearly reports on nuclear safety that are also available to the general public through internet.

In terms of communication and information dissemination Finland wants to further enhance transparency and effectiveness of communication and improve dissemination of information. According to the Decree on the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (618/1997) STUK is responsible to inform about radiation and nuclear safety matters and participate on training activities in the area. STUK utilises many means to communicate with the public and interested stakeholders, such as meetings, seminars, and training courses. All these are tailored and targeted to different stakeholders and stakeholder groups. STUK pays special attention to using internet to inform public and interested stakeholders about nuclear and radiation safety in general, risks related to radiation and use of nuclear energy, safety requirements, roles and responsibilities of STUK, STUK’s organization, current activities and operating experience, significant regulatory decisions taken, events and publications and safety research. STUK web pages can be found (www.stuk.fi) in Finnish, Swedish and in English. STUK has also made itself available in social media (Facebook and twitter).

## FRANCE: Public participation and transparency

The French Act on Energy Transition for Green Growth (TECV Act) comprises a Title VI, the provisions of which reinforce nuclear safety and information of the public (see § 7.1). ASN takes part in public information within its areas of competence, notably by making the information in these fields accessible to the greatest number (see § 8.1). It regularly reports on its activity, notably by submitting its annual activity report to Parliament, to the Government and to the President of the Republic. It also uses various channels and written media (monthly ASN newsletter, Contrôle magazine, annual report), website[[17]](#footnote-17)), public information and documentation centre, press conferences, seminars and exhibitions. Since January 2013, ASN has been posting its position statements on important subjects on its website. Moreover, pursuant to the TECV Act, all IRSN opinions issued at the request of the authorities after 17th February 2016 are published.

## GERMANY: Public participation and transparency

For 2016 it is intended to provide an online information portal of the Federation and the Länder on safety in nuclear technology and thus make it available to the general public. This information portal is being developed jointly by the BMUB, the BfS and the competent nuclear licensing and supervisory authorities of the Länder.

So far, the BMUB, the BfS and the competent nuclear licensing and supervisory authorities of the Länder mainly used their own websites for fulfilling their obligations to provide information. In order to allow citizens easier access to this information, the new portal is to provide an opportunity to make relevant information available on the Internet via a central website.

In addition to information on nuclear installations in Germany and on emergency preparedness and response, it is intended to prepare and provide other relevant information via the joint online portal. This includes an overview of the regulatory system in Germany, European and international activities of the German nuclear licensing and supervisory authorities as well as basic knowledge of nu-clear technology.

The overall responsibility for informing the general public in a transparent manner lies with the authorities of the Länder. In addition to the public participation in the licensing procedure as required by law, comprehensive information is provided on the Internet and through press releases. Inquiries on nuclear issues are answered in writing. Moreover, some Länder with nuclear installations established special independent commissions at the respective sites at the request of the citizens. These commissions are to inform the local public actively in regular sessions on safety issues or details of nuclear installations.

According to Article 24a of the Atomic Energy Act, (1) Competent authorities shall inform the public in the field of nuclear safety at least about the intended operation of the nuclear installations as well as about reportable events and accidents.

The Environmental Information Act and the regulations of the countries on the dissemination of environmental information remain unaffected.

§ 9 (2) of the Atomic Act obliges licence holders referred to in paragraph 1, as part of their communications policy and while respecting their rights and obligations, to inform the public of the intended operation of the nuclear installation, of notifiable events and accidents, and of the local population and stakeholders in the area of the nuclear installation. Acting upon their responsibility, the licence holders have set themselves the task of informing the general public by means of transparent and open communication. This includes e.g.

* media relations,
* external communication of reportable events,
* crisis communication,
* external communication of power-plant-specific issues (operation, overall maintenance and re-fuelling outages, maintenance and modernisation projects), within the bounds of possibility,
* local public relations, e.g. discussion rounds held at the power plant site.

The Ordinance on the protection against damage by ionizing radiation (Radiation Protection Ordinance - StrlSchV) in § 51 para 1 obliges the licence holder to inform the competent authority and in para 2 the competent authorities to immediately inform the potentially affected population in case of radiological emergency and provide guidance on behavioural measures, including specific indications of health measures to be taken. Information to the public contains the information listed in Annex XIII, Part A.

## IRELAND: Public participation and transparency

Measures to keep the public informed about a nuclear accident or emergency are addressed in the National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents (NEPNA)[[18]](#footnote-18). Arrangements are in place to inform the public of the accident, its consequences and of any countermeasures that are to be implemented to reduce doses to the population. This information would be issued through media channels: radio, television including social media, internet, press statements, press conferences and via national weather forecast broadcasts on television and radio. Regular updates of the situation would be given. In Ireland, the EU Council Directive (89/618/Euratom) on informing the general public about the health protection measures to be applied and the steps to be taken in the event of a radiological emergency, is implemented by means of the European Communities Act, 1972 (Radiological Emergency Warning to Public) Regulations, 1993.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the Competent Authority for the purpose of these Regulations. Measures are in place to keep the public informed about emergency planning arrangements. A detailed information booklet on the NEPNA was published in 2002 and updated in 2005. An information leaflet on the NEPNA was distributed to libraries and citizen information centres in 2006. This leaflet and other information on nuclear emergency preparedness are available on the websites of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and the EPA. Public opinion is an important part of emergency preparedness and comments received from the public are taken into consideration as part of the planning process. Emergency planning developments are addressed and arrangements are published in the Annual Reports of the EPA and other statutory agencies such as local authorities update their emergency planning procedures including for nuclear emergencies on a regular basis. These are also published. Also in 2008 a general public information and awareness campaign on emergency planning was launched by the Government. As part of the public information campaign on emergency planning a handbook was sent to all households in Ireland. The handbook gave basic information on what individual householders can do to improve their own emergency preparedness as well as information on emergency plans in place (including the NEPNA). The handbook also gave guidance on where more detailed information can be obtained. It was printed in a bilingual format (English and Irish) and is available in CD format, in large print, in braille and an easy to read version. It is also available electronically in Polish, Chinese and Russian. The handbook can be downloaded from [www.emergencyplanning.ie](http://www.emergencyplanning.ie). The DHPCLG is currently developing a new website (www.nuclear.ie) that will be dedicated to nuclear emergencies. This website will include a ‘dark site’ which will be available to use during an actual emergency and will be capable of handling a large number of users. This website is due to go live before the end of 2016. The EPA has a dedicated emergency preparedness section on their website These pages provide background information on emergency planning in Ireland for the public and licensees. In addition, the EPA use the @EPARadiation twitter account as a method of communicating quickly and easily with the general public. This may be used to keep the public informed during an emergency response.[[19]](#footnote-19)

## ITALY: Public participation and transparency

To accomplish the obligations of public information and transparency different tools are used by ISPRA to ensure public information and transparency the Regions concerned in nuclear activities promote periodic meetings (so called “Transparency meetings”) between the stakeholders (licensee, regulator, local communities and nongovernmental organizations) to update ongoing projects on the site and to answer questions from local communities and nongovernmental organizations. ISPRA actively participates to these meetings to report about the results of its regulatory activities and on the status of the safety of each installation. Relevant information are also published in the web site.[[20]](#footnote-20)

There is not sufficient information on the draft implementing measures regarding the information of the public in the event of a radiological emergency.

## Lithuania: Transparency and public information prior to a radiological emergency

According to legal acts regulating public information, VATESI has to provide information on VATESI decisions and on the bases for decisions which were made for granting or refusing an authorisation. Usually, the following information is provided to the public:

* short description on the licence, permit or temporally permit issued and licensed activity (or refusal of an authorisation) in VATESI News page on VATESI web site;
* title and requisites of a licence permit or temporally permit holder and number, date of issue, date of amendment or revocation of a single licence or permit in VATESI web page “Services”.

VATESI informs public according to the management system document “Procedure Document on Public Communication”.

VATESI and the licence holders must inform both the state and municipal institutions and the general public as well as other persons whose business activities are directly related to the licensed activities of a relevant licence holder about the conditions of nuclear safety in the manner required under the Law on Provision of Information to the Public and other legal acts. The organisations operating nuclear installations also must inform general public about the measures that are foreseen in the emergency preparedness plans which may have an impact on regular living conditions. VATESI has to deliver public announcements on the results of supervision the implementation of nuclear safety requirements. While implementing its regulatory functions VATESI provides confirmed written and/or public consultations to the legal entities that submitted written requests and/or questions or provides public consultations on its own initiative.

The main means of ensuring the transparency of the decisions:

* draft legal documents are public in order to inform and get a response (suggestions, remarks, comments) from interested parties;
* consultations and meetings are organized on different issues with interested parties;
* regular public announcements on the information about the condition of nuclear safety in the Republic of Lithuania are announced;
* information on issues licences, permits, other authorizations is published on VATESI’s website;
* all legal acts are public.

Information on nuclear safety is prepared and disseminated using these methods:

* reports on implementation of conventions and EU law;
* VATESI annual reports (Nuclear Power Safety in Lithuania) and annual reports to The President and the Government in terms of activities and finances;
* VATESI website, press releases and other publications;
* possibility for students from universities to visit VATESI.

To improve transparency and ensure feedback, VATESI organizes surveys of stakeholders, including public. The Annual Report of VATESI “Nuclear Power Safety in Lithuania” is also used as a measure of public communication. VATESI informs interested parties and public by publishing it online and sending it by mail to our interested parties, including local governments of Visaginas city and districts of Ignalina, Zarasai and Širvintos. It is also received by email by subscribers of our website.

The results of the IAEA mission on Emergency Preparedness Review and related to emergency preparedness for responding to a nuclear or radiological accident have been included in the National Action Plan after approval. PAGD, VATESI, RSC, MoH plan to conduct a joint table top exercise to test effectiveness of public information system in case of radiological accident.[[21]](#footnote-21)

## LUXEMBOURG: Transparency and prior information

In June 2011, the coordination task force started works on the main body of a new emergency response plan in case of a nuclear accident. The organizational structure of the crisis cells, alerts and communication channels, phases of an accident from first alert to post accidental, planning zones and definitions of possible counter measures were reviewed and where necessary up-dated. In 2013/2014 Luxembourg adopted the “emergency intervention plan in case of a nuclear accident”, taking into account comments from stakeholder discussions. In October/November 2014 information leaflets have been distributed to all household on the measures to take in case of an emergency and distribution of potassium iodide tablets (details below). In 2014/2015 Luxembourg revised and updated their public information campaign including a dedicated multilingual website www.infocrise.lu and a new brochure[[22]](#footnote-22). Early 2015, the Ministry of Health has established own press offices, in order to centralize communication with the media. In case of technical questions related to radiation protection or nuclear safety, the media now contact the press offices, who then arrange interviews with the DRP. This office also assists in finalizing press releases including their validation by the minister. Along with this goes an updated guidance on how to interact with the media and defines more precisely what type of information can be shared with the press (i.e. technical and factual information; information on programmes, projects, opinions that are adopted or published). With the help of the press office, it was possible to get a better coverage in the media on some of the DRP projects. Especially a radon study and an action plan on medical justification got a lot of attention, including on TV. Early 2016, the DRP’s webpage www.radioprotection.lu has been restructured with a new layout and updated content. At present, it exists only in French, but translation to German is foreseen. Early 2015, the Ministry of Health has established an own press office, in order to centralize communication with the media. With the help of the press office, it was possible to get a better coverage in the media on some of the DRP projects.

No obligation exists for the license holder to maintain communication with the public.[[23]](#footnote-23)

## NEDERLANDS: Public participation and transparency

Both the creation of the ANVS and its future legal task to provide public information led to the recruitment of ANVS communication staff, which is currently a group of 3 fte, and growing. This is a positive development and will aid the ANVS in meeting its objectives for openness and transparency. Legal requirements on transparency by the ANVS comes from several international sources (e.g. the EU-directives on Nuclear Safety, Management of radioactive waste and Spent Fuel and the BSS).

The ANVS has its own website www.anvs.nl. This is also instrumental in positioning the ANVS as an independent authority and communicating with relevant stakeholders. In 2015 and 2016 the basic communication tools (website, intranet et cetera) have been and are developed further and improved. Relations with national, regional and local stakeholders and press are gradually built. Special arrangements are now underway for the communication and reporting of incidents in neighbouring countries.

Parliament is actively informed by the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, supported by the ANVS when relevant. Examples are results of IAEA mission reports, National Reports for the CNS, National Reports of Action plans related to the stresses et cetera. Every September the Minister sends an annual letter to the parliament with a general update on all important issues. In the future ANVS will have to report about its annual plan and the status of planned actions. ANVS will also have to report about its functioning as organisation (first evaluation in 2018 and then every five years).

Currently the following regulatory information and products are published on a regular basis, mostly on the ANVS website (examples):

* ANVS licenses
* ANVS regulations
* Several review and assessment reports (PSR, license application)
* Information about cross inspections with FANC (not the reports)
* Event reports and follow-up
* General information about ANVS tasks and activities
* IAEA mission reports

Stakeholder involvement is embedded by public consultation during the licencing process and in the process of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

EPZ activities and developments in communication and transparency to the public EPZ has adapted its communication policy towards public communication developed specifically for the general public. EPZ fully recognises its obligation to communicate openly about the company and its plants to the general public with factual, reliable and understandable information. Its communication has been being changed from 'sender oriented' to 'receiver oriented'. The new Regulation transposing Directive 2014/87/Euratom of 8 July 2014 will also include requirements about transparent communication to the public. Examples include all (post-)Fukushima communication, such as the EU-'stress test', and the publication of all formal event notifications to the regulator. Its prime means of communication is its web site, but press conferences and interviews are used as well.

The Dutch Nuclear Regulatory Authority ANVS brings together expertise in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection, emergency preparedness as well as security and safeguards. For each of these subjects, the ANVS is focused on preparing policy and legislation and regulations, the awarding of licences, supervision and enforcement and (public) information. It has has responsibilities regarding advising in the area of emergency preparedness and public information and communication.

Chapter VI of the Nuclear Energy Act also addresses (in Article 43) the provision of information to those members of the population who might be affected by a nuclear accident. Consistent with its responsibility for managing the response to a (potential) nuclear accident, national government also is responsible for informing the public. This will be done in close cooperation with the local authorities in the threatened or affected area.

In case of a threat or emergency that needs national coordination, and needs the involvement of various ministries, the NKC, the national crisis communication centre as part of the NCC, is set up to inform the public. Experts from the various ministries will help and support the local and regional public information units based on the recently developed communication strategy for nuclear and radiological emergencies. This document will be updated in 2016. Public information about the potential risks of nuclear power plants and the existing emergency plans is provided by the municipalities (EU directive). The material needed for the information may be provided by central government, as has been the case for the municipalities in the vicinity of the Borssele and Doel NPPs, the latter being in Belgium but close to the Dutch border. The ANVS is responsible for the communication to the public about the potential risks of nuclear power plants and radiation protection in general. In case of an accident the EPAn will provide the NKC with accurate information.

In addition, the governmental websites have a link to the topic of ‘crises’, where information can be found on numerous aspects of nuclear accidents. Another part of the site, to be open to the public only in emergency situations, contains a more comprehensive set of relevant questions and answers.[[24]](#footnote-24)

## POLAND: Public participation and transparency

Since 2013 PAA has been working on a complex communication strategy which came into force in June 2014. The document “*National Atomic Energy Agency (PAA) Communication Strategy for the years 2014-2018”* contains yearly communication plans until 2018. For implementing the strategy several activities will be taken such as organizing workshops for journalists and local authorities conducting debates on nuclear safety in the media, holding regular press briefings, informing on PAA’s cooperation with international bodies, cooperating with universities, promoting PAA’s reports, as well as improving internal communication and crisis communication procedures. A selected and trained group of experts will be designated to speak with the media on nuclear safety and radiological protection before and during the licensing process. One of the crucial steps for PAA to acquiring the public’s trust is to build closer cooperation with local authorities in the municipalities selected as potential NPP sites. PAA is also conducting a public survey in order to analyses the publics views on nuclear safety.

Before a decision concerning the preparation of a draft act is made, regulations and resolutions of the Council of Ministers make it mandatory to collect opinions and views of all stakeholders. Most often, the following forms of consultations are used:

* Public meetings (conference);
* Requests for opinions;
* Public hearings;
* Consultations via websites;
* Focused group interviews, structured interview/questionnaire;
* Civic panels;
* Written consultations and with the use of electronic mail.

An investor of a nuclear power facility is obliged to establish a Local Information Centre, whose functioning must be ensured from the day of application for a license until the decommissioning process of a nuclear facility is completed. The tasks of the centre is, e.g., collecting and providing updated information on the nuclear power facility and the nuclear safety and radiological protection in the surrounding area.

In addition, a local community can establish a Local Information Committee, composed of representatives of municipalities and members of the local community to provide community supervision over the investment implementation and represent the local community in relations with the authorities of the investor.

PAA President is also obliged to make available any information within the scope of activities of the PAA to all stakeholders in accordance with the Act of Parliamanet on the access to public information. Information is also shared by means of an electronic Public Information Bulletin.

Regardless of the obligations of the head of organizational entity, PAA President makes available

* Information about the status of nuclear safety and radiological protection of nuclear facilities, and their impact on human health and the natural environment;
* Information about the volume and isotopic composition of releases of radioactive substances from a nuclear facility to the environment;
* Information about events on the premises of a nuclear facility causing serious risks;
* Information about issued licenses for nuclear facilities;
* Annual assessments of safety of nuclear facilities.

In practice, PAA informs the public about radiological emergencies and the incidents it judges of interest for the public (for instance, the rumours of an accident). It does not inform systematically about every incident or the risks associated with the activities places under its supervision.

## ROMANIA: Public participation and transparency

The general Romanian legislation on public information and on transparency in the decision-making process of public authorities applies also to the regulatory activities of CNCAN. The main relevant laws are:

* Law 544/2001 on free access to public information;
* Law 52/2003 on decisional transparency in public administration.

In addition, the Law 86/2000 for ratification of the Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and to justice in environmental matters, done at Aarhus, on 25 June 1998 is also of relevance.

CNCAN responsibilities as established in the Law 111/1996 on the safe deployment, regulation, licensing and control of nuclear activities explicitly include:

* ensuring public information on matters that are under the competence of CNCAN;
* organizing public debates on matters that are under the competence of CNCAN.

For emergency situations, CNCAN has the responsibility to support the national authorities in providing the public with accurate, timely and comprehensive information regarding the emergency, through their representatives in the national committee for emergency situations.

The main means used by CNCAN for the current information of the public on regulatory activities and developments is the website (http://www.cncan.ro). Information available on the website includes:

* laws, governmental decisions and regulations applicable to the regulatory activities;
* laws and regulations in force, applicable to nuclear installations and activities, as well as draft regulations;
* annual reports on CNCAN's activity;
* reports submitted to international organisations;
* information about the history, organization and functioning of CNCAN;
* information on licensed installations and activities;
* press releases and information about conferences;
* forms for submitting requests for information.

Prior to the enactment of new or revised regulations, CNCAN posts the proposed drafts on its website and sends them for consultation to all interested organizations, for gathering information from the public, from licensees and applicants and from other interested parties.

Requests for information come mainly from non-governmental organisations and, to a lesser extent, from members of the public. CNCAN provides all the necessary data and clarifications, except for information that is classified due to security reasons.

The annual reports produced by CNCAN on its activities are published on its website and summary reports are published also in the Official Gazette of Romania.

## SLOVAKIA: Public participation and transparency

The access to information is guaranteed by the Constitution and other instruments on human rights since the early 1990´s. The Act No. 211/2000 Coll. (Freedom of Information Act) provides the citizens with a statutory way of obtaining necessary information. This Act, together with the Atomic Act, Act No. 24/2006 Coll.l. on environmental impact assessment and Act No. 205/2004 Coll.l. on collection, storage and dissemination of environmental information, implement inter alia, also the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in the Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), and as such constitute the legislative framework of communication with the public in the field of nuclear energy. The license holder shall be liable under Section 27 par. 4 d) of the Atomic Act, to inform ÚJD SR on events occurring in the nuclear facilities, as well as about incidents and accidents. According to Section 27 par. 4 f) of the Atomic Act, the license holder is required to inform the public in the event of an incident or accident, and under Section 28 par. 4 of the Atomic Act to inform the public about preventive actions and procedures. Among the obligations of the licensee, according to the Atomic Act (Section 10, par. 1l) is to inform the public through its web site, press or other publicly accessible ways, always as at 30 April, also on assessment of nuclear safety of their operated installations for the past calendar year.[[25]](#footnote-25)

The operation, improving safety of the NPP Bohunice V2 and NPP Mochovce 1&2, as well as construction of Units 3&4 in Mochovce, greatly influenced the life in the regions, which have necessitated the intensification of mutual communication with the regions in the vicinity of NI, as well as at the national level. Transparent information about all aspects of NI construction, operation and decommissioning and making the information publicly accessible via information channels have become an integral part of the operators´ and regulatory authorities´ open policy on informing and participation by the stakeholders in decision-making processes. The most important communication channels of license holders include:

* Mochovce and Bohunice information centres plus on-site excursions. As many as 12 000 to 15 000 visitors from across the country and abroad make a visit to the premises of the Bohunice and Mochovce plants plus external lectures in schools,
* the monthly Atóm.sk distributed free of charge in the Mochovce and Bohunice regions and other printed matters (newsletters and leaflets at Infocentres and websites of the operators) where information is processed in an accessible and comprehensible format,
* websites of the operators – www.seas.sk, www.javys.sk,
* Mochovce and Bohunice Civil Information Commissions (hereinafter referred to as CIC) composed of elected and other representatives of the regional public. CIC members have regular meetings with the operators’ management and thus obtain qualified first-hand information,
* regional associations of towns and municipalities which communicate and tackle their problems in concurrence with NI operators in a given region, ÚJD SR provides information upon request and at the same time makes public information on the state of nuclear installations in the Slovakia and on its regulatory activities, thereby allowing the public and the media to check data and information on both nuclear installations and ÚJD SR. The Authority´s website (www.ujd.gov.sk) publishes in addition to the above information started, ongoing and completed administrative procedures under Act of the NC SR No. 71/1967 Coll. on administrative proceedings, as amended, as well as decisions issued by ÚJD SR unabridged with reasoning.
* operators’ local sponsorship programs helpful in areas which need it most and bring in generally useful benefits (education, health care and charity, culture, sports, the environment),
* Open Plant Days for personnel and the public held annually at both NI´s,
* others: seminars for journalists, mayors and local-government officials; press conferences and briefings in major happening, press releases for the media, active involvement in domestic and foreign exhibitions, conferences, etc.

## SLOVENIA: Public Participation and Transparency

The Act amendment in 2015 also introduced in Article 7 the provision that all the information on radiation practices, nuclear and radiation facilities are public (except for information relevant for the safeguards of nuclear materials and for physical security). Access of public to this information is regulated by the Public Information Act. The SNSA also prepares annual reports on radiation and nuclear safety in Slovenia that are presented to the Government, the Parliament and are published in the SNSA web site to provide information to the general public. The Article 109 of the Act includes the requirement of international notification and provision of information in case of an emergency.

The Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Administration (within the Ministry of Defence), as the operator of the National Notification Centre, is responsible for notification procedures in the event of radiological emergency and for the off-site emergency planning.

## SPAIN: Public participation and transparency

* The Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) is the State organisation solely responsible for nuclear safety and radiological protection. Information commissions in the vicinity of nuclear power plants: the CSN participates in information commissions in the vicinity of nuclear power plants in order to report on aspects relating to their operation and emergency preparedness. The Regulation on Nuclear and Radioactive Facilities (RINR) (Royal Decree 1836/1999, of December 3rd regulates the operation of the Local Information Committees, presided over by the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism and held annually. The CSN actively participates in these forums, presenting yearly relevant aspects relating to the control and operation of the facilities.
* General public information policy: article 14 of Law 15/1980 provides that the CSN shall facilitate access to information and the participation of the members of the public and civil society, informing the public of all relevant events relating to the operation of the nuclear and radioactive facilities, especially as regards safe operation, the radiological impact for people and the environment, events and incidents occurring at these installations and the corrective measures put into place in order to avoid repetition of the events, making use of information and communication technologies.

Through its institutional web-site the CSN provides information on inspection reports, the minutes of Council Plenary meetings, the technical reports on which the Council’s agreements are based and all relevant events relating to the operation of the nuclear and radioactive facilities (plant operating status, information on the quality of the environment measured by the Network of Automatic Stations and the Environmental Radiological Surveillance Network), news items, reviews and press releases on events at nuclear power plants and radioactive facilities, Integrated Plant Supervision System, etc.

In July 2015, the CSN started up a new institutional web-site with a view to improving communication and transparency. All the organisational units of the Council participated in this project, revising all aspects of the portal, including its contents, structure, presentation, accessibility and browsing. The technical platform has also been replaced with another better suited to new requirements and current and future functionalities.

As regards the information provided to the media and interest groups, and apart from what is included in the institutional portal, the CSN responds to direct requests presented by the media, applying criteria of transparency and agility within a framework of technical accuracy. The legal requirement regarding transparency obliges the CSN to submit its instructions and safety guides to public scrutiny during the phase of their preparation, for which it has set aside an area in the institutional portal via which comments may be made. Furthermore, the procedure to be adhered to for communications made by physical or legal persons has been established, in accordance with article 13 of Law 15/1980. The Council also makes a form available to the workers at nuclear and radioactive facilities for them to be able to report on any event affecting the safety of such installations, guaranteeing confidentiality.

The CSN also uses other channels of communication, such as the Information Centre and the issuing of publications free of charge, these being generally available via the website in electronic format.[[26]](#footnote-26)

## SWEDEN: Public participation and transparency

Regarding on-site emergency preparedness and response, the Civil Protections Act (SFS 2003:778) and Ordinance (SFS 2003:789) provide general requirements on facilities conducting dangerous activities and oblige the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) to give advice on radiation measurements and also coordinate and assist in radiation protection assessments in case of emissions of radioactive materials from a nuclear facility according to the Civil Protection Ordinance (2003:789). Since these provisions are not detailed the SSM may issue further regulations for the license holders in the Nuclear Activities Ordinance (1984:14) and the Radiation Protection Ordinance (1988:293) such as the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority's regulations concerning basic provisions for the protection of workers and the general public in practices involving ionising radiation of 19 December 2008 (SSMFS 2008:51).

## UNITED KINGDOM: Public participation and transparency

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR’s) is responsible for enforcing the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2001 (REPPIR) (Ref.66), which implemented the radiation emergency in EC Directive 96/29/Euratom (Ref. 67) in Great Britain. It also partly implements EC Directive 89/618/Euratom (Ref. 68) on informing the general public about health protection measures and steps to be taken in the event of an emergency. A radiation emergency is defined as an event that is likely to result in any member of the public receiving an effective dose of 5 mili Sieverts (mSv) during the year immediately following the emergency.

Each of the nuclear power station sites have established a local stakeholder group, that includes local authorities, trade unions, interested local groups and members of the public. These meet routinely and ONR site inspectors regularly attend to present their quarterly report on inspection and regulatory activity. These quarterly reports are also published on the ONR website (Ref. 84). These meetings provide an opportunity for the local populace to discuss matters of interest and to raise any concerns they may have with the operators. ONR also attends meetings with non-governmental organisations, some of which represent the views of the public near nuclear licensed sites, and responds openly to public enquiries and requests for information. ONR also publishes an annual statement by the CNI which provides an assessment of the safety and security of the nuclear industry. ONR’s internal operational instructions and guidance documents are published on its website, so stakeholders can gain understanding of how decisions are made. ONR routinely publishes all of its regulatory decisions, through full project assessment reports and executive summaries of inspection reports which are written by its inspectors following site visits. ONR is committed to responding openly to any questions on its published information. As part of stakeholder engagement arrangements for potential new nuclear reactors, a public comments process is now included in the GDA process (Ref. 86), through which ONR and environmental regulators assesses new nuclear power station designs. This allows the public to participate by viewing and commenting on detailed design information and have access to reports prepared by the design companies.

EDF Nuclear Generation Limited (EDF NGL) adopts a policy of openness and transparency and places importance on assuring the public that they can be trusted to act to the highest safety standards. The openness and transparency policy requires station directors to write to local stakeholder groups regularly, providing updates on safety and operational performance and providing details of specific events reported through the recording processes. EDF NGL also provides a report and attends the local site stakeholder meetings referenced above. In addition, monthly newsletters are circulated to the community and local media and published on the company website EDF NGL’s website provides daily updates on the current status of all of its reactors, providing information on the power outputs, status of the reactor (at power/shut down for maintenance) and provides an indication of when the reactor is due to return to service (Ref. 102). EDF NGL has seven visitor centres across the UK. The interactive exhibitions provide information about nuclear power generation, helping visitors to understand how its power stations contribute to electricity generation, through interactive models and information panels. The visitor centres all have an interactive exhibition, a classroom and offer pre-arranged tours of the power station for individuals and groups. They also explain safety on site, radiation, nuclear waste and other forms of electricity generation.[[27]](#footnote-27)

1. INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, Stakeholder involvement throughout the life cycle of nuclear facilities, Nuclear Energy Series, no. NG-T-1.4, p. 4, IAEA, Vienna, (2011). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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