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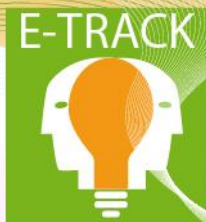
E-TRACK/RWM 2014 Annual Activity Report

Collect, Connect and Share

Gianluca Ferraro

2014

Joint
Research
Centre



RADWASTE

European Commission
Joint Research Centre
Institute for Energy and Transport

Contact information

Ulrik von Estorff
Address: Joint Research Centre, P.O. Box 2, NL-1755 ZG Petten, The Netherlands
E-mail: Ulrik.von-estorff@ec.europa.eu
Tel.: +31 224 56 5325

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc>

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Abstract

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). Informal discussions about the centre started at the end of 2012 between the services involved in nuclear safety in both DGs. Discussions crossed national borders, since the rationale of the centre, its scope and founding documents were debated across DGs, Directorates and Units of the EC located in Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Belgium. In 2013, the two DGs agreed about the need to establish a reliable source of information on matters that concern the implementation of energy policies for all energy sources (including nuclear). The discussions that followed between the two DGs during the first semester of 2013 insisted on the fact that citizens have the right to express their opinion on energy matters and may contribute, through their practical knowledge, to the political debate and collective decisions. Information, when effectively delivered, is essential to promote active participation and build trust. Practices of active participation are nonetheless still scarce. Therefore, the primary goal of the new centre is to become a central point of reference for collecting, disseminating and sharing information on the existing practices of public participation in energy policy implementation across the EU in order to facilitate lesson-drawing on this matter and, consequently, enhance citizens' involvement in all Member States (MSs). This report summarises the activities carried out in E-TRACK's first year of operation.

E-TRACK/RWM 2014 Annual Activity Report

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by Gianluca Ferraro



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| AG | Advisory Group |
| DGs | Directorates-General |
| DG ENER | Directorate-General for Energy |
| DG RTD | Directorate-General for Research and Innovation |
| E-TRACK | Energy – Transparency Centre of Knowledge |
| E-TRACK/RWM | The E-TRACK project on public participation and RWM |
| EC | European Commission |
| EESC | European Economic and Social Committee |
| ENEF | European Nuclear Energy Forum |
| EU | European Union |
| FSC | Forum on Stakeholders Confidence |
| GMF | Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities |
| HLW | High-Level Waste |
| JRC | Joint Research Centre |
| IAEA | International Atomic Energy Agency |
| IET | Institute for Energy and Transport |
| LILW | Low-Intermediate Level Waste |
| MSs | Member States |
| NEA | Nuclear Energy Agency |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| RWM | Radioactive Waste Management |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| WG-T | Working Group on Transparency |

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INTRODUCTION

Today, information and public participation in decision-making form key conditions for gaining public trust in projects, actors and processes. There is evidence that the traditional way of decision-making based on pure technical arguments with only minimal public involvement may finally lead to project failures, as seen not only in the energy sector, but in many other fields. In this context, a joint initiative has been agreed between the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EC) to facilitate public participation in energy policy implementation. This joint initiative takes the form of a knowledge centre for the promotion of public participation in the implementation of energy policy initiatives. It will be called "Energy – Transparency Centre of Knowledge" (E-TRACK) and will have the following vision and mission.

Vision

E-TRACK has the ambition to become a central point of reference for monitoring, disseminating and sharing information on practices of public participation in energy policy implementation across the EU.

Mission

E-TRACK wants to be a reliable source of information for the public, and promote and enhance public participation in the implementation of energy policies.

About E-TRACK

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). Informal discussions about the centre started at the end of 2012 between the services involved in nuclear safety in both DGs. Discussions crossed national borders, since the rationale of the centre, its scope and founding documents were debated across DGs, Directorates and Units of the EC located in Luxembourg, the

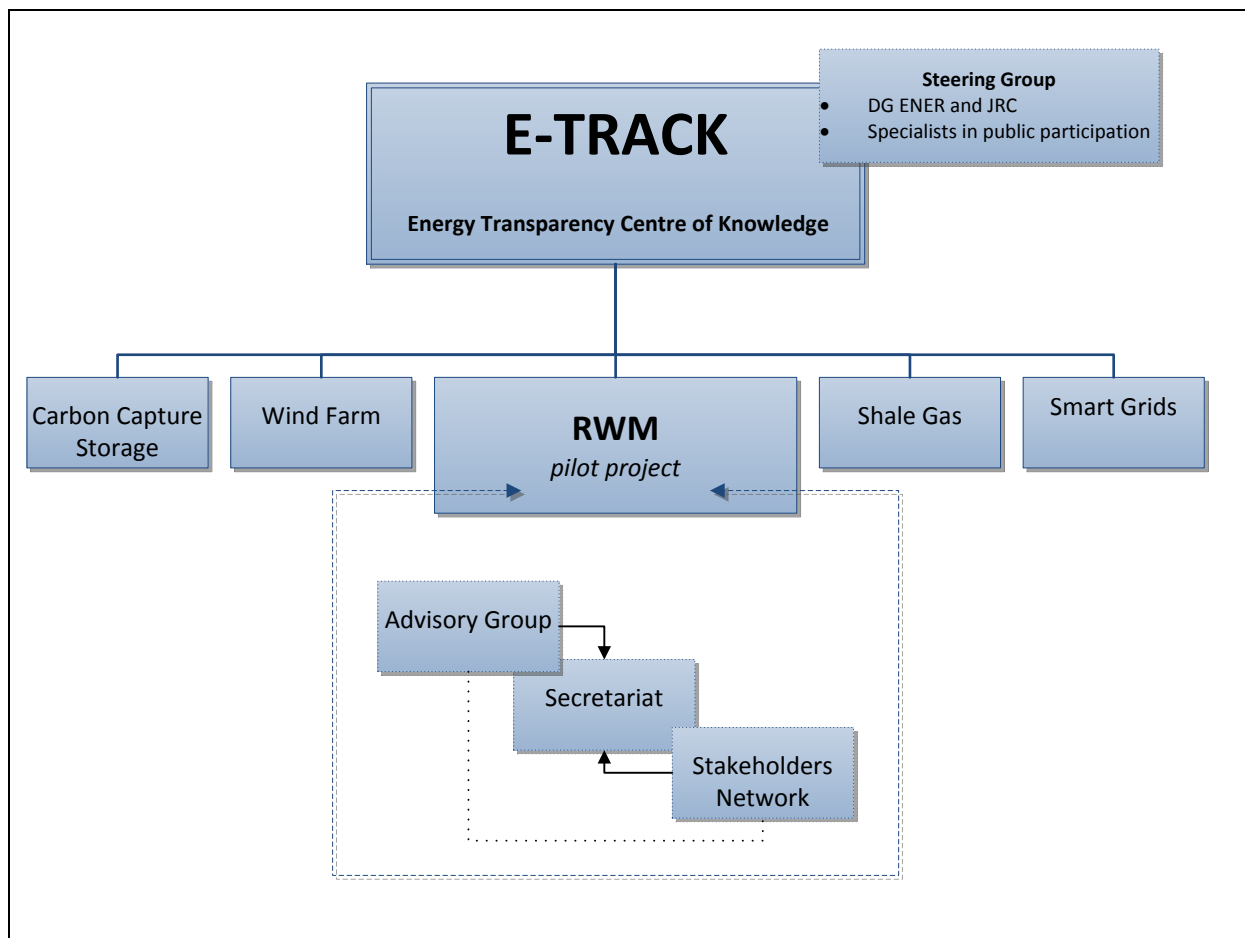
Netherlands and Belgium. In 2013, the two DGs agreed about the need to establish a reliable source of information on matters that concern the implementation of energy policies for all energy sources (including nuclear). The discussions that followed between the two DGs during the first semester of 2013 insisted on the fact that citizens have the right to express their opinion on energy matters and may contribute, through their practical knowledge, to the political debate and collective decisions. Information, when effectively delivered, is essential to promote active participation and build trust. Practices of active participation are nonetheless still scarce. Therefore, the primary goal of the new centre is to become a central point of reference for collecting, disseminating and sharing information on the existing practices of public participation in energy policy implementation across the EU in order to facilitate lesson-drawing on this matter and, consequently, enhance citizens' involvement in all Member States (MSs).

It was decided that the centre will be guided by a "Steering Group" which will comprise representatives from DG ENER and the JRC, with the support of associated stakeholders (see figure 1). The Institute for Energy and Transport (IET) of the JRC will be in charge of the daily management of the centre. E-TRACK will investigate transparency and public participation in multiple energy sources through multiannual projects. Projects will be developed according to the need for public participation in specific and controversial areas, current and proposed EU legislation, and relevance to energy policy (carbon capture storage, wind farms, radioactive waste management, shale gas, smart grids, etc.). Each project will relate to a "Stakeholders Network" which will include a wide range of actors relevant to the area of work and taken from civil society, national/subnational authorities, pertinent international organizations, regulatory and supervisory bodies, industrial and commercial interests. Each network will be represented by an "Advisory Group" which will provide general guidance on conceptual issues, analyses to be performed, endorsement of major deliverables, and preparation and management of communication actions.

General activities of the centre will include: reviews and studies, the organization of seminars, the coordination of contacts and the development and maintenance of a web-platform for stakeholders. Specific functions would be determined according to the requirements of each project. The Steering Group of E-TRACK will assure the communication of lessons learnt between projects carried out in different energy subfields in order to reach a critical mass of knowledge on participation in energy policy implementation.

Figure 1 shows the structure designed for E-TRACK.

Figure 1
The structure of E-TRACK



The first project of E-TRACK: Public participation and RWM

The first project of E-TRACK deals with public participation and Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) and works as a pilot project for the whole centre of knowledge. The reasons for this choice are explained in this section.

Extensive research has been funded under the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FPs) to better understand modern systems of governance and investigate possibilities for its practical implementation. In the energy sector, radioactive waste management has formed the focus of many FP projects (ARGONA, COWAM, IPPA, OBRA, RISCOM, etc.) because of its urgency, importance and complexity. In 2008, the FP project OBRA stressed the need to form a central point of information about governance practices in RWM across the EU. Likewise, in 2012, the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) emphasized the need of EU initiatives to support transparency and

public participation in the nuclear field through the provision of information about existing policy practices.

In the wake of the legally binding requirements for transparency contained in the Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM and the Directive's obligation for Member States (MSs) to report on the implementation of public participation in their national programmes for RWM, the topic has gained priority on the political agenda of the European Commission and became the pilot project for the creation of E-TRACK.

The E-TRACK project on public participation and RWM (shortened to "E-TRACK/RWM") will not conduct further academic (theoretical and methodological) research. It will, instead, focus on practical cases of implementation of public participation in RWM and systematize the existing knowledge in order to make it more easily usable. Representatives of the industry, governmental agencies and civil society have stressed the importance of sharing, across countries, practices and reflections about achievements and constraints, challenges and possible solutions for public participation in RWM. This request from the stakeholders has been taken into account in the formulation of the objectives of E-TRACK/RWM, which are listed here.

Objectives of E-TRACK/RWM

1. Collecting, organizing, simplifying and disseminating existing information about experiences of public participation in RWM across the EU. [COLLECT Information]
2. Creating a network of stakeholders in order to connect actors through an EU-wide policy community. [CONNECT Actors]
3. Facilitating the sharing of knowledge in order to contribute to mutual learning and promote participatory decision-making in RWM. [SHARE Knowledge]

E-TRACK/RWM will not conduct any assessment or evaluation of existing practices of public participation in RWM. Again, it will aim at the exchange of regulatory and operating experience across MSs of the EU. The focus of E-TRACK/RWM is experiences from both High-Level Waste (HLW) and Low- and Intermediate-level Waste (LILW).

In the second part of 2014, discussions have started about the second topic of E-TRACK.

SECTION 1

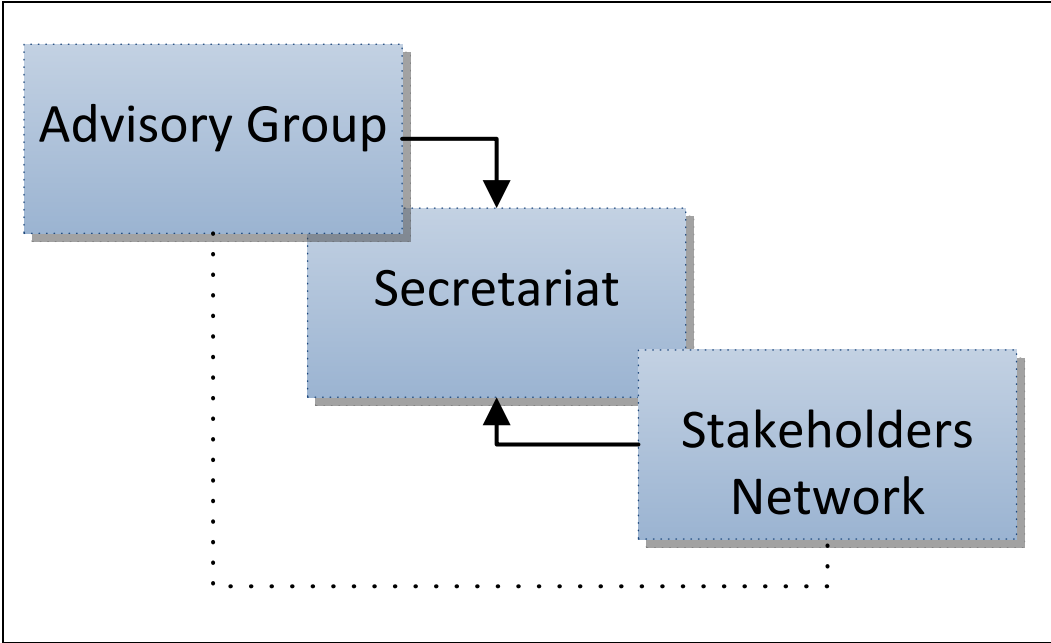
THE STRUCTURE

The E-TRACK project on RWM and public participation (E-TRACK/RWM) has the ambition to reach out to the entire RWM community in the EU. In our effort to potentially involve all stakeholders, we foresee that different actors and organizations will contribute to E-TRACK/RWM with different degrees of engagement. More precisely, three groups of actors can be distinguished according to their engagement, understood as time and energy dedicated to the project:

- the Secretariat,
- the Stakeholders Network,
- and the Advisory Group.

This distinction is represented in Figure 2 and discussed in the following sections.

Figure 2
Structure of the E-TRACK project on RWM (E-TRACK/RWM)



1.1. The Secretariat

Role

The Secretariat is in charge of the coordination and management of E-TRACK/RWM. Activities include analyses, the development and tendering of specific studies, the organization of seminars, the coordination of contacts and the maintenance of IT tools.

Composition

The Secretariat consists of a team of EC officers who work on the project on a daily basis. More precisely, the Secretariat is based at the JRC's Institute for Energy and Transport (IET) and is located in the Netherlands (Petten).

The Secretariat works in close collaboration with two Directorates-General (DGs) of the European Commission: the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) and Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD).

1.2. The Advisory Group

Role

The Advisory Group (AG) provides general guidance for the development and execution of E-TRACK/RWM. The AG advises the Secretariat on conceptual issues, suggests the analyses that should be conducted, endorse the major deliverables, and supervises the preparation and execution of major communication initiatives.

Composition

The AG is a relatively small group of experts from the several categories of stakeholders who compose the European RWM community:

- industrial entities,
- governmental bodies (national decision-makers, regulators, implementers and local governments),
- civil society organizations,
- and international organizations.

In 2013 and 2014, experts from different categories of stakeholders and academia were contacted and invited to become members of the AG. However, the AG is an open group: anyone willing to dedicate his/her time and expertise in RWM and public participation (on a voluntary basis) can join the AG. No deadline has been established for the constitution of the AG, so that membership is open in fact.

We expect that the composition of the AG may change over time. One major change took place in 2014. Upon the direct request of the French *Association nationale des comités et commissions locales d'information* (ANCCLI), the Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW) – i.e., a European association of civil society organizations – has substituted ANCCLI in the composition of the AG (see table 1).

Each one of the members plays an important role in the AG and represents a specific perspective on RWM and public participation. E-TRACK/RWM has thus been able to include the points of view of municipalities (GMF and ENWD), NGOs (NTW), industry (FORATOM and EDF), national implementers (ANDRA, ENRESA, ONDRAF/NIRAS and SKB) and academia (e.g., Academy of Science of the Czech Republic). An important societal input from the EU area comes from the participation of the EESC.

In addition, the link established with the OECD-NEA and IAEA, which have developed knowledge on RWM and public participation for long time, provides E-TRACK/RWM with an important input from international organizations that cover a broader geographical scope than the EU.

*Table 1
List of Advisors
(latest update: 22 October 2014)*

| <i>Advisor</i> | <i>Affiliation</i> | <i>Category</i> | <i>Country</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Richard Adams | EESC | International Organization | *EU |
| Daphné Charleton | FORATOM | Industry | *EU |
| Sébastien Farin | ANDRA | Waste management organization | France |
| Saida Laârouchi Engström | SKB | Waste management organization | Sweden |
| Swahn Johan | NTW | NGOs | *EU |
| Meritxell Martell | UAB | Academia | Spain |
| Irena Mele | IAEA | International Organization | *IO |
| Jean-Paul Minon | ONDRAF/NIRAS | Waste management organization | Belgium |
| Mariano Molina | ENRESA | Waste management organization | Spain |
| Claudio Pescatore | OECD-NEA | International Organization | *IO |
| Jacob Spangenberg | ENWD | Civil society | *EU |
| Christian Taillebois | EDF | Industry | France |
| Zdenka Vajdova | Academy of Science | Academia | Czech R. |
| Mariano Vila d'Abadal | GMF | Civil society | *EU |

Some organizations cannot be actively involved in the project but have a strategic relevance for E-TRACK/RWM. One important example is the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, which we have invited to follow our activities. These organizations are invited

at the meetings of the AG as Observers. The ENEF's Working Group on Transparency (WG-T) has also worked as an Observer; to this group we have regularly reported about the advancement of E-TRACK since the end of 2013.

The AG meets twice a year. In 2014, the first meeting (AG1) and second meeting (AG2) took place respectively in March and October in Amsterdam (see section 5, 'AG Meetings and Open Seminar').

1.3. The Stakeholders Network

Role

The E-TRACK project on RWM and public participation targets and works through a network of stakeholders who belong to the nuclear industry, national/subnational governments and the civil society. The JRC acts as the operating agent of this Stakeholders Network and supports its creation, development and management.

The Stakeholders Network constitutes a network of information, knowledge and experience. Ultimately, it will be the Stakeholders Network that will provide data, on the one hand, and review and update the information published, on the other. All stakeholders (through public access to the website) will, thus, act as source of information from different perspectives and points of view and a guarantee for a plural and neutral review of the content.

Composition

E-TRACK/RWM wants to reach out to the whole European RWM policy community. The Stakeholders Network potentially embraces all the stakeholders of the EU who are involved in RWM from different categories (industry, national and local institutions, and civil society).

In 2014, we started to build our Stakeholders Network. For the creation of this network, the Stakeholders Map explained in section 2.1 was particularly useful. Information on the development of this network and number of organizations per category will be elaborated in 2015 and made available through our website.

SECTION 2

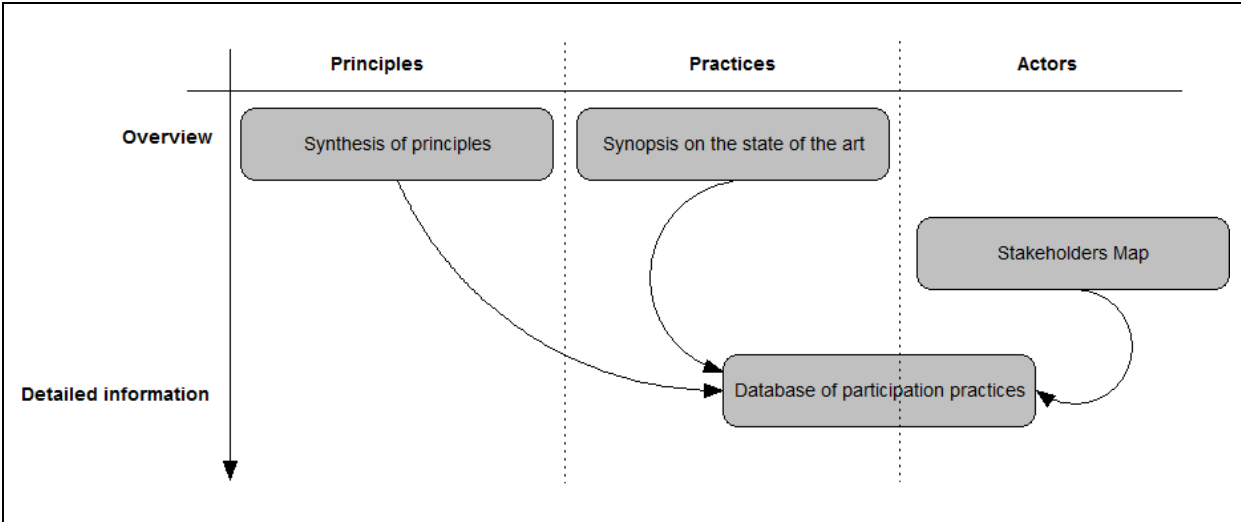
THE STUDIES

E-TRACK/RWM will not conduct new research but collect, compile and organize the knowledge already existing and the experiences developed in the practice of public participation in RWM across Europe. In 2014, two studies have been conducted:

- the creation of a Stakeholders Map (section 2.1);
- and a Synthesis of Principles deriving from the EURATOM projects on public participation in RWM (section 2.2).

Moreover, in 2014, we started to collect information about the state of the art in terms of public participation in RWM in the MSs of the EU (i.e., a synopsis at country level – see section 2.3) and compile data about specific experiences of public participation which involve national and local stakeholders across the EU (i.e., a database at organization level – see section 2.4). These four studies are explained in detail in the following sections. Figure 3 presents the rationale of the four studies and their complementarity in the creation of a knowledge base.

Figure 3
Overview on the four studies



2.1. The Stakeholders Map

The Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM of 19 July 2011 (establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste) stresses the need to include 'all stakeholders concerned' in the making of RWM policies:

'Transparency should be provided by ensuring effective public information and opportunities for all stakeholders concerned, including local authorities and the public, to participate in the decision-making processes in accordance with national and international obligations'.

(Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM)

In each MS of the EU, RWM systems include several actors with specific roles and responsibilities. The range of actors includes ministries, regulatory bodies, national RWM organisations, technical support organisations, research institutions, operators, civil society associations, local communities, etc. All these actors play a role in the policy debate around RWM, the decisions that are taken and their implementation. However, the specific roles and responsibilities of these different stakeholders and their interactions vary across MSs.

Therefore, any in-depth understanding of national RWM systems and the stakeholders concerned starts from a clarification of the community of relevant actors in each MS. Stakeholders maps are a strategic tool that identifies different stakeholders with a role in a given area or activity. With the purpose of better understanding the different RWM systems existing in the EU's MSs, we wanted to highlight national RWM actors and the relationships existing among them, together with their responsibilities and lines of accountability.

In this framework, the JRC conducted a study in order to map the stakeholders involved in RWM in the EU's MSs where a RWM system is present and relevant. The report lists organisations and individuals that are involved in RWM in several MSs and highlights the relationships existing among them, their responsibilities and lines of accountability. The report also locates RWM facilities in each country through the use of geographical maps. The report has been distributed and will be made available on the E-TRACK website. The main purpose of this mapping exercise is to gain an in-depth understanding of the different RWM stakeholders existing in the EU MSs. This exercise is the basis for allowing comparisons of challenges, experiences, practices and achievements in public participation across national RWM systems.

The report starts by briefly describing the method and scope of the work and how the country profiles have been developed. Then it presents, for each country, the different RWM facilities for high-level waste (HLW) and spent fuel, and low and intermediate level waste (LILW) and where they are located through geographical maps. The report also lists the main organisations involved in RWM in a given country, their responsibilities and the interactions between them. The detailed country profiles are prepared for fifteen countries:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| — Belgium, | — Germany, | — Slovak Republic, |
| — Bulgaria, | — Hungary, | — Slovenia, |
| — Czech Republic, | — Lithuania, | — Spain, |
| — Finland, | — the Netherlands, | — Sweden, |
| — France, | — Romania, | — United Kingdom. |

Additionally, the report considers the organisational responsibilities and the radioactive waste storage facilities in countries without current nuclear power programmes. These are: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland and Portugal. Croatia has been included as part of this section, even though it is co-owner of the nuclear power plant located in Krsko (Slovenia).

A periodic update of the report has been envisaged by the AG and the Secretariat of E-TRACK/RWM.

2.2. Synthesis of Principles of public participation in RWM

The EURATOM programme has dedicated political attention and economic support to matters of public participation and the local dimension in RWM, together with the complex set of questions that this implies: What is the purpose of public and local involvement in RWM? Does it aim at the acceptance of already-decided technical solutions? Or is the technical project completed with additional recommendations from the public and the municipalities? Or are the general public and local actors involved in the technical discussions about facilities which precede any decision? Are public discussions likely to improve the quality of the decision-making process? Etc.

Although there is not a one-fit-all solution, mutual learning among different categories of interested actors (or "stakeholders") across countries is important. The national diversities that are present in the European Union (EU) are extremely useful to understand public participation in RWM, since they offer a relevant pool of knowledge and experience.

In order to make the pool of knowledge and experience coming from diverse national settings available in the whole EU, two important steps are needed. The first step is the use of EURATOM projects to define a list of general principles for a more participatory approach to RWM, which can be of relevance for all EU countries. The second step is a collection of national/local practices and experiences. While the Synthesis of Principles must be read as an effort to tackle the first step, the second step is dealt with by E-TRACK through a survey (see section 2.4 below).

The Synthesis of Principles will be finalized and disseminated in 2015.

2.3. Synopsis on the state of the art of public participation in RWM (Country level)

A synopsis on the state of the art of public participation in RWM in several EU MSs is in preparation at the time of writing (November 2014). Experiences of public participation in RWM can be found in several European countries and have been the object of studies and research. First, several research projects on the topic of public participation in RWM have been funded by the EC under the Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development. Second, the ENEF WG-T has produced studies on national cases and good practices. Third, case studies have been conducted by the OECD-NEA in the framework of the 'Forum on Stakeholder Confidence' (FSC).

The amount of available material is so abundant that a usable summary was needed at the beginning of the E-TRACK project on RWM. Since one of the objectives of E-TRACK is organizing the existing knowledge, we felt that a clear overview on the state-of-the-art of existing practices and knowledge in RWM participation was pivotal to the development of the project.

The report provides the reader with a brief historical background on the emergence and development of participatory processes and describes public participation in eight selected countries:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| — Belgium, | — Germany, |
| — Czech Republic, | — Slovenia, |
| — Finland, | — Sweden, |
| — France, | — United Kingdom. |

The report will be finalized in 2015.

2.4. Database of Participation Practices (Organization level)

Once a clearer overview is gained about the state-of-the-art of public participation at country level in some EU MSs, it is important to know more about the existing experiences of participation practices and move from country-level knowledge to the specific experiences of single public and private organizations. With this objective, we have started to build a database of participation practices.

The construction of this database develops in two parallel steps characterized by two different modalities. The two steps are explained more in detail here.

Step 1: The survey

The first step involves all RWM stakeholders and it relies on a survey. Starting from the Stakeholders Map presented above (section 2.1), we conducted a survey to collect major information on organizations, the participation practices in which they are involved (with contact points for the request of more information by any user interested in knowing more) and their major needs/questions about public participation in RWM. Once all data are collected, the information will be systematized in an interactive database which will be made available on our website in 2015. The questionnaire used for this survey is presented in Annex 1.

Step 2: Meetings with the municipalities

The second step will be conducted in 2015 in close collaboration with some municipalities involved in the Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF). More precisely the Spring meeting of its newly established "European local Network of radioactive Waste Dialogue" (ENWD) represents a useful venue to collect data from mayors and local services about participation practices in the respective municipalities. The results will be integrated in the database mentioned above and made available in 2015.

SECTION 3

PAPERS & ARTICLES

A paper explaining E-TRACK and its project on RWM was presented at the European Nuclear Conference which took place in Marseille (France) in May 2014. An article on the same topic was published in the *International Journal of Nuclear Power* in November 2014 (Issue 11) with the title "Involving the citizens. RWM and the EU". The topic of the article is briefly summarized at point 3.1.

3.1. "Involving the citizens. RWM and the EU"

The European Union (EU) has been often criticized for its democratic deficit, which has been studied in the academic literature at multiple levels: in the polity (macro-level), the institutions (meso-level) and the policies (micro-level) of the EU. The article presents counterarguments in favour of the democratic nature of the EU and focuses on the micro-level, particularly the process of implementation of EU policies. Policy implementation and the democratic involvement of citizens are discussed with regard to radioactive waste management and the Directive 2011/70/EURATOM. The Directive's clause on transparency and the recent development of a centre of knowledge for public participation in energy policy implementation by the European Commission (EC) are expression of the democratic nature of the EU and provide further counterarguments to the claim of democratic deficit.

Full article reference: Ferraro, G. (2014) "Involving the citizens. RWM and the EU", in *International Journal of Nuclear Power*, Issue 11, pp. 611-614.

SECTION 4

THE WEBSITE: A "STAKEHOLDERS PLATFORM"

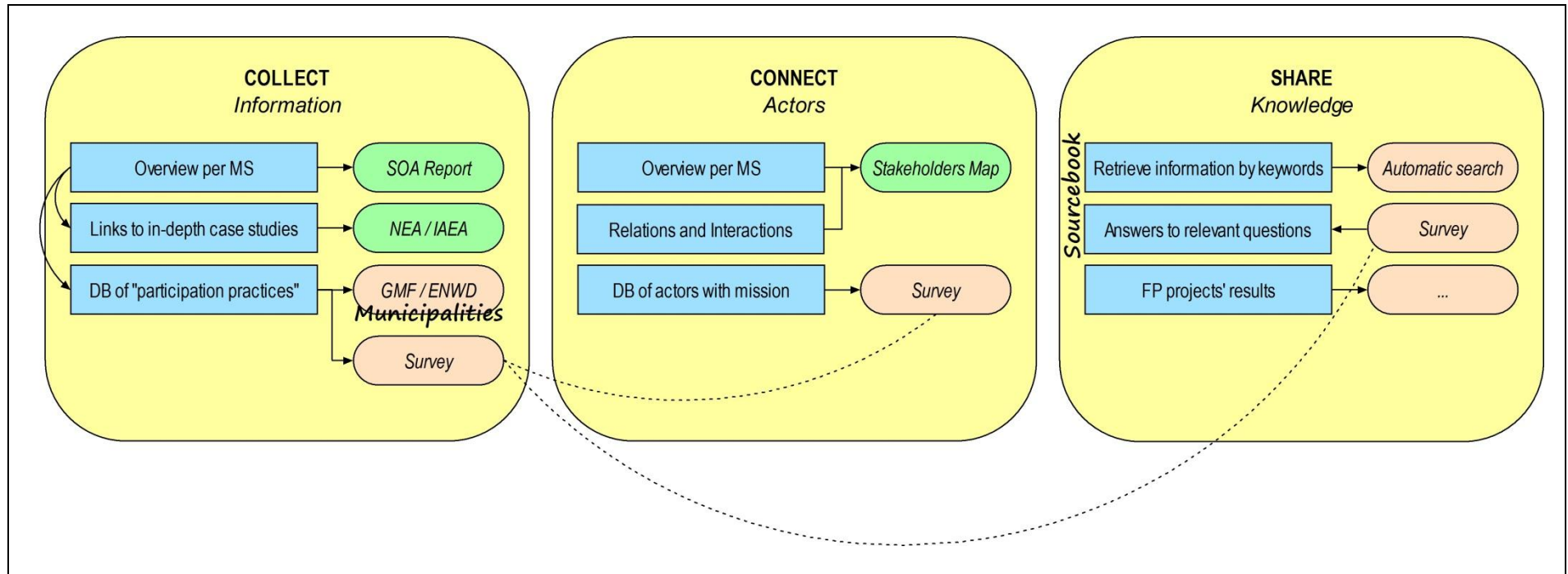
A web platform is pivotal for the collection, organization and dissemination of knowledge and experiences about practices of public participation in RWM. In 2014, we have actively worked on the website. The main frame has been developed and it has been partially filled in with the information coming from our studies. The website has been conceived and will be further developed as a user-friendly tool which works as an interface connecting all relevant stakeholders. The web platform will allow actors from industry, governments and society with a stake in RWM to connect with each other more easily, learn mutually from multiple practices, draw lessons on what can ease public participation and exchange information on the major challenges. Clear examples from EU's MSs will be provided. The website will be made public in 2015.

In its structure, the website will mirror the spirit of the whole E-TRACK/RWM and, thus, insists on three main objectives (see 'Introduction'):

- COLLECT Information,
- CONNECT Actors,
- and SHARE Knowledge.

Figure 4 offers an overview on the structure of the website which we explain more in detail here. Under the pillar 'COLLECT Information', the website wants to provide an overview on major national achievements in the field of public participation in RWM (see section 2.3) and link to major works developed by other international organizations (e.g., IAEA and OECD-NEA) for in-depth country profiles. The website will include detailed information in the form of a database of participation practices (as discussed in section 2.4). In order to 'CONNECT Actors', the website provides a map of major stakeholders (coming from the study explained in section 2.1) and allows users to find all stakeholders in a database of actors. Finally, the ultimate goal of the website is to work as a platform to 'SHARE Knowledge'. This can be pursued through automatic searches and by directing given questions to relevant sources of information. Finally the major results produced by the EURATOM projects should constitute an integral part of this pillar.

Figure 4
Website structure



Two aspects are particularly important for the success of the website: valid and updated information. In order to assure validity and check the quality of the texts produced, we plan to involve the relevant stakeholders from a given country, which we are gathering in our database. An additional quality check is guaranteed by the open access provided to all stakeholders. Any individual or organization can send us comments on the content of the website by contacting us directly or at the functional email account reported here. Again, all comments received (with a clear source) will be checked with the support of national stakeholders.

JRC-IET-ETRACK@ec.europa.eu

Ultimately, the information provided on the website will be checked, updated and upgraded through inputs coming from the whole Stakeholders Network and any potential user of the website. E-TRACK wants to assure the validity and objectivity of the data collected.

SECTION 5

AG MEETINGS AND OPEN SEMINAR

The Advisory Group (AG) meets twice a year to discuss the developments of the project and steer the activity for the coming months. In 2014, the AG met in March and October in Amsterdam. The purpose of the First Meeting (AG1) was to map the needs of the interested parties across the EU around public participation in RWM. The Second Meeting (AG2) mainly focused on the scope of E-TRACK/RWM and some pivotal aspects such as type, quality and validity of information.

Once every year, these internal meetings are followed by an Open Seminar where members of the Stakeholders Network and the general public are welcome to attend and exchange knowledge and experiences in the practical implementation of public participation in RWM. The First Open Seminar (OS1) took place on the 23rd October 2014 with the following title:

“The role of public participation in radioactive waste management and other sectors.
Lessons learnt from research and practice.”

During the seminar, we heard that some countries made some progress in their national programmes. Later, we had academic insights on public participation. We could trace some prerequisites for public participation and define take-away points although still much can be done in practice. These key messages on dialogue, flexibility, empowerment, mutual learning, trust and human capital are briefly listed here:

- Dialogue is an important tool but it is not an end in itself; after dialogue, a decision still has to be taken. Such decision can only be robust if people have been involved.
- Flexibility is a pivotal element: it is important to be open to conflicting views and allow change. It would be naïve not to expect conflicting views around a delicate topic such as RWM.
- Funding and empowering the stakeholders are paramount.

- Models developed in one country cannot be transported to another country because of cultural, legal and administrative differences; yet, models and experiences from abroad can inspire, prevent similar mistakes and suggest possible solutions.
- We cannot have public participation without trust; hence, the central question for RWM and the nuclear sector is “How can we rebuild trust once it has been lost?”.
- All RWM projects are long term and are likely to face a lack of knowledge in the future about RWM if we do not take actions. This possible shortage of competences in the future will hinder public participation.

The programme of the OS1 is provided in Annex 2; presentations have been distributed and will be available on our website.

SECTION 6

CONCLUSION AND WAY AHEAD

The activities conducted and deliverables produced in 2014 and those planned for 2015 are summarized in table 2. The table also lists in which section of this Annual Report the information related to activities/deliverables can be found. The terms of reference for both E-TRACK and the project on public participation in RWM were agreed by DG ENER and the JRC already in 2013.

Table 2
Summary table of major outputs and deliverables for 2014

| Activity / Deliverable | Section | Status |
|--|----------------|--|
| Terms of Reference for E-TRACK | Introduction | Concluded (2013) |
| Terms of Reference for E-TRACK/RWM | Introduction | Concluded (2013) |
| Constitution of the Advisory Group | 1.2 | Concluded (but an open group) |
| Constitution of the Stakeholders Network | 1.3 | Ongoing (finalization in 2015) |
| Stakeholders Map | 2.1 | Concluded (A possible update in 2015) |
| Synthesis of principles | 2.2 | Ongoing (finalization in 2015) |
| Synopsis on the state of the art | 2.3 | Ongoing (finalization in 2015) |
| Database of participation practices | 2.4 | Ongoing (finalization in 2015) |
| Papers and Articles | 3 | Concluded (1 paper/article planned for 2015) |
| Website | 4 | Ongoing (finalization in 2015) |
| AG Meetings | 5 | Concluded (2 meetings planned for 2015) |
| Open seminar | 5 | Concluded (1 event planned for 2015) |

For the coming years, we think that three stages of development can be envisaged for E-TRACK and E-TRACK/RWM. We explain these phase and major objectives here.

First phase (2014)

- Mapping relevant stakeholders in order to create a pool of contacts.
- Collecting and organizing information on national governance experiences.

- Setting up a virtual platform for exchange with/among stakeholders.
- Facilitating networking among potential users.

Second phase (2015)

- Contacting all stakeholders to know about their mission, experience in public participation and needs for information.
- Developing a user-friendly platform.
- Gathering information from different types of stakeholders in order to ensure objectivity and plurality.
- Delivering the information to different types of audience.

In this framework, we plan to finalize the activities that we started in 2014 and described in this report: a synthesis of principles developed by the EURATOM projects on public participation in RWM, a synopsis on the state of the art of public participation in RWM and the construction of a database of participation practices.



Finally, a launch event for the whole E-TRACK initiative is currently under discussion. This will imply the enlargement of E-TRACK to at least a second project on a relevant issue of energy policy implementation (wind farms, carbon capture storage, shale gas, smart grids, etc.).

Third phase (2016 and beyond)

- Agreeing with external sources for the provision of information on a regular basis.
- Building a library of academic work on public participation in RWM and related topics.
- Enlarging E-TRACK to more energy policy issues.
- Institutionalizing E-TRACK as an EU-wide centre of knowledge for transparency in energy policy.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Questionnaire for the creation of a database of organizations and participation practices in RWM

| |
|--|
|   |
| <h2 style="margin: 0;">Survey</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Public Participation in Radioactive Waste Management</h3> |
| <p>The 'Energy – Transparency Centre of Knowledge' (E-TRACK) is a joint initiative agreed between the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EC) for the promotion of public participation in the implementation of energy policies. The objective of E-TRACK is to become a central point of reference for collecting and sharing information on practices of public participation in energy policy implementation across the EU. Public participation means the involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making processes that affect their interests or in which they are interested.</p> <p>E-TRACK will conduct several projects on public participation in multiple energy sources. The first project of E-TRACK addresses public participation in the field of Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) and constitutes a pilot project for the whole E-TRACK initiative. See attached E-TRACK Info Sheet for further information.</p> <p>The short survey below will form the basis of a database on public participation in RWM in the European Union. There are six questions which are designed to gather examples of public participation practices and feedback on what aspects need to be better understood. The data from this survey will be used by the JRC of the European Commission.</p> <p><i>Please complete all of the questions below and return this document to RWMSurvey@europe-analytica.com.</i></p> |
| Your Details |
| Name and Position: |
| Phone: Email: |
| Secondary Responsible Person and Position: |
| Phone: Email: |
| Name of Organisation: |
| Name of Your Department: |
| Address: |
| Member State: |
| Contact Details: Robert Langmuir +32(0)22311299 RWMSurvey@europe-analytica.com |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">1</div> |



Type of Organisation:

- Policy-maker
- Regulator
- Implementer
- Industry
- Local authority / municipality
- Civil society association / NGO
- Other (Please specify)

Mission of the Organisation (four lines maximum):

Survey

Are you involved in any practice of public participation in Radioactive Waste Management (RWM)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide the heading/title of the public participation practice and a very short summary (three lines maximum)

Title: _____

Contact Details:
Robert Langmuir
+32(0)22311299
RWMSurvey@europe-analytica.com



Please assign a maximum of five keywords which describe the participation practice:

Please provide a web link to the participation practice:

In your opinion, what relevant questions about public participation in RWM still need to be answered? In other words, which aspects of public participation in RWM need to be better understood?

Contact Details:
Robert Langmuir
+32(0)22311299
RWMSurvey@europe-analytica.com



Would you be interested in taking part in the E-TRACK/RWM Network?

Yes

No

Please send this survey with all the questions completed to RWMSurvey@europe-analytica.com

Contact Details:
Robert Langmuir
+32(0)22311299
RWMSurvey@europe-analytica.com

Annex 2 – Programme of the Open Seminar 2014



E-TRACK | Radioactive
Waste
Management

First Open Seminar Amsterdam, 23rd October 2014

Location: ROOM MATE AITANA, IJDoK 6, 1013 MM Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The role of public participation in radioactive waste management and other sectors Lessons learnt from research and practice

09.00 Participants Arrival – Registration

09.30 Presentation of E-TRACK and its activity on Radioactive Waste Management (RWM)

Ulrik von Estorff, Scientific Officer, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Gianluca Ferraro, Scientific Officer, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

10.00 Public participation in environmental decision-making

Fiona Marshall, Environmental Affairs Officer, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Chairwoman's introduction

Saida Laârouchi Engström, Vice President, SKB, Sweden

11.15 High-Level Waste and the experience of Olkiluoto

Harri Hiitiö, Mayor, Eurajoki Municipality, Finland

11.45 Changes in RWM policy. The participatory turn in Sweden

Johanna Yngve Törnqvist, Analyst, Östhammar's Municipality, Sweden

12.15 A case from Low- and Intermediate-Level Waste

Sébastien Farin, Deputy Director of Communication and Dialogue with Civil Society, ANDRA, France





12.45 *Buffet Lunch*

13.45 Public Participation: lessons from academia

Dirk Scheer, Senior Researcher, University of Stuttgart, Germany

14.15 Public participation and dialogue beyond nuclear

Melanie Provoost, Consultant, Triarii, R&Dialogue (Building a low-carbon future together),
The Netherlands

Sergio Olivero, Head of Energy and Security Research Area, SiTI – Higher Institute on
Territorial Systems for Innovation, Italy

15.15 Close of meeting

15.30 *End of day*

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The Publications Office has a worldwide network of sales agents.
You can obtain their contact details by sending a fax to (352) 29 29-42758.

European Commission

EUR 26961 EN – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Energy and Transport

Title: E-TRACK/RWM 2014 Annual Activity Report: Collect, Connect and Share

Author: Gianluca Ferraro

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

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Serving society
Stimulating innovation
Supporting legislation

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