



PREPARE

Innovative integrated tools and platforms for radiological emergency preparedness and post-accident response in Europe

Managing complexity in nuclear accidental situations

Experts interacting with experts and society

PREPARE Project - WP6.1

28-29 November 2013

Lisbon, Portugal

1st announcement

Background:

“Lessons learnt” publications and seminars are flourishing since the Fukushima accidents. From the very beginning of this crisis, it became clear that there would be a “before and an after 3-11”. Nuclear emergency and post-emergency situations produce complex challenges regarding nuclear safety, radiological protection, radioactive waste management, but also for almost all activities of society and lifestyles (in the contaminated areas and beyond) that are affected by the accidental development, by (potential or actual) dispersion of radioactivity in the environment and in the goods. The arising of complexity is also linked with the disruption of the usual political and social mechanisms of coordination that are shaken or impeded by the spreading of distrust and controversies, while the rational of expertise are disclosed and put into question. There is a large range of information producers: experts from different organisations, horizons and fields of expertise, consumers, local actors communities, mobilised by media or citizens (web 2.0, crowdsourcing). While many actors seek to find the information they need to make their everyday decisions, the issues at stake remain complex and multidimensional and the contribution of experts, the way they interact together and with the society and the media is a crucial dimension of accidental and post-accidental situations.

Those issues are at the core of the research conducted in the framework of the European project PREPARE, by the Work Package on *“Information and participation of the public”*. WP6 team is investigating the conditions and means for pertinent, reliable and trustworthy information to be made available to the public in due time and according to its needs in the course of nuclear emergency and post-emergency contexts, according to the principle of the Aarhus Convention on information, participation of the public and access to justice in environmental matters¹.

¹ In particular, article 5. 1. c) of the Convention states that ‘In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, all information which could enable the public to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat’...’is disseminated immediately and without delay to members of the public who may be affected’.

One part of the complexity of responding to societal needs in nuclear emergency and post-emergency situations - beyond the diversity of societal needs themselves - is the diversity of the expertise resource arising from individuals enjoying various statutes and positions, and the variety of situations in which these individuals must deliver according to the needs. The reference to "expert" during emergency or post-emergency situations is empirically intended here in the wider sense of "knowledgeable person" or "person recognised as such" ranging from institutional experts, academics, non institutional scientific experts to people "spending significantly more time than the average population" on the issues raised by the emergency situation.

One important goal of this research is to develop an open mapping of this diversity, based on two axes:

- the first one relates to the position in which an expert finds itself in the process, which depends both on its statutory position (institutional or not, member of an agency, domestic or foreign TSO, academic, consultant, etc.) and on the role that he/she has to play (understanding and characterizing, explaining, delivering information, advising, criticising, etc.), taking into account that his/her role could fit or contradict with the requirements attached to his/her status,
- the second one deals with the variety of competencies of experts potentially involved (nuclear safety and radiological protection, but also geosciences, mechanics, agronomy, economics, social sciences, etc.), and the expand of topics arising in the course of the emergency and post-emergency situation, taking into account that the competency of an expert and the issues he/she is asked to address could also fit or contradict his/her field of competency.

The workshop *"Managing complexity in nuclear accidental situations - Experts interacting with experts and society"* is not a "one more" workshop. It intends to address the questions of the management of complexity in emergency situation, linking the societal needs of information within the sphere of interacting experts along the development of the crisis. This workshop is the first of a series of three events that will successively focus on a specific sphere of information identified in the emergency and post-accident management situations: 1) the emerging system of expertise (WP6.1) , 2) the community information system at territorial level (WP6.2) and 3) the conventional and social media (WP6.3).

Objective and Scope:

This workshop is part of a research process addressing the emerging system of expertise in the complex information system involved in nuclear accidental situations and more precisely characteristics of expertise needed to fulfil societal needs in such a situation. The workshop intends to provide a framework for discussion of key cross-cutting issues in this field with experts having experienced this kind of interaction in nuclear emergency or post-emergency situations (interactions with other experts, production and delivery of information to the public and the media) from different positions and roles, regarding different areas of knowledge and topics. It is situated in the course of the research process, which will continue after the workshop, integrating the input of the participants.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- share and enrich a mapping of the roles and issues various experts find themselves involved in (proposed by members of the PREPARE research team²),

² On the basis of the research carried out by the PREPARE team on the analysis of the system of expertise involved in the Fukushima situation (nature and roles of experts, addressed issues, exchange networks between the different experts) based on interviews and documentary studies.

- share and discuss insights and questions stemming from direct presentations by experts and from a synthesis of preliminary results drawn from interviews,
- draw out and design first proposals for improvement to be further analysed in the research process

Contribution from experts from different fields and origins involved in or concerned by the Fukushima crisis, mostly in Japan and within the European Union will help the participants to formulate appropriate questions and gather relevant information based on the feedback from experience. The reviewed experiences will cover the most representative and/or significant situations identified through the proposed mapping of positions/roles and competencies/topics.

Based on the empirical experiences and insights drawn from the interviews and the presentations, participants will address:

- the a priori conditions of the availability of an appropriate range of experts, covering the required level of pluridisciplinarity and plurality; the mechanisms for mobilising them in a way that is relevant for society;
- the need for experts to exchange among themselves (views, models, tools,...) or to network (beyond their respective positions and without prejudice to them) in order to deliver consistent and relevant information;
- and the interactions between experts, media and society in order to fulfil the identified needs of information.

The existing plurality of stakeholders, as experienced during the Fukushima crisis, raises questions, amongst other, on the way the society endows itself with the means to decide, on an enlightened basis, which experts it wants to listen to, on which subjects, by which means, at what moment for what purpose.

This raises also a key question for experts as regards the nature of their contribution to the quality of emergency and post-emergency response: do experts have a role in managing their interactions (among themselves and with the media and the society) in such situations to allow the society to access trustworthy information and to grasp the complexity, and under which conditions?

• Tentative agenda

3 half-days (on 28th and 29th November 2013)

Session I – Return of experience from experts engaged in or concerned by the Fukushima crisis

- General framework and presentation of status of the research
- Identifying key questions and challenges emerging from interviews
 - Presentation of interviews "results" and general introduction of identified key elements to be discussed regarding the nature and functions of expertise, organisation of exchanges between experts, complexity management, interactions with local communities and with society at large, ...
- Testimonies and experiences (Japan / Europe)
 - Complexity of emergency and post-emergency situations and the associated questioning will be introduced and put in perspective through presentation of selected experts involved in the Fukushima crisis

Session II – Analysis of the experts' experience

- Working groups on issues emerging from the interviews

Session III – Integration and inputs for next steps of PREPARE

- Reporting from working groups
- Roundtable on reflexive and pluralistic dialogue amongst experts, including:
 - shared understanding of the stakes and perspectives of progress
 - framework and conditions which make it possible to address in real time information and expertise needs as they emerge and the implementation of tools able to structure an expertise and information supply.
- Presentation of the two other research fields (WP6.2 & WP6.3) addressed in the analysis of the issue of information and participation of the public in emergency and post-emergency situations:
 - the community information system at territorial level
 - the role of conventional and social media

Practicalities:

Venue:

Lisbon, Portugal - 28-29 November 2013

Language:

English (+ Translation from and to Japanese)

Target audience:

Participants: 30 to 40 people, including experts involved in emergency and post-emergency situations in Europe and elsewhere, including/in particular organisations represented in other WPs of the PREPARE project, with special attention to represent the plurality of competencies of experts involved and the pluralism of perspectives from various kinds of institutional and non-institutional experts.

Further inquiries - registration

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