

Minutes of the tenth Management Board Meeting of the NERIS Platform

4th of October 2013

DRAFT version (October 22, 2013)

Participants:

Joël Bardelay – IRSN (France)
Tatiana Duranova - VUJE (Slovakia)
Eduardo Gallego - UPM (Spain) – *through videoconference*
Frank Hardeman – SCK.CEN (Belgium)
Gilles Hériard-Dubreuil - MUTADIS (France)
Christophe Murith - FOPH (Switzerland)
Wolfgang Raskob - KIT (Germany)
Thierry Schneider - CEPN (France)

Secretariat:

Sandra Biguenet - CEPN (France)

Excused:

Florian Gering – BfS (Germany)
Deborah Oughton - UMB (Norway)

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1. Introduction

Thierry Schneider, chair of the NERIS Platform, opens the tenth NERIS Management Board and welcomes all the participants. He thanks Gilles Hériard Dubreuil for hosting this meeting in MUTADIS office in Paris. A conference call is organised with members who are not able to attend the meeting in Paris.

2. Minutes of the ninth NERIS Management Board meeting – Review of the List of Actions

R&D committee:

- ⇒ Fix the date for the R&D Committee meeting on 19 or 25 September 2013 (**F. Hardeman and J. Camps - closed**)
- ⇒ Comment on and contribute to the update of the SRA and the Deployment Plan (**Management Board - closed**)
- ⇒ Analyse the collected input by mid-September (**F. Hardeman and J. Camps – closed**)

Tenth NERIS Management Board:

- ⇒ Fix the date of the meeting dedicated on OPERRA Project (**Secretariat and Management Board - closed**)

Financial issues:

- ⇒ Consolidate the expected financial support for the year 2014 for the participation of stakeholders to NERIS activities (**Secretariat – on going**)

Cooperation with European and international organizations:

- ⇒ Discuss the proposal for the NERIS – IGES cooperation agreement and the possible cooperation with CRIEPI and the University of Fukushima in July (**T. Schneider - closed**)

Second NERIS Workshop in Oslo in January 2014:

- ⇒ Discuss Japanese participation during mission this summer (**T. Schneider - closed**)
- ⇒ Contact editor for the proceedings in Radioprotection special issue by 1st September (**T. Schneider - Closed**)
- ⇒ Send invitations to speakers in August (**A. Liland and W. Raskob – on going**)
- ⇒ Detail the 2nd day of the agenda by 1 September (**W. Raskob and T. Duranova - closed**)
- ⇒ Set up online registration system on NERIS web page by 1st September (**Secretariat - closed**)
- ⇒ Discuss travel grant arrangements in September (**A. Liland and T. Schneider - closed**)
- ⇒ Send list of participants and presentations by 1st October (**MB members – on going**)

French Workshop on Local Preparedness (Bordeaux – 12-13 September 2013)

- ⇒ Identify speakers to present activities on NERIS Platform, NERIS-TP and PREPARE (**G. Hériard-Dubreuil, T. Duranova, E. Gallego, W. Raskob and T. Schneider - closed**)

6th Newsletter:

- ⇒ Contribution to be sent before the 30th of August to the Secretariat (**MB members – on going**)

NERIS Website:

Introduce a map showing members and supporting organizations (**M. Cindro, Secretariat – on going**)

3. NERIS SRA and the Deployment Plan**3.1. Feedback on the R&D Committee meeting**

Frank Hardeman, chairman of the R&D Committee presents the key points of the meeting, which was organised in Brussels on 25 September 2013.

The aim was to review the SRA taking into account the topics under development in the European research project PREPARE and to discuss the NERIS contribution to the MELODI Workshop, which will be held on 8-10 October 2013 in Brussels. The key topics have been discussed in details for the three areas (Atmospheric and Aquatic Modelling, Dose assessment and decision support, stakeholder involvement and communication), and it was proposed to add one research area: ***improving the decision making processes (taking into account the various technical and human dimensions)***. A preliminary list of priority was discussed.

Gilles Hériard-Dubreuil mentions the importance on the one hand to develop tools to improve recovery and manage complexity of the post-accident situation and in other hand to give the possibility for the population to have appropriate information. In this perspective, specific attention will have to be devoted to the identification of the topic priorities for future research in social sciences and the development of work with experts to use tools and also produce understandable information for local communities.

The members of the Management Board review the priorities and work to improve the presentation of the SRA for the MELODI Workshop (See the presentation in Annex 1).

3.2. Feedback on the OPERRA project and the MELODI Workshop

Thierry Schneider explains following the discussions and updates a new proposal for the Memorandum Of Understanding for an integrative approach to European Radiation Protection research is now available (see Annex1). In a general view, all the members of the Management Board agree with this new version, which will be discussed during the OPERRA management board on October 11.

At the occasion of the MELODI Workshop, a series of OPERRA meetings will be organised in Brussels from 7 to 11 October, including the OPERRA Management Board Meeting.

Minutes of these meetings will be prepared and disseminated to the NERIS supporting organisations.

4. Feedback on recent meetings

4.1. French Workshop on Local Preparedness – Bordeaux (see Annex 2)

A French Workshop on Local Preparedness has been organised in Bordeaux – 12-13 September 2013 at the initiative of the ANCCLI (the French Federation of Local Commissions of Information), the CLIN of Blayais (Local Commission of Information) and MUTADIS as part of the NERIS-TP project – WP3. Post-accident preparedness processes at the territory level in France and other European countries were presented and discussed. Feedback experience from the post-Fukushima situation in Japan has also been presented; notably focused on the stakeholder involvement at the local level.

The presentations from other countries were very well appreciated and the presentation of PREPARE project allowed to open new perspectives with involvement of stakeholders.

(The program and the presentations are available on the ANCCLI Website: <http://www.anccli.fr/Post-Accident/Bordeaux-CLIN-du-Blayais-12-13-septembre-2013-Atelier-NERIS-Post-Accident> and a summary is also available on the NERIS Website).

4.2. EC study on “Review of current off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response arrangements in EU member states and neighbouring countries”

Florian Gering participated as NERIS representative in the final workshop of this EC study on October 1-2, 2013. The draft of the main conclusions of this study was distributed to the NERIS management board for comments. The key comments from NERIS were to better advertise the on-going research in NERIS-TP and PREPARE projects and the various activities of NERIS. Florian Gering will send feedback on this workshop in the following weeks.

5. Preparation of the NERIS-TP Dissemination Workshop in Oslo

To discuss this point, Astrid Liland from NRPA joins the meeting by conference call. The on-line registration is now available on the NERIS Website and the e-flyer has been prepared to present the NERIS-TP Dissemination Workshop. All members of the Management Board approve the document, which will be sent to all NERIS Members in the following days. Invitation to speakers will be sent also the next weeks after the NERIS Website update.

6. Cooperation

6.1. Cooperation with Japanese organisations: IGES, CRIEPI, University of Fukushima

The formalization of cooperation with Japanese organisations is going on. Meetings have been organized with these organisations last July to discuss the possible format of cooperation. Thierry Schneider will further discuss the possible cooperation during his mission in Japan at the end of November. In addition, concerning the IGES cooperation, Gilles Hériard-Dubreuil mentions that an analysis of the FAIRDO project has been prepared using the analysis grid prepared for the NERIS TP WP3. Gilles will send this analysis prepared by IGES to the management board.

6.2. Cooperation with GMF

The GMF (Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities) Annual Assembly and seminar were organized in Borsele on October 3-4, 2013. Eduardo Gallego attended the meeting on behalf of the NERIS Platform and presented the NERIS activities and notably the

NERIS-TP Dissemination Workshop in Oslo. Some GMF members are already associated with NERIS activities. Several participants expressed their interest to attend the Oslo Workshop. An official invitation letter will be sent to GMF for this workshop and then further discussions on the establishment of a cooperation agreement will be envisaged.

7. Management of the Platform

7.1. NERIS Newsletter

The following papers have to be finalized for Newsletter: summary of the NERIS Topical Workshop on the management of contaminated goods, cooperation with FAIRDO, and summary of the table-top exercise in Spain.

7.2. Fees for next year

Thierry Schneider explains that currently with the contribution of 19 supporting organisations, the fees for 2013 are about 10 k€ (see below). These fees are contributing to the support of the secretariat activities while the other parts are provided by the NERIS TP WP1 funding and CEPN internal resources.

Due to the closure of the NERIS TP project at the end of January 2014, there is a need to consider how to increase the NERIS resources. The management board proposes first to invite NERIS members to become supporting organisation and also to increase fees as follows: 2000 € for College 1 and 1000 € for College 2.

A proposal for the evolution of fees for 2014 will be sent to all NERIS members and a decision will be made by the NERIS General Assembly in June 2014.

NERIS – EXPECTED FEES 2013

	ORGANISATION	COUNTRIES	EXPECTED FEES
1	KIT	Germany	300 €
2	BFS	Germany	1 000 €
3	IKE	Germany	300 €
4	SCK.CEN	Belgium	300 €
5	DTU	Denmark	300 €
6	PDC	Denmark	300 €
7	UPM	Spain	300 €
8	STUK	Finland	1 000 €
9	MUTADIS	France	300 €
10	CEPN	France	300 €
11	IRSN	France	1 000 €
12	GAEC	Greece	1 000 €
13	UNIMI	Italy	300 €
14	NRPA	Norway	1 000 €

15	UMB	Norway	300 €
16	KWR	Netherlands	300 €
17	SURO	Czech Republic	300 €
18	VUJE	Slovakia	1 000 €
19	OFSP	Switzerland	1 000 €
	TOTAL		10 600 €

7.3. Date and venue of the next Management Board

It is proposed to organize the next Management Board meeting by videoconference on December 10, 11 or 13 afternoon.

The aims will be to discuss the OPERRA project, the SRA update and the Deployment Plan.

7.4. Next General Assembly

The next General Assembly will be organized in Geneva the 27th of June 2014 from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

8. Any other business

Gilles Hériard Dubreuil presents the initiative of ANCCLI for the creation of a network of civil society: Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW). The objective of this European network is to promote the conditions of democratic transparency and effective public participation, in the spirit of the Aarhus Convention. (see Annex 3). The first meeting will be held on November 7, 2013. Gilles will keep informed the management board on this initiative.

9. List of actions – NERIS Management Board 10

R&D committee:

- ⇒ Update the SRA (**Management Board and R&D committee**)

OPERRA project:

- ⇒ Send the comments on the MoU with MELODI, ALLIANCE and other European networks before mid-November 2013 (**Management Board**)
- ⇒ Prepare minutes of the OPERRA meetings to be held in October 7-11, 2013 (**Thierry Schneider**)

EC study on review of current off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response arrangements

- ⇒ Send the summary of the final workshop held in Luxemburg on October 1-2, 2013 (**Florian Gering**)

Eleventh NERIS Management Board:

- ⇒ Fix the date of the meeting (**Secretariat**)

Financial issues:

- ⇒ Prepare a proposal for new fees for the supporting organisations (**Secretariat**)

Cooperation with European and international organizations:

- ⇒ Discuss the possible cooperation with CRIEPI and the University of Fukushima in November (**T. Schneider**)
- ⇒ Diffuse the analysis prepared by IGES on the FAIRDO project (**Gilles Hériard Dubreuil**)
- ⇒ Further discuss with GMF for establishing a cooperation agreement (**Management Board**)

Second NERIS Workshop in Oslo in January 2014:

- ⇒ Send invitations to speakers and NERIS members in October (**Secretariat**)
- ⇒ Update the NERIS Website with the second announcement (**Secretariat**)

Fifth General Assembly in Geneva

- ⇒ Prepare the draft agenda of the meeting in Geneva the 27th of June 2014 (**Secretariat**)

6th Newsletter:

- ⇒ Finalize the Newsletter before the end of October (**MB members and Secretariat**)

NERIS Website:

- ⇒ Introduce a map showing members and supporting organizations (**Secretariat**)

Annex 1

Memorandum Of Understanding for an integrative approach to European Radiation Protection research

Draft

The undersigned European organisations, duly represented by their respective officers,

Considering that:

- MELODI was founded as a European Association aiming at a progressive integration of national and European research in the field of radiation protection, and that in particular MELODI develops and maintains a European SRA for the field of low-dose risks,
- Alliance was founded as a European Association aiming at a progressive integration of national and European research in the field of radio-ecology, and that in particular develops a European SRA for the field of radio-ecology,
- NERIS was founded as a European Association aiming at progressive integration of national and European research in the field of radiological emergency preparedness, and that in particular develops a European SRA for the field of emergency preparedness,
- The implementation of some EU FP7 research projects in the field of radiation protection, and notably the OPERRA and COMET projects, will in effect require the development of operational cooperation between the signatory organisations,
- The inception of the future EURATOM Horizon 2020 framework programme will further call for a closer cooperation across the field of radiation protection, and the strengthening of integration with national R&D programmes on the basis of strategic research agendas drawn up at the European level,
- Such integration of research at European level must be designed and operated in such a way as to maintain a high level of operational effectiveness of research processes, including for the operation of funding procedures,
- Other European organisations active in the field of R&D coordination in disciplinary, scientific or technical fields of interest to radiation protection research may wish to adhere to the present memorandum,

Decide to cooperate on the following issues according to the principles set hereafter, in order to promote the integration and the efficiency of European research and scientific education in the field of radiation protection.

Art 1: The signatory organisations decide to establish a Joint Radiation Protection Research Roadmap Committee, in order to coordinate as necessary their respective SRA's and priority roadmaps of the signatories, in order to ensure completeness and to avoid overlaps, and to establish a common radiation protection research roadmap, to be updated and made publicly available on a yearly basis, setting out coherent priorities for the whole field of radiation protection research. This committee will comprise two senior experts designated by each signatory organisation.

The chair of the committee will be chosen for three-year periods by consensus among the members. The committee's secretariat will be provided by the MELODI association.

Art 2: In the framework of the OPERRA project funded by the EC-DGTRD under FP7 program, MELODI will be responsible for the administration on behalf of the European Commission of open calls for research projects in radiation protection; the first call covering the whole scope of radiation protection research is being planned for 2014. For this purpose, the signatories will cooperate in order to optimize and coordinate their respective actions, particularly for the organisation of the call, the promotion of the information about the call, and the provision of

suitable technical information needed for the call preparation process, which will be performed in a confidential manner, separate from MELODI's or the other signatories own processes.

Art 3: The signatories agree to set up as necessary joint working groups in order to elaborate a joint vision in areas of common concern, for the benefit of European radiation protection research. The Chairs and Secretaries of these JWG's will be appointed by consensus between the signatory organisations for three year periods. The detailed mandate of each JWG will be agreed by the signatory organisations, and regularly reviewed as long as the need exists to operate such a JWG. The operations of these JWG's will in addition be closely coordinated with activities in the corresponding fields generated by EC/EURATOM funded projects.

- JWG1 will aim for the progressive development of a permanent network of universities and specialised radiation protection institutions, for the implementation of education and the dissemination of research results, for the benefit of the radiation protection community in industry as well as in public agencies and research institutions.
- JWG2 will aim to coordinate information about infrastructures relevant for radioprotection research (irradiation facilities, databases, tissue banks, cohorts...), including the conditions for access to such infrastructures for the benefit of the radiation protection community, in public agencies and research institutions, in health services and in industry.
- Other JWG's may be set up by consensus between the signatory organisations.

Art 4: Each signatory organisation invites the other signatories to appoint an observer to participate in their respective Board and General assembly meetings, in order to ensure adequate transparency and quality of communication.

Art 5: This MOU is open to adhesion by other European organisations s active in the field of R&D coordination in disciplinary, scientific or technical fields of interest to radiation protection research, subject to prior information and unanimous agreement of the three above mentioned signatories.

Art 6: The signatories agree to inform the EC DG Research & Innovation of the signature of this MOU and of results achieved through the above initiatives, and where needed to invite EC responsible officers to participate in joint meetings.

Art 7: This MOU, of which each signatory organisation holds an original copy, is concluded for a period of 4 years. It may be prolonged by tacit agreement, or amended by consensus agreement between the signatory organisations. A signatory may withdraw from the obligations set forth in this MOU subject to prior notice to other signatories at least six months in advance. At the initiative of MELODI, acting as coordinator for the implementation of this MOU, the officers representing the respective signatory organisations meet at regular intervals in order to jointly oversee the implementation of their above mentioned common undertakings.

Signature/date/place

For MELODI:

For Alliance:

For NERIS:

Annex 2



ANCCLI initiate an opening consultation for structuring an European civil society organization to enhance the transparency of nuclear activities

Nuclear Transparency Watch

The experience of European Stress Tests on Nuclear Safety has demonstrated the relevance of the contribution of civil society to continuous improvement and strengthening of the safety nuclear installations, by the expression of balanced and pragmatic views and its ability to respond to regulator solicitations when serious events like the Fukushima accident motivate general strengthening of vigilance.

A statement echoed by many European NGOs involved in daily monitoring of european nuclear activities which emphasize the specificity of participatory governance model provided by the CLI and ANCCLI in France which unfortunately do not always exist in other nuclear countries in Europe.

Creating the conditions and means for enabling citizens to effectively contribute to the surveillance of nuclear activities in the various contexts of European countries is an ambitious goal. It is a long way to promote and enhance the role of civil society in European nuclear countries.

In this perspective, ANCCLI engaged with its European partners a process of consultation based on trust and cooperation initiated in 2009 between the French CLIs and European NGOs involved in monitoring nuclear activities (Aarhus Convention & Nuclear process). A first meeting was held in Paris on 10th of July 2012, where a dozen NGOs from different countries and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) , in order to investigate the potential, the conditions and means for structuring an European civil society organization to develop the transparency of nuclear activities (safety, environment, health, economy, ...).

This consultation has received very strong supports of European and french NGOs as such as European Parliament representatives, including Mrs. Lepage, Mrs. RIVASI and Mr. TURMES.

The first proposals of the participants focus on the creation of an organization that could be called "Nuclear Transparency Watch" and will, at first be constituted by institutions involved in the development of transparency in the nuclear sector (ANCCLI, Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention (UNECE), local, national and European NGOs). The European Economic and Social Committee, the European Commission and the European parliament (MEPs) are solicited to provide their support and contribution to this initiative.

Such as the NGO "Transparency International" dedicated to transparency and integrity of the public and economic life (in particular in the field of the fight against corruption), [Nuclear Transparency Watch \(NTW\)](#) is willing to promote the conditions of a democratic transparency and an effective public participation, in the spirit of the Aarhus Convention :

- Raise awareness of policy makers and European society about the issues of transparency for nuclear safety.
- Support and assist initiatives and local civil society organizations (in each European countries) seeking support to promote transparency of nuclear activities.
- Share information among participants of EU countries, build collective assessment (e.g contribution to stress test) when necessary.
- Raise the voice of civil society in the European decision-making process concerning nuclear activities and the development of energy policies.
- Assess comparatively progress in nuclear transparency in the various European countries.

Annex 3

NUCLEAR TRANSPARENCY WATCH (NTW)

Towards a systematic contribution of the civil society to nuclear safety vigilance in Europe:

The “Nuclear Transparency Watch” (NTW) Initiative

August 27th 2013

The contribution of civil society to nuclear safety is a necessity

The Fukushima accident has raised, all over the world, the societal awareness of the risks and catastrophic potential entailed by civil nuclear activities and of the imperative necessity to reach and maintain a high level of nuclear safety. Nuclear electric generation, regardless of the opinion that one may have on the place it should occupy in the energy mix, is a technological activity that requires a very high level of safety surveillance. Safety assurance involves extremely demanding conditions (financial, technical, social, political and legal). Those conditions can be subjected to disturbance at any time and require constant surveillance. The possibility of a nuclear accident in the EU or in neighbouring countries cannot be excluded and consequences will not be limited to the State in which an accident takes place.

The “*manmade disaster*”¹ of Fukushima provides proof of the need for societal vigilance on the safety of nuclear activities, beyond institutional and legal arrangements of nuclear safety. In this way, nuclear safety relies upon not only the high commitment of operators and regulators, but also on the effective commitment of the concerned civil society. The vigilance of civil society is not only requested at local and national levels in the decision-making on nuclear safety. It is also needed at European level where regulators, operators, experts are increasingly developing cooperation. A lot is still to be done to deploy the contribution of civil society to nuclear safety in a systematic way in the context of the many European nuclear facilities.

Creating the “Nuclear Transparency Watch” (NTW) European Network

Answering the MEPs call for “Nuclear Transparency Watch” of December 4th 2012, a group of Civil Society Organisations and civil society representatives involved at local, national or European level in the follow up of Nuclear activities have decided to create “Nuclear Transparency Watch” (NTW) as a European Network in order to :

- Raise awareness of policy makers and European society about the issues of public information and participation for enhancing nuclear safety,
- Develop a counter-expertise of the civil society on nuclear safety at local, national and European levels,
- Provide support to initiatives and local civil society organizations in the Member States.

NTW is to promote the conditions for democratic transparency and effective public participation in the nuclear sector, in the spirit of the Aarhus Convention. It will support and assist national and local initiatives and civil society organizations (of concerned European countries) seeking to promote transparency of nuclear activities. It will favour the sharing of information among participants and the

¹ « *A Manmade disaster* » – Report of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission of The National Diet of Japan © 2012, The National Diet of Japan

building of participatory review of nuclear safety arrangements when appropriate. Finally, it will raise the voice of civil society in the European and national decision-making processes on nuclear activities and provide information to EU institutions and MEPs.

The governance of NTW

The NTW will be created as a French non profit organization (to be notified in the course of October 2013) and gather representatives of referent CSO organizations at national and European levels as well as qualified personalities. The first general assembly of NTW will take place on November 7th in the premises of the European Parliament. A small permanent staff will be created early 2014, in order to conduct legislative oversight and coordinate NTW's activities.

The governance of NTW will draw on a Management Board of representatives of member organizations and qualified personalities with a renewable mandate of 5 years. The first Management board will be settled at the creation of the NTW in the statutes of the organization. Michèle Rivasi, MEP, will be the first Chair of NTW.

The funding of NTW will respect strict rules and procedures in order to preserve the independence of the network. It will rely on public national or European funding, as well as on individual of institutional donors and foundations, as soon as compatible with the objectives of NTW.

Actions to be taken by NTW in 2013-2014

To ensure the effective presence and visibility of NTW at national and European level, the network will start practical activities as soon as created, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the presence of civil society at national and European levels. Two subjects are offered as first investment grounds of NTW:

- 1) The question of Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response is a priority issue in the post-Fukushima context. This question has not been taken on board of the European nuclear stress tests. However, Civil Society Organisations have requested this issue to be dealt with by EU institutions during the ENSREG Public meetings (see Public Meeting, 8 May 2012, Post-Fukushima stress tests Peer Review, ENSREG, Brussels). It is now on the agenda of European and (many) National Institutions and will be dealt with in the coming years. A review of existing Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response arrangements in the EU member states is currently being performed under the auspices of DG ENER ("Review of current off-Site nuclear emergency preparedness and response arrangements in EU member states and Neighbouring countries ENER/D1/2012-474"). The contribution of civil society is to play a essential role in off-site management of nuclear emergency and post-emergency. It is therefore an important topic for NTW and an area of strong legitimacy for civil society with potential margins for significant progress. NTW is likely to involve in this work neighbouring EU partners such as Ukraine and possibly Belarus.

The first thematic NTW Working Group on "Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response" (EP&R WG) will be installed on November 7th 2013 in conjunction with the first meeting. The WG will gather information and review existing EP&R arrangements. It will also seek for cooperation with experts and notably with the NERIS platform of expertise on nuclear emergency and post-emergency management. The first results of this work will be released and discussed in the framework of an Aarhus & Nuclear European Roundtable to be held in spring 2014 (see below).

- 2) The implementation of the Directive 2011/70/Euratom of July 19th 2011 regarding radioactive waste management is an important topic at national and European levels. This directive had to be transposed into national laws before August 23rd, 2013. The EC is subject to the obligation of checking the implementation of this Directive. This Directive harmonizes national decision-making processes of radioactive waste management. It includes principles of public information and participation that must be implemented within the decision-making process described by this Directive. A survey is currently being performed (ENER/D2/2013/131 "Analysis of the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Directive 2011/70/Euratom") that will bring a basis of information about the actuality of the legal transposition of this Directive. NTW is in a position to produce a European scale participatory assessment of the implementation of this Directive.

Articulation with the Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN) Phase II process

NTW will articulate its work with the second phase of the participative *Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN)* process that was initiated in 2008 by ANCCLI and the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission (DG- ENER-EC). During its first phase (2008-2013), ACN has assessed the state of concrete implementation in the nuclear domain of the rights guaranteed by the Aarhus Convention. ACN is to encourage the organisation of Round Tables at both national and European levels in partnership with a broad range of stakeholders: institutional actors (regulators, operators, and experts), elected officials, and civil society organisations involved in the daily monitoring of civil nuclear activities, in order to identify not only challenges and obstacles, but also innovative ways to develop public information and participation in this field.

The thematic NTW Working Group on "Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response" (EP&R WG) will develop interactions with nuclear stakeholders at national level in the framework of ACN national Roundtables. The Organisation of a European Roundtable on "Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response" is foreseen in Spring 2014.

In addition, NTW will seek to develop access of the civil society to expertise on nuclear safety and engage cooperation with existing institutions & networks of public and independent experts at national European levels, such as NERIS (emergency), SITEX (RWM), ETSO and JRC. Pilot projects involving interactions between experts and the civil society will be developed at national or European levels when appropriate, according to the needs of the civil society.

Road Map, first steps

September 24th, 2013 – Prefiguration meeting of the Management Board, Brussels

November 7th, 2013 – First NTW General Assembly, European Parliament Premises

November 7th, 2013 – Installation of The first thematic NTW Working Group on "Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response" (EP&R WG)