

Importance of Public Communication in Nuclear

SANJA KUKMANOVIĆ

Fund for financing the decommissioning of the Krško NPP and the disposal of Krško NPP radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel

Ulica V. Heinzela 70A, Zagreb, Croatia

sanja.kukmanovic@fond-nek.hr

The Round Table will address the importance of public communication and public involvement in nuclear decision-making processes. The panellists are going to discuss the necessity of early and two-way communication, mutual trust and cooperation among stakeholders. Comments and opinions from audience will be welcomed and interaction on this issue will be encouraged.

Research and experience in some countries shows that sound communication and stakeholder involvement are essential components for conducting nuclear-related projects. Most European countries have established dialogue processes, which take different formats and involve

a wide range of actors. Through these processes, it has been demonstrated that the involvement of potential host and neighbouring communities, regulatory bodies and experts is crucial. Transparency and openness are also pre-conditions for trust building.

There are national and international commitments to stakeholder involvement. In order to build trust, stakeholder involvement should take place in every stage of the life cycle of nuclear facilities and should occur regularly and frequently. Communicating with stakeholders appears on every level of IAEA safety standards: from safety fundamentals through requirements to guides. They are handled specifically, laying out the responsibilities of the governments, regulators, utilities and academia. There are also national and international commitments to involving stakeholders. Numerous challenges regarding public perception are encountered during these processes and overcoming them should be our mutual goal

Keywords: *public communication, public involvement, stakeholder involvement, public communication in nuclear, transparency in nuclear*