



Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences

A GUIDE TO NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE DEEP GEOLOGICAL REPOSITORY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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Nuclear and Energy from the Perspective
of Social Sciences and Humanities

Warsaw, April 7 2016

Problem Situation: *technical* vs. *social*



- ☐ geological suitability,
- ☐ technology development,
- ☐ construction works etc.

**social acceptability
& legitimacy of the
decision-making**

Project of applied sociological research (2014-2015)

Key research topics:

- ❑ communication among stakeholders affected by the DGR project
- ❑ participation in the decision making process.

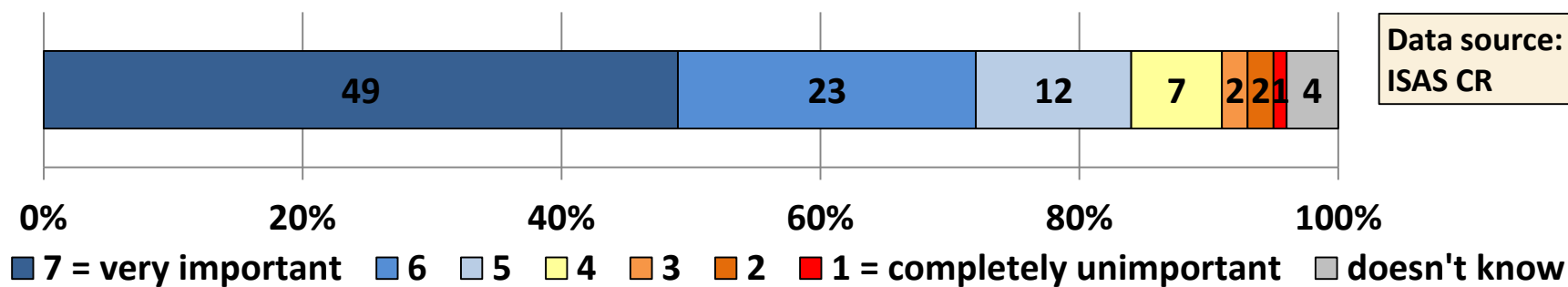
Available data from the research:

- ❑ questionnaire survey on a representative sample of the population of the Czech Republic (*spring 2014*)
- ❑ 8 FGs with inhabitants of 4 localities considered as potential sites (*summer 2014*)
- ❑ 9 IDIs with representatives of stakeholders and experts (*spring 2014*)
- ❑ questionnaire survey on a representative sample of local population in 4 pre-selected localities (*spring 2015*).

Source of funding: *Technology Agency of the Czech Republic*

Importance of the decision about the DGR

„How important is for the Czech society the decision about where to build the geological repository of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel?”



Representative sample of the Czech population, n=1081, data collection:
February 3-10 2014

Goal of the project

*The goal of our project consisted in formulating of a set of principles and procedures of **social communication** and **participative decision-making** that will contribute to the non-conflict course of negotiations about the DGR in the Czech Republic.*

A Guide to Communication and Participation in Decision-making about the Deep Geological Repository of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste in the Czech Republic

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Between policy and public sociology

Drawing on M. Burawoy's distinction between professional, critical, policy and public sociology, the guide has two functions:

POLICY FUNCTION

It provides authorized state institutions with recommendations on how to forward the negotiations.

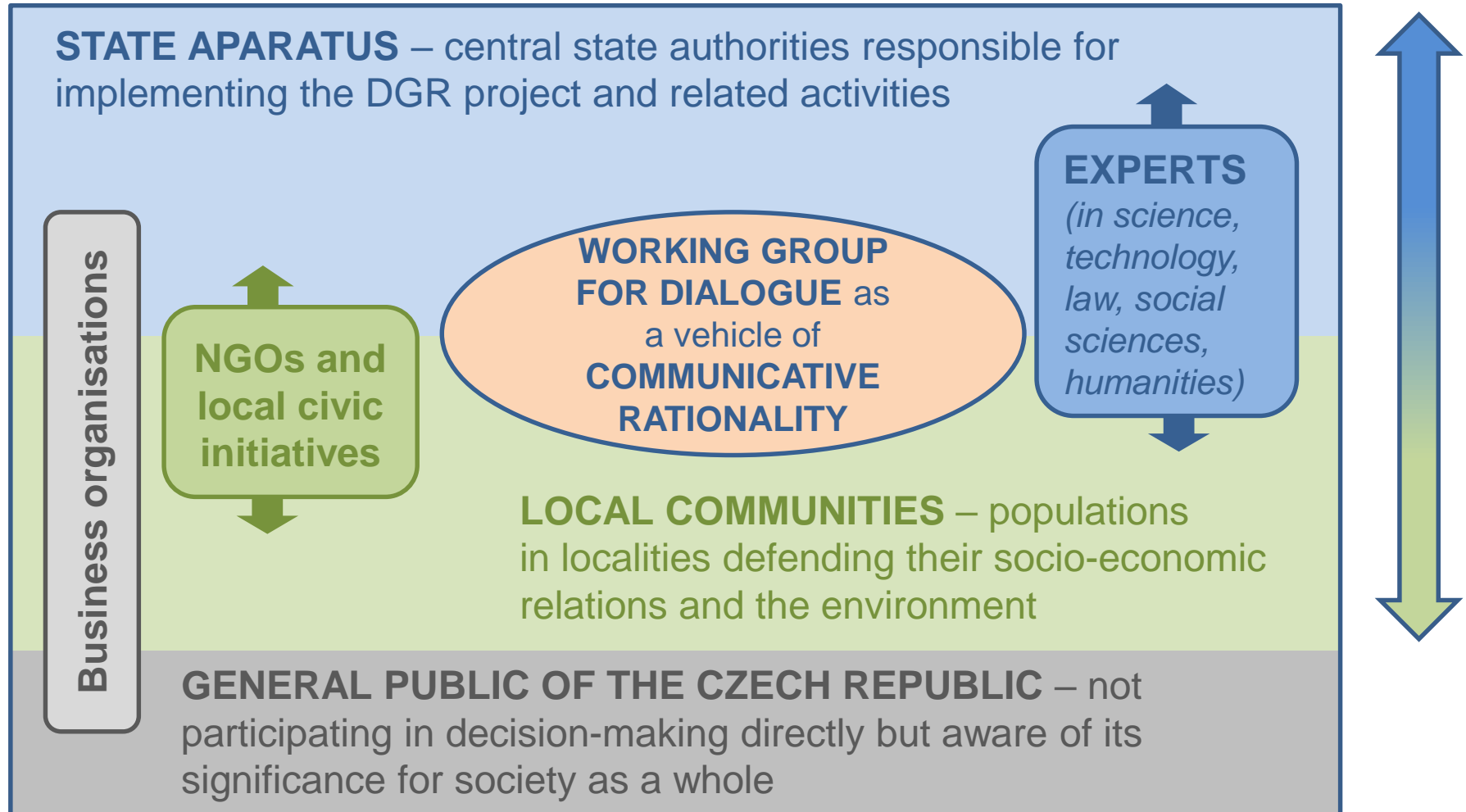
PUBLIC FUNCTION

It outlines suitable ways of communication and participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process.

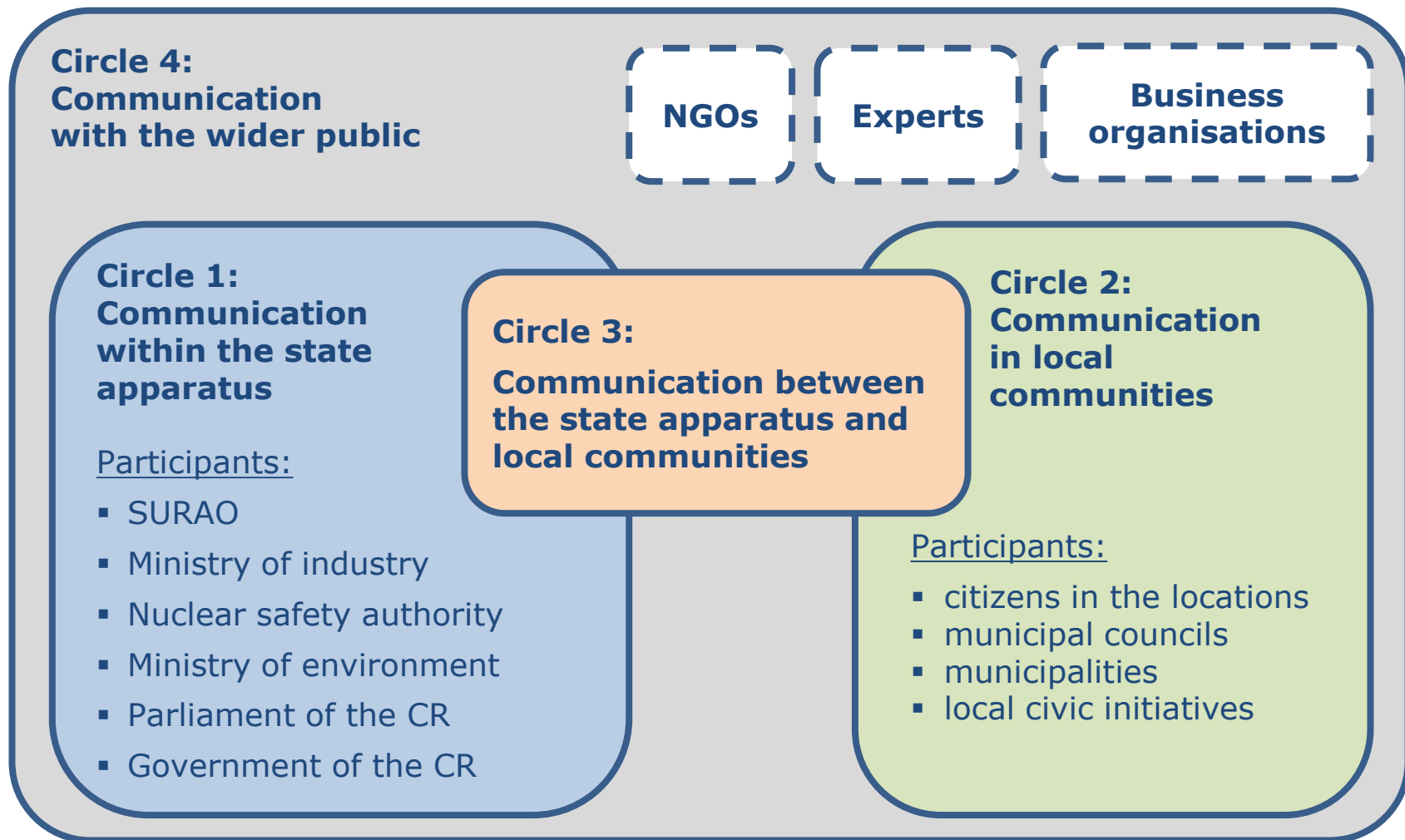
Typology of stakeholders / actors

TYPES OF STAKEHOLDERS	PREVAILING ORIENTATION
authorities acting on behalf of the state (<i>esp. those in charge of the RW management</i>) executive bodies (<i>e.g. relevant ministries</i>) legislative bodies (<i>chambers of the Parliament</i>)	STATE APPARATUS
citizens living in the pre-selected localities	
municipalities in the localities	
local civic initiatives	LOCAL COMMUNITIES
nationwide NGOs	
experts (<i>scientists, specialist</i>)	
business organisations in the DGR project (<i>waste producers, specialised businesses etc.</i>)	the prevailing orientation depends to some extent on circumstances

Scheme of relationships among stakeholders



Circles of communication about the DGR



Applicability of the Guide

„PRINCIPLES“

They are abstract (similar in meaning to the concept of an ‘axiom’);

They point to how the process of dialogue ought to proceed, whereas in reality it is difficult to realise a principle in full;

With respect to the topics of a dialogue they indicate an ideal state that should be striven for based on available knowledge.

„PRACTICES“

These are more practical guidelines geared to concrete situations;

They point to activities, procedures, instruments, and recommendations for decision-making processes, etc., towards the fulfilment of principles.

Organization of the text

vi. Local communities are able to monitor the work of experts.

As well as the presentation of information by experts on the side of the state apparatus, it is important for equal dialogue that local communities in particular are able **to verify this information** and thus be in a position where they are able **to monitor the activities of the state**. The weak position municipalities currently occupy in the process of decision-making on the DGR does not enable such monitoring. Local communities have to rely on information provided by experts employed by the state or information from institutions in the field of nuclear energy. This fact reinforces the sense of frustration among citizens in the selected locations that they have become part of a high-level political and economic game in which they have a place only as spectators and have no influence on anything.

Proposed procedures:

- *Establish a fund from which each of the selected locations can draw earmarked financial resources **to pay for experts with no ties to the state apparatus or nuclear energy agencies**. A prerequisite for this fund to work is that a procedure be set up for the selection of experts – for example, on the basis of a vote in the community association (see Table 4). The findings of these experts would be a source of arguments for dialogue on the DGR among local communities and the state apparatus in the WG for Dialogue.*
- *Through open access, education, field trips, public events, etc., **increase the competence of the inhabitants of the locations** to becoming involved in communication and dialogue on the DGR. The community associations (see Table 4) can be used for this purpose. It is especially important to appeal to active and educated citizens who have the motivation and ability to absorb*

Dialogue as PROCESS of decision-making

	1ST SET OF PRINCIPLES	
Cultivating an environment conducive to communication	<i>i. Communication is transparent and rests on public access to sufficient information.</i>	
	<i>ii. The foundation of communication is dialogue in the public sphere in which participants respect each other as equal partners.</i>	
	<i>iii. Dialogue is open, but organized.</i>	
	<i>iv. Dialogue is a path of shared learning.</i>	
The exchange of information between experts and the public	<i>v. The arguments of experts are presented in full and communicated in a manner clear to the general public.</i>	
	<i>vi. Local communities are able to monitor the work of experts.</i>	
Participation in decision-making	<i>vii. All parties can present their opinions and influence decision-making.</i>	
	<i>viii. Develop a legislative instrument for the decision-making process that respects the views of local communities.</i>	
	<i>ix. Decisions can be made after the implementation aspects of the DGR are clear.</i>	

TOPICS of dialogue

	2ND SET OF PRINCIPLES	
<i>Measures to benefit the local community</i>	x. <i>Local communities know and can express their interests.</i>	
	xi. <i>The plan for local development is based on a system of guarantees.</i>	
<i>The cultural identity of a locality with a DGR</i>	xii. <i>The ethical dimension of the DGR facility is highlighted.</i>	
	xiii. <i>The DGR project will enable the local community to develop a meaningful narrative about its identity.</i>	
<i>The environment and the local community</i>	xiv. <i>Negotiate a system for monitoring the impact on the environment including unintended impacts.</i>	
	xv. <i>Negotiate a system of monitoring the social impact of environmental changes.</i>	

Main messages of the Guide

- ❑ Importance of **hybrid fora** (*experts of different specialisation, lay public*).
- ❑ Success and quality of decisions cannot be reached via compensations, but rather via **agreed guaranties and adherence to these guaranties**.
- ❑ Provide local communities with **resources to pay independent experts**.
- ❑ Acceptance of the DGR in the final locality will require redefinition of cultural identity, what presupposes **unfolding of a meaningful narrative / story**.
- ❑ **Ethical element of the story**: local community as taking over the responsibility on behalf of the whole society.



Thank you for your attention!

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