

WP6: Information and participation of the public

PREPARE European Research project

Gilles Hériard Dubreuil, Stéphane Baudé, Mutadis

NERIS-TP workshop – Bordeaux, 12th-13th September 2013

General objectives of WP6

- Investigate 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
- Taking into account **complexity and dynamic dimensions** of information flows
- Grounding on on the **empirical analysis** on the dynamic of information related to the Fukushima experience (in Japan and Europe) but also on other available experiences in the EU

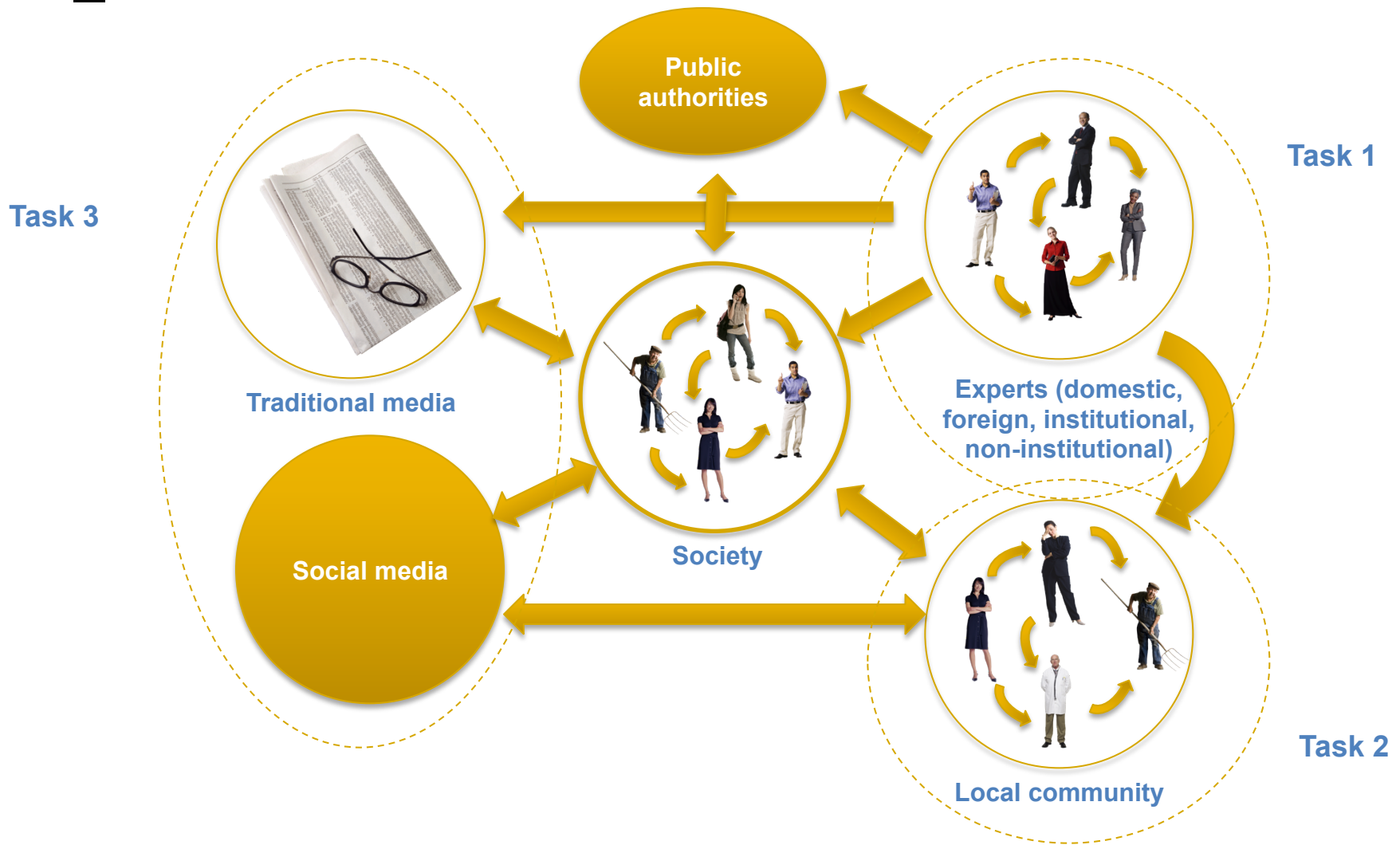
What is pertinent, reliable and trustworthy information in emergency and post-emergency context? – The Aarhus Convention perspective

- Aarhus Convention (art. 5.1. c): ‘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’.
- Information refer to
 - understanding (by the public) of the evolution of the accident (& potential risks) along its management
 - capacity of the population & communities to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat, individually & collectively

Trust as a tool for addressing complexity

- Luhmann: trust as a means for individuals to address complexity. This differs from an instrumental vision of trust in which an actor seeks to gain trust from others.
- In situations like post-accident situations where trust is broken, it is necessary for people to find ways to build new mechanisms of trust based on plurality
- Hypothesis of WP6: In a P-A situation, plurality of actors, information flows, experts, is a resource
 - to address complexity and to rebuild new systems of trust through new emerging paths and procedures.
 - to facilitate the emergence of a situation where people can make their own opinion in a robust way.

A focus on 3 specific spheres in information flows: experts, local communities and media



Experience feedback from Fukushima brings about new challenges

- **Communication among experts & stakeholders** has become an **essential aspect** of emergency management
 - It is made of non-linear, interactive & complex exchanges of information & opinions regarding potential threats to health or the environment & possible protective actions.
- Precise **role of traditional or new social media** remains to be determined & media use reformulated.
 - → Need to review the new societal dynamics in Japan regarding the accident and its consequences.
- **Crowd sourcing** has challenged ordinary top-down information in a context of growing institutional distrust,
 - → Need to revisit the traditional problematic of “stakeholders involvement”

Task 1: Emergency & post-emergency expertise networks interactions 1/2

■ Objectives:

- Evaluate dynamic and pluralistic interactions of experts at national & international levels in Fukushima context
- Draw lessons & guiding principles for making available to the public efficient, reliable and trustworthy expertise

■ Focus:

- Sharing of information & analysis capacity among experts
- Conflicting information and controversies
- Function of “technical mediation” / public & media
- Tools for managing the complexity of information & plurality of information sources
- Interactions between foreign networks of experts & domestic networks

Task 2: Information and participation of affected populations 1/2

■ Objectives:

- Evaluate processes of information & participation of affected populations, notably in (potentially) affected areas
- Draw out lessons & guiding principles, updating available strategies developed in the post-Chernobyl context

■ Focus:

- Public & community information & participation at local level
- Improving mechanisms for public information, notably when multiple sources of information may conflict
- Production & sharing of institutional & independent, locally meaningful contamination measurements
- Development of a local practical radiation protection culture
- How population resort to expert networks

Task 3: Evaluation and improvement of global communication for nuclear/radiological emergency 1/2

■ Objectives:

- Analyse the use of mass media & social media in nuclear emergencies
- Draw out lessons and guiding principles in order to improve the contribution of mass communication to the quality of public information in the perspective of Aarhus Convention

■ Focus:

- Compare media reporting on the Fukushima disaster in 5 countries: Belgium, Spain, Slovenia, Norway, Italy
- Study the use of social media in exchange of information as well as stakeholder engagement mechanisms
- Analysis of available education and dissemination materials (videos and e-learning tools)

Task 4: WP6 coordination & integration

■ Objectives:

- Integrate outcomes for the 3 first tasks and ensure cross-task communication and exchanges
- Elaborate a transversal framework including lessons and guiding principles on information and participation in the context of nuclear emergency and post-emergency
- General coordination of WP6

■ Method:

- Preparation of the transversal framework by a task force
- A task force meeting (end of year 2) to initiate this work

WP6 partners (11 organisations, 7 countries)

- ACRO, France
- CEPN, France
- EnerWebWatch / Coopaname, France
- IST-ID, Portugal
- Mutadis (WP6 leader), France
- Norwegian university of Life Sciences (UMB)
- NRPA, Norway
- Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM), Spain
- SCK•CEN, Belgium
- University of Milano (UMIL), Italy
- University of Ljubljana (UL), Slovenia