

IRPA 16 Plenary session 2

Broadening the process of optimisation

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Third NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshop on Optimisation in Decision Making

Held in Paris on 5-7 September 2023

120 participants from 23 countries

Objectives:

- ✓ **Improving the common, practical understanding of what optimisation in decision making means**
- ✓ **Identifying the foundation of a generic multidimensional framework to support the optimisation process**
- ✓ **Supporting inclusive stakeholder involvement, notably civil society, and identifying the relevant tools/approaches**



NEA Photo from the Third Stakeholder Involvement workshop: optimisation in decision making, 5-7 September 2023, Paris.

Main features of optimisation in decision-making

Towards 'inclusive, holistic and sustainable' decisions

Main Outcomes for RP issues:

- Develop further guidance on the co-development of the decision-making process (e.g. co-expertise approach, long-term involvement of rights holders and stakeholders, promoting citizen science)
- Optimise societal benefits and stakeholders well-being by considering their input in decision making, as well as the link with UN Sustainable Development Goals and the adoption of an 'all-hazards' approach.
- Reflect on how to involve young people in the decision-making process and how to cope with the consequences for future generations.
- Seek equity in the balance of power amongst all stakeholders while ensuring diversity in geographic and cultural representation.



NEA Photos from the Third Stakeholder Involvement workshop: optimisation in decision making, 5-7 September 2023, Paris

Some key takeaways from the event

- Stakeholder engagement in nuclear decision making should be implemented **as early as possible** and **whether or not it is legally mandated**, and should be **inclusive**
- Holistic decision making is gained through involving a **diversity of stakeholders and perspectives**. Holism suggests to embed **cultural traits**.
- Decision-making process must be characterised by **transparency** (trust develops throughout the process).
- Stakeholder engagement, its limits and extent must be clear with **co-development being an efficient and morally justified approach**.
- Stakeholder involvement is not undertaken to obtain consent/acceptance for options and **must offer real opportunities to affect the decision**.
- Collective agreement on **how disagreements will be handled** should be established early in the process.
- The effective **balance of power** (of different groups) impacts the actual level of engagement, as well as the decision outcome. Decision makers should consider diversity of stakeholders and their capacity (both technical and financial) to engage in the process. Process arrangements must promote equality.
- **Co-expertise**, i.e. experts, decision makers and community members working together, is the key for successful long-term engagement. Additionally, **leveraging citizen science** can support community-driven initiatives.
- The ultimate goal of stakeholder engagement, depending on the specific circumstances, is to **enable people to make their own informed decisions** on what they view as a desirable outcome.



**Thank you for
your attention**