

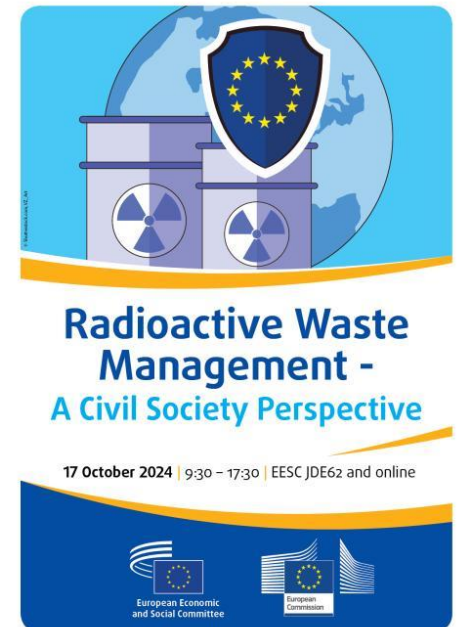
SITEX.Network

European network of the Expertise Function

Radioactive waste management: a civil society perspective

Session 4: The way ahead

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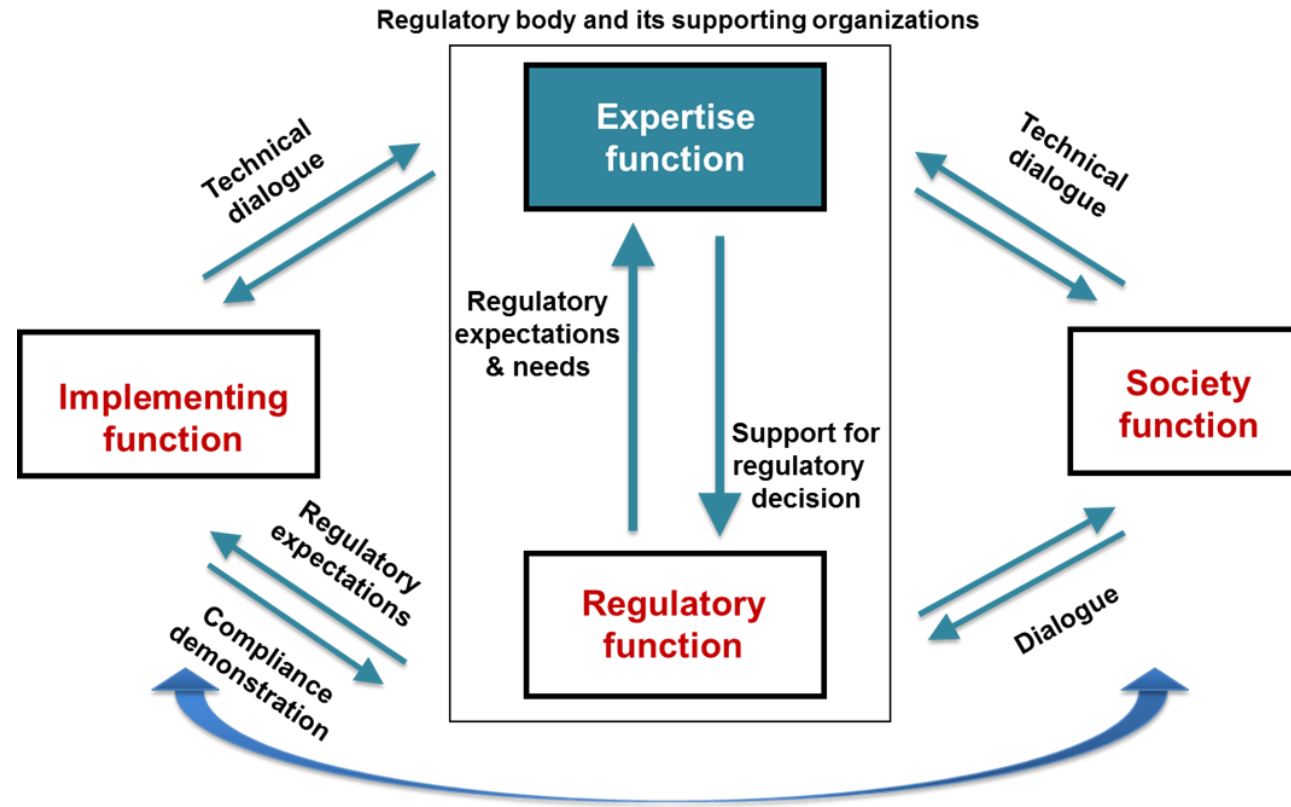
Outline

- A look in the past: the birth of the SITEX initiative.
- The EURAD joint programme.
- The way ahead.

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Main functions interacting in the RWM



SITEX.Network focuses on the *Expertise Function* and its links with the other Functions.

The SITEX initiative

- Several organizations fulfilling an *Expertise Function, a Regulatory Function or a Society Function* started the “**SITEX** initiative” in 2012.
- What does SITEX mean ?
 - **S**ustainable network for **I**ndependent **T**echnical **EX**pertise of Radioactive Waste Management
- What is the overall objective?
 - Enhance and foster cooperation at international level to achieve a high quality *Expertise Function*.
 - Independent from Waste Management Organizations (*Implementing Function*).
 - Aiming at supporting the *Regulatory Function* and the *Society Function*.
 - In the field of radioactive waste management (including disposal).
- The start of this « SITEX initiative » was funded by the European Commission (SITEX and SITEX-II projects).

EURATOM FP7 (GA ID 295889)

EURATOM H2020 (GA ID 662152)

The SITEX.Network

- Founded as a French non-profit organisation in 2018.
- Today: 20 members organised in 3 Colleges
 - Expertise function: 11 members
 - Regulatory function: 4 members
 - Civil Society function: 5 members
- With as purpose:
 - « Enhance and foster cooperation at international level in order to achieve a high quality expertise function, independent from organizations responsible for the implementation of waste management programmes, aiming at supporting the Nuclear Regulatory Authorities, as well as the Civil Society, in the field of safety of radioactive waste management. »
- Achieved through a close cooperation between its members with a plurality of actors and views: NRAs, TSOs, REs with an expertise function and Civil Society Organizations.
- This plurality of actors and views is seen as an added value of the network, compared to other existing networks.

Key SITEX.Network activities engaging CSOs

- Management of a *Strategic Research Agenda* of the Expertise Function, considering views from CSOs.
- Developing joint activities combining *Technical aspects with Social / Citizen sciences aspects*
 - Benchmark of Safety Case review approaches (including modelling aspects),
 - Developing literature studies on specific topics (Deep Borehole Repositories, Managing multiple “S” in RWM...)
 - ...
- Developing and testing *new methodologies to interact with CSOs and the public* (e.g. the serious game PEP “Pathway Evaluation Process”).
- Coordination of the *EURAD TSO College*, considering views from CSOs.

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The EURAD joint programme

- EURAD: Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management.
 - First implementation phase: 2019 – 2024.
 - The second is starting in October 2024.
- Conducting R&D, Strategic Studies and Knowledge management actions.
- In line with its mission, the SITEX.Network actively supports the engagement of CSOs in EURAD.
- Key actors in EURAD:
 - Technical Safety Organisation (Expertise Function),
 - Waste Management Organisations (Implementing Function),
 - Research Entities,
 - Civil Society Organisations.

Civil Society Engagement in EURAD

According to the EURAD Vision:

Civil Society Organisations are not research organisations but have a specific concern on RWM safety and *are involved in the perspective of the implementation of the UNECE Aarhus Convention* which reinforces the requirements of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

One objective of EURAD is to allow *interactions between WMOs, TSOs, REs and Civil Society Organisations*. These interactions *will facilitate the translation of scientific/technical results and create the conditions for Civil Society Organisations to express their expectations and views*.

Such interactions shall *improve the mutual understanding on RD&D performed* to support the development of safe solutions of processing and disposal of radioactive waste. It shall also *contribute to developing ideas, propositions and methodologies on how to interact with Civil Society* on scientific and technical results uncertainties, and on how to interact with Civil Society stakeholders in order *to promote mutual benefit of the available knowledge, based on cooperation and sharing*.

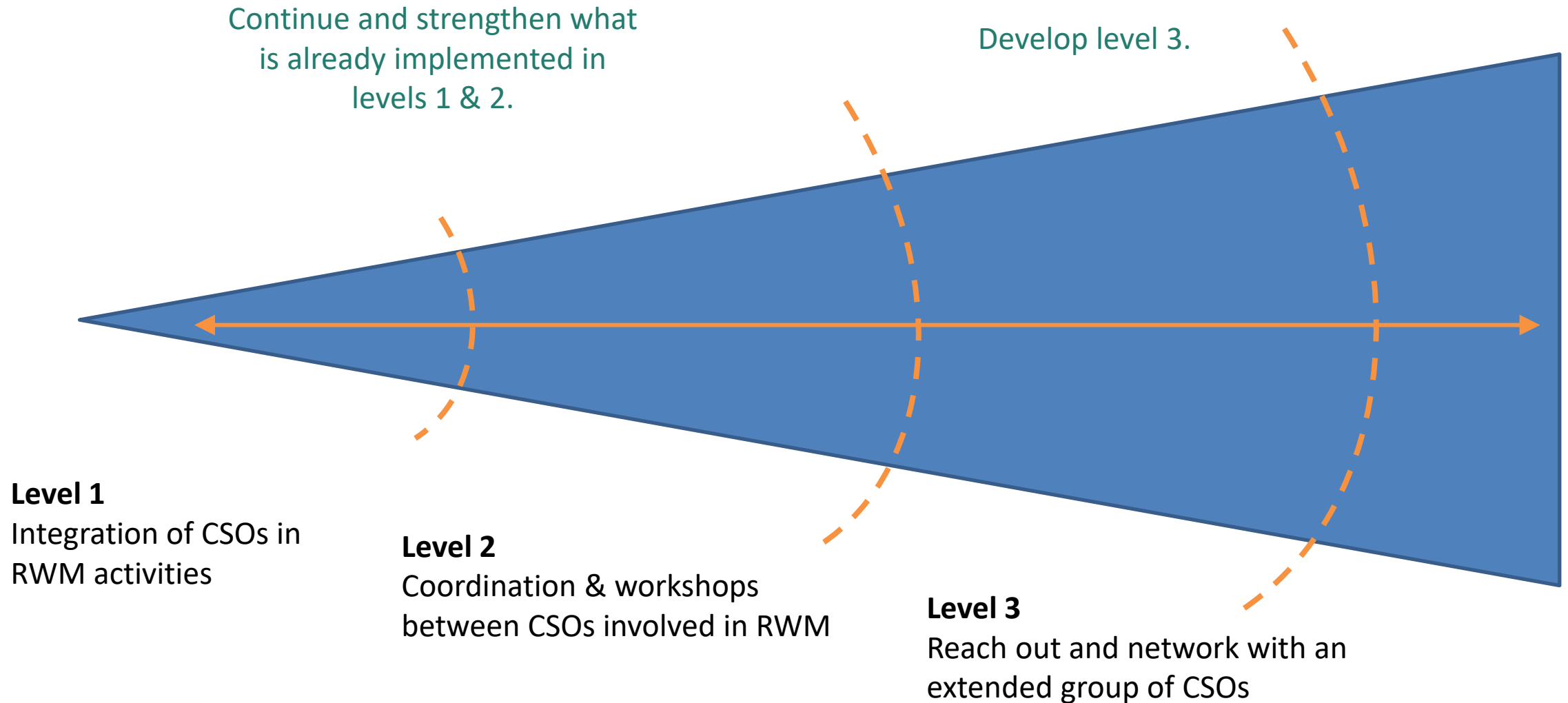
In practice: multiple levels of CS engagement

- 2 levels currently implemented in EURAD.
 - Level 1: Direct participation of CSOs in several EURAD activities
 - Level 2: Coordination & workshops between these CSOs
- These 2 levels bring strong assets:
 - A proximity between CSOs and the EURAD actors and actions;
 - A direct dialogue between researchers from the 3 EURAD colleges and CSOs;
 - Openness and transparency vis-à-vis CSOs about the EURAD actions.
- Opportunities:
 - Strengthen Level 2;
 - Develop a Level 3: reach out with an extended Civil Society group.

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Proposed way ahead



Some important considerations

- The 3 levels of CS engagement are important and complementary.
 - CS engagement should therefore not be reduced to 1 of these levels.
 - Developing the 3 levels is important.
- EURAD continues to implement and strengthen levels 1 and 2.
- Concerning level 3:
 - Its development, in close connection with levels 1 and 2, is part of the way ahead.
 - It could involve local communities and European organisations such as EESC.
 - It should allow interactions (in both ways) with the other levels (not just a communication from levels 1 and 2 towards level 3). Specific methodologies for these interactions could need to be developed.
- Implementation of level 3 looks challenging as it requires a good structure and organisation. A collaboration with EESC brings interesting opportunities to tackle this challenge.

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