Communication and stakeholder involvement with local communities:
the experience of GMF

Meritxell Martell
Origin of GMF

Formally established in the year 2000 to promote local democracy in nuclear energy governance to ensure:

- Safety
- Transparency and local participation
- Sustainable development
Objectives of GMF

- Raise the voice of local actors in the nuclear arena at national and European levels
- Improve knowledge and exchange of experience between nuclear municipalities
- Promote transparency and public engagement with regard to nuclear decision-making
- Seek to influence policy and strategy related to nuclear energy matters in Europe

GMF meeting in Brussels (March 2019)
Our members

Belgium
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Hungary
Finland
France
Netherlands
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom
Structure

Steering committee
(President and 3 vice-presidents)

Coordinator

Extended Steering Committee
(one representative per country)

Steering committee
(President and 3 vice-presidents)

Extended Steering Committee
(one representative per country)

European Local Network of Radioactive Waste Dialogue (ENWD)

Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R)

Decommissioning
“Communication and engagement of local stakeholders in decommissioning of nuclear facilities: the experience of GMF” Martell & Perko, 2022 in Laraia (ed.)

GMFOne webinar on shutdown and decommissioning of NPPs on 26 February 2021 – recording online www.gmfeurope.org

GMF co-organised together with AMAC an online seminar on “nuclear power plant shutdown and decommissioning: socio-economic impacts” held on 26 February 2021 with the aim to exchange experience regarding the socio-economic impacts involved in the decision of closing and decommissioning a nuclear power plant. There was interpretation English – French – Spanish thanks to the support from the European Commission DG Energy. Presentations and videos of the different sessions are available below.

Videos

Welcome speeches video by Mr. Pedro Sánchez Yebra, President of AMAC (in Spanish / castellano) and Ms. Pia Almström, GMF President (in English)

Video of the presentation of Dr. Tanja Perko (in English)

Video of the session on Spain (in Spanish / en castellano)

Video sur le cas de Fessenheim (en français)

Video on the UK session (in English)

Video on the session on Bulgaria (in Bulgarian) and debate of the sessions from France, UK and Bulgaria

Closing remarks by Ms. Pia Almström, GMF President (in English) and Mr. Pedro Sánchez Yebra, President of AMAC (in Spanish / castellano)
Concerns from local representatives

- Lack of communication regarding the closure of nuclear facilities from government and industry to work on an integrated strategy
- No say in the decision related to shutdown or extension of the operational lifetime and lack of local community engagement
- Insufficient attention to socioeconomic impacts to host communities and neighbouring areas
- Impact on direct, indirect and induced jobs
- Loss of competences
- Loss of taxation and revenues to co-finance local public services
- Lack of governmental decisions regarding waste management
Ten recommendations from GMF for good governance in nuclear territories, including decommissioning sites

1. Clearly define “the concerned people” with special provisions as regards information and participation.

2. To establish an effective legal and/or institutional framework for information and public participation.

3. To ensure provisions and dissemination of transparent, plural and reliable information by independent experts in layman’s terms.

4. To create tools for public participation (Local Information Commissions, partnerships, etc.) around nuclear facilities.

5. To ensure effective communication channels between the different political spheres – national decision-makers and local authorities.
Ten recommendations from GMF for good governance in nuclear territories, including decommissioning sites

6. To ensure that the experience and competence of nuclear municipalities is effectively transferred and taken into account in the decision-making process.

7. To guarantee sufficient resources for nuclear areas to launch and conduct the necessary procedures related to information gathering and participatory processes.

8. To promote training programmes for competence building.

9. To promote mechanisms for the exchange of information / experiences on safety, stakeholder involvement and local development at EU level.

10. To ensure that municipal practices on information and participation are independently reviewed and disseminated.
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