

HoNESt (History of Nuclear Energy and Society)

Project Summary and Preliminary Social Science Findings

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Presentation outline

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- ‘Backcasting’: international stakeholder exercise
- Future work

What is HoNESt?

HoNESt (History of Nuclear Energy and Society) is a three year (2015 – 2018) interdisciplinary research endeavour, integrating historical and social science research.

Central objective - to understand how societies have engaged with nuclear energy, and how the nuclear energy sector has engaged with societies, and how this has changed over the course of ~ 60 years.

HoNESt's critical examination and project findings will contribute to a more reflexive debate on future energy sources and the transition to sustainable, secure, and clean energy provision

What is HoNESt?

Utilises an interdisciplinary team (Historians and Social Scientists) involving key experts from 23 high profile research institutions; for example:

- UCLan & University of York (**UK**)
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona (**Spain**)
- Universiteit Antwerpen (**Belgium**)
- Lappeenranta University of Technology (**Finland**)
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology (**Sweden**)

What does HoNESt involve?

6 Work Packages:

1. Management and Coordination Structure and Procedures
2. History of the civilian production and use of nuclear energy in Europe (1945 - 2013); *Constructing the narrative*
3. Translating, linking and bridging: Phase 1 (History) and Phase 2 (Social Sciences)
4. Understanding perceptions and mechanisms for societal engagement
5. Backcasting: ideal futures
6. Dissemination and Engagement

Social Science Focus (IP)

WP3 – Integrates a ‘historians’ and a ‘social scientists’ committee, coordinates and monitors the interactions between Phase 1 (*historical data collection*) and Phase 2 (*social scientific analysis*), **linking and facilitating dialogue between the historians and the social scientists.**

WP4 - Develop preliminary and in-depth analytical frameworks to suitably interrogate the evidence generated by the empirical historical research in WP2. **Focus is identifying the factors underlying the societal perception of nuclear developments and how they are interrelated.**

WP5 - Derive key lessons from past historical nuclear interactions with civil society and propose desirable future engagement scenarios. **Participatory ‘backcasting’ techniques used to engage with multiple stakeholders’ groups in the development of more democratic, more inclusive and more effective engagement futures.**

Work Summary

September 2015 – Project begins

February 2016 – Preliminary Short Country Reports produced by Historians; initial work by Social Scientists (key factors underlying public perceptions and societal engagement with nuclear developments)

Aug/Sept 2016 – Development of 21 Short Country Reports (*Historians*); selection of short country reports for in-depth case study, and comparative cross-country analyses of identified key factors (*Social Scientists*)

November 2016 – Gaining an in-depth understanding of mechanisms for effective interaction with civil society (*Social Scientists*)

Work Summary

March 2017 – Production of principles for effective engagement

June 2017 – Comparative (of selected case studies) report on understanding mechanisms for effective interaction with civil society; integration of principles with findings of comparative analyses

September 2017 – Production of nuclear engagement futures; backcasting exercise conducted in Barcelona, Spain

March 2018 – Development of a ‘Theory of Change’; enhanced interaction and engagement with civil society, based upon historical experiences and research

Selected case studies

1. **United Kingdom**
2. **Ukraine**
3. **Federal Republic of Germany**
4. **Bulgaria**
5. **Sweden**
6. **Finland**
7. **Spain**

Project Findings

Our work has furthered our understanding of what **‘effective’** engagement entails and enables, and what **‘ineffective’** or a general absence of engagement leads to and creates.

In the context of civil-nuclear engagement, **‘success’** is multi-dimensional and possesses varied meaning depending on the perception and benchmark of success in each case.

United Kingdom and Sweden – examples of more fair and just process, towards more democratic decision-making practices, e.g. public inquiries, national referenda, seemingly providing opportunities for public participation in technological decision-making. Relatively elaborate attempts to establish interactive engagement practices.

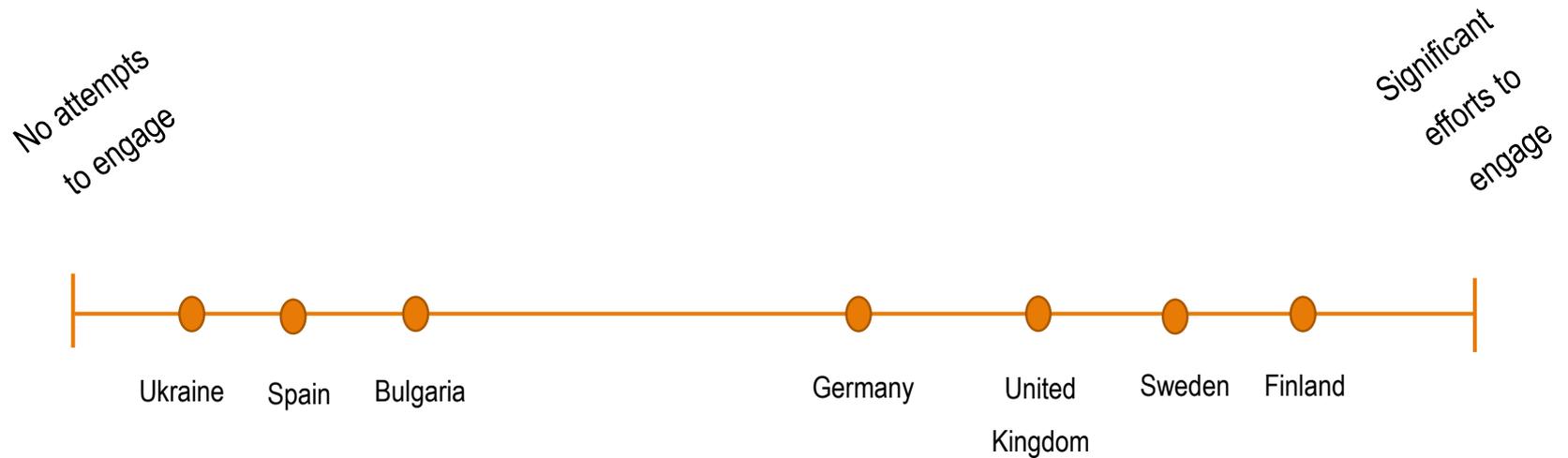
Project Findings

Spain or Germany – ‘success’ viewed by civil society as the democratic right for citizens to protest against nuclear energy development and witness a national moratorium enacted against further nuclear expansion.

Spain and Ukraine - attempts were made to cover up information in the formerly non-democratic regimes, leading to strong public opposition to nuclear energy. It was challenging to identify ‘success’ in public engagement practices.

Finland and Bulgaria - general societal support for nuclear energy and lack of overt civil opposition might be viewed by the nuclear industry and national governments as a broadly successful scenario.

HoNESt Engagement Case Studies



Source: HoNESt (2017), D5.1 “Principles for Effective Engagement”

Principles for Effective Engagement (JW)

- **Timely Engagement**
- **Dialogue-based Engagement**
- **Wide and Objective Engagement**
- **Open and Transparent Procedures**
- **Context Dependency**
- **Extra-political Engagement**
- **Procedural Justice**
- **Access to Engagement Processes**
- **Access to Information and Individuals**
- **Reciprocity**

Principles for Effective Engagement (2)

- Industry recognition of ‘principles’ – Nuclear Concordat for Public Engagement; Generic Design Assessment for New Build (Whitton et al, 2016)
- Persistent local vs national interests/tension (Whitton et al, 2016)
- New work conducted to understand “what is an energy community?” (Whitton et al., under review)
- Learn from history; there is a need for greater focus on the needs of communities and responses to these, can impact societal support for technology

'Backcasting'

Pilot backcasting exercise conducted in HoNESt Barcelona Summer School (Sept, 2017) with nuclear stakeholders

Identifying desirable nuclear engagement futures (specified time in future), working back to the present to identify necessary goals and objectives; ***deliberation, stakeholder collaboration***

Opportunity to inform engagement and development strategies, whilst highlighting and mitigation planning for potential hurdles/issues along specified timeline

Future Work

Developing a 'Theory of Change' – how can we learn from historic experiences to enhance civil-industry engagement, leading to more effective and 'successful' engagement?

Thank you for your attention

Questions welcomed