
Capacities and Role of Non Institutional and NGO Nuclear Expertise

Lutz Mez

*Environmental Policy Research Centre,
Free University of Berlin, Ihnestr. 22, D-14195 Berlin*

ABSTRACT: Non institutional and NGO technical nuclear expertise can be found today all over Europe. The level reached varies not only in the member states of the European Union, but especially in comparison with accession countries. The paper sketches briefly the historical development of the capacities and role of non institutional nuclear expertise in Europe. The development pattern follows in general a trend of support of local protest, professionalism, integration and institutionalisation. Local opposition against nuclear facility sites, existing practically in each country with a nuclear program or the nuclear power option in energy planning, was backed by sceptical scientists and scholars in natural and social sciences, located in university and research or the educational system. Nuclear accidents and disasters like Three Mile Islands and Chernobyl gave additional push for the non institutional capacity building. In Central Eastern Europe a certain time lag in this development can be recognised. While the anti nuclear movement could gain foothold during the period before the turn around, fast growing economical problems of the transformation process withdraw very often the small material base for independent nuclear expertise. The present situation of non institutional and NGO nuclear expertise for selected countries is presented and perspectives for the enlarged European Union given.

Lutz Mez

Capacities and Role of Non Institutional and NGO Nuclear Expertise

Outline

- Historical development
- NI & NGO Capacity in selected EU Member States
- Chernobyl aftermath
- Integration and institutionalisation
- Time lag in CEE & FSU countries
- Present situation
- Perspectives

Historical Development

- Protests of scientists against the military use of nuclear power and proliferation (Pugwash, CND etc.)
- Citizen protests against nuclear facilities
- Key events:
 - 1969 Foundation of Friends of the Earth
 - 1972 Club of Rome “Limits to Growth”
 - 1973 First oil price crisis
 - 1977 Robert Jungk “The Nuclear State”
 - 1978 Austria Zwentendorf referendum
 - 1979 TMI accident; 2nd oil price crisis
 - 1986 Chernobyl disaster
 - 1988 Transnuklear Affair
 - 1998 Contaminated Transport Scandal
 - 1999 Tokai Mura Criticality Accident

NI & NGO Capacity in Selected EU Member States - 1

- Denmark
 - 1974 foundation of OOA
 - 1976 first alternative energy plan by OOA and OVE
 - 1981 second alternative energy plan
 - 1985 Parliament prohibits the nuclear option in energy planning
- Sweden
 - 1978 MALTE
 - 1980 Referendum on nuclear power

NI & NGO Capacity in Selected EU Member States - 2

- Germany

1975 occupation of the NPP Wyhl site

University Bremen “For a better understanding of nuclear power – 66 questions and 66 answers”

Foundation of Öko-Institute, IFEU etc.

1978 Traube „Müssen wir umschalten?“

1980 Enquete Commission „Future nuclear power policy“

1980 Krause, Bossel, Müller-Reißmann „Energie-Wende“ – without oil and uranium

1985 Hennicke et al. „Die Energie-Wende ist möglich“

1998 First Red-Green Coalition Federal Government

NI & NGO Capacity in Selected EU Member States - 3

- France
 - 1962 Foundation of „Association pour la Protection contre les Rayons Ionisants (APRI)“
 - 1971 Fessenheim controversy
 - 1975 CFDT-CEA “L’Electronucleaire en France”
 - 1976 Foundation of “Groupement des Scientifiques pour l’Information sur l’Energie Nucléaire (GSIEN)”
 - 1982 Absorbtion of CFDT expertise in AFME and Castaing Commission
 - 1983 Foundation of WISE-Paris
 - 1986 Foundation of CRII-RAD and INESTENE
 - 1997 First Red-Green Government

NI & NGO Capacity in Selected EU Member States - 4

- United Kingdom
 - 1958 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)
 - 1972 Amory Lovins testimony on fast breeder
 - 1977 Windscale Inquiry
 - 1983 Sizewell Inquiry
 - 1989 First attempted privatisation of electricity sector
 - 1996 NIREX Inquiry

Chernobyl Aftermath

- Nuclear phase out becomes a political issue
- German Federal Ministry of Economy commissions two reports on nuclear phase out
- Italy shuts down three nuclear reactors and halts construction of a fourth after referendum in 1987. Dismantling starts in 1990
- Start of nuclear controversy in Soviet Union and CEE countries

Integration and Institutionalisation

- Starting point - the local nuclear site
- Affected population in general split on the nuclear issue
- Local opposition support by some scientists
- Independent knowledge organised in universities and private institutes
- Safety issues, whistle blowers and nuclear “dropouts”
- Mass media, public attention and changing public opinion
- Nuclear issue taken up by political establishment
- Professionalisation of independent expertise (by public and NGO commissioning)
- Integration and/or neutralisation of non-institutional and NGO expertise in the nuclear safety and radiation protection regimes

Time Lag in CEE & FSU Countries

- Chernobyl stimulated environmental and anti-nuclear activists and groups
- After 1990 - two opposing trends
- Former GDR – shut down of all NPPs after unification of Germany
- Transformation in CEE and FSU countries - withdrawal of economic support for of non-institutional and NGOs
- 1992 report on the safety of Soviet designed nuclear reactors – shut-down of high risk reactors
- EU accession and nuclear power

Present Situation

- State of the environmental and anti-nuclear movement [status of NI and independent expertise]
- Change of issues and paradigms
- Green parties in PAS and Governments
- Integration of NI experts and expertise
- Nuclear phase-out decisions (Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden)

Perspectives

- Material and financial basis for NI and NGO expertise
- Education and training
- European co-operation
- Nuclear power and climate abatement
- New alliances and support organisations
- Quality and investigative journalism
- Technology optimism

Thank you for your attention!

PD Dr. Lutz Mez

Environmental Policy Research Centre

Freie Universität Berlin

umwelt1@zedat.fu-berlin.de

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/ffu/>