

# THE EVOLUTION OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF CODIRPA

J.M. Bertho, F. Gabillaud-Poillion, C. Reuter, O.Rivière  
ASNR, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France

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# THE CODIRPA

- **CODIRPA: The steering committee for the management of post accidental situation**
- **Created in 2005, with the aim of proposing to the French government recommendations for the management of nuclear or radiological post accident period.**
- **As soon as the beginning, it was proposed to set up a committee pluralistic in nature.**
- **The objective of this pluralistic composition was to elaborate widely accepted recommendations through a co-expertise process based on the experience of the North Cotentin radioecology group (Miserey, 2006)**

**The aim of this work was to examine the evolution of citizen participation in the work of CODIRPA and their influence on the evolution in the working methods over the period 2005-2024.**

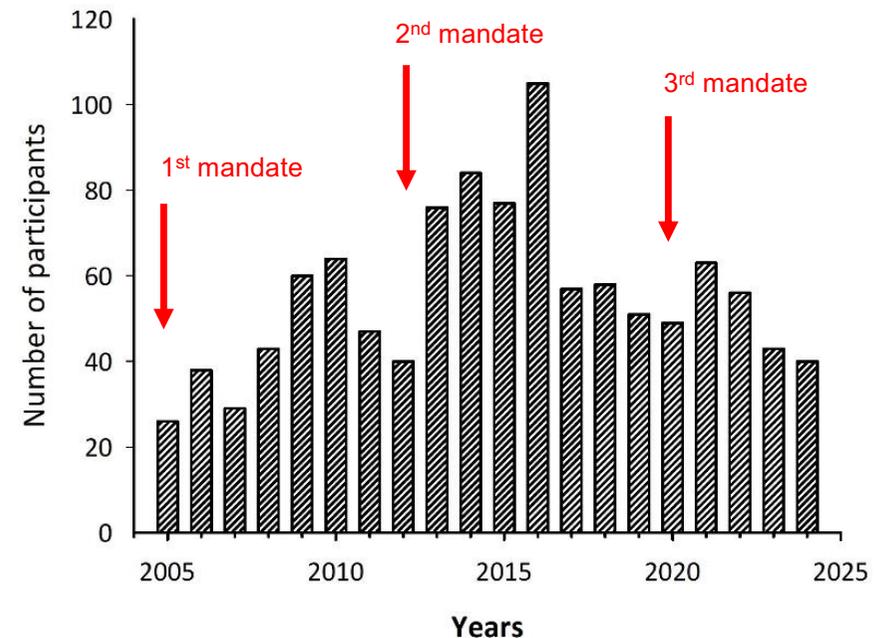
**Method: analysis of publicly available documents: meeting minutes from plenary sessions and WG meetings, reports**

## **SOME FEW DEFINITIONS**

- **Stakeholders: any actor (individual, organization, group) whose interests would be directly affected (whatever the reason) by a specific situation (Freeman, 1984)**
- **In the case of the CODIRPA, the specific situation to be considered is the long-term phase of a nuclear or radiological accident**
- **And the main groups of stakeholders to be considered are:**
  - **the nuclear safety authority as chair,**
  - **representatives of expert institutes,**
  - **representatives of licensees,**
  - **representatives of neighbouring countries**
  - **representatives of the civil society, i.e. citizen engagement**
- **Civil society is represented by :**
  - **Members of environmental protection NGO, consumer protection NGO, local territory protection NGO, etc.**
  - **Members of local information committee (CLI)**
  - **Members of the national association of local information committee and commissions (ANCCLI)**

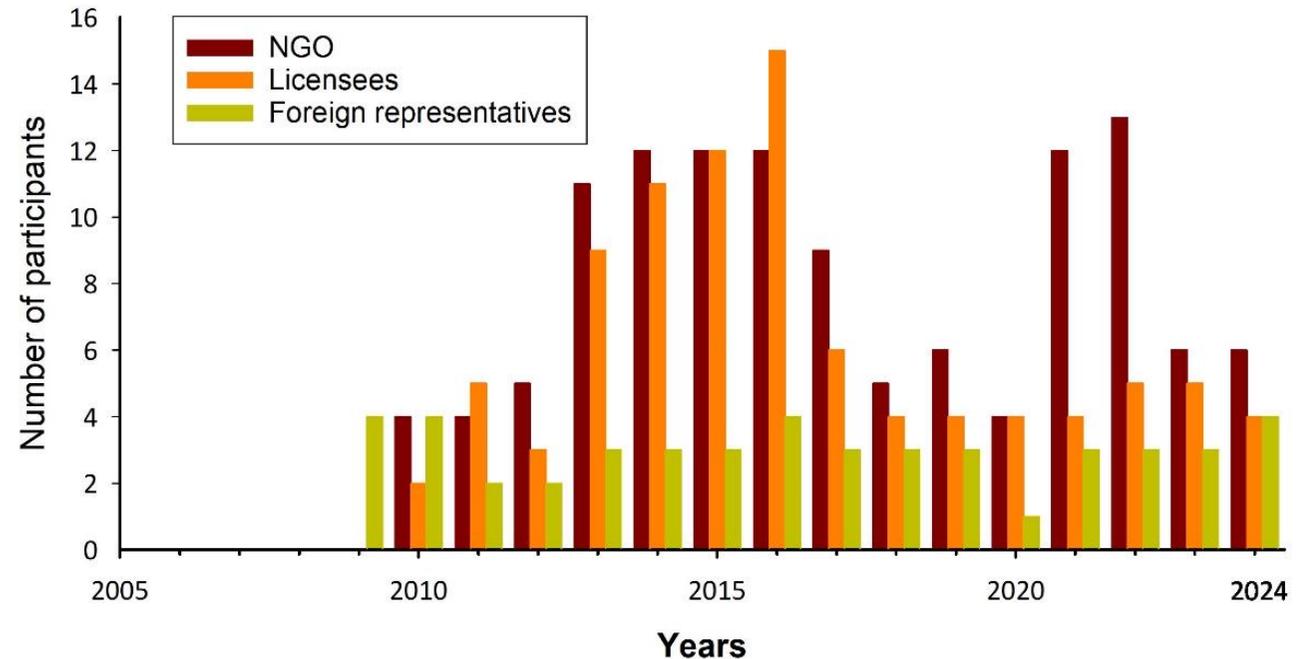
# PARTICIPATION TO PLENARY SESSIONS

- Number of participants to the plenary sessions was regularly increasing with some peaks
- 2005-2008: limited number participants. Due to a participation restricted to expert institutes, nuclear safety authorities and government services
- 2009-2010: First peak in participation, due to the enlargement of participation of all stakeholders
- Second peak in 2015: a regain of interest, due to the publication of the first version of the recommendations and the start of a new mandate (2012)
- Third peak in 2021, associated with the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> mandate and new working groups.



## WHO PARTICIPATED IN PLENARY SESSIONS?

- The enlargement of participation to plenary sessions is linked to the inclusion of citizen representatives, licensees and neighbouring countries representatives
- Participation of foreign representatives was stable: interest for their own post-accident strategy
- NGO and licensees' participation was more variable, depending on topics treated



**These results demonstrate the constant implication of stakeholders (including citizen representatives) into the work of the CODIRPA**

## WHERE WERE THE STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE 2005-2009 PERIOD?

- During this period, 8 WG were established
- Stakeholders were present in 7 out of eight of these WG
- Thus, stakeholders participated into Codirpa's work since the beginning
- Each of the WG reports included a preliminary section with numerous definitions and feedback from previous post-accidental situations: educational materials

WG no	Participants, total	Stakeholders	CLI members	Other NGO members
1	34	10	2	2
2	40	6	4	1
3	40	5	1	4
4	41	3	2	1
5	39	1	1	0
6	32	5	4	1
7*	-	-	-	-
8	12	2	0	2

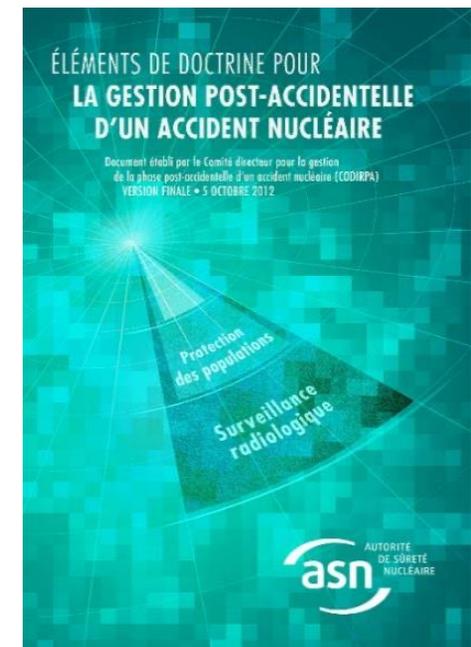
\*: Composition of WG 7 wasn't available in the available documents

**This allowed :**

- Stakeholders to develop skills about post-accidental situation and radiation protection
- Authorities and expert to address concerns from stakeholders

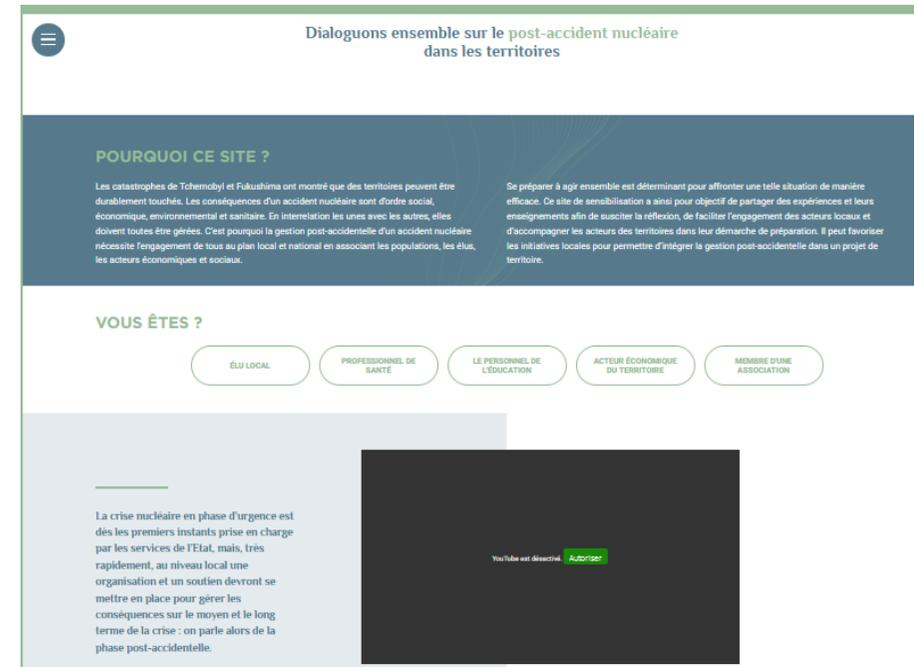
# A FIRST STEP IN THE EVOLUTION OF STAKEHOLDER IMPLICATION

- Skills development by stakeholders, whatever the origin of them (civil society, licensees or foreign representatives) lead to an equilibrium between them and experts, through the development of a common culture and language.
- This also allowed the emergence of experts in the civil society
- Furthermore, taking account of the concerns of civil society stakeholders strengthened the recommendations.
- As a result:
  - Starting in 2010, systematic participation of all stakeholders to all plenary meetings
  - Publication of the first set of recommendations in 2012



# NEXT STEP: A FIRST WG LEADED BY CIVIL SOCIETY STAKEHOLDERS

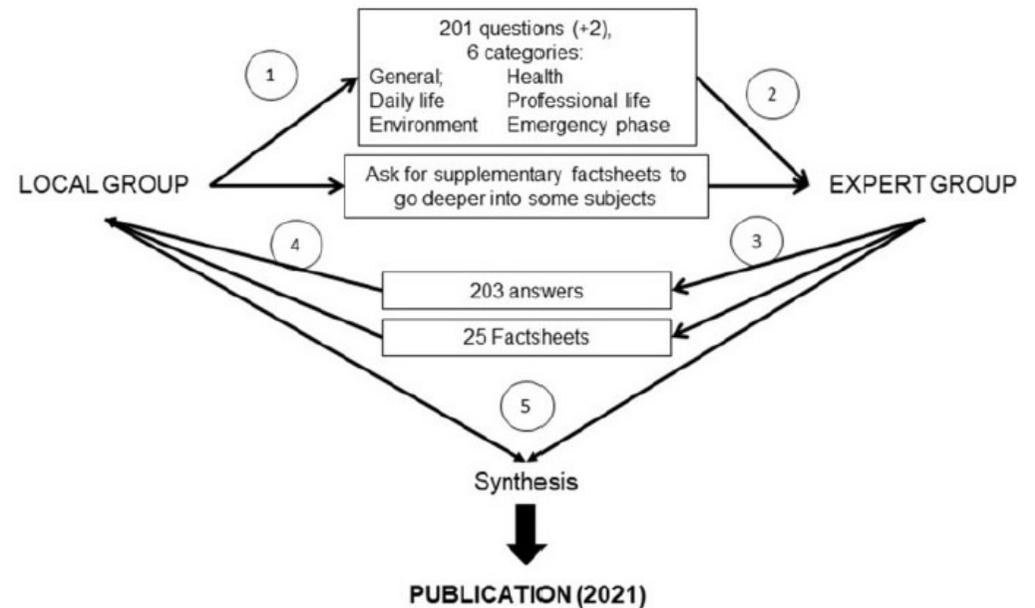
- 2011: The Fukushima accident showed the importance of establishing a dialogue between the population affected by the consequences of a nuclear accident and authorities
- This prompted the creation of a WG aiming at developing tools to inform the public about nuclear risks and to develop awareness raising actions
- The first WG leaded by a representative of the civil society
- Three actions were decided:
  - A website dedicated to post-accident management, gathering information categorized by profession: local representative, health professional, education professional, NGO member, economic actor
  - A guide dedicated to the population living on a contaminated territory
  - A guide dedicated to health professionals



[www.post-accident-nucleaire.fr](http://www.post-accident-nucleaire.fr)

# HEALTH PROFESSIONAL GUIDE: METHOD

- The idea was to start from the needs of this specific population
- Two working groups:
  - A local group of health professionals living and working at less than 20 km of an NPP gathering all possible questions
  - An expert group in charge of writing the answers
  - Exchanges between the two groups and validation of all the answers
- Members of the local group were quite naïve regarding nuclear risks
- As a result, part of the questions were also quite naïve



Bertho et al, ann ICRP 50(S1), 2021

# HEALTH PROFESSIONAL GUIDE: ANALYSIS

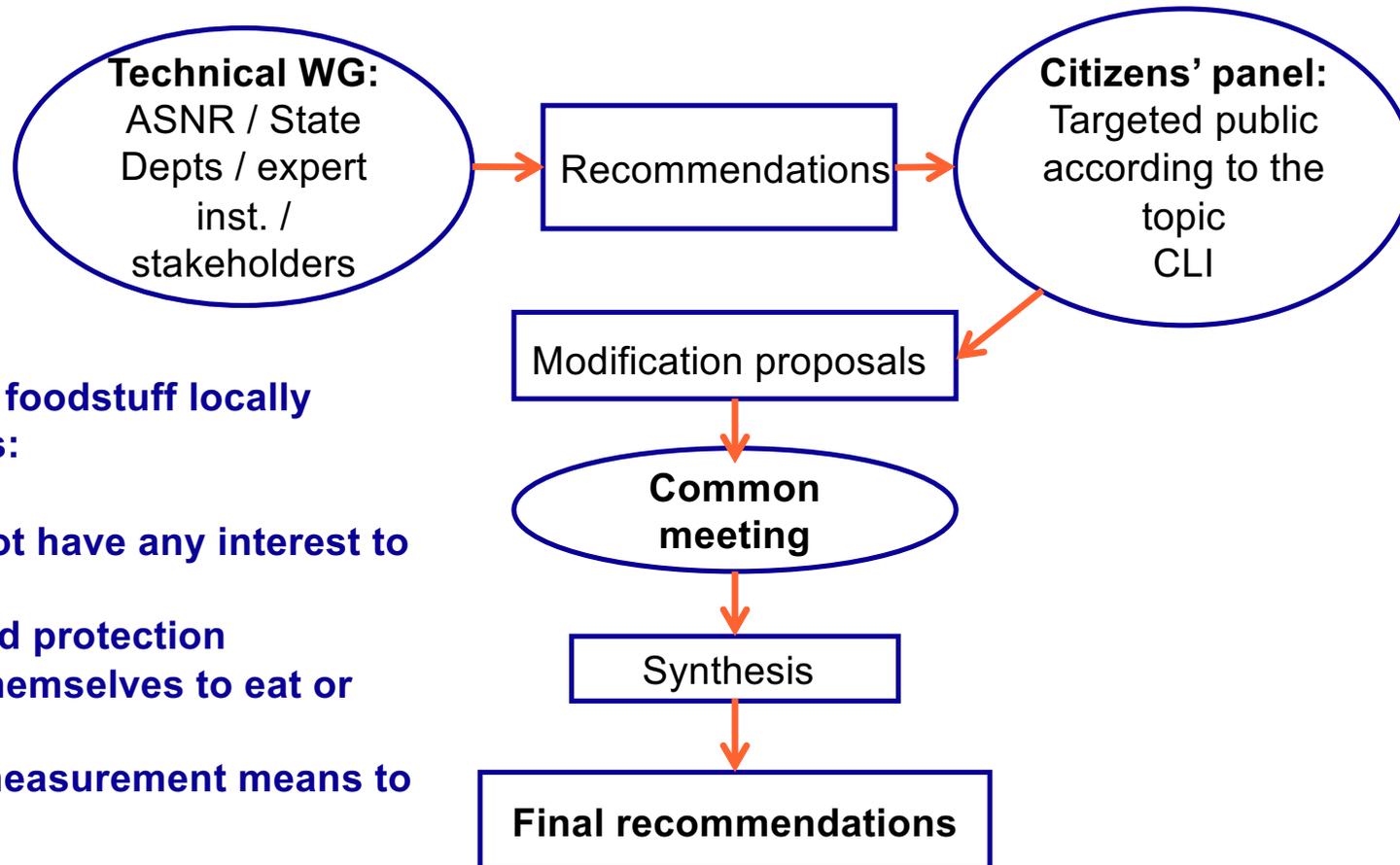
- **The naïve status of health professional group regarding nuclear risks helped to better target:**
  - **Topics of interest**
  - **Language level**
  - **Necessary additional information**
- **From the expert point of view:**
  - **The majority of the questions are not linked to the health domain**
  - **The language must be adapted, depending on the nature of the question**
    - For medical and scientific questions, priority is given to scientific accuracy
    - For other questions, priority of a plain language ... including for questions linked to radiological protection
- **Such documents need to be tested in the field, i.e. submitted to non-experts through citizens ' panels**



## EXTENSION OF THIS WORKING METHOD

The success encountered by the previous action encouraged the CODIRPA to generalize this working method

Principle:



First application to the WG about foodstuff locally produced and consumed. Results:

- Technical considerations do not have any interest to citizen
- Citizen wish to get an optimized protection
- They also wish to choose by themselves to eat or not
- Thus, they wish to access to measurement means to make informed choices

# CONCLUSIONS

- **At the preparedness stage, there is a high interest to include civil society stakeholders to elaborate a post-accident management strategy**
  - **Different (local) competencies as compared to experts in radiation protection**
  - **A different point of view on the post-accident management**
  - **Able to clearly state what is at stake for the population**
  - **Strengthen the proposed recommendations and guidelines**
- **Skill acquisition by these stakeholders allows the emergence of civil experts**
  - **Diffusion of these skills in the local population**
  - **Ability to serve as a trustworthy intermediary in case of an emergency**
- **However, this emergence of civil experts within the WG reduces the “naivety” of these stakeholders**
- **Consultation of citizens ’ panels is a way to maintain the advantages of such naivety.**
- **However, citizens are difficult to mobilize on a subject considered to be anxiety-provoking**
- **Importance of local relays such as the local information committees**

**Thanks a lot for your attention**

**If needed:**

***[jean-marc.bertho@asnr.fr](mailto:jean-marc.bertho@asnr.fr)***