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Nuclear Governance: Choices and Non-Choices

A three-part event: Autumn School, Conference Panel and Workshop

November 6-12, 2011, Minsk, Belarus

Description and First call for applications

Concept, objectives and topics

The International A. Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus), the Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (The Netherlands), in cooperation with the European Commission Tempus project “Environmental Governance for Environmental Curricula” and the OSI ReSET project “Governance of Global Environmental Change” announce an Autumn School, a Conference Panel and a Workshop on issues of nuclear energy in society.

The central theme of the three-part event is nuclear choices and non-choices. It will constitute a unique opportunity to explore the fundamental choices of nuclear energy governance at the scientific, political, economic, social and personal levels.

The event will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, and allow a joint reflection on the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents. It will amongst other explore the differences and similarities in information and communication flows and in crisis management in nuclear accidents in such distinctively different societies as the USSR of the 1980's and nowadays Japan. On this basis, a reflection will be jointly developed on risks and options for the future governance of nuclear energy and of its legacy.

Two key purposes of the three-part event are to create a **discussion space** and to provide a **quality research training** taking a **governance perspective** on **nuclear issues**, i.e. to discuss the actors and networks involved in the issue, their interactions, their rationalities and their stakes. The discussion topics will include but will not be limited to: communication, ethics, economics, politics of the nuclear energy sector, as well as essential technological aspects. Another objective is to offer participants a hands-on experience of constructing and participating in a policy/stakeholder discussion. The event also aims to contribute to the on-going discussion about constructing the first nuclear power plant in Belarus.

Structure, timeline and venues

Any part of the event (Autumn School, Conference Panel and Workshop) can be attended as a stand-alone event, however a richer experience and a better learning outcome is expected if all the three parts are attended.

Most of the event will take part in Minsk, Belarus, however the program also includes a two-day **excursion to the Chernobyl contaminated area in Belarus territory**, where a part of the Autumn School and the prelude to the Workshop will take place. Participants will be hosted for one night on the premises of the Research and Training Centre of the International A. Sakharov Environmental University¹, located close to the zone. During the excursion the highest radiation safety standards will be ensured (detailed guidance for attending the zone will be circulated). We hope that, apart from the learning value, the field trip will bring about an emotional experience, and make the dialogues more vivid and the discussion points sharper.

Dates	Event	Place & context
November 6, 2011	Arrivals and the icebreaker party	Minsk
November 7, 2011	Autumn School (research training focusing on nuclear energy issues at large), Day 1	Minsk
November 8 and 9, 2011	Field trip to the Chernobyl contaminated area (Belarus side) & Days 2 and 3 of the Autumn School Prelude to the workshop	Sakharov Environmental University Research and Training Centre in Khoiniski District
November 10, 2011	Special Panel on "Nuclear Governance"	In the framework of the International Conference " <i>Key Environmental Problems of the Modern Times</i> ", Minsk
November 11, 2011	Workshop "Nuclear Governance; Choices and Non-Choices"	Minsk
November 12, 2011	Autumn School closure and presentation of student final projects; departures	Minsk

A detailed description of the different parts of the event is given in the last section of this document.

In parallel to the research training and the discussion we will also run a **photographic exhibition** dedicated to human-made disasters of the 20th century.

Minsk is the capital of **Belarus** and its largest city. Despite the fact that it is one of the oldest cities in the region and has the most interesting history, most of the city centre was developed in the second half of the 20th century (although there are quite a few buildings constructed in the 17-18th centuries). It features an ensemble of distinctive "Stalinist" monumental architecture, unique in its consistency and extent. The city has a well-functioning system of public transportation and offers a broad range of tourist services. The Minsk International Airport is served by major regional and EU air carriers.

¹http://www.iseu.by:8080/online/showpage.jsp?resID=100229&lang=en&menuItemID=116037&search_string=Khoiniki

Outcomes and Outputs

The Autumn School, Conference Panel and Workshop will serve as a platform for genuine exchanges amongst actors from different cultural and institutional backgrounds. The Event will not only provide participants with **original insights on environmental governance**, but also with a **real physical and emotional experience** of the issue through the field trip. It will also be a great **networking** opportunity.

By the end of the Event, we expect the participants to have **enriched their knowledge** about the key challenges of nuclear energy governance and reinforced in themselves and in others the **critical and transformative capacities** needed to address these challenges.

Summer school participants will have strengthened their capacity to formulate and to support their opinion with arguments, and to participate in a scholarly or a professional discussion of the issue.

Field trips participants will have experienced a direct and emotional journey to the reality of a post nuclear accident site.

Panel participants will have had an opportunity to present their research in a relevant specific session at an international conference.

Workshop participants will have experienced an open and constructive dialogue around the variety of standpoints and values that come to bear on nuclear energy governance issues.

Outputs will include the Workshop conclusions and academic papers the School participants will be encouraged to write; the School and Workshop materials, and the Conference Panel proceedings. All these products will be available on-line for a broader use.

Target audience and application procedure

All participants to the Autumn school are expected to also attend the field trip and the workshop. Participants to the workshop are encouraged to attend the other parts of the Event.

The target audience of the School are advanced PhD students and post-doc researchers working on the issues of environmental governance and/or energy; more senior researchers and practitioners from the government, business and NGOs are also welcome.

In order to apply for the School you need to send an application form (Annex 1), CV (up to 3 pages) and a short motivation letter (up to 500 words) to reset.appl@mespom.eu. Inquiries can be sent to Anton Shkaruba (anton@mespom.eu). The application deadline is **September 10, 2011**; the results of the selection procedure will be published by **September 20, 2011**.

The target audience for the conference panel are researchers who wish to present a paper on issues related to nuclear governance during the International Conference "*Key Environmental Problems of the Modern Time*". An application to the conference panel includes a paper abstract (up to 400 words) and the application form. The form and deadlines are the same as for the other parts of the event.

The workshop is on invitation.

Should you be interested in participating to the workshop, please contact Sybille van den Hove (Sybille@median-web.eu), Marc Le Menestrel (Marc.Lemenestrel@upf.edu) or Anton Shkaruba (anton@mespom.eu). All Autumn School participants will also be participating to the workshop.

Please, be aware that citizens from most countries of the world need a visa to enter Belarus. Please, indicate in your application forms if you will need a visa invitation letter from the local school/workshop/conference organizers in Belarus.

The registration for any parts of the Event is free of charge. Participants are to cover their travel expenses. The Event organizers also make every effort to secure free accommodation for the accepted participants. Please check <http://nuclear.qualimet.net/> for updates.

Organising Committee

- **Andrei Timoschenka**, Chair of Department for Nuclear and Radioactive Safety, International A. Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus)
- **Anton Shkaruba**, Research Fellow, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary)
- **Eduard Podgaysky**, Russian State Hydrometeorological University (Sankt-Petersburg, Russia)
- **Estelle Balian**, Research Associate, Median SCP (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Iryna Usava**, NGO Ecoproject, ENECA (Minsk, Belarus)
- **Marc Le Menestrel**, Professor of Business, University Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain); Visiting professor of Ethics, INSEAD (Fontainebleau, France); Partner, Median SCP (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Matthijs Hisschemöller**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- **Ruben Zondervan**, Executive Director, Earth System Governance project and Lund University (Sweden)
- **Siamion Kundas**, Rector, International A. Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus)
- **Sybille van den Hove**, Director and Partner, Median SCP; Visiting Professor, Institute for Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA), Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain); Member of the Scientific Committee, European Environment Agency.

Detailed description of the event

The Autumn School

Concept

The Autumn School is designed to give background information and prepare the participants to contribute to the discussion on various aspects of nuclear energy. The school will explore technological, environmental, socio-economic and governance aspects of nuclear energy: strategic choices, design, implementation, closing of production, decommissioning, waste disposal and accidents.

Where possible, the controversies raised by these issues will be identified and put forward; the speakers and participants will be invited to give their honest and straightforward comments, while we will also ensure that a broad variety of opinions are offered by the resource faculty.

We will reflect on the decision and non-decision processes around nuclear choices and link with issues of decision making under uncertainty and ignorance, irreversibility, the precautionary principle, technological and institutional lock-ins, adaptive governance, transparency and confidentiality, etc. We will also look at the available alternatives, on their controversial side, and on how they are communicated and present in the political process. As an area of a particular interest, we will discuss scenario development and scenarios for the energy sector.

Timeline

The Autumn School is planned as one day session in Minsk and two half-day sessions in the District of Khoiniki (on the premises of the International A.Sakharov Environmental University).

On **Day 1** (November 7) the following sessions (presentations, moderated discussion and/or a group work) are planned:

- Overviews of Chernobyl' and Fukushima accidents and radioactive pollution: technological and governance aspects
- Global overview of the nuclear energy development strategies and their transition
- Risk, precaution and technology (including the environmental assessment)
- Alternatives to nuclear energy and energy scenarios

Days 2 and 3 (November 8-9) will include an excursion to contaminated sites and two short seminars covering:

- Communication and science-policy interfaces
- Ethical issues
- Stakeholder identification and policy deliberation

Links to other parts of the Nuclear Governance Event

During the two following days we organise two formal discussion platforms: the **Conference Panel on Nuclear Governance** primarily intended for scholarly discussions, and the **Workshop on Nuclear Choices and Non-Choices** targeting a broader circle of stakeholders and experts, including (but not limited to) industry and civil society representatives, academics and policy-makers. Autumn School participants will be asked to attend these events and to jointly produce the proceedings of the Workshop.

The resource faculty

The resource faculty for the autumn school will include the members of the **Organising Committee (see list above)** and other experts, including:

- **Aleh Cherp**, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary); Lead Analyst on Energy Security for the Global Energy Assessment; Visiting Professor, Lund University (Sweden).
- **Katarina Pavickova**, Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia)
- **Katharine Farrell**, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany)
- **Rem Khlebopros**, Siberian Federal University (Krasnoyarsk, Russia)
- **Claudio Pescatore**, the Nuclear Energy Agency of OECD (Paris, France) TBC²
- **David Gee**, Senior Adviser - Science, Policy, Emerging Issues, European Environment Agency (Copenhagen, Denmark) TBC
- **Jean-Pierre Dupuis**, École Polytechnique (Paris, France) TBC
- **Viktor Baryakhtar**, National Academy of Science (Ukraine) and National Technical University of Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine) TBC

² TBC: to be confirmed

The Conference Panel on “Nuclear Governance”

The special panel on “Nuclear Governance” is a part of the Conference “*Key Environmental Problems of the Modern Times*” organised by International A.Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus) in November 10-11, 2011. We call for papers addressing the issues of nuclear governance, including (but not limited to) politics, ethics, communication, risk perception, responsibility, irreversibility and framing in media.

Depending on the number of quality paper submissions received, one or two thematic sessions will be organised.

The special panel will be held in English. No translation service will be provided.

Keynote speakers

- **Aleh Cherp**, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary); Global Energy Assessment; Lund University (Sweden)
- **Andrei Timoschenka**, International A. Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus)
- **Katharine Farrell**, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany)
- **Rem Khlebopros**, Siberian Federal University (Krasnoyarsk, Russia)
- **Siamion Kundas**, Rector, International A. Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus)
- **Viktor Baryakhtar**, National Academy of Science (Ukraine) and National Technical University of Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine) TBC

Call for papers

We invite researchers working on various aspects of nuclear governance to submit paper proposals to the special panel. We accept abstracts between 300 to 400 words; the template is attached as Annex 2. We anticipate putting together a special issue of an international peer-reviewed journal based on a selection of the best papers presented during the panel. The abstracts need to be sent together with an application form (Annex 1) to reset.appl@mespom.eu by **September 10, 2011**. Please clearly indicate in the subject line that you send a submission to the conference panel (e.g. “Special panel submission”). Inquiries can be sent to Anton Shkaruba (anton@mespom.eu). The results of the selection procedure will be published by **September 20, 2011**.

The Workshop

The 25th commemoration of the Chernobyl accident along with the recent events in Fukushima raise the question of past, current and future use of nuclear energy for electricity production.



In this context, the Sakharov International Environmental University (Minsk, Belarus) in cooperation with the European Commission Tempus project "Environmental Governance for Environmental Curricula" (EnGo), the OSI ReSET project "Governance of Global Environmental Change" and the Earth System Governance project are organizing an international workshop to experience, reflect upon and discuss the essential choices and non-choices facing the stakeholders of nuclear energy.

Participants to the workshop are invited and encouraged to join the other activities of a week dedicated to Nuclear Governance. In particular, the **Field Trip** to the contaminated site will serve as a prelude to the workshop.

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The workshop will be facilitated as an “**ethical and rational conversation**”, during which participants will explore their own **beliefs, rationality** and **emotions** while discovering the ones of others in an appropriate and safe communicational space.

Specific objectives for the workshop are to:

- Distinguish between **agreed and disagreed** scientific claims relating to nuclear energy;
- Experience **positive and negative feelings** in oneself and towards others about the use and risks of nuclear energy;
- Identify perceived **choices and non-choices** facing the different stakeholders;
- Share **dreams and nightmares** about the future of nuclear energy;
- **Promote education** as an essential contribution to nuclear energy governance.

Integrating the experience of this workshop with their learning, students from the Autumn School will then produce the proceedings of this encounter, under the provisional title “Nuclear Energy Governance: Learning from an Ethical and Rational Perspective”.

Participants

Between 20 and 30 participants will be invited from a wide range of perspectives including European and international representatives from industry, policy, politics, civil society and research.

Invitations are currently being issued and a list of participants will be circulated and made available on the website soon.

Contacts

Anton Shkaruba (anton@mespom.eu)

Marc Le Menestrel (marc.Lemenestrel@upf.edu)

Sybille van den Hove (sybille@median-web.eu)

Estelle Balian (estelle.balian@gmail.com)

Our website: <http://nuclear.qualimet.net/> (Will be on-line soon).

Annex 1

Application to the three-part event

Nuclear Governance: Choices and Non-Choices

Last name			
First Name			
Date of birth, dd/mm/yyyy			
Gender (F/M)			
Citizenship			
Country of residence			
Affiliation			
Function			
The highest academic degree achieved, year, and topic of the thesis			
Key words describing your current research			
Full postal address			
Email address 1			
Email address 2			
Phone number			
Skype ID			
The event you are applying for (please leave only the applicable options):	All the three parts	Special Conference Panel	Workshop
Do you need a visa to entry Belarus? If yes, please specify a number, issuing date and term of validity of your passport			
Title of your paper proposals (if applicable)			
Corresponding author of the paper? (Yes/No) (if applicable)			
Special dietary requirements			
Special assistance needed			

Annex 2

Paper proposals to the special conference panel

Nuclear Governance: Choices and Non-Choices

November 10, 2011, Minsk, Belarus

Title of the paper

Family Name 1, Given Name 1¹; Family Name 2, Given Name 2²;

Affiliation 1¹, full postal address, e-mail

Affiliation 2², full postal address, e-mail

Text body (300-400 words)