

Preface

This book was conceptualised as part of the research project, “Multi Level Governance-Perspective on Management of Nuclear Waste Disposal. A Comparative Analysis: Actors, Instruments and Institutions”, located at the Environmental Policy Research Centre (Forschungszentrum für Umweltpolitik (FFU)), Freie Universität Berlin. This research project is part of the interdisciplinary research initiative, “ENTRIA: Disposal Options for Radioactive Residues: Interdisciplinary Analyses and Development of Evaluation Principles.” The ENTRIA project brings together twelve German universities and one Swiss partner to examine nuclear waste management in relation to technical options, decision making processes, risk and safety as well as social challenges. Nuclear waste management represents a particularly pressing issue for politics, science and society. It is an issue that has been fraught with many challenges. In many countries, there have been thorny debates about feasible solutions and suitable sites for a central nuclear repository that have been ongoing for decades. Pressures to address the issue are growing. European Directive 2011/70/Euratom requires all member states to submit a report on the implementation of their national programmes for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste by August 23, 2015.

This book examines the national plans that countries are developing to address high-level radioactive waste storage and disposal. Country reports on nuclear waste governance are introduced for ten Euratom member states: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, as well as for Switzerland and the United States. A detailed comparative and multi-level social and political analysis sheds light on the efforts being made and the difficulties associated with trying to find socially, politically, economically, and technologically acceptable strategies for high-level radioactive nuclear waste storage and/or disposal. The progress these countries have made and the obstacles they face are discussed in detail in the case studies. This is done looking at their regulations, technology choices, safety criteria, monitoring systems, compensation schemes, institutional structures, and approaches to public involvement. The book shows that while some countries have opted for medium-term storage solutions (of about a century), others are looking at various approaches to deep geological disposal. Site selection is a

common challenge, but only a small number of states, e.g. Finland and Sweden are in an advanced stage of implementation.

The chapters included in this book identify the primary stakeholders in the debate and their interests, the responsibilities and authority of different actors in relevant decision-making processes, and the value systems that are influencing the different national policy choices. The views and expectations of different communities regarding participatory decision making and compensation and the steps that have been or are being taken to promote dialogue and constructive problem-solving are also considered.

This book was developed in cooperation with a long-standing energy research initiative known as the REFORM Group, short for Restructuring Energy Systems For Optimal Resource Management. The REFORM Group is an international network of energy experts coming from research organisations, universities, companies and decision makers. Established in 1991 with the aim of fostering interaction, sharing knowledge among researchers, policy makers, administrators and industry; and understanding the transformation of energy systems towards low-carbon energy systems, the core group has grown to over 50 members from more than 20 countries. Nuclear power has been critically researched by the group since the first annual conference was held at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria in 1995. Nuclear waste was first taken up as a topic in 2012. Experts have come together annually since then to examine nuclear waste governance in comparative perspective. This book grew out of these papers and discussions and has benefited from outside comments and critique.

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Lutz Mez for the editorial team.

Nuclear Waste Governance

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