



Third NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshop on Optimisation in Decision Making

Optimisation has always been a fundamental concept in decision making for all parts of society, but the way decisions are taken has changed in recent years. Societal considerations towards nuclear-related activities have evolved to promote more holistic, inclusive and sustainable decision-making perspectives. Including these perspectives addresses the need to integrate many diverse aspects and stakeholder views, notably those of civil society, to reach more balanced and “optimised” (i.e. better) decisions. As countries aim to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this need is growing and should also account for national/cultural contexts

and the complex interplay between economic, environmental, health and societal aspects.

In line with its pioneering role in encouraging these developments through various workshops, the NEA is now planning to hold its third Stakeholder Involvement Workshop in September 2023, focused on “Optimisation in Decision Making”. Holding this workshop is the next important step in proposing a common, tangible approach to decision-making processes across the nuclear field and across NEA member countries (and beyond). The ultimate goal is to reach a sustainable, transparent and widely

accepted decision-making process that balances the different factors and risks, depending on the prevailing circumstances, to identify the optimal solution(s) for all stakeholders and society as a whole.

While optimisation is crucial in decision making, there is currently no common understanding across nuclear sectors of what an “optimised” decision implies. Three dedicated webinars were organised between late 2022 and early 2023 to work towards a common understanding of the term “optimisation” as the basis for the workshop in September 2023.

Overall, for the purposes of this workshop, optimisation should be understood as the process of addressing a problem in a way that is:

- holistic, i.e. accounting for and balancing all aspects of each of the potential solutions;
- inclusive, i.e. involving stakeholders so that it maximises the degree of acceptability of the outcome, through a transparent and fair process; and
- sustainable, i.e. resulting in outcomes that are durable, feasible and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Join us at the workshop on 5-7 September 2023, at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris. The event and follow-up activities will be key to the development of a generic multidimensional framework to support optimisation in decision making through inclusive stakeholder involvement approaches.

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