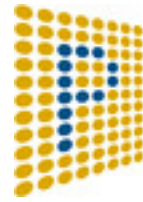




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**Slovak partners in SHINE? The recent situation,  
and some explanations of what can be read in between  
the lines of PLATENSO project deliverables**

**Peter Mihók (Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica)  
Gabriel Bianchi, Viera Rosová (Slovak Academy of Sciences)**

**RICOMET Conference, Vienna, 28 June 2017**

## **Slovakia (SVK) on a way to the highest share of nuclear in the World?**

- NPPs construction start: 1958
- share of nuclear in 1993 – 2016: ca. 55 %
- share of nuclear envisaged in 2035: ca. 61 % – 68 %

### **Moreover, SVK is:**

- member of the EU and EURATOM interested to remain in ‘the core’
- very motivating indirect financial support for joining EU/EURATOM projects (RTD and CSA in FPs and H2020) for **public** Universities

### **..despite all that:**

- quite low presence of SVK partners in EU projects (authors in books, etc.)
- noone from SVK in the SHINE COST proposal

*One of the potential titles for this presentation at RICOMET 2017:*

## ***Totally dependent on the European-level funding?***

*(Reflections on nuclear sector related SSH research in Slovakia)*

- cannot be proven, unless formally correct and high quality content project proposal submitted in every relevant national call for grants in SVK

What needs to be understood is an interplay between:

- very low support for interdisciplinary research in SVK (no Agency, problems with the University accreditation procedures)
- quality researchers get offers for “monothematic” research/projects
- research so far “ad hoc”, by “solo researchers” (rather than teams), and de facto to some extent “fund driven” (i.e. IPPA, PLATENSO)
- demotivation to submit nuclear sector related SSH projects proposals due to unclear expectations about quality of evaluations/evaluators nuclear sector related SSH research requirement for “holistic approach”

## Interdisciplinarity envisaged in project proposal *GEODIS* (2016)

<b>Structural context</b>		
<b>1</b>	Legislation (EU, Slovakia)	Law
<b>2</b>	Governance (EU, Slovakia)	Political science
<b>3</b>	Economic aspects	(Public) Economics
<b>4</b>	Public administration	Political science, Sociology, (Public) Economics
<b>Societal context</b>		
(5)	<i>Media</i>	<i>Communication studies, Linguistics</i>
<b>6</b>	Ethics	Ethics (as a social science), Law, Political science
<b>7</b>	Public opinion	Sociology
<b>8</b>	Affected local communities	Sociology, Human Geography
<b>9</b>	Stakeholders	Sociology, (Public) Economics
<b>10</b>	Risk perception	Psychology

## Slovak PLATENSO results related to “PLATENSO Platform” / SHINE

1. Does the European Entity primarily aim to use SSH science, research and knowledge to foster public approval of new nuclear sector projects/investments/strategies (such as IVth Generation nuclear reactors)? Or does it primarily aim to better expose to the decision-makers and to the public that nuclear technologies have, apart from their technical, financial and environmental (inclusive of health) aspects, also equally important social aspects?  
(PLATENSO Deliverable 4.4, p. 33)

*EURATOM funded vs. EU funded platform*

2. *Why “nuclear sector / radiation – specific”, and not for the whole Energy (electricity generation) sector as such?*  
(Ibid.)

*..because of existence of EURATOM, or else?*

## Slovak PLATENSO results related to “PLATENSO Platform” / SHINE

3. Due to which public interests, aims and factors the legal base for a European Entity needs to go beyond the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe acronymed COST ([www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu))?

(PLATENSO Deliverable 4.4, p. 34)

## Slovak PLATENSO results related to “PLATENSO Platform” / SHINE

4. Apart from securing financial and organisational stability for both international and national networks of SSH researchers, are there any specific **non-financial measures needed for the nuclear sector stakeholders to pay sufficient respect to SSH research** and the results it can bring?

...

Is there, for example, a need for more education of nuclear sector stakeholders about democracy, ethical aspects related specifically to nuclear energy/technologies, use of SSH science research in other fields of energy etc. prior to attempting to involve nuclear sector stakeholders to new SSH research?

*(PLATENSO Deliverable 4.4, p. 34)*

..i.e. SSH research results for whom / what use? Only for (selected) politicians and officers, or also for the „nuclear industry“?

## Slovak PLATENSO results related to “PLATENSO Platform” / SHINE

5. Would the **Entity/Platform primarily serve to ensure continual flow of information** i. between the SSH researchers, nuclear sector community and decision-makers, ii. between individual Euratom/EU member states, and iii. to the Euratom/EU level institutions such as the JRC, primarily about needs and opportunities to carry out SSH research related to nuclear technology (resp. nuclear energy sector development)? Or the **Entity/Platform would also aim to foster other aims, such as for ex. promotion of specific sub-disciplines of research (such as technology & society studies), especially in the ‘new Member States’ where they are (resp. may be) either non-existent, or being very weak in terms of personnel and/or financial capacities?**

(PLATENSO Deliverable 4.4, p. 34)



## Concluding remarks 1 / 2

### **Potentially joint (preferred) values of all Slovak partners in SHINE:**

- strong links to the empiric reality of Slovakia (i.e. SNF geol. repository siting, etc.)
- real research, i.e. not ‘supplementing work of politicians / EC / other stakeholders
- respect to lacking ‘enforcement mechanisms’ for involvement of ‘mandated actors’
- positive attitude to the Joint European programming (JPR, i.e. JOPRAD)

*..to utilize a potential of “a high value for money” so far supported only by SVK national ‘core funding schemes’ for public Universities/SAS, but undermined by missing continuity of projects (such as IPPA and PLATENSO)*

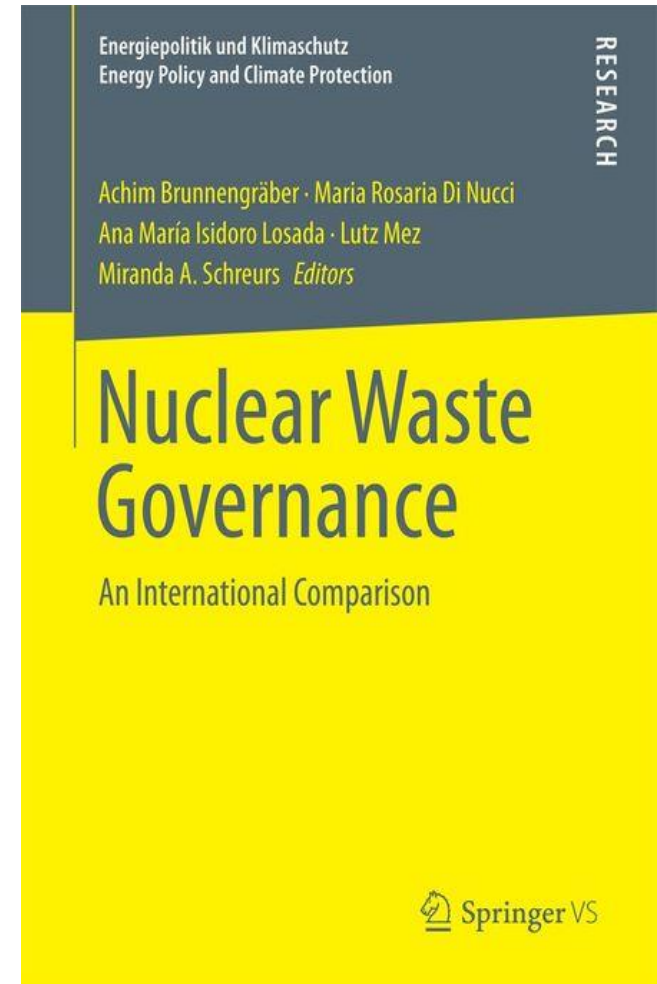
## Concluding remarks 2 / 2

*(Transparency in Slovakia in the nuclear sector: )  
..information about ‘mid-term planning’ has not been made publicly available, as JAVYS has not sent its own document ‘Proposal of workplan for DGR development in Slovakia in years 2017 – 2023’ to the MoE, and at the same time JAVYS is not a subject liable under the Freedom of Information Act (MoE 2017)*

*(Mihók, P.: Delays in the final solution. The Governance of Nuclear Waste Disposal in Slovakia.*

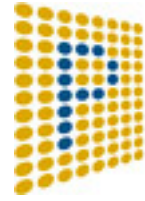
***Nuclear Waste Governance - An International Comparison, Vol. II*** *(out of Vol. III, in print).*

- in total 24 countries





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**Thank you for your attention!**

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(pls. CC to) **[gabriel.bianchi@savba.sk](mailto:gabriel.bianchi@savba.sk)**

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