

# Research on the Polish Nuclear Energy Programme

- Research in action: Regional Forum on Dialogue and Cooperartion, Energy and Self-Government" in the Pomerania province
- Created by the regional authorities of Pomerania in 2011
- Goal: to organize and conduct dialogue on energy controversies in Pomerania with various stakeholders
- Involvement of representatives of all levels authorities (commune, district, region and state)

# Who should be responsible for governing the energy transition (in a participatory manner)?

#### Key problem:

Readiness and willingness of public authorities to:

- give support
- participate
- acknowledge results
- take the lead: organize and facilitate participatory activities

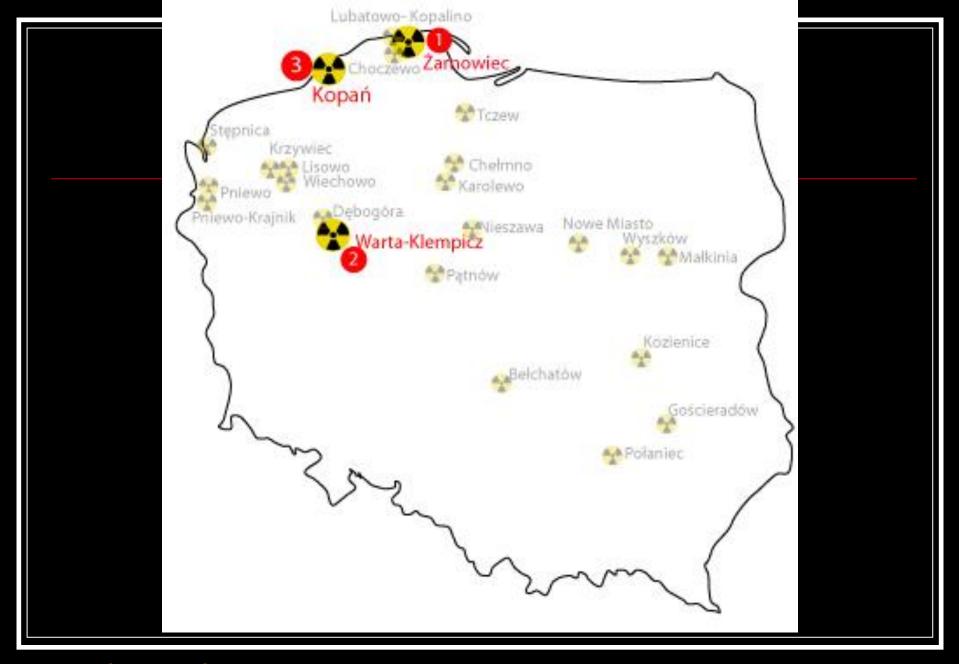
## Current situation of participatory approach in Poland

Participation getting more and more popular, but:

- promoted mainly by NGO's
- perceived as a threat to government's plans
- promoted mainly by opponents and critics of nuclear energy
- bottom-up approach

# Polish Nuclear Power Pogramme

- Started 2009
- November 2011: indication of three potential locations for the first Polish nuclear power plant.





PACITA, 13-15 March 2013

## Polish Nuclear Power Pogram

- Started 2009
- November 2011: indication of three potential locations for the first Polish nuclear power plant.
- April 2012: beginning of government's information campaign
- since 2011: parallel campaing led by the investor (PGE)
- 2015: selection of the final NPP's location place

# Local self-government administration

#### "We are the local community"

- expectations of regional and state government ,,to do something"
- lack of information and contact with central government
- ready to take part in organized activities
- avoid pro/contra-declarations

## Regional self-government

- Energy issues are to ,,serious" to be decided by the public
  - "Why should people decide on matters, which are crucial for not only the development of the province, but also for the development of the whole country? Isn't it contradictory?"
- dialogue as a chance to get public acceptance and attract the investment (,,necessary evil")
  - "[After study visit in Sweden] we realized that such consultations are necessary"

# Regional state government (Voivodship)

- Dependent from the central government, waiting for their decisions and instructions.
- Lack of ressources and competencies
- Distance

# Central government (Ministry of Economy)

- Run by a consortium of private PR companies, chosen by a tender organized by the Ministry of Economy
- cost: 18 mio PLN
- start: April 2012
- a textbook case of an expertbased approach/deficit model of communication
- similar campaign led by the investor in local communities



#### **Functions:**

- informative
- educational
- consultative
- persuasive

"Persuasion is very important, because we want to convince the society to nuclear power"

- "- It must not be propaganda...
- or at least it must not be perceived as such..."

#### **Functions:**

- informative
- educational
- consultative
- persuasive

#### **Goals:**

- improving the knowledge of the Polish people about nuclear energy and its benefits
- gaining public support for development of nuclear power
- gaining public acceptance for the construction of NPP in the districts, where the localisation of NPP is considered.

#### Consultations

"The decision was made in 2009 and we can't tell that we are going now to consult, **if it's worth to construct a NPP in Poland.**"

"Our goals are not to modify or resign from the construction of NPP in result of public consultations."

"Decision regarding energy sector are strategic decisions and must not be taken by people without addequate knowledge and competencies."

"We understand consultations as including local communities into dialogue on the need to build a NPP."

# Activities of Ministry of Economy

- delegating the responsibility to private PR companies
- lack of cooperation with local and regional authorities
- manipulation

We are not going to publish the results of the last public opinion survey, since it has shown the decrease of public support for NPP by 4 percent. The Ministry does not want to give the opponents of NPP the argument, that "society does not want NPP".

## Obstacles for PTA development in Poland: possible hypotheses

- Theoretical interest exist, but there is no practical interests for participation.
- Informal power relations, clientelism and patronage: participation would open up and put a light on the actual relations of power.
- privatization of strategic competencies of the state
- conflict of interest of experts and scientists

# Thank you for your attention!

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