



Information and participation of local actors confronted to a nuclear accident: lessons from Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents

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■ Method

- Complexity of post-accident situations undermine the efficiency of traditional policies and governance systems
- Recovery is a social process
- Lessons learnt – how to support a social dynamic of recovery



- Preparation of a grid of analysis on the basis of WP6.2 experts' experience of post-accident contexts and WP6 research hypothesis
- Choice of **9 case studies related to post-Chernobyl context in Norway and post-Fukushima context in Japan**
- Gathering of information on the cases through a **workshop** gathering WP6.2 research team, local actors confronted to post-accident situation in Norway and Japan and of people (expert, NGOs) supporting local actors in these context
- Transversal analysis of the case studies and conclusions



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- **Local populations face the maximum level of complexity** as their day-to-day life is disrupted.

- **People and families face the post-accident situation as a whole:** the different economic, environmental, health, social and family issues that arise are not separable.

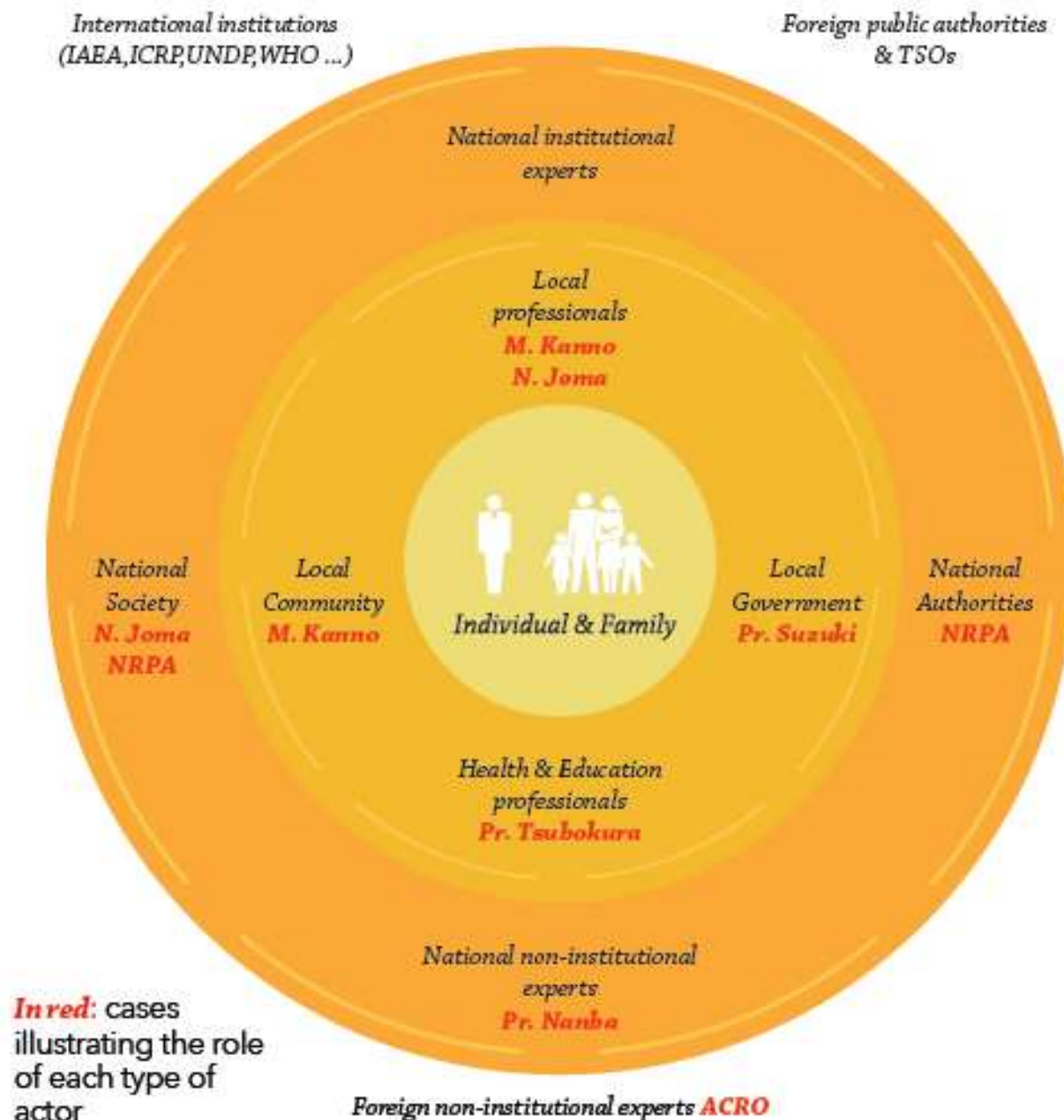




- Upper levels of decisions are expected to bring support, information, expertise and means, but **many decisions and actions stay in the hands of local actors.**
- Local populations **confronted to dilemmas**: evacuating or living in a contaminated environment both drastically disrupt the daily life and is source of stress
- In a context in which the spreading of distrust is impeding the emergence of a consistent societal response, **local population thus have to recreate the conditions to access trustworthy and reliable information**, understand the situation at the individual and community level and build relevant action.
- A **methodological choice to focus on local populations staying in contaminated territories**. However, relocated populations are also confronted to complexity and to a severe disruption of their conditions of life.



- Other stakeholders and decision-makers have to deal with a **complex system of information and actions, integrating many types of actors at different levels**
- Central & regional authorities can face possible conflicting goals and inconsistencies of their various remits. **Trade-offs may be required that can only be achieved in the local contexts by the people themselves.**





- Experts have to deal with uncertainties and multi-dimensional issues that go across various expertise fields. **The role of experts is not purely technical but also social** as they are confronted by a diversity of interactions: between experts (inside & outside institutions), with authorities, local populations, media...
- Professionals and businesses face complexity when seeking sustainable operating conditions in the post-accident context, restoring added value and working towards renewed trustworthiness and transparency with the various stakeholders.
- **Public policies may paradoxically reduce the margins of manoeuvre that the local actors need** to address the complexity of their situation. The efficiency of conventional public policies can be limited by adverse effects like damaging social bonds and provoking distrust.



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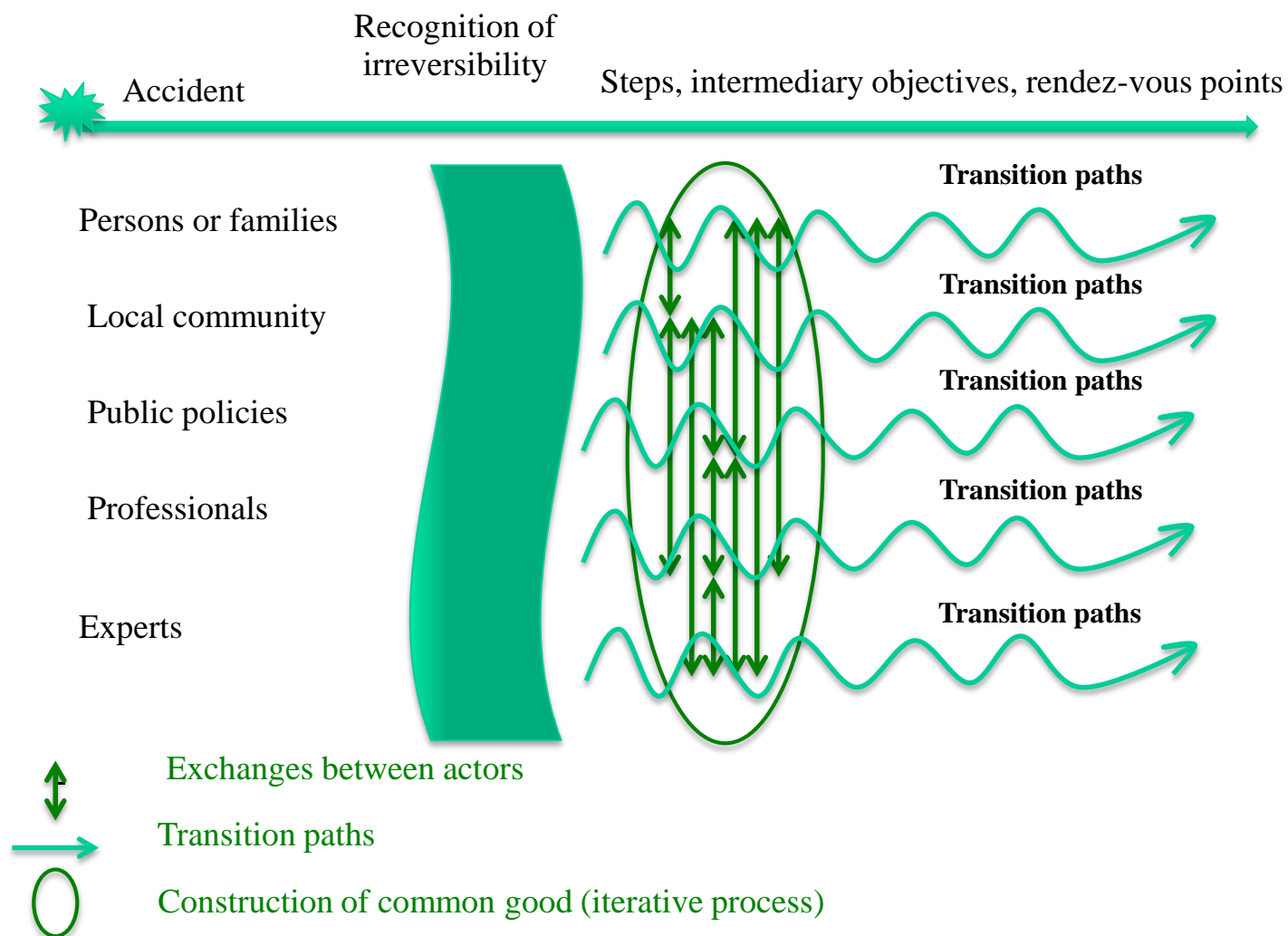
- **The main driver of post-accident recovery is people** themselves at personal, family and community levels. The capacity of local actors to build their response notably depends on their capacity to build new forms of cooperation
- The concept of **project of life or families and communities is at the core of local concerns**. It integrates human and social dimensions beyond health protection or economical viability, and includes capacities to regain autonomy and dignity.
- For each actor, and for the whole system of actors, **recovery is a transition process** in which individual and social resources for addressing complexity are built.



Recovery is made of interacting transition paths

PREPARE

- **Transition paths have to be viable at each step**
- **Transition paths of local actors aim to recreate a global quality of life** in which radiation protection is only one dimension among others





- **Public policies can influence social cohesion** between the concerned actors at different levels (local, national, international) in a positive or negative way.
- The way public policies take into account the **values of social cohesion** (dignity, truth, honesty, justice, equity, solidarity, democratic culture...) impacts the ability of the actors to build individual and collective cohesion paths.

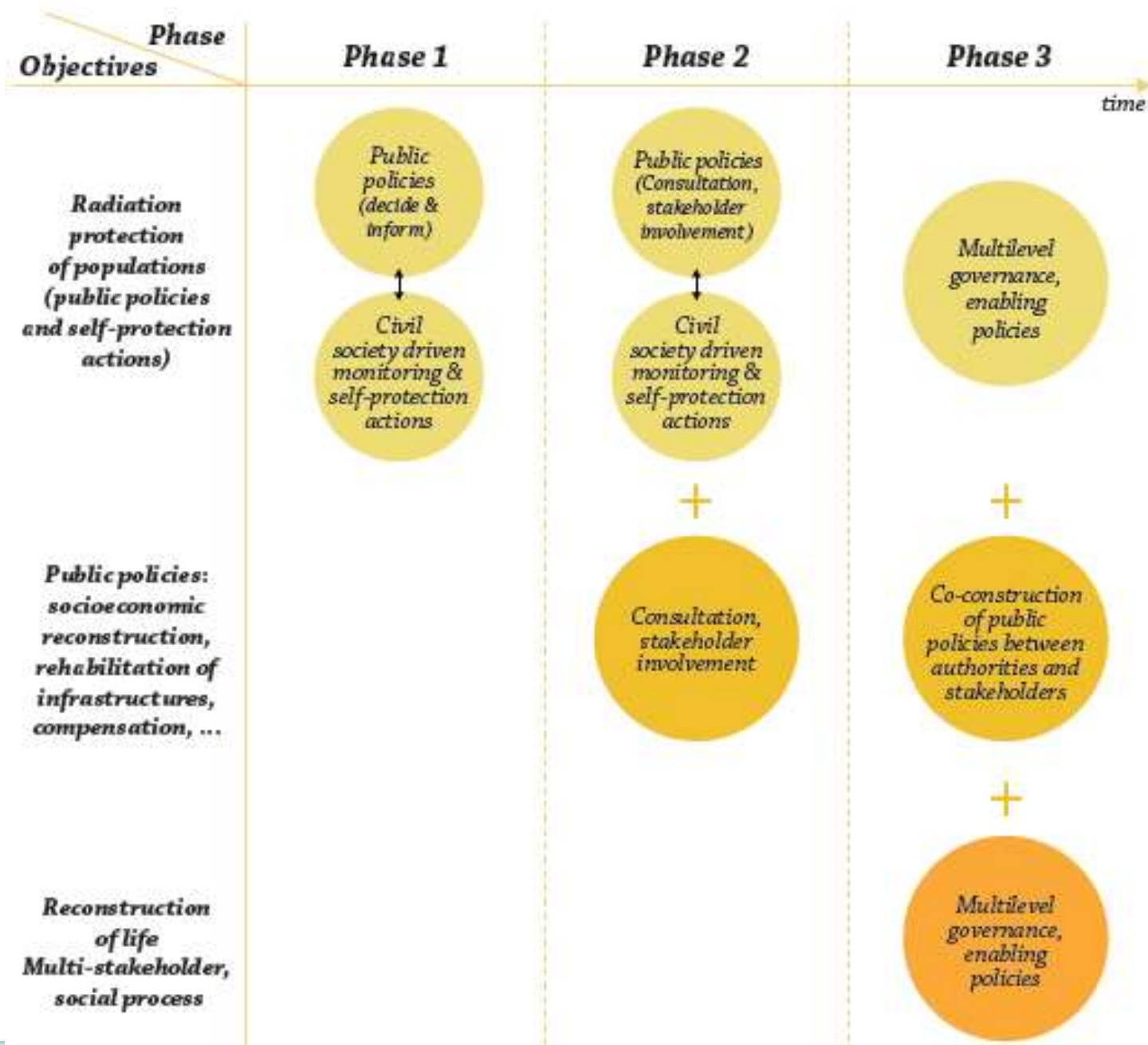


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3 phases in recovery processes

PREPARE





- Post-accident situation are **too complex to be** framed, controlled or **governed by traditional mechanisms** of authority & expertise.
- It is necessary to **create favourable conditions for social processes of recovery to develop fruitfully**, enabling adapted responses to the complexity of a post-accident situation.
- **There is no one-size-fits-all solution** and public policies should accommodate multiple solutions.
- **Initiatives of actors** that are outside the traditional governance system **constitute a key resource**.
- **Various actors can bring support** or conversely create obstacles **to this dynamics**: public authorities, experts, NGOs, citizen initiatives, professionals, foreign institutions...



- **Safeguarding social cohesion of local communities.**
However, freedom of choice cannot be ignored
- **Preserving the margins of manoeuvre of local actors.**
- **Supporting the initiatives of local actors & professionals**
 - Financial and material resources
 - Expertise and facilitation resources supporting emerging initiatives
- **Transparency**, which includes letting people know when there are uncertainties and acknowledging when knowledge is missing
- **Making room for pluralistic assessment** & involving the concerned actors in the assessment of rehabilitation policies
- **Bridging the transition paths of the different actors**
 - Rendezvous points to share views & info and build common objectives
 - Multi-level governance frameworks
 - Mediation and facilitation resources

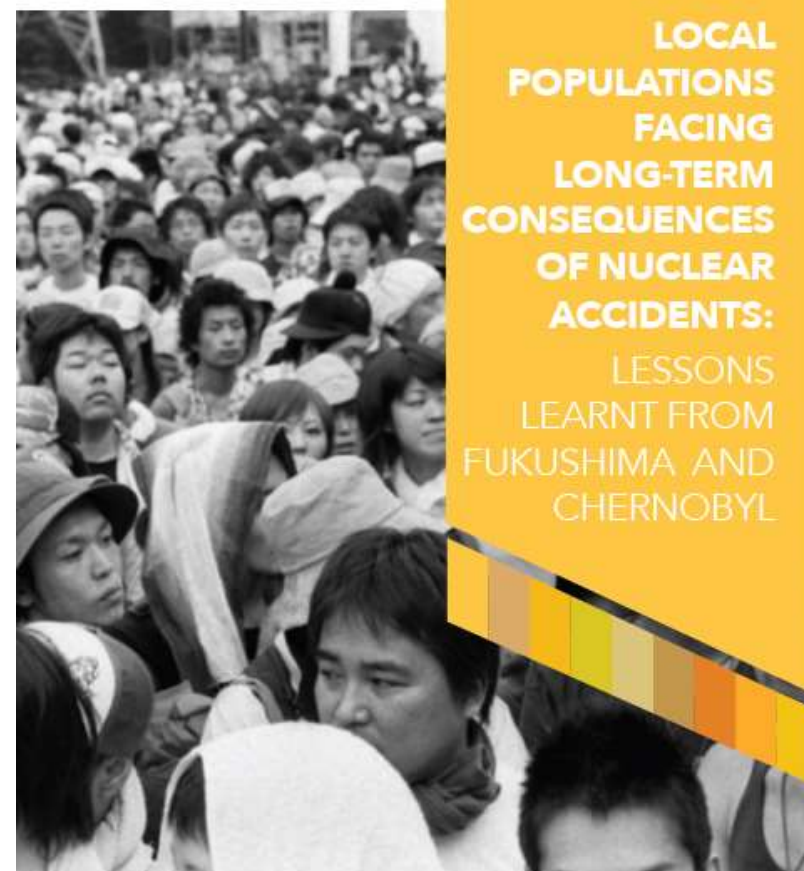


- Nuclear accidents force local actors to imagine new ways of building their understanding of the situation, and of building a new life that will be different from that known before the accident.
- Societies & institutions cannot be prepared in the usual meaning of preparedness, reserving resources and setting up routines, and procedures that can temporarily replace jeopardised systems of decision and action in order to facilitate a return to normality.
- Recovery is made by people. Autonomy, resilience, capacity of action and freedom of choice of people & communities are key elements.
- This calls for a change of governance and modes of action from emergency to recovery.
- However, this does not imply by any means a transfer of responsibility (and of financial burden) from national authorities to local communities.
- Social processes of recovery cannot be decreed but can be facilitated.
- Post-accident policies should focus on supporting local people & local communities that engage in rebuilding a life that is worth living.



■ Any questions?

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