

# COWAM in Practice and French experience

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- COWAM: European research project on Communities Waste Management (from 2000 to 2009)
- Aim of the project:
  - Contribute to actual progress in the governance of RWM with particular attention to the involvement of local stakeholders in 5 countries (France, Romania, Spain, Slovenia, UK)
  - Increase societal awareness & responsible RWM
  - Set up process to analyze and explore RWM
- In France: five meetings organised between 2007-2009 with pluralist stakeholders group and experts

*Local liaison committees, NGOs, waste operator, authorities, expert organisations, nuclear industry, ministry*

# Organisation of the French group

- Topics addressed by the French group:
  - Analysis of the practical conditions of reversibility for deep geological disposal
  - Feedback experiences concerning the site selection for low level long lived waste disposal
  - Dialogue processes between local and national actors
- Methodology:
  - Contribution of experts from the research team
  - Exchange of experiences from different stakeholders
  - Framing the issues by the stakeholders from civil society



# Reversibility in practice – key facts and schedule

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## ***Previous steps***

- National public debate in 2005-2006
- Law on radioactive waste in 2006

## ***Next steps***

- Reversible disposal intended for high-level waste
- Technical proposal for a reversible disposal to be proposed by ANDRA in 2012
- National public debate to be held in 2013
- Decision of the Parliament expected in 2015
- Site would open in 2025

# Reversibility in practice – topics to be investigated

- Sharing an appraisal of the technical mechanisms for reversibility
- Examining the expectations and objectives concerning reversibility in the context of the 2006 Law
- Discussing scenarios for the conditions of implementation (in terms of governance) of reversibility
- Discussing the particular role of expertise in the issues concerning reversibility
- Discussing the articulation between the notion of reversibility and the ones of vigilance and governance of the long term

# Reversibility in practice – Proposal for a new framing involving local stakeholders

- Maintaining a capacity of choice between packages withdrawal, continuing a reversible disposal or its closure,
- Requiring a freedom of choice
- Need a broad set of political, economical, financial, ethical and technical considerations
- Appropriate means to be available: technical, organizational, financial and decision-making and their maintenance during the period of reversibility
- Involvement of a set of actors to define this capacity of choice and its implementation

# Concluding remarks

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- Plurality and mediation
- Sharing and adequate framework
- Questioning and integration
- Connections between territories and capacity building