

Public Participation in Decision Making on Nuclear (*Research*) Installations

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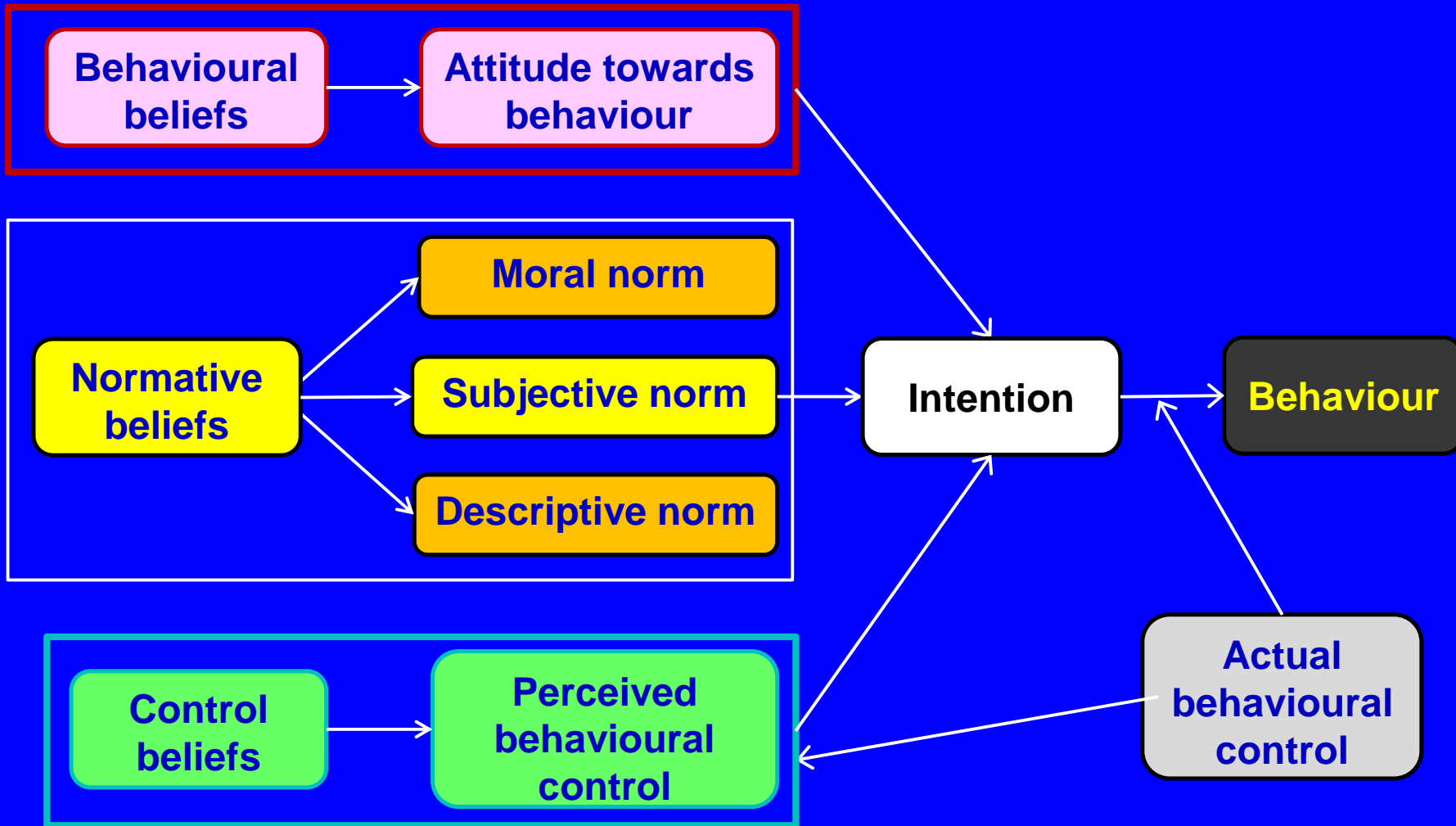
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- **We all know that public & stakeholder involvement is important**

.... however

- **Motivating people to participate in public involvement activities is a major challenge**
 - **Who wants to be involved?**
 - **What are the reasons behind (non)participation?**
 - **What can be improved?**

The Theory of Planned Behaviour & extensions



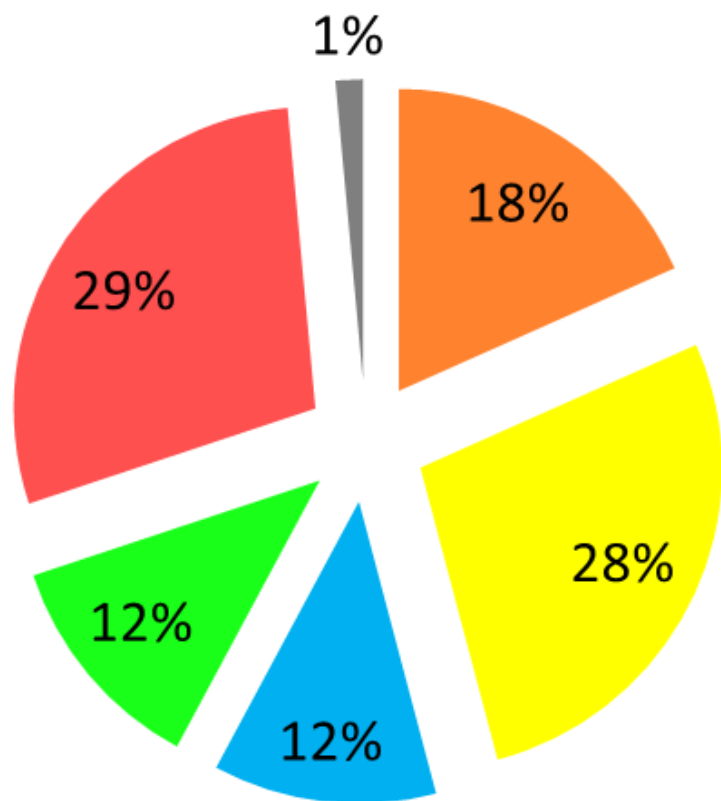
- **Data**

- National survey in the Belgian population: (N>1000)
- Sample representative for Belgian 18+ population
- Computer Assisted **Personal Interviews** (35 to 45 min at respondent's home)

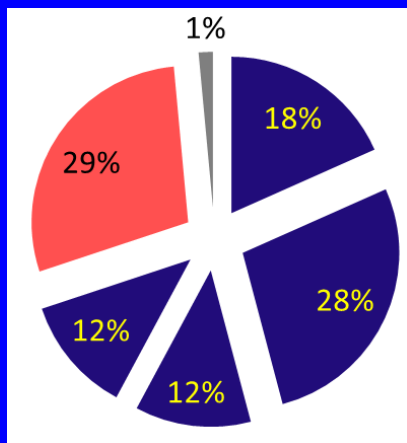
- **Model**

- Predictors based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour (ext)
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- Socio demographic (gender, age); past behaviour
- Attitude towards nuclear
- Risk perception & confidence in authorities

Planned level of involvement... I want to:



- Receive information about the installation
- Receive information and express my opinion
- Participate in dialogue towards consensual decision
- Be an active partner in decision-making
- I don't want to be involved
- Don't know/no answer

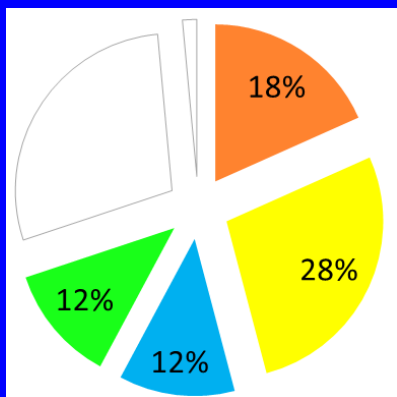


- **Model 1: sample split in two categories**

- **No involvement at all** vs. some degree of involvement

- **Results**

- **Most influential: Attitude towards participation and moral norms**
- **Also significant: subjective norms and time constraints**
- **Financial benefits and risk perception: inconsequential**



- **Model 2: only people who would like to be involved**
- **Results**
 - **Strongest predictors: attitude towards participation, moral norms and time constraints**
 - **Also significant: descriptive norms and general attitude towards nuclear energy; subjective norms less influential**
 - **Weak influence: past participation and gender**
 - **As before, financial benefits and risk perception are inconsequential**

- **Most people (70%) would like to get involved to a certain degree; and to be able to at least express their opinion (52%)**
- **For higher degrees of involvement: convince people that participation is worthwhile and brings benefits to the decision-making process**
- **Citizens' culture plays an important role**
- **Time constraints are recognized as a challenge, but financial benefits are inconsequential**
- **Long term programmes of stakeholder involvement are necessary, with early involvement at the outset of the process**