

# Dealing with uncertainty: involving citizens in emergency planning in a nuclear municipality

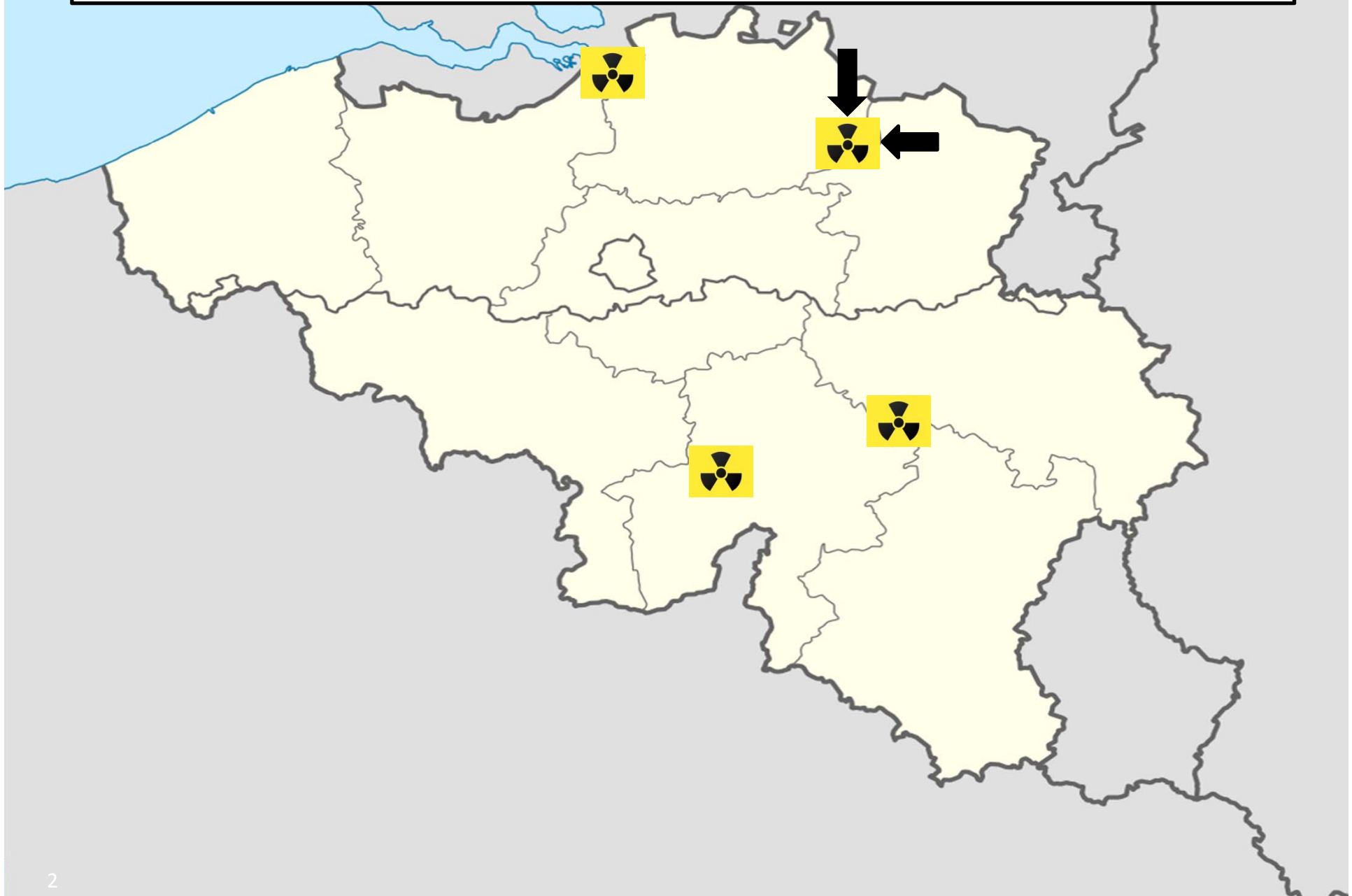
Marlies Verhaegen

Research Group Society & Environment (dep. of Sociology)

University of Antwerp – Belgium

[marlies.verhaegen@uantwerpen.be](mailto:marlies.verhaegen@uantwerpen.be)

# The Belgian quest for a LILW-repository



# Integrated project: technical aspects + accompanying projects/conditions

- Know how
- Health study
- Guaranteed LT participation
- Informing (local) community
- Local fund
- Safety:

Optimisation of existing emergency planning

Informing the people about these plans

Supply intervention personnel with appropriate material

Civil servant specialized in EPR to assist mayor

# Difficult condition to fulfill

## NEP&R

- = complex, lots of actors involved
  - = based on legislation that is a compromise between various experts and interests
  - ≠ NIRAS' competence
- 
- ⇒ What does optimisation mean to whom?  
How to involve citizens?
  - ⇒ Exploratory research, in depth interviews  
Workshop

# Conclusions after the interviews

- Speeding up the positive evolutions in (N)EP&R
- More realistic exercises and more debriefing
- Reinforcing medical + decontamination capacity
- Procedures for a faster flow of relevant information
- Better communication tools (managers + public)
- Reconciling rapid action + action based on verified info
- Room in the decisionmaking chain for the local level
- Juridical clarity

# Workshop content

- 12.00 - 12.30 **Ontvangst** met broodjes
- 12.30 - 13.15 Welkom door Jean-Paul Minon, situering door Kris Van Dijck en Paul Rotthier
- 13.15 - 14.45 **Panelgesprek** met Hans De Neef, Christel Haex en Christian Vandecasteele over **de actualisatie van het nationaal nucleair en radiologisch noodplan, de nucleaire oefening van grote omvang in 2015 en het BNIP Mol-Dessel.**
- 14.45 - 15.00 Koffiepauze
- 15.00 - 16.00 **Parallele sessies 1**
- **Het concept van de reflexfase** door Hans De Neef
  - **Communicatie aan de bevolking** door Roeland Kortleven
  - **Vormings- en opleidingsmogelijkheden voor interventiepersoneel** door Christian Roets
- 16.05 - 17.05 **Parallele sessies 2**
- **Informatiedoorstroom federaal-lokaal** door Hans De Neef
  - **Instructiefilmpje en werkgroep Intervenanten** door Christian Vandecasteele
  - **Impact van de brandweershervorming** door Filip Kenis
- 17.10 - 17.20 **Afsluitende plenaire sessie** met synthese door Jan Vincke
- 17.20 - 17.35 Afsluitende speech door ir. Joris Creemers, namens vice-Eerste Minister en Minister van Veiligheid en Binnenlandse Zaken Jan Jambon
- 17.35 - 18.00 Hapje en drankje

## Sprekers:

**Jean-Paul Minon** | directeur-generaal  
NIRAS

**Kris Van Dijck** | burgemeester Dessel

**Paul Rotthier** | burgemeester Mol

**Hans De Neef** | coördinator nucleair  
noodplan, AD Crisiscentrum

Binnenlandse Zaken

**Christel Haex** | directeur noodplanning,  
FDG Antwerpen

**Christian Vandecasteele** | coördinator  
nucleair noodplan, FANC

**Roeland Kortleven** | communicatie-  
ambtenaar Mol

**Christian Roets** | diensthoofd opleiding  
AD KCCE

**Filip Kenis** | kapitein dienstchef  
brandweer Mol

**Jan Vincke** | Uforce

**Joris Creemers** | adviseur nucleaire  
veiligheid, kabinet van de vice-Eerste  
Minister en Minister van Veiligheid en  
Binnenlandse Zaken

# Conclusions after the workshop

## Method:

- Different backgrounds -> demarcate the theme, introduce, facilitate and report  
Constructive discussions, notwng the complex subject

## NEP&R:

- Optimisation means different things for different actors

## Condition:

- There is need for follow-up

# Concepts

- Nuclear incidents: high disaster potential, low probability of occurrence, likelihoods known (Klinke & Renn)

But:

- Bayesian notions of probability applicable? (Stirling)
- High potential of psychological distress and social mobilization in public (Klinke & Renn)

Thus:

- Complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity need to be
  - taken into account in risk evaluation and management
  - addressed both by experts + affected



# Concepts

- Nuclear emergency planning: framework for organizing countermeasures in case of (technological) fallacy/ies
- Possible to put the framework up for debate and leave the 'primary' risk out of it?
  - Not having optimal countermeasures perceived as a bigger problem than the reason why they are needed
  - Luhmann on risk elimination