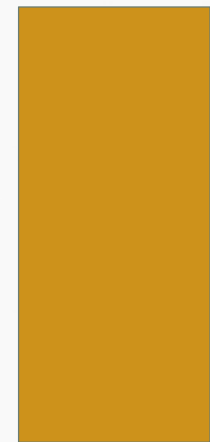




DEVELOPING NATIONAL RESEARCH STRATEGIES ON  
NUCLEAR ENERGY RELATED SOCIAL, SOCIETAL AND  
GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN HUNGARY

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## Introduction

### THE PLATENSO PROJECT

One of its main objectives is to develop recommendations for research strategies on social, societal and governance (SSG) issues related to nuclear energy generation in EU new member states, i.e., Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. Another objective is to create a network of research actors, - in the broadest sense, - in CEE countries. Participants of the project include universities, research organisations, government agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) from 9 new and 4 old member states.

## Methods

- Analysis of project documents
- Short email questionnaire with Platenso partners
- Email discussion with Platenso partners, who sent answers for questionnaire
- Decision conference with researchers and NGO representatives aimed at outlining a research strategy

The network discussed the strategy and responded the following questions:

- What research topics/tasks would you recommend in relation to the socio-economic issues of nuclear energy?
- Please list human/organisational resources available for implementing research projects associated with the recommended topics/tasks.
- What additional resources would be needed for implementing the above projects?

## The Hungarian Case

### BACKGROUND – NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION

In Hungary, 4 commercial and 2 research reactors are being operated, and the construction of two new commercial reactors is planned. The four existing commercial reactors are located at the site of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant. In 2014 a decision was made on establishing two new units at the Paks NPP. If this decision will be implemented nuclear energy will play a dominant role in the energy mix.

The document entitled National Energy Strategy 2030 is the highest level policy paper on future energy use. The document was prepared by the Ministry of National Development, and was approved by the government and the Parliament in 2012. It is the only actual, high level policy document that discusses the role of nuclear energy. The Energy Strategy favours nuclear energy.

### BACKGROUND – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No transparency, no public involvement regarding nuclear energy policy decisions; NGOs complain due to the violation of the Aarhus Convention.

### BACKGROUND – SSG RESEARCH

Since the early 2000s no government funding has been assigned for independent social science research on nuclear related SSG issues. Energiaklub (a national NGO) has been the main source of funding for such research.

### OBSTACLES TO PARTICIPATORY PLANNING OF A RESEARCH STRATEGY

Lack of interest in SSG research (apart from PR) on part of the nuclear community and the government.

## ACTORS INVITED IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING NATIONAL RESEARCH STRATEGY ON NUCLEAR-RELATED SSG ISSUES

Only universities, research institutions and NGOs (Energiaklub, REC representative) were invited to participate in SSG research strategy formation. Other actors (nuclear industry, government) were not invited because dialogue between Hungarian PLATENSO organisations and (nuclear) institutional stakeholders broke down in 2014.

## Results

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM DECISION CONFERENCE

There is significant SSG research capacity, but funding can be expected only from civil society and international actors

9 universities, 3 institutes from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; 5 civil society organisations and 2 firms are able to participate in the Hungarian social science network (details see in [www.vicplatenso.org](http://www.vicplatenso.org))

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM PLATENSO PROJECT

The PLATENSO project revealed significant similarities, but also some differences among ECE countries in terms of SSG issues (e.g., decision making mechanisms, public opinion, transparency). Cross-cultural comparative studies would be needed to explore idiosyncrasies and their key factors.

An NGO – acting as a think and do tank - is playing an important role in choosing relevant nuclear energy-related SSG research topics and financing research projects in this field. High level of interest on part of research organisations.

Strong need for EU funding in SSG research

### FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED IN DECISION CONFERENCE

1. Investigation of the possibilities of international – primarily of East-Central European (ECE) – cooperation in energy production and transport
2. Complex comparative study of nuclear energy and renewable energies in ECE
3. Issues of public participation and transparency related to decisions on nuclear energy in ECE
4. Sources of information related to energy production/utilisation, their spread in the media, and their reflection in public opinion in selected ECE countries
5. Study of local communities affected by nuclear facilities in ECE
6. Ethical and psychological aspects of nuclear energy

[www.platensoproject.eu](http://www.platensoproject.eu)

If you are interested in any of above mentioned topics and are able to work on common proposal (H2020, COST, LIFE, etc.), contact us!

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# WHY IS IMPORTANT THE SSG IN HUNGARY?



- In 2014 a decision was made on establishing two new units at the Paks NPP. If this decision will be implemented nuclear energy will play a dominant role in the energy mix.
- No transparency, no public involvement regarding nuclear energy policy decisions; NGOs complain due to the violation of the Aarhus Convention.
- Decision conference with researchers and NGO representatives aimed at outlining a research strategy.
- Only universities, research institutions and NGOs (Energiaklub, REC representative) were invited to participate in SSG research strategy formation.
- Lack of interest in SSG research (apart from PR) on part of the nuclear community and the government.
- Since the early 2000s no government funding has been assigned for independent social science research on nuclear related SSG issues.
- There is significant SSG research capacity, but funding can be expected only from civil society and international actors