

## Conference

# Our Common Present 2017

March, 30th, 2017  
University of South  
Bohemia in České  
Budějovice,  
Czech Republic

Albert Presas i Puig  
UPF, Barcelona - HoNESt

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This project has received funding  
from the Euratom research and  
training programme 2014-2018  
under grant agreement No 662268.

**HoNESt** History of Nuclear  
Energy and Society

[www.honest2020.eu](http://www.honest2020.eu)

## Scientific Presentation

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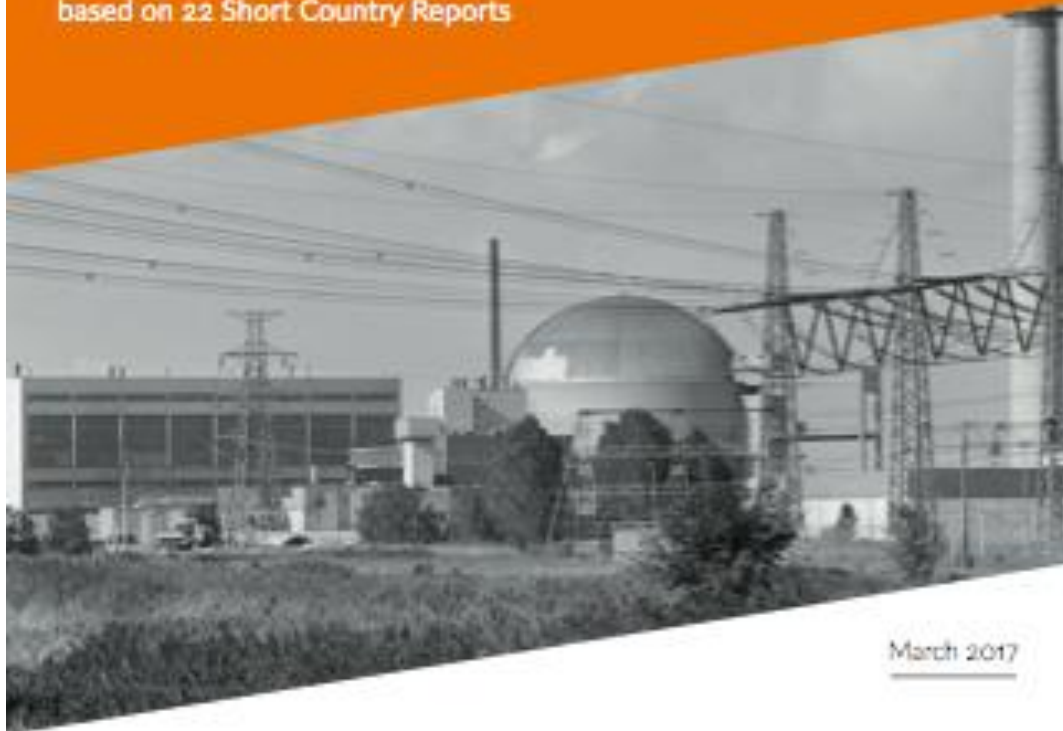
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# An Overview of the Historical Experience of Nuclear Energy and Society in 22 countries

Summaries of the Historical Research  
based on 22 Short Country Reports

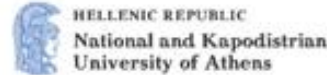


March 2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR



PROJECT PARTNERS



With the UPF (Barcelona) as lead institution, involves an **interdisciplinary consortium** of 24 partner institutions across Europe

HoNESt research project is designed to **answer the Call for the NFRP 12 – 2014 Work Program** that focuses

***“...on understanding of the development of nuclear energy in Europa in view of clarifying the context within which certain decisions were made, identifying the factors which influenced projects' success or failure in gaining engagement of the civil society and ultimately, help improving communication and interaction with civil society.”***

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HoNESt sets out **to explain variety and change in European societies' relations with nuclear energy** on the basis of the **reflexion on historical experience**

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# WP 3

## D.3.6 Validated Short Country Reports

Due date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Submitted: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017



Scientific Presentation

**Experimental and  
innovative character**

First comprehensive **comparative and transnational analysis** of nuclear developments and their relations with society to cover 20 countries over the past 70 years

Its innovative **interdisciplinary framework** combines insights from the **history of technology, science and technology studies, environmental history, economic and business history, social movement research, and the study of societal engagement**

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Scientific Presentation

**Experimental and  
innovative character**

HoNESt is an **interdisciplinary collaboration of historians and social scientists** and dedicate a full task to generate **links and common language** in order to ensure appropriate methodology

**Historical and social-scientific interpretation** of past nuclear developments, **decision-making and associated citizen engagement**, including the factors underlying perception, participation and engagement

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**Experimental and  
innovative character**

On the basis of **historical experience, systematic reflection to improve the understanding the formation and growth of technological systems, (nuclear energy), and to identify the key challenges for policy makers**

Scientific Presentation

**Experimental and  
innovative character**

**Large Technological Systems (LTS)**  
(Thomas Hughes) and **Integrated Socio-  
technical System (ITS)** (Jens Rasmussen)  
emphasize the **complexity of systems**  
that contain both **technological and social  
elements**

**Embeddedness of technology** and its  
application in a broad societal, political,  
economic and cultural context

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**Experimental and  
innovative character**

**Elements of the system: companies, higher education systems, political contexts, financial and law systems, economic policies, international scenarios, government, social commitment, etc.**

**The features of the subject and its interdisciplinary approach determine the structure of the project**

## **WP1 - Management and coordination with the Scientific Secretariat**

## **WP2 - History of the civilian production and use of nuclear energy in Europe, 1945-2013;**

## **Constructing the narrative dedicated to the historical research:**

- collection of the historical data**
- analysis and interpretation of the  
data in order to construct a  
narrative that will be used by the  
sociologists in the following WPs.**

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## Structure of the project

**WP3 - “Translating, linking and bridging: Phase 1 (History) and Phase 2 (Social Sciences)”** brings sociologists, social scientists and historians together

**WP4 - “Understanding perceptions and mechanisms for societal engagement,”** to develop analytical frameworks to suitably interrogate the evidence generated by the empirical historical research and to offer evidence for the Backcasting exercise in WP5.

**WP5 - “Backcasting: ideal futures”** will distinguish key lessons from past historical nuclear interactions with civil society and propose desirable future engagement scenarios for energy projects

**WP6 - “Dissemination and Engagement”** is devoted to the dissemination to and engagement of the stakeholders.



**Writing Group (WP2). Constructing the narrative,** (history of technology, business history, history of science, economic history and transnational history).

- to select research questions based on the historical facts and figures collected by the data project.
- to develop a comparative and transnational history “map of nuclear Europe”

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## Structure of the project

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## Writing Group (WP2). Constructing the narrative

- to translate the comparative map into a transnational framework focusing on flows of knowledge, linking and de-linking of national systems and appropriations of technologies and modes of participation, perception and engagement.
- to participate and collaborate with the WP3 and WP4 to enhance sociological analyses and dissemination of results (WP6) produced by the project

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HoNESt considers the **construction of this interdisciplinary framework to be a core component of its work because it will allow for the analysis of energy problems in the future.**

HoNESt is dedicating an entire work package (WP3) to developing a common framework of analysis.

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## WP3 – Translating, linking and bridging

### Provide knowledge brokerage mechanisms:

#### Promoting mutual understanding

Reasoning practices (i.e. language, frames, concepts, etc)

Practical needs (i.e. type of evidence)

Cross-validating evidence & meanings

### Ensure historical evidence gathered matches needs of social scientist

Ensure social analysis takes into account the broader context.

Develop common understanding of:

- Key terms
- Concepts
- Processes
- Events

**Producing history:** representation of past events and processes based on a number of interlocking moments; identification, exhaustive scrutiny and evaluation of sources for data; comparison and interpretation of it; narration in writing or other media such as public address

Not only of the material and written kind, but also in the **testimony of the actors and leading figures** (interviews strategies)

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History of the development of nuclear energy as the **history of tensions** and problems **inherent in a technological development** and in particular social contexts.

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Problems of historical investigation on  
still on-going processes

Contemporary events must be  
considered and **analysed from the  
highest number of possible  
perspectives**

Analysis of the historic experience with nuclear energy has to extend its consideration to a chronological period long enough to go beyond a simple snapshot

- to observe the **social significance and the effect of political and technological decisions**
- to observe the **processes and mechanisms** by which the underlying values are maintained or modified

## **Polarization about nuclear energy is difficult to explain**

Neither the interests and the motors of the atomic policy; nor can the origins of the movement against nuclear energy be clarified by using general superficial or timeless concepts

Development of nuclear energy **does not follow a straight line**;

Not follow any established *rationality*

Not follow one single pattern

Controversy about nuclear energy **don't show a uniform development** with an exchange of stereotypes

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We are in front of  
**complex processes and  
developments.**

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# **Interim Report on Findings of HoNEST - Short Country Reports (March 2017)**

**by Paul Josephson (Colby College, US)**

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# Thank you very much!

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