NATIONAL CULTURAL FEATURES AND THEIR IMPACT ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

THE IAEA WORKSHOP ON GLOBAL SAFETY CULTURE – NATIONAL FACTORS RELEVANT TO SAFETY CULTURE, 8-11 April 2014, Vienna

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CONTENT

• Assumptions, problematizations and dimensions concerning culture
• Research tasks
• International nuclear safety regime and national cultural patterns
• Conclusions
• Remarks and questions for discussion
ASSUMPTIONS RELATED TO CULTURE

- Culture as stable features
- Culture as deeply held values and norms
- ~ as a causal factor
- ~ as enabling or constraining

- Safety

- Through what kinds of mechanisms culture affects behaviour?
- Can cultural factors be governed?
DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE

- COGNITIVE
- NORMATIVE (VALUES, NORMS)
- SOCIAL AND MATERIAL
- NETWORKS OF INSTITUTIONS
CULTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ISOMORPHIC FEATURES

OBJECTIVE

• Gain understanding of cultural and institutional isomorphic aspects of safety, which may either enhance or hamper safety.
• raise additional questions that are critical for safety

HYPOTHESES

• 1) Isomorphic features enhance similar effective understanding of safety
• 2) ~ may create blind spots
• 3) ~ may be sources of clashes between different organizations or regulatory fields
RESEARCH TASKS

• Identification of international and national nuclear safety regimes

• Identification of national cultural patterns, which may either enhance or hamper safety

• Based on documentary analysis & European Social Survey 2010, 2012
INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY REGIME

SAFETY-INTENSIFYING

TWO CONTRASTING PRINCIPLES OF ACHIEVING SAFETY

"SAFETY SHALL BE A PARAMOUNT WITHIN THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OVERRIDING ALL OTHER DEMANDS" (GSR—3, 2006, 5)

THE FUNDAMENTAL SAFETY OBJECTIVE OF PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT HAS TO BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT UNDULY LIMITING THE OPERATION OF FACILITIES (SF-1, 2006)

CO-REGULATORY

DEMANDS VS. PRECONDITIONS OF TRUST

INCREASING DEMAND OF TRUST (CO-REGULATORY TENDENCIES, PRIVATISATION OF REGULATION)

WEAKENING PRECONDITIONS FOR TRUST (GLOBALISATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION OF NUCLEAR BUILDING, NEW COMERS IN THE FIELD)
FINNISH CULTURAL FEATURES

TRUST IN OTHER PEOPLE

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS (EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AUTHORITIES)

OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW

APPRECIATION OF DILIGENCE, PROMPTNESS AND HONESTY
Trust and trustworthiness

• Trust as socially binding, integrating mechanism, which creates and sustains solidarity among the people

• Different sources of trust
CONCLUSIONS

INTERNATIONAL SAFETY REGIME
• Increasingly homogeneous understanding of safety

NATIONAL CULTURAL PATTERNS
• Finnish nuclear safety regime: Ambitious, Co-regulatory, Technical, Safety-intensifying
  • Trust – double-edged sword
  • Demands of trust vs. Weakening preconditions for trust
• Relevance of culture for safety?
• How to operationalize culture?
• How do national cultures enhance/hamper nuclear safety regimes?
• Can national culture be governed?
• Dilemmas related to trust, obedience to the law etc.
• Cultural values do not emerge in a vacuum