Futures for nuclear energy? Social, economic and environmental considerations

ECOSENS Project Conference

8–9 September 2025 POLIMI Milano Bovisa Campus, Milano, Italy

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Call for Abstracts

Our society faces significant challenges shaping desired energy futures: the urgent need for decarbonisation, and ensuring the economic, environmental and social sustainability of energy systems in the face of growing energy demand. Nuclear energy presents a potentially important, yet contested, low-emission option for tackling these challenges. Currently attention is directed worldwide towards advanced nuclear technologies and Small Modular Reactors, as a way to meet decarbonisation and broader sustainability goals. Their development seeks to improve the characteristics of existing reactors on multiple levels, e.g. safety, lower proliferation risks, potentially reduced volumes of radioactive waste, or more efficient use of fuel. However, such technologies are still under development in Europe, and not a proven and ready to use solution.
From this perspective it appears essential to open up the techno-scientific issues of new and emerging nuclear technologies to the social, political, cultural and ethical context and to create interdisciplinary space for research, dialogue and collaboration between researchers, civil society and other stakeholders.

This 2-day conference in Milano will alternate short topical presentations with both structured and informal dialogue and debate. Bring your contribution (research, reflection, plans, critiques…) from field practice, new or established projects, and confront the findings of the ECOSENS project. We invite **submissions addressing social, economic and environmental considerations related to the use of nuclear energy technology for electric and non-electric applications in society.**

Topics of Interest include, but are not limited to:

1. **Societal Perspectives:**
    - Stakeholders' and wider publics' perceptions of risks, benefits and potentials of nuclear technology (including new and emerging technologies) in the context of major societal challenges such as the climate crisis, sustainable development, and energy security
    - Stakeholder engagement and communication needs
    - Inter- and transdisciplinary research initiatives

2. **Sustainability Assessment:**
    - Long-term sustainability of energy systems (including life-cycle analysis, resilience, and system integration analysis).
    - Environmental, economic and social impacts of various energy technologies involved in the energy transition (case studies)

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- Nuclear energy as a low-carbon solution: role of SMRs and advanced nuclear technologies in sustainable energy futures
- Synergies and trade-offs between energy security, climate change mitigation, and social equity in the context of nuclear energy

3. **Socio-Economic Models:**
   - New and improved quantitative and qualitative socioeconomic models for assessing the potential role of nuclear energy in today's society.
   - Experiences of socioeconomic assessment engaging stakeholders, including suppliers, investors, consumers, governments, and others.
   - Models of a broad scope, addressing the nuclear supply chain, policies, or nuclear governance.

4. **Historical and ethical reflections:**
   - Understanding current trajectories of nuclear energy development through the lens of historical cases and experiences
   - Ethical frameworks to assess potential challenges and values informing the use of nuclear energy in society

Target Audience:
Researchers and practitioners addressing societal, environmental and economic considerations of nuclear energy, from civil society, academia, industry, and government. 50-60 participants are expected.

Format:
Moderated plenary and break-out sessions for presentations and dialogue.

Fees:
The conference benefits from support under the Euratom ECOSENS project. Luncheons and breaks will be provided at no fee. Pay-your-own-way social event on 8th September 2025. Possibility of partial travel support for a limited number of civil society stakeholder presenters.

Abstract Submission Guidelines:
- **Format:** Maximum 250 words, *docx format.
- **Content:** Include the title, authors, affiliations, and a summary of the proposed contribution.
- **Email for abstract submission:** conference@ecosens-project.eu

Important Dates:
- **Submission deadline:** 30 April 2025.
- **Notification to Authors:** 20 May 2025.
- **Programme Finalisation:** 10 June 2025.

Check the ECOSENS Project website for calendar and programme updates.

The conference benefits from financial and in-kind support from ECOSENS Project (EURATOM No 101060920) and SHARE platform

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Travel and Accommodation

Getting to POLIMI Milano Bovisa Campus

Address:
Via La Masa, 34, 20156 Milano, Italy
Access:
Detailed directions are available on the POLIMI Bovisa Campus website.

- **By Public Transport:**
  The campus is accessible by train, tram, or bus.
  30 minutes from Milano Centrale train station; 50 minutes from Milano Linate airport.
- **By Car:**
  Parking facilities are available near the campus.

Recommended Hotels

Hotel reservation sites show there are many options. Consider reserving early! Two suggestions:

1. **Radisson Blu Hotel, Milan**
   - **Address:** Via Villapizzone, 24, 20156 Milano, Italy
   - **Distance to Campus:** Approximately 1.5 km (5-minute drive or 20-minute walk).
   - **Features:** A 4-star hotel offering modern amenities, a restaurant, and a fitness center.
2. **Milan Suite Hotel**
   - **Address:** Via Varesina, 68, 20156 Milano, Italy
   - **Distance to Campus:** Approximately 2 km (7-minute drive or 25-minute walk).
   - **Features:** A 4-star hotel with spacious suites, a bar, and a garden.

Both hotels provide easy access to public transport for exploring Milano.

Other options
Consider booking your accommodation through reputable platforms which offer a diverse range of options, competitive rates, and user-friendly search tools that can help you find the perfect stay.

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