



Social scientist on board in long-term management of high level and/or long-lived radioactive waste in Belgium

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1. Introduction

2. Social scientist on board on NWM

- Return on researcher's activities (2009-2012)
- PhD Student embedded in an action research (2012-...)

3. Challenges: how to deal with it?

4. Conclusion



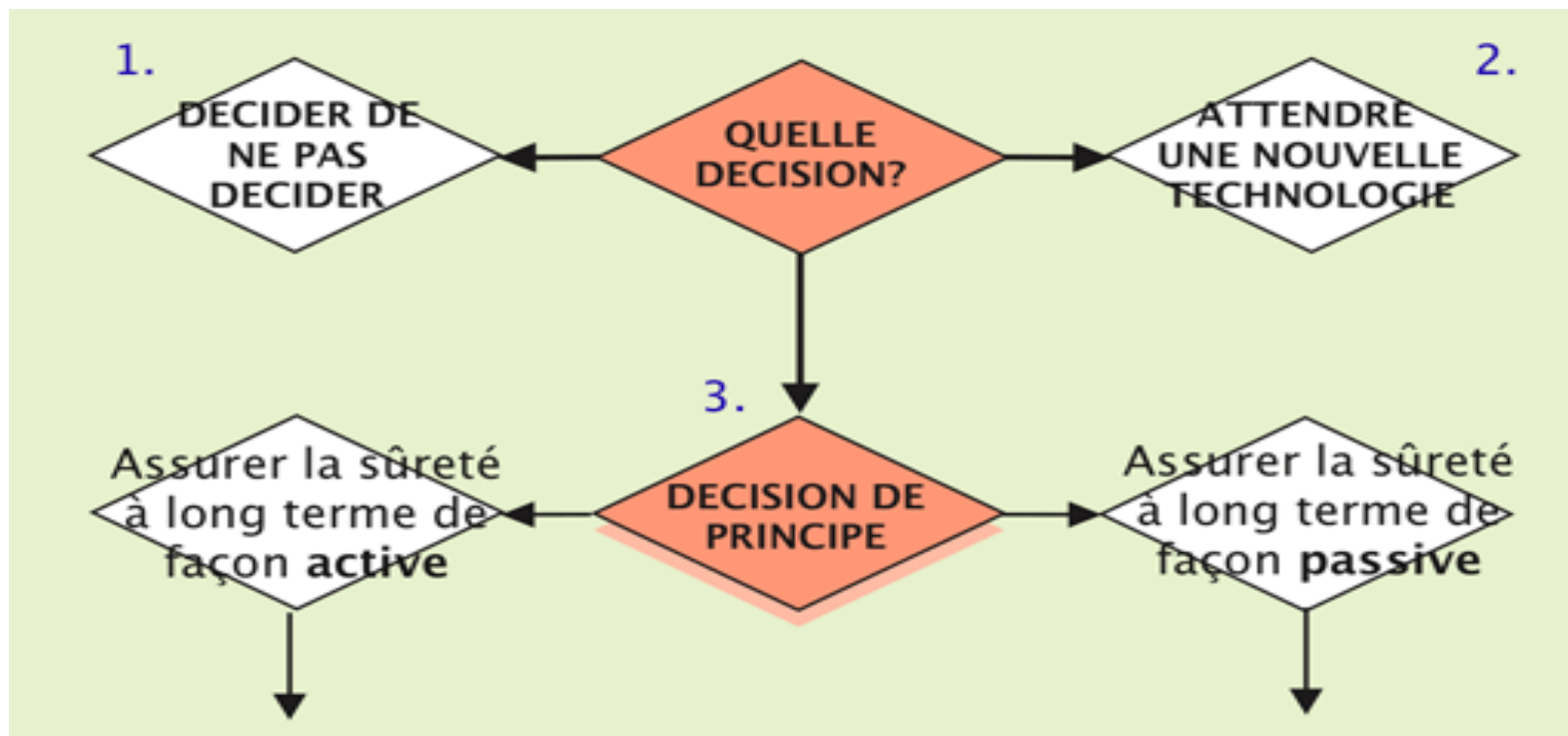
1. Introduction

- Reflexive view on my position as a PhD Student (Conference EREID, March 2013, BSTS Meeting, June 2013)
- ONDRAF/NIRAS, the Belgian Agency Radioactive Waste and Enriched Fissile Materials (AR du 30 mars 1981)
- Category B&C waste : no formal political decision



1. Introduction

Category B&C waste → still waiting the political decision





1. Introduction: Category B&C waste

Elaboration of
waste plan
... -2010

Adoption of
waste plan
Sept. 2011

Waiting for
principle
decision
2011-...

Certainty period

Uncertainty period



2. Social scientist on board on B&C WM

Realised activities (Skolits et al. 2009) **with regard to three dimensions** (Laurent and Van Oudheusden, 2013):

1. Researcher's relation with the actors
2. Political relevance of his work
3. Problems the researcher must face



2. Social scientist on board on B&C NWM





2. Social scientist as External evaluator (2009-2012) : a CLEAR ROLE

Difficulties : Quite common

Consequence: Proactive attitude of the
researcher



2. PhD Student (2012-...): a HYBRID role

Difficulties :

- Issues of a **Prospective “action research”**
- **Unclear role and influence** of the researcher

Consequences:

- Redefinition of the object of the thesis
- Methodological constraints



3. Discussion : how to deal with it?

Guarantee of independency

Before my fieldwork

- Convention
- Reflexivity

During my fieldwork

- Participatory observant
- Attachment / Detachment
- Double tutorship



4. Conclusions

- “interressement” work
- To detach with ONDRAF? No, embarked!
- Focus on the researcher’s independency



Thank you for your attention!

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