

Media as a platform for deliberation on key issues of energy: construction of the first Polish nuclear power plant, shale gas exploitation and operation of wind farms.

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Nuclear power, wind power and shale gas - the debate in the media

The project *Media as a space for deliberation. Analysis of patterns of public discourse on the key issues of energy: construction of the first Polish nuclear power plant, shale gas exploitation and operation of wind farms*, is an analysis of media debates taking place in Poland around selected topics of energy.

Assumptions

The study aimed to recognize the process of deliberation, understood as a collective reflection on important issues for the community.

Methods

The analysis was quantitative, due to which it has been determined what words and in what contexts appear frequently, and quantitative, thanks to which the discourse was described through the lens of: the most exposed and marginalized actors and their strategies argumentative.

Discourse energy - a summary of conclusions

Media debate relating to nuclear, wind and gas is treated in the media as an important level of communication on important topics, their optics overview, however, is narrower: it is above all to look through the prism of politics and economics. It's noticed the poverty dimension of civil discourse around the theme of development of the country, which, for obvious reasons, is associated with strategic choices concerning the energy sector. We see it in each of these three cases, the atom, shales gas and wind as energy sources that could develop in Poland.

We have, therefore, to deal with the highly exposed debate on the common good, related to the energy required for all of us, but with no ... common reflection on what is good for the citizens and why, no tangible reference to the arguments formulated by different actors, reflecting different, sometimes radically different hierarchies of validity values behind these arguments.

Do the media today create a space for reflection on general social issues related to energy development in Poland? The answer is no. Do they contribute to increase the participation of various stakeholders in deliberation aimed at seeking the best solutions for Polish? The answer is again no. The gap between the ideal model of socially useful deliberation in the media and their real information and persuasive filling can be treated as a suggestion, in which the media could evolve.

It is easy to imagine that the general debate could be included in the issues of distribution of risks and benefits among different groups of citizens, the ways and means of participatory decision-making and management infrastructure, the prospect of social practices, awareness and energy education. Discussed, and not just used slogan sums, the prospect of sustainable development and many other topics that could bring open debate and break the current hegemony. This would benefit all: the actors, the media, but also decision-makers.