



Virtual Event – Regional Workshop on Elaboration and Review of National Policy and Strategies for Radioactive Waste Management Activities

Hosted by

The International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

31 May to 11 June 2021

Ref. No.: ME – RER9154 – EVT2101536

Information Sheet

Purpose

The main purpose of the project is for the IAEA to establish a robust basis to better address the current needs of the participating Member States for an effective development of the national policies and strategies for radioactive waste management. Concurrently, in the broader frame of the TC-RER9154 project, the IAEA will also seek to document the baseline status – and, if applicable, any recent progress – of the national policies and strategies for radioactive waste management in participating Member States. In order to achieve this objective, participants will be invited to present and discuss with IAEA Staff and external experts a comprehensive picture of their countries' national radioactive waste management policies and strategies, including potential gaps, implementation hurdles, national debates, or projected updates to the policy and strategy documents currently in force in RER countries. Special attention will be given to ascertain how the TC-RER9154 project can be used to foster national progress in those areas in the future.

The secretariat will both analyse this overall Member State input and provide participants with an opportunity to identify and discuss the factors that should drive national policy decisions and shape implementation strategies in the domain of radioactive waste management. In order to achieve this objective, participants will be asked to comment and exchange their specific perspectives on an ordered sequence of factors and topics, as presented or envisioned in the IAEA's guidance to Member States on policy and strategy elaboration and review. As part of the discussion, Member States will also be invited to provide feedback on the practicality and applicability of this IAEA guidance.

Expected Output(s)

The Virtual workshop will seek to enable participants to achieve a better understanding of the policy and strategy drivers and drafting/revision steps in general, the status of international progress in that area, and best practices for kickstarting or optimizing their planning or implementation activities to progress forward with policies and strategies.

Specifically, Member States will have their capacity, status, and progress with national radioactive waste management policies and strategies assessed against the existing IAEA framework (cf. IAEA report NW-G-1.1., 2009). They will also be invited, via facilitated discussions, to evidence further policy and strategy issues and aspects that the IAEA can assist with in future activities and guidelines.

Finally, the virtual workshop will seek to enhance networking among participating Member States, identify common Member State needs, and suggest future IAEA work orientations to notably enable the IAEA to upgrade its guidance to Member States on policies and strategies for radioactive waste management. The common Member State needs identified may also come to be addressed in subsequent, follow-on workshops.

Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **10 May 2021** will not be considered.

Project Background

The past, current, and future uses of radioactive materials for peaceful purposes by IAEA Member States generate radioactive waste that must be managed safely and securely. This requires central governments to design and commit to a clear, structured, and up-to-date national waste management policy that can then be implemented in the field through strategies supported by adequate planning and resources.

It should be noted that such policies and strategies also ought to take into consideration the framework provided by the national energy policy, including arrangements on resource provision. Depending on the Member State circumstances, the timescale for national policy and strategy implementation runs to at least many decades and remains open-ended into upcoming centuries in most cases. The national responsibility is to ensure that the necessary waste management plans, end-points, infrastructure and resources are identified and adequately mapped to existing inventories and future waste arisings; and that responsibility is allocated to cover the whole cradle-to-grave waste management cycle sustainably.

Comprehensive, fit-for-purpose, and regularly updated national policies and strategies for radioactive waste management are hence a keystone to the long-term success of national waste management programmes. They are also essential to assisting Member States in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals. Having recognized this, the TC RER9154 has dedicated significant resources to support Member States' efforts in meeting their associated responsibilities in an optimized manner.

Scope and Nature

The virtual workshop will consist of a cumulative 5-day virtual workshop held over the course of two weeks. Prior to his workshop, participants will be requested to provide input (details given below), to allow for adequate iterative exchanges, in particular focused on the feedback and lessons learnt derived from the input of participants. Special emphasis will be put on:

- presenting IAEA guidance on policies and strategies for radioactive waste management in order to provide structure for discussing the Member States' progress, challenges and needs in that area. The IAEA publication used as a support for this purpose will be *Policies and Strategies for Radioactive Waste Management* (NW-G-1.1, [web access here](#)), as well as expert presentations;
- using pre-workshop input from participants to build and present case-based examples, illustrated guidance, and guidance specifications;
- discussing with participants the progress achieved since the inception of RER9154 in developing, implementing and/or reviewing national policies and strategies for radioactive waste management.

As the virtual workshop's success hinges on the quality of feedback between Member State participants and the organizers, the agenda will make appropriate time for discussion on, and identification of, key issues. Of particular interest will be:

- what key elements are reported by Member State participants to be requiring further support to progress delivery of national radioactive waste management policies and strategies?
- what developments were fundamental in allowing some of the national radioactive waste management policies and strategies to achieve progress, and how could future IAEA guidance best integrate these insights?

Participants will be required to prepare a short presentation on the status and possible challenges of national radioactive waste management policy and strategy arrangements in their respective countries if such policies and strategies exist and, if so, without concern for their form. They will also be asked to complete an online questionnaire on national policy and strategy aspects ahead of the workshop. Templates and directions will be provided in due time (see below).

The virtual workshop will also include live and offline (pre-recorded) lectures by IAEA staff and invited experts on developing, implementing and revising national policy and strategy for radioactive waste management. The lectures will strive, if relevant, to discuss specific country situations (e.g., small inventories), to provide practical examples from Member States' situations, and to present sample policy and strategy documents for analysis.

Pre-workshop: Selected Member State participants should prepare the following contributions before the event:

1. A PowerPoint presentation – Prior to the virtual workshop, each Member State participant will be sent instructions and a PowerPoint template for creating a 10-minute presentation on the nature and status of the national policy and strategy arrangements for radioactive waste management in their respective nations, focusing on best lessons learned and potential challenges (as well as factors underpinning them). The template will be provided 1 month before the workshop. The presentation should be completed and sent back no later than 10 days before the workshop. The presentation will be read and used by facilitators to inform lectures and breakout group activities. Each participant is expected to be able to present and/or discuss all or part of their presentation, although time constraints will only allow a small number of participants to possibly present live.
2. Complete an online questionnaire. Prior to the virtual workshop, Member State participant will be sent a link to a web-based questionnaire to complete. The questionnaire will either: (a) present excerpts of IAEA guidance and collect each participant's user feedback on the relevance and usefulness of the guidance, OR (b) be a self-assessment regarding national policy and strategy status, specifics, and challenges in the participant's country. The questionnaire will be provided 3 weeks before the workshop, it should be completed online no later than 1 week before the workshop.

Any questions on either assignment can be sent to Mr Paul-Etienne PINI, IAEA (p.pini@iaea.org).

It is recommended most strongly that Member State participants prepare these tasks. If they are not completed before the workshop, the workshop's insights will not be as comprehensive as they could be, and Member States will not receive the benefits of a full discussion and analysis of their needs.

Workshop: The virtual workshop will consist of a total of 5 days, each day being a 3-hour live plenary session facilitated by experts. The total time commitment for this workshop will hence be 15 hours.

The 5 workshop days will be spaced out over 2 weeks (31 May – 11 June) to better allow participants to read or watch prerecorded lectures between live sessions. Proposed scheduling for the 5 days of live plenary sessions: Mon. 31 May, Wed. 2 June, Mon. 7 June, Wed. 9 June, Fri. 11 June.

Workshop activities will feature:

- generic lectures by IAEA experts on policy and strategy guidance and hot topic analysis;
- specialized and case-illustrated lectures by guest experts on policy and strategy guidance;
- highlights of country activities in the area of RWM policy and strategy development or fixing (based on national data provided by participants through presentations to be sent pre-workshop);
- several hands-on, expert-facilitated reviews of policy and/or strategy samples in breakout groups.
- plenary discussions of Member State needs (these discussions will also take into account responses to the pre-workshop questionnaire, as well as any national issues reported during the workshop).

Participation

The virtual workshop is open to 35 participants from IAEA Member States that are directly involved with the Technical Cooperation Project RER9154.

The target countries are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

Candidates should be persons in the above Member States who are topical specialists and/or generalists exercising project manager-level responsibilities in the field and/or governmental responsibilities related to national radioactive waste management. Candidate profiles of particular relevance for this workshop are those with moderate-to-substantial experience in drafting, assessing, and/or revising policy and/or strategy documents for national radioactive waste management. That includes, for example: project supervisors and managers involved with waste management strategy implementation and operations; national government decisions-makers, planners, lawmakers, ministry staff, or other professionals involved with the development and/or implementation follow-up of radioactive waste management policies or regulations.

Prerequisites

All participants should have sufficient proficiency in English to deliver and follow lectures and express themselves in this language without major difficulty.

It is not expected that the candidates have participated in previous RER9154 events, but the candidates must at least have detailed knowledge of/be sufficiently conversant with the fundamentals of policy and strategy making, approval, review, and/or field implementation in the radioactive waste management field.

Please note that the ability of candidates to present (and discuss) a comprehensive and analytical account of their country's national radioactive waste management policies and strategies is an essential skill that will be solicited several times during the virtual workshop.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.

2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2101536) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

In accordance with IAEA provisions regarding non-staff travel and the holding of physical events at the IAEA Headquarters, attendance of this workshop will be only virtual. Participants will therefore not be expected to travel to the IAEA duty station.

Participants are advised to ensure in advance that they have access to the necessary hardware (computer, microphone/headset), software (conferencing platform), and reliable internet connection bandwidth in order to be able to interact with other participants seamlessly and have a smooth virtual workshop experience throughout the duration of the workshop.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the virtual workshop do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

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