



First Steering Committee Meeting

Hosted by

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Vienna, Austria**

Room: MOE100

26 – 30 January 2026

Ref. No.: ME-RER9164-EVT2502139

Information Sheet

Working Language

The working language of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **28 September 2025** will not be considered.

Purpose

The Steering Committee (SC) for the IAEA Technical Cooperation Project RER9164 aims to provide strategic guidance, oversight and support for the successful implementation of the project objectives. The committee will ensure effective coordination among stakeholders, monitor progress and address any challenges that may arise during the project lifecycle.

Scope and Nature

Radioactive waste management is a necessary consequence of the application of nuclear energy and technology for research, power generation, the production and use of radioactive sources, nuclear fuel production and reprocessing, decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the remediation of areas contaminated as a result of past nuclear activities. It is a stepwise process that covers all administrative and operational activities involved in the pre-disposal and disposal of radioactive waste. Ideally, these waste needs to be processed through segregation, treatment, conditioning, and packaging to be either stored or disposed of. Radioactive waste disposal is an issue that, sooner than later, needs to be dealt with in all Member States. Different predisposal management stages are implemented in MSs, providing a

certain security and safety level, but is widely recognized that there is a continuous need to improve technology and human resources to enhance and strengthen the technical capacity, efficiency, and safety of existing or new predisposal waste management facilities related to waste processing or storage. Countries with small amounts of radioactive waste or untypical waste streams usually do not have solutions for their complete management.

Radioactive waste management is a permanent challenge faced by the MSs and an intergenerational issue which consequently lead to the need of IAEA assistance in each and every step of this process. Starting with developing or improving the policies and strategies, related infrastructures, implementing adequate technologies and applying the best practices, knowledge preservation and ending with building and securing the national capabilities, all these are topics highlighted by the MSs as areas where help is needed. The IAEA provided support to TCEU MSs through TC projects that have been active in several TC funding cycles, but more effort is needed to harmonize approaches for some specific waste streams e.g. institutional waste, waste from past practices, low activity but large volume liquid waste, very low activity solid waste, as well as in developing or improving the waste management facilities and capabilities. At the same time, while radioactive waste predisposal capabilities are to some extent available, the great majority of the Member States are facing difficulties in planning for disposal facilities, improving and extending the operational ones as well as preparing for closure and post-closure monitoring of repositories. Therefore, the project activities are developed in such manner to cover many of these areas of interest.

During the project kick-off meeting, it was agreed that monitoring project achievements would be beneficial. As a result, a Steering Committee was established. This Committee has been appointed for a two-year term to ensure the participation of all Member States in the evaluation process, as outlined in the Terms of Reference. The current Steering Committee will oversee and assess the activities implemented during the 2024 – 2025 period.

Expected Outputs

A two years' progress reports (to be prepared by Steering Committee Leader) will be prepared and submitted to the Project PMO (to be discussed internally) and shall include:

- Short project history (two years' term)
- Feedback and Learning: Each national PCP will provide, at the end of each two-year term, feedback on project implementation and its alignment with National Strategies, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Summary of Realization of project's objectives,
- Summary of Problems and difficulties encountered,
- Lessons learned/Strengths of the project.

Participation

The 1st Steering Committee Meeting will bring together the project counterparts representing: Cyprus, Georgia, Moldova, Malta, Hungary, Czech Rep., Ukraine, Estonia, Türkiye, Portugal, and Azerbaijan. The Steering Committee will be led by Mr. Peter Lietava (Czech Republic) - peter.lietava@suib.cz.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The meeting is intended for the Member States counterparts, as established in the Steering Committee ToRs.

Structure

A two-year progress report, prepared by the Steering Committee Leader and submitted to the Project PMO (pending internal discussion), will summarize the project's developments, achievements, and challenges. It will include a brief project history, feedback from national PCPs on alignment with National Strategies, and key lessons learned, and strengths identified during the 2024–2025 period.

During the meeting, the project's Technical Officers will provide technical support to facilitate the effective execution of the Steering Committee members' responsibilities.

Technical Officers responsible for implementing the project tasks:

Ms. Rebecca Robbins – R.A.Robbins@iaea.org

Mr. Stefan Mayer - S.J.Mayer@iaea.org

Ms. Karina Lange – K.Lange@iaea.org

Ms. Vaclava Havlova – Va.Havlova@iaea.org

Mr. Gerald Nieder-Westermann – G.Nieder-Westermann@iaea.org

Ms. Felicia Dragolici - F.N.Dragolici@iaea.org

Mr. Gerard Bruno - G.Bruno@iaea.org

Project Background

RER9146 supports the advancement of national radioactive waste management programmes across the region by strengthening Member States' institutional and technical capacities. The project aims to improve baseline competencies and enable more informed, sustainable, and cost-effective decision-making throughout the waste management lifecycle.

Radioactive waste must be safely managed from generation to disposal in line with national frameworks—comprising policy, strategy, and programme elements—and consistent with international safety standards and obligations. RER9146 focuses on enhancing capabilities in waste characterization, selection of fit-for-purpose processing technologies, facility design, storage, and implementation of suitable disposal solutions. Special attention is given to the management of institutional and legacy waste, alongside routine operational and decommissioning waste.

The project uses a variety of capacity-building approaches, including regional workshops, expert missions, and practical exercises with case studies, to help Member States optimize their programmes and maintain a well-characterized, safely managed waste inventory.

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. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
- c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2502139) 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.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the [IAEA website](#).

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

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.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event 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.

Note for female participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

IAEA Contacts

Programme Management Officer (responsible for substantive matters):

Ms Maria del Pilar Murillo Fuentes
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26038
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: M.d.P.Murillo-Fuentes@iaea.org

Technical Officers (Scientific Secretary):

Ms Felicia Dragolici
Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Email: F.N.Dragolici@iaea.org

Administrative Contact (responsible for administrative matters):

Ms Gulnur Erni-Toyalieva
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 22394
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: G.Erni-Toyalieva@iaea.org