IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Regional Workshop on Development and Implementation of Radioactive Waste Management Programmes

Hosted by

Horia Hulubei National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH)

Bucharest-Magurele, Romania

11 – 15 May 2026

Ref. No.: ME-RER9164- EVT2600794

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to discuss and share experience in the planning and implementation of radioactive waste management systems, covering the entire waste management lifecycle - from waste generation through predisposal management to disposal.

The workshop will address the technical, safety, organizational and strategic aspects of radioactive waste management, emphasizing the need for an integrated, stepwise and lifecycle-based approach consistent with IAEA Safety Standards. It will support Member States in making informed, proportionate and sustainable decisions related to waste processing, storage and disposal solutions, taking into account national programmes, existing and planned infrastructure, regulatory requirements and future developments, including decommissioning and legacy waste management.

Working Language

The working language of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **10 March 2026** will not be considered.

Project Background

RER9164 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.

Scope and Nature

Radioactive waste management is an essential component of the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technologies in medicine, industry, research, power generation and decommissioning. In accordance with IAEA Safety Standards, radioactive waste must be managed in a manner that protects human health and the environment now and, in the future, without imposing undue burdens on future generations.

Radioactive waste management is a stepwise and integrated process that encompasses waste generation, segregation, characterization, processing, conditioning, storage and disposal. Decisions taken at each stage have direct implications for subsequent steps and must therefore be made within the context of the overall waste management system, with due consideration of the intended disposal endpoint and long-term safety objectives.

The workshop will address the following key aspects of radioactive waste management:

- Waste generation and segregation practices across different nuclear applications, including medical, industrial, research and nuclear power programmes;
- Development and maintenance of radioactive waste inventories as essential tools for planning, regulatory oversight and strategic decision-making;
- Waste characterization as a basis for waste classification and for selecting appropriate processing, storage and disposal options;
- Selection and application of fit-for-purpose waste processing and conditioning technologies, considering waste characteristics, safety requirements and national constraints;
- Storage concepts and strategies that ensure safety, retrievability, environmental protection and regulatory compliance throughout the storage period;
- Disposal concepts for low and intermediate level radioactive waste, including near-surface disposal options and their key design and safety considerations;
- The role of Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) in linking predisposal activities to disposal requirements and ensuring consistency across the waste management lifecycle;

— Safety assessment and safety case development for radioactive waste management facilities and activities, in line with IAEA guidance;

— Quality management systems, data and information management, and interfaces between operators, regulators and other responsible organizations.

Emphasis will be placed on recognizing the interdependencies between all stages of radioactive waste management, integrating national project findings with regional best practices, to promote optimized, proportionate and sustainable solutions adapted to national circumstances and programme maturity.

Expected Outputs

The workshop is expected to enhance participants' understanding of how to develop, implement and improve an integrated radioactive waste management programme covering all stages of the waste lifecycle.

As a result of the workshop, participants will:

— Improve their knowledge of the technical and safety aspects of radioactive waste management from generation to disposal;

— Gain insight into international good practices, operational experience and lessons learned related to waste processing, storage and disposal;

— Strengthen their understanding of how radioactive waste inventories, characterization, safety assessment and Waste Acceptance Criteria support lifecycle-based decision-making;

— Identify key challenges, gaps and priorities within their national radioactive waste management programmes.

The workshop will also support participating Member States in identifying practical actions and developing preliminary roadmaps to strengthen national radioactive waste management systems in line with IAEA guidance and international good practice.

Participation

The workshop is open to Member States participating in the RER9164 project. Participants must be officially nominated by the competent Member State national authority and specifically, by the Member States' official designated counterpart for the RER9164 project.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The workshop is intended for individuals directly involved in radioactive waste management, including operators of predisposal and disposal facilities, regulators overseeing waste inventories and safety, technical experts working in characterisation, and national decision-makers or planners responsible for waste management strategies.

Participants may be invited by the Scientific Secretaries to prepare and deliver a presentation during the workshop. Presentations may include an overview of national capabilities and experiences in establishing and implementing radioactive waste inventories and characterisation programmes, or a focused presentation on a specific technical or strategic aspect of these efforts.

Structure

This five-day workshop will include following components:

- Lectures on radioactive waste management across the full lifecycle;
- Case studies and practical exercises;
- Participant presentations on national experience and challenges;
- Facilitated discussions and Q&A sessions to encourage peer-to-peer exchange.

The workshop anticipates the possibility of facilitating technical site visits to IFIN-HH facilities, which will provide participants with a unique opportunity to gain practical insights into the challenges and solutions associated with radioactive waste:

- Department of Radioactive Waste Management (DMDR): participants will directly observe the national infrastructure for the treatment, conditioning and disposal of radioactive waste, including institutional waste management;

- Extreme Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP): participants will visit this world-leading research infrastructure to discuss specific considerations regarding radiation protection challenges associated with large-scale, high-power laser facilities.

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 (EVT2600794) 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.

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