



**Interdisciplinary research symposium  
on the safety of nuclear disposal practices**

**safe<sup>ND</sup> 2025**

### **Call for Sessions**

From September 17 - 19, 2025, the Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management (BASE) will host the 3rd International Research Symposium on the Safety of Nuclear Waste Practices (safe<sup>ND</sup>) in Berlin. We are excited to announce the main topic of the upcoming conference and the start of the Call for Sessions.

## **Main topic**

The main topic of safe<sup>ND</sup> 2025 is as follows:

### **Time as a safety factor: opportunities and challenges of timely nuclear waste disposal**

*Developing and implementing disposal concepts for nuclear waste that ensure long-term safety is a complex sociotechnical challenge requiring, in particular, extensive geological exploration, engineering research, numerical simulation and long-term awareness preservation.*

*The technical vulnerabilities of such a waste disposal concept are not the only dangers to society, however. It's essential that a timely implementation also is accounted for as a central safety factor. The imperative nature of timing as a safety factor derives not only from the fact that the radioactivity of nuclear waste is currently at its highest level and will decay over time, but also from the fact that high-level radioactive waste is currently stored above ground in most parts of the world.*

*Such above-ground storage makes this waste vulnerable to various geopolitical threats, including military conflicts, radical alterations to existing political institutions and to consequences of climate change. So how can we properly account for the factor of time when evaluating the safety of nuclear disposal programmes?*

safe<sup>ND</sup> 2025 follows on from the topic of the last symposium - “Research for resilient safety: Gaps, Progress and Priorities” - and provides an opportunity to discuss the time factor with regard to safety in more detail.

The content of the symposium will be prepared in two steps:

1. Call for sessions (30.08 - 5.11.2024)
2. Call for Contributions (17.12.2024 - 11.3.2024)

Proposals for sessions and contributions related to the main topic will be given priority with regard to the design of the conference program, but in principle contributions can be made for the entire range of topics covered by the symposium (see below).

## Call for Sessions

You are invited to submit proposals for sessions within the framework of the Call for Sessions. A session follows an overarching research question or topic, which will be addressed in several 15-minute presentations or posters, respectively. The individual contributions for these sessions (abstracts for presentations and posters) will then be submitted as part of the Call for Contributions starting December 17, 2024 (see also “Next Steps”).

You can participate in the Call for Sessions under the following link:

<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/safeND2025/provisionalprogramme>

The session proposals can be submitted until 5.11.2024.

On the Call for Sessions platform, you can also view and comment on the proposals made so far.

*Note: Different from the previous safe<sup>ND</sup> conferences, proposals for workshops and panel discussions will be submitted as part of the Call for Contributions.*

## Next steps

Following the Call for Sessions, BASE will evaluate the proposals for sessions and publish a list of those sessions for which abstracts for presentations and posters can be submitted as part

of the Call for Contributions starting December 17, 2024. A scientific committee will support BASE in this process.

In addition to and regardless the list of sessions, proposals for workshops and panel discussions can likewise be submitted within the framework of the Call for Contributions.

Registration for participation in safe<sup>ND</sup> 2025 is expected to start in March 2025.

## About the safe<sup>ND</sup> conference series

The 3rd International Research Symposium on the Safety of Nuclear Waste Practices (safe<sup>ND</sup>) will take place in Berlin from September 17-19, 2025. The conference provides scientists from a broad range of disciplines the opportunity to present their research results on the safe treatment and disposal of radioactive waste and to engage in both intra- and interdisciplinary discussions. The following topics will be addressed at safe<sup>ND</sup>:

- Decommissioning of nuclear facilities
- Interim storage, conditioning and transportation of radioactive waste
- Site selection and final disposal of high-level and low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste
- Potential alternative disposal methods
- Participation and communication processes in nuclear safety and disposal projects
- Safety culture in nuclear waste disposal
- Socio-technical aspects of nuclear waste disposal (including historical, economic and legal analyses)
- Safeguards and non-proliferation in nuclear waste management
- Nuclear waste management issues regarding nuclear fusion

Further information on safe<sup>ND</sup> 2025 can be found at the following link: <https://www.base.bund.de/EN/topics/research/events/safend/safend-25.html>

We are looking very much forward to your suggestions!

*Your safe<sup>ND</sup>-Team*

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