

Session 4 – Strengthening International Cooperation

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Title of the paper:			
European Union International Cooperation to Improve Regulatory Effectiveness in Nuclear Safety			

The European Union (EU) promotes a high level of nuclear safety worldwide, through the "Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation" (INSC) since 2007. The INSC builds on the experience gained under the completed "Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States" Programme (TACIS) from 1991. Development and strengthening of national Regulatory Authorities' capabilities is a key activity in achieving the INSC goals, in particular in countries with or embarking on nuclear power. Specific partner countries under INSC include countries of all types of maturity in the nuclear technology, with mature countries such as Brazil, Mexico and Ukraine, countries with waste and mining issues, but no direct intention of embarking on nuclear power such as Georgia, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tanzania and countries planning to embark on nuclear power such as Belarus, Egypt, Jordan and Vietnam. For new projects, the main focus is on the neighbourhood of the EU.

The EU cooperation within INSC encompasses measures to support the promotion of high standards in radiation protection, radioactive waste management, decommissioning, remediation of contaminated sites, and efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material. The INSC regulatory support is aimed at continuous assistance to Nuclear Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), including their technical support organisations (TSOs), in order to reinforce the regulatory framework, notably concerning licensing activities.

The European Union values and supports the work of the IAEA in international networks and has supported the GNSSN (Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network) for many years and is actively involved in the activities of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum.

The European Commission (EC) places a high value on the importance of strong independent regulators and the EC reflected this in the Nuclear Safety Directive and the Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Directive, applicable in its Member States.

More than 25 regulatory organisations from EU Member States, NRAs, TSOs and other expert organisations are involved within the EU INSC projects for regulatory cooperation. This cooperation is based on three main pillars: a first pillar of regulatory development, a second pillar of "2+2" and a third pillar of training and tutoring of regulatory experts.

An overview of the approved planned projects and their project purpose will show the actual activities of the EU and how the lessons from the past are implemented and will be implemented in the present INSC 2014-2020 period, which has a total budget of 225M€.

For 2015 the support to approved projects was up to almost 60 M€ and included the following regulatory projects:

"Enhancing the capabilities of the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority in preparedness for and response to a nuclear or radiological emergency", "Support and assistance to strengthen the capabilities of the Belarusian Nuclear Regulatory Authority MES/Gosatomnadzor in the field of Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response", "Enhancing the capacity and regulatory capabilities of the Chinese National Nuclear Safety Administration in the areas of waste management, emergency preparedness and response, transport and national R Base", "Support to the Regulatory Body of Morocco for capacity building and for enhancing the regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety", "Strengthening of State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU) capabilities relevant for the regulation of nuclear activities", and also a specific contribution to the IAEA.

Examples of recent successful INSC projects, bilateral and multilateral will be presented, including lessons learned.