

ENSREG Work Programme 2021-2023

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European Nuclear Regulators Group (ENSREG) Work Programme 2021-23

1 - Introduction

ENSREG's central mission, as an expert advisory group to the European Commission, is to promote the highest standards and the continuous improvements of nuclear safety, and radioactive waste and spent fuel management and their regulation, and to promote openness and transparency in those areas.

The 2021-2023 ENSREG work programme continues to be shaped largely by Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom as amended by 2014/87/EURATOM (the amended Nuclear Safety Directive, NSD) and Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM (the Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Directive, RWD). Therefore, a key proportion of ENSREG's work in this period still concerns supporting the safety objectives of these Directives and assisting implementation by Member States. During 2021-23, ENSREG will continue to facilitate the follow up of the implementation of the National Action Plans following the European Stress Tests.

As in the previous work programme, ENSREG will continue to provide advice to the European Commission at the latter's request, in matters such as long-term operation of nuclear plants, decommissioning, nuclear safety cooperation and emergency preparedness and response (EP&R). A new topic, which could arise during the period of the work programme, is the safety and licencing of small modular reactors (SMRs). For this topic, the Commission may initiate discussions with ENSREG with a view to identifying those specific areas where ENSREG could advise the Commission

The WP covers the priorities for ENSREG's work for the period 2021-23 as well as certain actions that form part of a longer programme starting in the current period. This refers mainly to the follow-up from the first TPR (TPR-I) and the planning and implementation of the second TPR (TPR-II).

2 - ENSREG's main activities in 2021-23 concern the following topics:

1. Supporting the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive and the Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Directive:

Whilst it is Member States' responsibility to appropriately transpose and implement European Legislation, ENSREG will continue to play a role in assisting Member States and the Commission in several areas of work under the Directives. Whilst no further formal reporting will take place under Article 9 of the Nuclear Safety Directive, there will continue to be a focus on implementation of the NSD, in particular of Articles 8a-8c (the Nuclear Safety Objective). In addition, ENSREG will continue to support the Commission and Member States in addressing any issues to several Member States identified in the Commission Report to Council and Parliament on implementation of the NSD.

The three-yearly reporting cycle under Article 14 of the Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Directive continues as foreseen.

A critical task for ENSREG in this period will be to set out the framework to implement the second 'topical peer review', and in doing so working closely with WENRA as required by the Amended Nuclear Safety Directive and building on the experience of the first TPR, completed in 2018. The topical peer review will address fire protection as decided by ENSREG at its plenary in November 2020. At the same time, those countries that participated to TPR-I on ageing management, will report on the activities identified in their respective National Action Plans.

With reference to the implementation of the Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Directive, ENSREG will continue to support Member States particularly for specific aspects of interface between National Programmes and National Reports.

2. **Providing advice to the European Commission and coordination of Member State regulatory bodies**, in particular on matters related to the safety of nuclear installations and/or the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste:

The EC has requested ENSREG for advice as regards the revision and implementation of international assistance and technical cooperation programs, such as those under the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation (EI INSC), replacing the former EC Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC).

3. **Facilitate active participation in IAEA peer reviews within the European Union and oversight of the completion of the stress test 'National Action Plans':**

During this period ENSREG will continue to facilitate EU participation in peer reviews via the IAEA's 'Integrated Regulatory Reviews Service' (IRRS) and 'Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation' (ARTEMIS) peer review services, thereby supporting the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and management of spent fuel and radioactive waste in Europe. ENSREG will seek to improve the effectiveness of the two peer review programmes together with IAEA, exploiting synergies between the two programmes, where feasible. The long-term goal of a single peer review mission to cover the requirements of both Directives will be explored.

ENSREG played a pivotal role in the 2011 European Stress Tests and has since held two workshops to review progress on the National Action Plans created by member states. ENSREG, mainly through WG1, will continue to provide oversight through the agreed two-yearly reporting schedule.

ENSREG will also contribute to the peer review in third states outside of the EU, in particular in the EU neighbourhood, be these initial stress tests or reviews of National Action Plans and their implementation.

4. **Seeking enhanced openness and transparency** throughout ENSREG's activities, including (i) provision of revised guidelines to Member States on reporting and transparency as part of the ENSREG wide work on reporting under Directives, (ii) developing a communication strategy for ENSREG implementing a new approach to the ENSREG website, and (iii) holding ENSREG conference in 2022.

Further detail and expected delivery dates of the tasks ENSREG expects to perform against these above topics are set out in the next section. Tasks are prioritised on the following basis:

- **High Priority** – Tasks which must be undertaken by ENSREG in accordance with Commissioning decision 2007/530/Euratom; any other legal obligations; or work of major strategic importance to nuclear safety, management of spent fuel of radioactive waste.
- **Medium priority** – Tasks which should be undertaken in support of ENSREG's purposes; work of strategic importance to nuclear safety, management of spent fuel of radioactive waste.

- **Low priority** – tasks which could be undertaken to support ENSREG’s purposes but may make a limited contribution nuclear safety, management of spent fuel of radioactive waste; tasks of an administrative nature.
5. This Work Programme is aligned in time with the two-yearly ENSREG Report, allowing for enhanced follow up and reporting of progress in the implementation of the Work Programme, and facilitating its review – if necessary. Furthermore, the respective ENSREG Working Group Chairs will report to the ENSREG Plenary.

3 - Areas of work and key deliverables**1. Supporting the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive and the Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Directive**

Topic 1(a): Implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive 2009/71/EURATOM as amended by Directive 2014/87/EURATOM, in particular Articles 8a-8c				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Follow-up activities to support implementation of the revised NSD	TBD	2021 onwards	Plenary / COM	<p>Support to possible follow-up action(s) on the findings of the COM report to EP and Council on the implementation of the NSD (publication foreseen summer 2021) to support effective implementation of certain provisions of the NSD.</p> <p>May be especially relevant to findings applicable to several, or even all, Member States.</p> <p>Any potential actions should be discussed at the ENSREG plenary to determine how best to allocate the tasks, especially in view of possible external inputs e.g. WENRA or WENRA-RHWG. (may be relevant for actions 2 & 3 below)</p>
2. Follow-up of WENRA and IAEA progress on implementation of Art 8a-8c NSD / VDNS respectively.	M	Ongoing	Plenary / WENRA / IAEA	<p>Plenary will follow-up the work carried out in WENRA. WENRA Chair as observer will be asked to report on a regular basis on the progress in the implementation of WENRA activities to plenary. This includes the on-going benchmarking exercises in relation to Issue F to support on-going converging implementation of the Safety Objective.</p> <p>IAEA will be requested to present on relevant safety standards on this topic, including TECDOC -1894 on Safety Improvements, to the plenary.</p> <p>No new activities foreseen yet, though ENSREG may initiate on the basis of the WENRA / IAEA activities.</p>

3. Follow-up on the status of implementation of the WENRA Safety Reference Levels	M	ongoing	ENSREG Plenary / WENRA	<p>ENSREG will follow-up on the development and implementation status of the WENRA SRLs, for informative purposes.</p> <p>WENRA Chair as observer will be asked to report on a regular basis, on the progress in the implementation of WENRA activities to plenary, including the development of SRLs for RR.</p>
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Topic 1(b): Topical Peer Reviews (TPR) according to Art. 8e point 2 & 3 of the Nuclear Safety Directive 2014/87/EURATOM: Follow-up Activities TPR-I on Ageing Management				
Task / Deliverable	Priority <small>(H/M/L)</small>	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1(a) NRA to submit updated NACP	H	May 2021	NRA	Each national regulator will provide an updated NACP including a summary of the implementation status of NACP by end of May 2021 that will be used when preparing an ENSREG status report (Task 1(b) below).
1(b) Status report on Implementation of TPR 1	H	End 2021	WG1 / ENSREG	ENSREG/WG1 will draft a status report of implementation of the first TPR so that ENSREG can finalise it by end of 2021.
2 (a) NRA to submit updated NACP	H	End 2023	NRA	National regulators will provide an update on the implementation status of NACP by the end of 2023, as appropriate. These will be used when preparing a summary report (Task 2(b) below).
2(b) Summary report updated NACP	H	May 2024	WG1 / ENSREG	ENSREG/WG1 will prepare a summary report on the updated national action plans by end of May 2024. A decision on future follow-up will be taken at this time, taking into account the overall level of completion of NACPs.

Topic 1(c): Topical Peer Reviews (TPR) according to Art. 8e point 2 & 3 of the Nuclear Safety Directive 2014/87/EURATOM: conduct of TPR-II (most significant actions only as detailed process document exists)				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Elaborate the process for public involvement within the ENSREG 2nd Topical Peer Review	M	2020-2021	WG3	The aim of the work will include broader participation within the various stakeholder groups and a more proactive communication exchange with stakeholders.
2. TPR-I "lessons learnt" Document	H	Feb 2021	WG1/WG2 & Board & representative of WG3	Meeting between WG1 and the Board and discussion concerning the lessons learnt from the 1 st TPR and the draft ToR.
3. Draft TPR-II Terms of Reference	H	Feb 2022	Board	Finalising the ToR with technical experts (supported by WG1) and submission to ENSREG.
4. Final TPR-II Terms of Reference	H	Mar 2022	ENSREG	Approval of the ToR to be published on the ENSREG web page.
5. Technical Specification & National Report template	H	May 2022	WENRA RHWG/WG WD & Experts	Finalisation of the TS/National Report template taking into account stakeholder inputs.
6. National Reports	H	Oct 2023	NRA	Drafting National Reports -> published on the ENSREG web page (start July 2022).
7. TPR-II Workshop	H	2024	Board + technical experts + MS (+ other participating countries)	Desktop review. Peer review workshop. Preparation of the review reports. (The main outcome from the workshop would be the Summary report, together with the country findings.)
8. NAcP	H	End 2025	MS (+ other participating countries)	NAcPs published.
9. ENSREG Action Plan	H	End 2025	ENSREG	Approval of ENSREG Action Plan to be published. Approval of update frequency of NAcPs.

Topic 1(d): Report under Art. 14 of the spent fuel and radioactive waste Directive 2011/70/EURATOM.				
Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Follow up on the ENSREG position on KPIs in relation to the output of the relevant Commission study on KPIs.	H	2021	WG2	An interim technical position on progress towards implementation of national programmes and KPIs was issued by ENSREG WG2 in February 2020. Subsequently the EC has launched a study on KPIs for monitoring implementation of national programmes, including a questionnaire to EU Member States and a workshop. Once the results of the EC study will be available, ENSREG WG2 will finalise its technical position document in the form of guidance on the use of KPIs in national programmes and reports.

2. Advice to the European Commission and coordination of member state regulatory bodies

Topic 2(a): Advice to the Commission and coordination of regulatory bodies on issues concerning: long term operation, new build and decommissioning.				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Analyse and propose way forward to ensure effective constructive public engagement in the decision making process regarding LTO and decommissioning	M	2021-2022	Plenary / WG3	WG3 to examine how national regulators organise (or participate in the organisation of) public consultations regarding LTO and decommissioning. WG3 and ENSREG Plenary to consider and discuss the urgency and relative priority, considering the work load for 2021-2022.
2. Exploratory review of Member States' approaches to characterising the starting point and defining the end state of decommissioning.	H	2021-2022	WG2	Starting from the outcomes of the ENSREG conference 2019, the objective of WG2 is to review approaches adopted in Member States to identify and characterise the different parameters and uncertainties that affect the process of decommissioning from the starting phase to the defined end state.
3. Organise a technical meeting between EU regulatory authorities, TSOs and industry on Counterfeit, Fraudulent and Suspect Items (CFSI) issues	M	2021	WG1	The issue of Counterfeit, Fraudulent and Suspect Items (CFSI) in the supply chain has been identified during the 2017 ENSREG Conference as a key issue. A technical meeting on this issue gathering the different actors of the supply chain as well as utilities and regulatory authorities should be organised to share information and identify possible ways to improve the situation and the necessary controls. (Delayed due to Covid-19 and carried over from previous WP)
4. Review of approaches in regulation and management of radioactive waste arising from non-energy uses of nuclear and radiation technologies.	H	2021-2023	WG2	As per Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom Member States are responsible to have a national policy for radioactive waste management including radioactive waste and spent fuel originated from non-energy uses of nuclear and radiological technologies. Such activities produce spent fuel and/or radioactive waste in all Member States and their safe management is important. Under the SAMIRA action plan, the Commission requests an

Topic 2(a): Advice to the Commission and coordination of regulatory bodies on issues concerning: long term operation, new build and decommissioning.				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
				ENSREG position on best practices in national management systems for radioactive waste generated from non-power use of nuclear and radiation technology.
Topic 2(b): Emergency Preparedness and Response				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Monitor and report on implementation of HERCA-WENRA approach in the field of EP&R. – Invite HERCA to present to ENSREG a summary of the work to date	L	2021	Plenary/ member states	Carried over from previous WP. Reviewing the status of the work of HERCA to date will allow ENSREG to determine, what its role could be in the process, and any possible follow-up actions. An ad-hoc meeting outside the plenary is proposed for this first step.

3. Openness and transparency and communication of ENSREG activities

Topic 3(a): ENSREG Regulatory Conference on Nuclear Safety				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Deliver ENSREG Conference in 2022	H	June 2022	2022 Steering Committee for the ENSREG conference	<p>Lead member state supported by volunteers from other member states. Venue & administrative support from the Commission.</p> <p>Review conference organisation based on lessons learnt from previous conference in 2019, increase participation from the industry and other stakeholders, include additional topics reflecting the main areas of interest for the public and NGOs.</p> <p>(The next ENSREG Conference will be held two years after the 2022 ENSREG Conference, i.e. in 2024).</p>

Topic 3(b): ENSREG website				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Finalise the revision of the management of the ENSREG website and address its redesign	M	Ongoing	EC website management team, reporting to WG3	<p>Replace the current contract with the hosting company (dedicated server) with a new contract (two plans: one for the online website, another for testing purposes), migrate the ENSREG website to the secure https format and to the most recent Drupal CMS version (8).</p> <p>Modernise its layout while maintaining its easiness in use. WG3 will cooperate with the Commission internal communication experts.</p>

Topic 3(c): ENSREG report and revision of its work plan:				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. 7 th & 8 th ENSREG report	H	2021 / 2023	Plenary/EC high level task group	Every two years. Contributions from the working groups and the Secretariat.
2. Preparation of the 2024-2026 Work Programme	M	2023	ENSREG Chair, working with working groups chairs and EC	If appropriate, a review of the new work programme format, utilised in this work programme, will also be undertaken. (Review to start Q1 2023 at latest)

Topic 3(d): ENSREG Communication Policy and Strategy				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Elaboration of Communication Policy for ENSREG and development of a Communication Strategy	M	2020-2021	WG3	The basis for the work is the ENSREG communication strategy working paper from 2014.

4. Implementation of peer reviews, 'Stress Tests' and 'National Action Plans'

Topic 4(a): National Action Plans: Continue follow-up process for outstanding issues to support full implementation and for future reporting requirements				
Task /Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Update of Stress Tests NAcPs	H	End 2021	NRA	Each participating country will publish an updated NAcP every 2 years (next deadline end of 2021), until completion of their respective NAcPs. A closure report needs to be published after completion and the outcome(s) presented during the next WG1 meeting. (Secretariat to remind relevant countries mid-2021).
2. Reporting on overall Stress Tests NAcPs implementation status	M	March 2022	WG1	WG1 will follow-up the implementation of the NAcPs and publish a summary status report every 2 years until completion of all NAcPs (next deadline March 2022). WG1 will consider the preparation and publication of a final summary report covering the status and completion of all actions.

Topic 4(b): Stress Tests Peer Reviews in Third Countries				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Belarus – peer review of the implementation of the National Action Plan	H	Till mid 2021 (at latest)	EC lead task group	Activity nearing completion at end of 2020. Depending on how the pandemic continues, the final report could be approved by ENSREG in Q1/2021 or Q2/2021.
2. Turkey – peer review of the Stress Test National Report of Turkey (Akkuyu)	H	2021-2023	EC lead task group	Identify team leader and pool of experts, review and adapt if necessary peer review process, perform peer review, issue peer review report.
3. Iran – peer review of the Stress Test National Report of Iran (Bushehr)	H	2021-2023	EC lead task group	Identify pool of experts, adapt if necessary peer review process, perform peer review, issue peer review report.
4. Other countries. NPP projects in other countries in the broader region may reach a stage where preparatory actions for a peer review could be commenced towards the end of this Work Programme.		2023 -	EC lead task group	

Topic 4(c): IAEA IRRS and ARTEMIS Peer Review Missions in the EU Member States: follow the schedule, maintain a pool of experts, ensure active participation, support process improvement, lessons learnt and follow-up				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Consideration of IRRS and ARTEMIS Pools of experts and IRRS indicative programme	M	Every WG1 & WG2 meeting	WG1 & WG2 peer review coordinators	Working Group 1 and 2 working in partnership across IRRS and ARTEMIS peer review programmes for EU countries.
2. IRRS and ARTEMIS “combined missions”	M	a. 2021 – 2022 b. 2021 - 2025	WG1 & WG2	Since the IRRS-ARTEMIS combined mission in Spain in October 2018, there has been increased interest from Member States in exploring synergies between the IRRS and ARTEMIS programmes, with a view to avoiding overlaps where possible and reducing the burden on Member States. A combined WG1-WG2 sub-group has been set up to address the concerns raised and explore resolution with IAEA. The work will continue with the goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to improve back-to-back missions in the near term and; b. further develop and achieve one integrated mission.
3. Summary report on “first cycle” of peer reviews under Article 8 e1 (IRRS) to 2021	M	2022	WG1	By July 2021, all 27 Member States should have invited an IRRS peer review mission. This would seem the appropriate point to review the experience of all Member States. The input would largely come from IAEA summary reports of findings under the EC –supported delegation agreements. The topic could also be the focus of the next European Workshop on IRRS “lessons learnt”.

Topic 5: Support for the European Instrument for Nuclear Safety (EINS)				
Task / Deliverable	Priority (H/M/L)	Date	Delivered by	Remarks
1. Review of Multiannual Indicative Programme	H	2021	WG1, WG2, WG3	EI-INSC will replace the current Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation from 2021 onwards. The Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) needs to be reviewed by ENSREG before it can be applied. Therefore, review will be required early in 2021. Note that if significant changes are made to the MIP during its lifetime, a further ENSREG review may be necessary.

4 - Working Groups

ENSREG has three working groups which meet as required to support the work of ENSREG and these working groups will, as appropriate, put in place their own more detailed work programmes to manage the deliverables attributed to them. Where working groups do not have a specific task to deliver for ENSREG they will, in consultation with the Chair and Plenary, either disband or move to a dormant state pending allocation of further work.

Working Group 1 (WGNS) - Improving Nuclear Safety arrangements and International Cooperation;

Working Group 2 (WGRWMD) - Improving Radioactive Waste Management, Spent Fuel and Decommissioning arrangements;

Working Group 3 (WGTA) - Improving in Transparency arrangements.