



Nuclear safety cooperation between Norway and Romania under EEA and Norway Grants

The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, the Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control and the International Atomic Energy Agency have entered into an agreement with the main purpose to enhance regulatory competence in Romania. The project is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2013 and will be completed in 2016.



Norway contributes to nuclear safety in Romania at the Cernavoda nuclear power plant. Photo: Pavel Tishakov, NRPA

Goals and objectives of the Project

The goal of the project is to improve the competence of the Romanian regulatory authority (CNCAN) in eight specific areas (referred to below as sub-projects) through the exchange of experience, best practices and capacity building with the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The project has a budget of 4.2 million euros, which will be covered by the EEA and Norway Grants. NRPA has previously cooperated with Romania under the EEA cooperation.

Main project activities

The main activities of the project are summarized in the following subprojects:

- Nuclear safety
- Integrated management systems and knowledge management
- Oversight/inspections
- Safety of the transport of radioactive materials
- Emergency preparedness
- Control of radiation sources
- Radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel and decommissioning
- Safeguards

Target groups

- CNCAN and CNCAN staff
- Operators and owners of nuclear installations in Romania: Cernavoda

- nuclear power plant and TRIGA and VVR-S research reactors
- Operators and owners of radioactive waste facilities in Romania
- Emergency preparedness entities in Romania (in addition to CNCAN)
- Users of radiation sources and radioactive materials in Romania
- Organizations that transport radioactive sources and radioactive waste

Project organization

Several of the project activities will be carried out through the exchange of experience, best practices and capacity building between CNCAN and NRPA. However, the entire project will be organized through an IAEA extra-budgetary programme. IAEA's involvement guarantees the implementation of project activities in accordance with international standards and with the participation of international experts with special expertise in these areas.

One of the roles of the NRPA in the implementation of the project is to plan, organize and conduct a major international emergency response exercise in Romania, which will include safety, radiation protection and assessment of impacts and actions for a given event. This will be a follow-up of the Bulgarian-Romanian exercise "Nautilus -2011" organized by NRPA. The exercise involved the transportation of spent nuclear fuel from the Kozloduy nuclear power plant in Bulgaria.

NRPA will be especially involved in the areas of nuclear safety, inspections, radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel and decommissioning activities.

IAEA will assist CNCAN in the updating of multiple regulations, standards, methods and procedures, and the development of new documents. NRPA will also participate in this effort. All documents will be based on new experience, including that of the Fukushima

accident, and will take into account international recommendations. A total of 35 documents are expected to be developed and updated during the project.

CNCAN is responsible for achieving all project objectives. In addition, CNCAN will coordinate activities with project partners, communication with project stakeholders, reporting to donors management of project risks, financial resources and publication of results.

Description of project partners

The Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) is a public regulatory authority responsible for the regulation, licensing and control of nuclear activities, ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the protection of public and workers from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

NRPA is an authority and a national competence centre in areas of nuclear safety, all uses of radiation, natural radiation and radioactive contamination of the environment.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international UN organization with 159 Member States focusing on the safe use of nuclear energy.



The Romanian Radiation Protection Authority CNCAN. Photo: CNCAN.