NUCLEAR COOPERATION II

INSTRUMENT FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY COOPERATION

What is nuclear cooperation?

The EU supports the promotion of a high level of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective nuclear material safeguards in non-EU countries, with priority given to accession and neighbouring countries.

The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) was created to support the EU’s efforts in relation to the continuous improvement of nuclear safety by promoting an effective nuclear safety culture; implementing the highest nuclear safety and radiation protection standards; and establishing frameworks and methodologies for the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material in non-EU countries. The programme also supports EU efforts relating to the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, including its transportation, treatment, processing, storage and disposal, along with the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations.

Why is it necessary?

The promotion of the highest level of nuclear safety is crucial for the safety and the security of the population and the environment of the EU. The Fukushima Daichii accident in 2011 and the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 showed that all accidents have transboundary effects and impact the international community widely. Access to nuclear or radioactive materials is a global security concern, and evidence exists that non-state actors are trying to gain access to such materials. The INSC has successfully contributed to reducing risks by providing support to regulatory authorities in particular, with priority given to accession countries (Turkey and western Balkan partners) and countries in the European neighbourhood area (Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and Ukraine) engaged in nuclear power generation. It also includes health and environmental measures aimed at helping the population that was affected by the Chernobyl accident in Ukraine and Belarus.

New challenges have to be addressed, in addition to the ongoing EU actions aiming at establishing or enhancing independent and competent regulatory authorities that will guarantee the safe use of nuclear energy and promoting sound safeguarding systems to enforce the non-proliferation regime. Emergency preparedness systems need to be put in place. Training and tutoring are essential to ensure the correct management of nuclear power generation.

In all these domains, the EU has long experience in nuclear safety and security and in the use of the highest safety standards. Moreover, it is in the EU's interest to extend the acquis communautaire in the field of nuclear energy to non-EU countries, especially with respect to carrying out stress tests in the EU’s neighbourhood and abroad.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period


Specific objectives

- The promotion of an effective nuclear safety culture and implementation of the highest nuclear safety and radiation protection standards, and the continuous improvement of nuclear safety.
- Responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, namely transport, pre-treatment, treatment, processing, storage and disposal, and the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations.
- The establishment of frameworks and methodologies for the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material in non-EU countries.

How is it implemented?

The Directorate-General for International Partnerships is the lead DG for the directly managed implementation of the programme.

More information

http://europa.eu/!kX93QG
Concrete examples of achievements

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<tr>
<th>2 500</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>36</th>
<th>18</th>
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<td>people took part in the training and tutoring programme in 2014-2020.</td>
<td>countries and regions benefited from EU assistance in nuclear safety in 2014-2020.</td>
<td>regulatory documents were drafted and adopted in 2014-2020.</td>
<td>nuclear waste management and strategy documents were produced in 2014-2020.</td>
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