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Terms of Reference for Programme document

Work Package 4

Editors: R Kowe, E Scourse, T Beattie
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1. Introduction

1.1 Aim and background of Joint Programming

The goal of the JOPRAD project is to prepare the ground for developing a proposal for the setting up of a “Joint Programming on Radioactive Waste Disposal”. Such Joint Programming would bring together at the European level, those aspects of research, development and demonstration activities (RD&D) activities implemented within national research programmes where synergy from Joint Programming has been identified.

The purpose of this document, is to define the terms of reference for the ‘Programme Document’ which will help to identify the key common priorities of the different actors in the field of geological disposal and will form the technical roadmap for research going forward into a Joint Programme.

2. Terms of reference

2.1 Objectives

The Programme Document will be the technical background for Joint Programming. It will cover the key issues related to geological disposal of spent fuel and other high activity long lived radioactive waste, including waste management aspects linked with their disposal and accompanying key activities (Education and Training E&T, as well as Knowledge Management KM).

The Programme Document will therefore incorporate the key priorities (including time-schedules) of WMOs, TSOs and Research Entities and will form the scientific and technical basis of future Joint Programming. A particular emphasis will be on the implementation of geological disposal and on the scientific questions arising from remaining uncertainties and safety concerns related to it.

The Programme Document is based on work done during work package 3 of the JOPRAD project which identified the conditions that should be met for allowing the construction and management of a joint scientific programme that balances the interests of the parties involved in the research associated with radioactive waste management, fostering cooperation and coordination but without any prejudice of independency required between the WMOs, TSOs, Research Entities and Civil Society [i].

It is acknowledged that there will remain research objectives and key subjects related to geological disposal which are not shared by all actors. However, sharing views on these issues would be considered as beneficial to the project.

It is proposed to define a limited number of research topics for Joint Programming and in each of them identify what could be turned into common activities. The Programme document will cover a period of at least 5 years and will be updated on a yearly basis. Each of these research domains will be laid out in such a way as to encourage participation or interaction of the stakeholders and Civil Society.

2.2 Main Tasks

- Set out the conditions that need to be met for allowing the construction and management of a joint scientific programme that balances the interests of all parties involved in the research associated with radioactive waste management.
- Identify the key research issues of the IGD-TP’s, SITEX’s and the Research Entities strategic research agendas that could be included in a shared programme, whilst maintaining independence of actors and ensuring transparency.
- Group the common topics under the key research issues. Defining a scope for the common topics and scoring them based on their needs and priorities.
• Give the rationale as to why some topics were not included for a first stage Joint Programming and flag which topics could be included in future Joint Programming stages and which would be rejected outright.
• Ensure selected Joint Programming common topics are consistent with the Waste Directive.
• Document cross cutting activities (e.g. E&T, KM and dissemination strategy) for inclusion in Joint Programming with a strategy for their implementation. This includes integration of relevant activities of the European Security and Safety School (EN3S).
• Propose and prepare the mechanisms for interacting with Civil Society on those research issues and common topics relevant to society (notably social science).
• Organise a one day workshop in London in April 2017 to disseminate the Programme Document.
• Organise a consultation of stakeholders (including IGD-TP, SITE X and Research Entity members) and the scientific community involved in the JOPRAD project to review the Programme Document.
• Publish the Programme Document.