

ERDO

dual-track for optimized radioactive waste management

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The ERDO Association (Association for Multinational Radioactive Waste Solutions) is an association with a mission to address the common challenges of safely managing the radioactive wastes of our countries.

Logic of a dual-track policy

Shared solutions have clear advantages, especially for small inventory States:

- Lower costs
- More choice of possible suitable locations
- Pooling technical capacity, personnel and facilities
- Diversification of disposal technologies

Members

Our aim is to enable the establishment of one or more operational, shared European waste management solutions as a complement to national programmes. Any organisation that supports our aim can join ERDO. Current ERDO members and associate members are:

- ARAO (SI)
- COVRA (NL)
- DEKOM (DK)
- ENEA (IT)
- Fund (HR)

- IFE (NO)
- NND (NO)
- ONDRAF/NIRAS (BE)
- Ministry of Climate & Environment (PL)

Activities

ERDO envisages a long-term programme of shared activities that aim to spin-off concrete solutions to waste management and eventually lead to shared facilities. ERDO perceives two main pathways that structure its work:

- **Policy and Strategy Path:** exploring and developing routes to a shared MNR;
- **RD&D Path:** solving common problems and thus facilitating shared disposal.

Collaboration starts pre-disposal through joint projects - two were started in 2020:

- **Legacy waste characterization¹**
- **Deep Borehole Disposal²**

Further cooperative projects are being prepared between ERDO and the USDOE and between ERDO and the OECD/NEA.

More about ERDO activities e.g. with EURAD- and EU-projects can be found in ERDO's annual report 2021³.

Way forward

ERDO's purpose is to act as a knowledge centre for both national and multinational solutions. ERDO's ultimate objective is to implement deep geological disposal in multinational repositories (MNR).

References

1. <https://www.erdo.org/legacy-waste-characterization/>
2. <https://www.erdo.org/deep-borehole-disposal/>
3. <https://www.erdo.org/app/uploads/2022/07/ERDO-Annual-report-2021-for-web.pdf>
4. <https://www.erdo.org/app/uploads/2021/09/The-ERDO-Association-Roadmap-09-21.pdf>

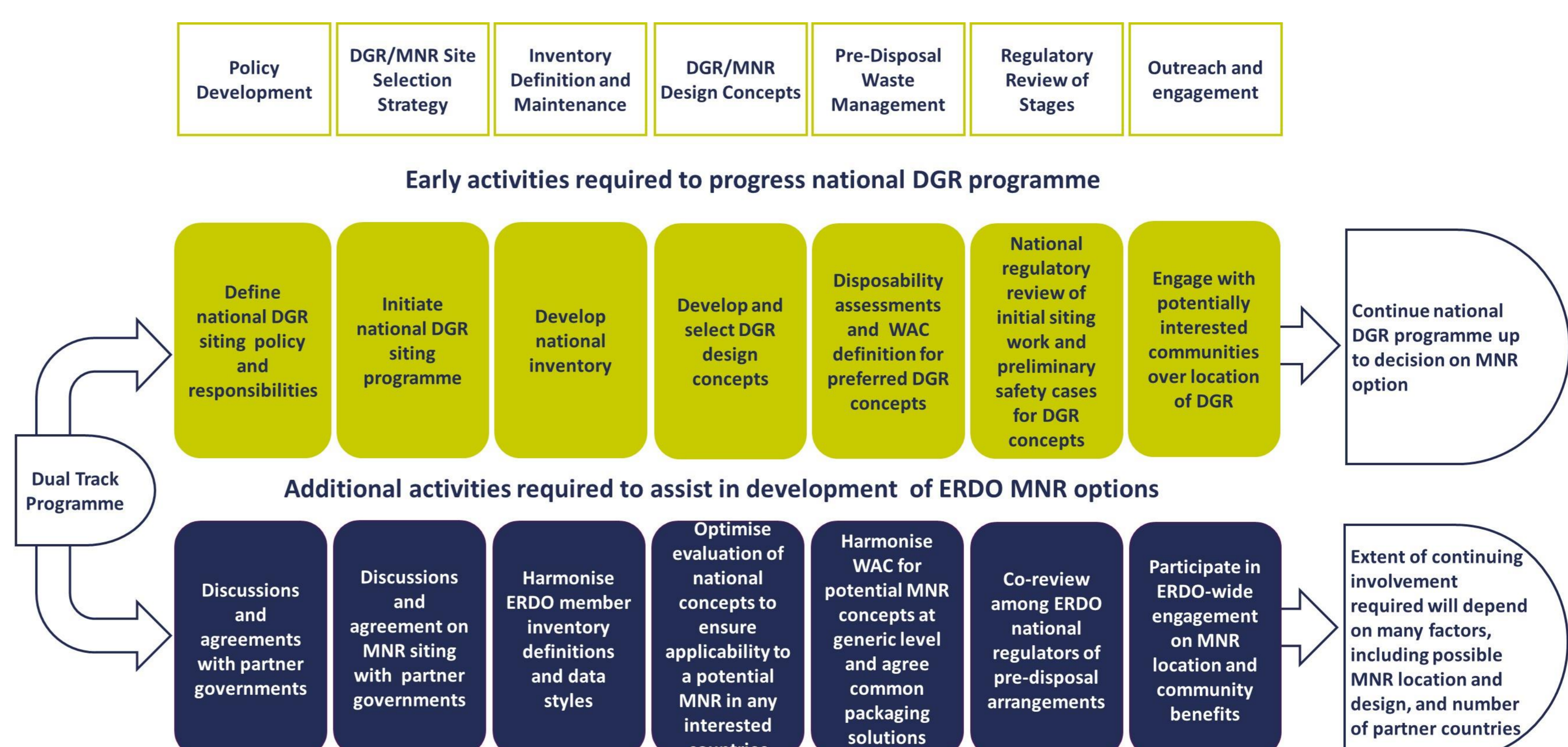


- Shared staff, teams, facilities, projects.... reduces costs
- Membership of ERDO provides the prospect of a shared solution
- National programmes and shared ERDO 'tracks' run together

A dual-track policy is a credible approach. The second, multinational, track costs little extra but provides a potential long-term reward, as well as short-term benefits.

There are many potential routes towards MNRs and much work of both a technical and strategic nature needs to be done. The ERDO Roadmap⁴ is a living framework to guide and manage our work towards MNRs.

The Roadmap shows how following the dual track approach requires some additional activities to develop multinational solutions in parallel with each stage of the national programme, as shown below:



Acknowledgements

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