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## Project Partners



### Rationale of the project

Activities associated with nuclear facility decommissioning and the predisposal management of radioactive waste involve applications of international safety standards and European Union directives whose implementation can vary from one country to another as they are adapted to local considerations and national policies. Examples include waste classification, waste acceptance and the specific criteria for material clearance and exemption from regulatory control. These national differences can create difficulties in interpreting waste management practices between Member States (MS) and establishing consistent and coherent waste management policies and implementation strategies at the European scale. Moreover, this lack of commonality may contribute to sub-optimal waste management outcomes (in terms of safety, economics, sustainability and innovation), while simultaneously hindering communication (and therefore also public acceptance).

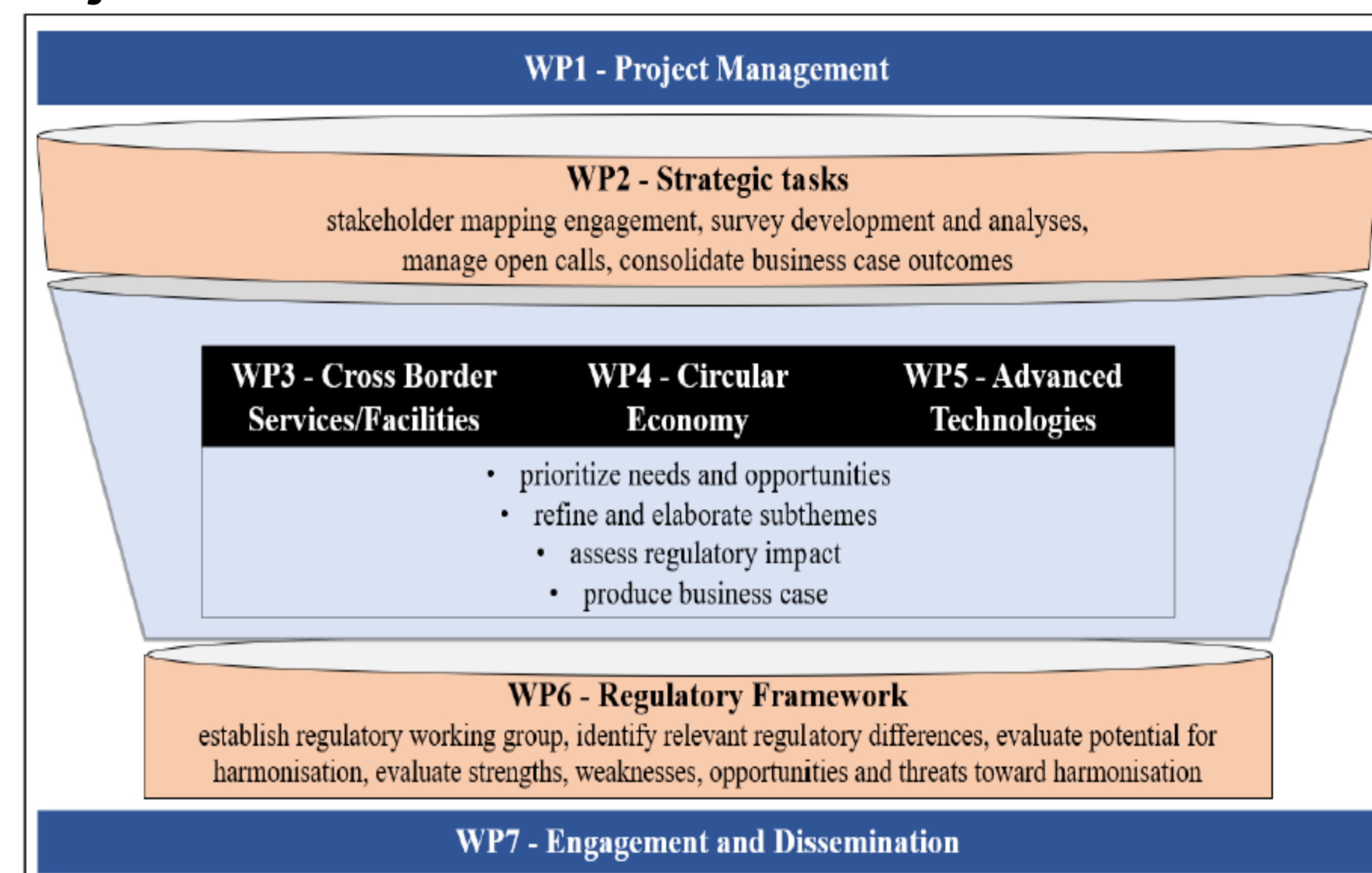
A greater convergence and harmonisation of national standards would allow for increased international cooperation among all relevant actors in nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management.

### Objectives of the project

The overall goal of the HARPERS project is to establish and clarify the benefits and added value of more aligned and harmonised regulations, practices and standards in decommissioning and radioactive waste management, including possibilities for shared processing, storage and disposal facilities between MS. Obstacles and issues preventing implementation of a more common regulatory framework will also be identified. The high-level benefits of more aligned and harmonised regulations are related to:

- (1) larger degree of implemented sustainability, (2) greater business opportunities, (3) better understanding between diverse groups serving wider markets, (4) improved cost efficiency, (5) waste minimisation and (6) improved final disposability of waste.

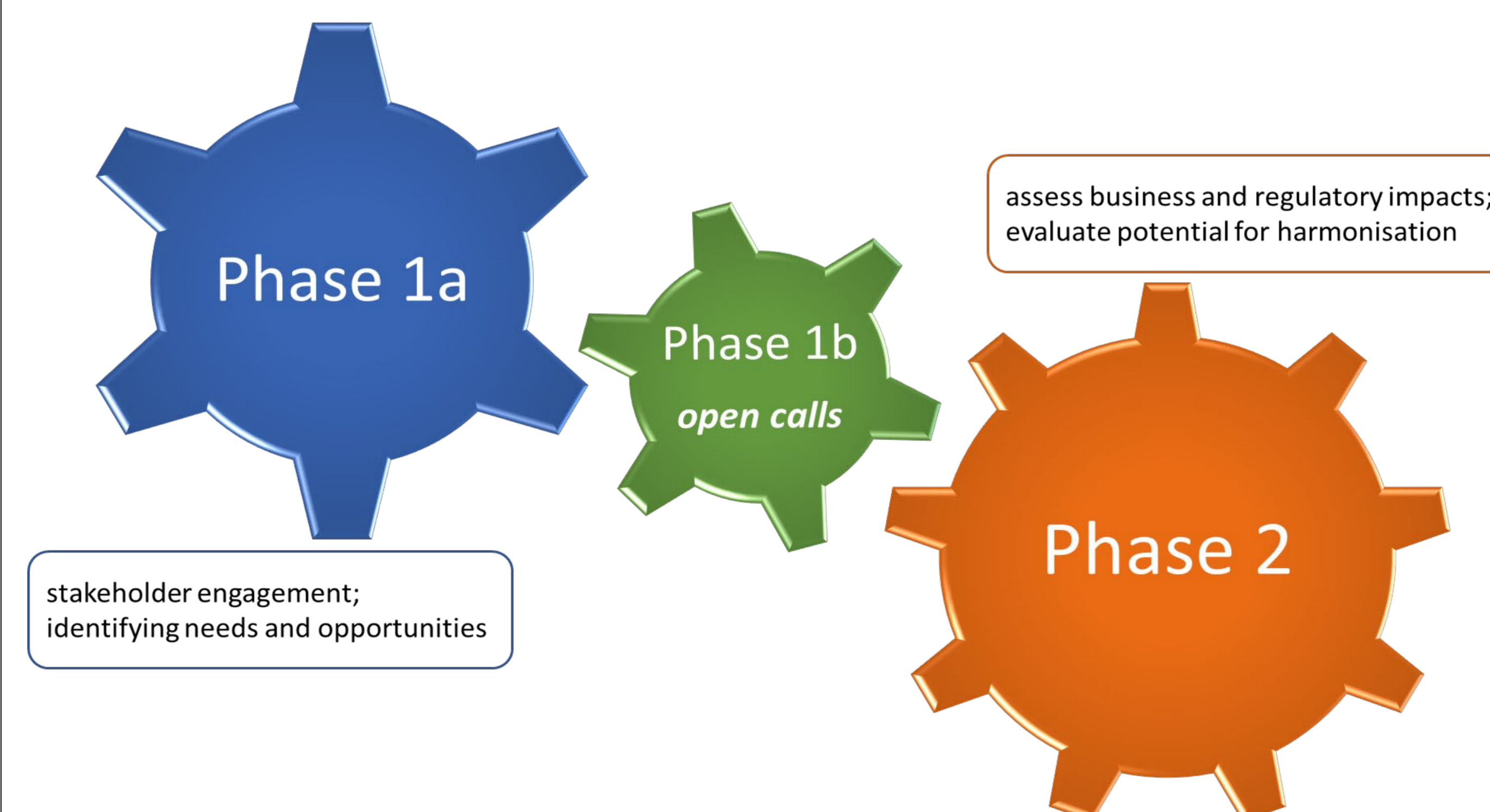
### Project structure



Realisation of these high-level benefits would contribute to enhancing the overall safety and economics of the nuclear sector. The EU-HARPERS project aims to reinforce the activities of the European Joint Programme EURAD, PREDIS and the SHARE projects, and international cooperation is encouraged.

### Two-staged approach

The project is deployed in two stages (year 1 then years 2-3) to ensure that the main focus/attention is given to the highest priority topics identified by stakeholders.



**Phase 1a:** establishing a wide MS stakeholder community + engagement with them → defining priority areas for Phase 2.

**Phase 1b:** open call for project expert contributions on defined priority areas + possibility for external 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to contribute.

**Phase 2:** further developing the priority topics including deeper engagement with the stakeholder community; assessing business and regulatory impacts.

Activities on project management and engagement & dissemination are running throughout all phases.

### Duration & budget

- Started June 2022, 3 years
- 26 Institutes
- 13 Countries
- Total cost: 3.1 M€ (2.4 M€ EC contribution)



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