



Nuclear safety cooperation between Norway and Romania under Norway Grants

The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, the Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control and the International Atomic Energy Agency are enhancing the regulatory competence in Romania. The project started in the end of 2013 and will be completed in 2017.



Norway Grants helps CNCAN to learn best practices from other countries. Like a scientific visit in Canada.
Photo: Roland Kovacs, 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 85% covered by the Norway Grants and 15% covered by Romania. NRPA cooperated with Romania in a similar project under the European Economic Area cooperation in 2009-2011.

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 are carried out through the exchange of experience, best practices and capacity building between CNCAN and NRPA. The IAEA is receiving fund from NRPA 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 is a follow-up of the Bulgarian-Romanian exercise "Nautilus" in 2011 co-organized by NRPA.

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

IAEA assist CNCAN in the updating of multiple regulations, standards, methods and procedures, and the development of new documents. All new and revised documents are based on new experiences, including that of the Fukushima accident, and take into account the newest IAEA and WENRA guide lines. In the project, 12 new

documents and procedures are developed and 13 national and international recommendations implemented in Romania so far.

CNCAN is responsible for achieving all project objectives. In addition, CNCAN coordinates activities with project partners, communication with project stakeholders, reporting to Program Operators about risks of the project, 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 ionizing radiation.

The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) is the competent national authority in the area of radiation protection and nuclear safety and security in Norway.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international UN organization with 164 Member States focusing on the safe use of nuclear energy.



CNCAN visit at the Western Waste Management Facility in Ontario. Photo: Roland Kovacs, NRPA.