



Issue #2, December 2016

JOPRAD Newsletter

Towards a Joint Programming on Radioactive Waste Disposal

Announcement of the JOPRAD Programme Document Workshop 4th April 2017

The Programme Document, main outcome of the JOPRAD Project

The Programme Document will form the scientific and technical basis of future European Joint Programme (EJP) and will address:

- Background, benefits and boundary conditions for a JP;
- Key Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) domains as well as Knowledge Management (KM) activities that could be included in a future EJP, in consistency with the national programmes requested by the Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom;
- The methodology that was used within JOPRAD to bring out these domains/topics;
- A proposal for governance and implementation mechanisms of such a EJP

Aim of the Programme Document Workshop

Present the main findings of JOPRAD that form the basis of the Programme Document. More specifically, this workshop will be the occasion to present:

- The background for setting-up a Joint Programme ;
- The research domains identified as suitable for a JP by R&D actors (Waste Management Organisations (WMOs), Technical Support Organisations (TSOs) and Research Entities (REs) and how these domains were selected and then prioritised while maintaining the independency of the actors;
- How Civil Society has been engaged in the process and how the interaction with stakeholders can be envisaged within a JP;
- Examples of potential projects (RD&D projects and KM activities) that could be carried out within the first phase of a Joint Programme;
- A possible governance and implementation mechanism.

Targeted audience

- Ministries, national/regional authorities (programme owners)
- WMOs, TSOs and RE (programme managers)
- Civil Society stakeholders
- European Commission



Practical information

Date: 4 April 2017

Venue: Amba hotel, Marble Arch, London

Registration via : JOPRAD-PDW@nda.gov.uk

Registration deadline: 28th February 2017

Further information: www.joprad.eu

The overall aim of the JOPRAD project is to assess the feasibility and prepare for the setting-up of a European R&D Joint Programme that would bring together all R&D actors in the field of geological disposal for high activity long-lived radioactive waste.

JOPRAD is a Coordination and Support Action co-funded by the European Commission under the Euratom Research and Training Programme on Nuclear Energy within the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. It started in June 2015 and will last 30 months with an hold point at month 15 (Mid-Term Workshop).

JOPRAD Newsletter aims to keep all interested parties informed on the JOPRAD activities



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Focus on Work Package 3 – Basis for the Joint Programme

The Work Package 3 aimed to:

- ✓ Identify key aspects of WMOs, TSOs and REs' research agendas that could be part of a Joint Programme at EU level;
- ✓ Develop a programme for cross-cutting/horizontal activities for Radioactive Waste Management;
- ✓ Allow all the parties (including Civil Society) potentially involved in the process to set the conditions of their involvement in a potential Joint Programme.



Identification of key aspects of WMOs, TSOs and REs' research agendas that could be part of a Joint Programme at EU level

The three following Working Groups have been established:

- Waste Management Organisations' Working Group
- Technical Support Organisations' Working Group
- The Research Entities' Working Group

The objectives of these WGs were to identify what would be the **added value of a JP** and the **boundary conditions** from each group's perspective, identify **areas of RD&D suitable for a Joint Programme**, and identify key aspects of their RD&D needs (including timeframe) that could be included in a JP while **maintaining independency** between the different actors.

In order to ensure inclusiveness, all European WMOs, TSOs, REs have been invited to integrate those Working Groups and to participate in JOPRAD discussions.

The outcomes of these groups constitute the technical inputs to Work Package 4 which aims at developing a RD&D Programme for a JP ("Programme Document").

Development of a programme for cross-cutting/horizontal activities

WP3 has developed an integrated programme for cross-cutting/horizontal activities* whose aim is to enable present and future disposal programmes to benefit from the Knowledge generated through past, ongoing and future R&D programmes and activities.

* i.e. those activities that are of concern to all actors involved in R&D for radioactive waste management/geological disposal, but that are not directly R&D (State-of-Knowledge handbook, Education, Training, Guidance, Strategic Studies, Transfer of Knowledge, and Dissemination)

Interactions with Civil Society organizations on the process of building a JP

A group of Civil Society organisations has been established in order to assess the process of Joint Programming and to identify expectations and views of Civil Society regarding the conditions for setting such a JP and its potential involvement in the governance and to identify research areas that Civil Society would like to see included into the research programmes

Work Package 4 – Elaboration of a research programme

The objective of the WP₄ is to **produce the Research Programme Document which will be the scientific and technical basis of a future European Joint Programme.**

In order to further identify the needs of common interest – across all actors and further prioritize RD&D needs and topics which are suitable for a JP, a **questionnaire** has been developed which contains the needs identified as potentially suitable for a JP by WMOs, TSOs and REs within Work Package 3. The questionnaire has been disseminated to all European WMOs, TSOs and REs so that they can comment on this list of topics, and add to these where gaps are identified.

For each domain/subdomain, respondents have the opportunity to indicate if it is not suitable for a JP and explain why (e.g. topics that are key for an upcoming safety case, national specific topics...). For topics considered as suitable for a JP, the actors are asked:

- ✓ if it addresses:
 - **Operational RD&D needs** (RD&D activities focusing on the development and application of knowledge towards implementation)
 - RD&D needs to **maintain-increase competence/knowledge**
 - **Prospective RD&D needs** (RD&D activities focusing on the development of knowledge and long-range science possibly relevant for safety & implementation)
- ✓ If there is an interest/added value in **horizontal activities** (State of knowledge, exchange on practices, develop common position, benchmarking activities on methodologies, transfer knowledge)
- ✓ If topics are not already addressed in existing international organisations (such as IAEA, NEA, etc...)
- ✓ If the needs are of :
 - High interest for 2019-2024 (period of the first EJP)
 - Interest beyond 2024
- ✓ If their commitment could consist of:
 - Active contribution (providing financial/in-kind contribution)
 - Interest in outputs of the activities without financial/in-kind contribution (i.e. end user)

The analysis of the questionnaires' response has just started. Methodology and main outcomes will be presented at the Programme Document Workshop on 4th April 2017.

Feedback from Regional Meeting

On 3-4 February 2016, JOPRAD project organised in Bucarest, Romania, a **Regional Meeting in order to inform on, engage and involve countries with less advanced geological disposal programmes** in the process of Joint Programming (JP) and its preparation within the JOPRAD project.

The objective was to inform the countries with RWM programmes in an early-stage and involve them in the discussion for the future Joint Programme and increase the awareness of decision makers.

The Regional Meeting was intended in priority for New Members States governmental institutions representatives ; New Members States representatives from WMOs, TSOs, REs and Civil Society representatives . The meeting was attended by 67 representatives of 17 countries and the EC.



DOCUMENTATION

- [Agenda](#)
- [List of Presentations](#)
- [Regional Meeting Report](#)

Feedback from Mid-Term Workshop

The **Mid-Term Workshop** was held on 7-8 September 2016, in Prague, Czech Republic. As a **key milestone of JOPRAD**, it gathered about 80 participants from 19 countries (Europe and beyond).

The rationale for **Joint Programming** (including benefits and challenges), the strategy and the technical common priorities was presented and discussed at the Workshop. Contractual instruments as well as governance rules and the possible financing schemes were also outlined.



DOCUMENTATION

- [Agenda](#)
- [List of presentations](#)
- [Mid-Term Workshop Report](#)

It enabled participants to **reach a common vision on the way forward for the setting up of a Joint Programme between Member States at European level.**

In addition, it was also an opportunity for Civil Society stakeholders to bring in their interests and ways to be involved in the different activities, as well as participation in the Governance.