

Establishing the Priorities: Views of the Research Entities

8 September 2016
Prague

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This project has received funding from the Euratom research and training programme 2014-2018 under grant agreement n° 653951



Content of the Presentation

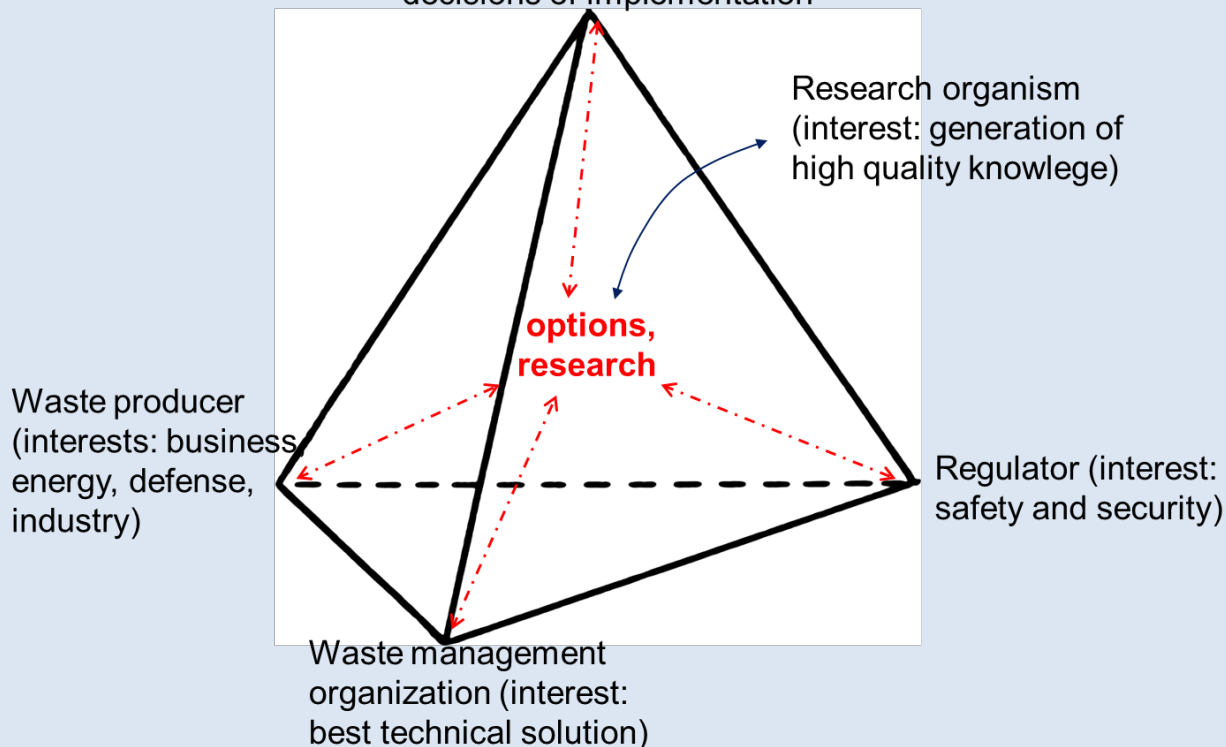
1. Starting point: the role of research entities
2. The guiding vision of RE
3. Mission statement
4. How to ensure inclusiveness
5. Current status of SRA-RE
6. Participation in joint “Horizontal activities”
7. Conclusions



The role of research entities

A schematic vision on separation and role of actors

General and local public interest:
parliamentary offices, government, regions
assure procedures, review, transparency
decisions of implementation



Until now, the vision of RE is often forged by work for WMO and TSO, but...

- *Research is often driven by needs of parameters (Kd...) without being at the forefront of science*
- *Research is rarely guided by a common vision of the needs of developing a scientific safety case but by open questions in specific knowledge fields.*
- *Each research entity understands a certain aspect of this problem to a certain degree of scientific depth without having the resources and the understanding to address the multiscale coupled complex overall system.*
- ***The research objectives of RE go beyond the implementation or safety oriented needs of WMOs and TSOs***

Guiding vision of research entities

- Scientific understanding of safety relevant issues must remain credible, verifiable, shared by large scientific communities, open to civil society stakeholders at any given time **in the hundred year lasting process**
 - ✓ From the first generic studies to site investigation,
 - ✓ From planning to licensing, construction, operation and monitoring
 - ✓ In Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA),
 - ✓ In Safety and Risk Assessments (SRAs),
 - ✓ Until closure of a geological repository for radioactive waste.
- This goal can only be achieved
 - ✓ If research on geological disposal continues to keep up with the evolution of worldwide leading edge scientific knowledge (example: 30 yr ago: 1D, today 3D, in future full integration of chemical couplings in the safety case....)
 - ✓ If RE have an overall vision on research needs in geological disposal

- The goal of research entities in the European joint programming is to develop an **integrated leading edge scientific understanding oriented on the long term for all concepts related to safe and environmentally sound disposal** of long lived intermediate and high radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel in repositories within Europe.
- European Joint Programming must therefore aim to join advanced and less advanced European R&D programs for excellent research
 - ✓ on basic components and generic processes,
 - ✓ oriented towards complex systems understanding of long term repository evolution and safety.

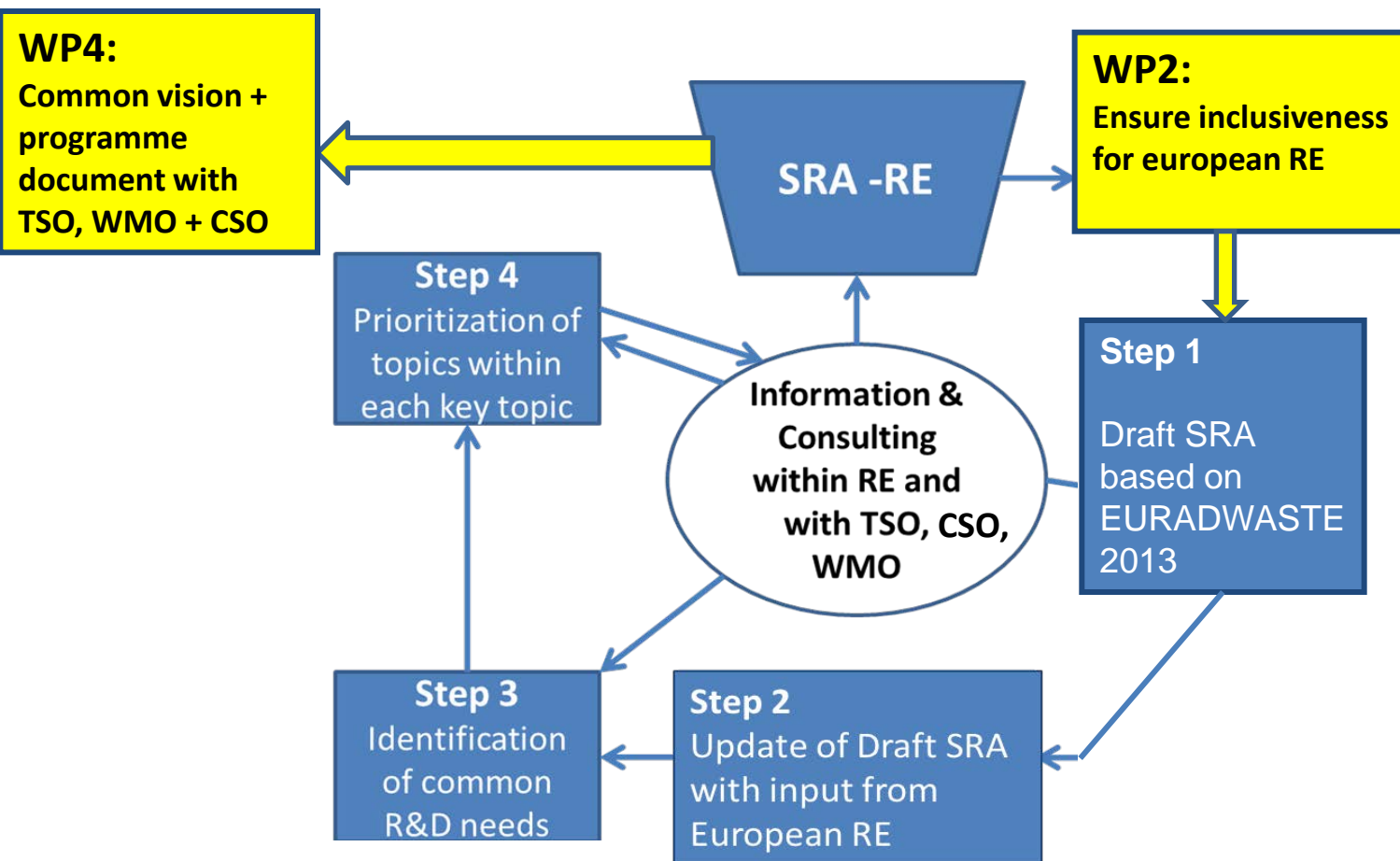
Why do European research entities need a strategic research agenda?

- Building and guaranteeing confidence in safety assessments and underlying scientific assumptions for many decades to come
 - ✓ Example: first HLW glass will be disposed in Europe not before 50 yr from now: how to assure that our scientific justification will keep up with evolving science
- Reduce over-conservative bounding conditions in safety assessment in view of progressive scientific understanding of multi-scale complex systems behaviour
- Joint Programming as a tool for **Building a European knowledge platform on waste disposal**
- Joint Programming as a tool for structured, long-term R&D commitment

Towards a Strategic Research Agenda

- Problems to be managed:
 - ✓ Large variability in academic research on waste disposal in various European countries
 - ✓ The less advanced programs often only have limited access to advanced characterization techniques, research infrastructure and overall systems understanding
 - ✓ Financial constraints: in-kind contribution, infrastructure...

Procedure for development a SRA in WP3



Status in the development of an SRA

WP2: Ensure inclusiveness

- Identification by the EURATOM national contact points of 45 potential mandated research actors were identified amongst the 28 (+ Switzerland) EU countries. Four countries have not identified a research entity (Latvia, Ireland, Malta and Sweden).
- The 22 research entities from 13 countries in **working group**, others have shown interest without participating: ENRESA, NNL...

WP3: build SRA

- Preparation of a draft document for vision and SRA in June 2015
- Preparation of document for SRA – RE in 4 meetings
- Since November 2015: identification of priorities and first projects
 - ✓ Discerning between Generic/ Specific/ Networking/ Review/ Think-tank projects
 - ✓ Considering individual processes, their couplings and up-scalings
 - ✓ In experiment, model and field work

WP4: towards a joint program document

- Identify subjects and priorities which can be put in common

JOPRAD RE Working Group

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Country</i>
CNRS, CEA, IMT, INIRIS, UPMC, U-Lorraine	France
CTU, UJV-REZ	Czech Republic
SCK.CEN	Belgium
HGF (Jülich, Karlsruhe, Dresden)	Germany
ENEA, INFN	Italie
LEI	Lithuania
U Delft/TNO	Netherlands
RATEN/INR	Romania
TU Sofia	Bulgaria
ITU	JRC
PSI	Switzerland
IST	Portugal
Geo ZS	Slovenia

JOPRAD RE Working Group

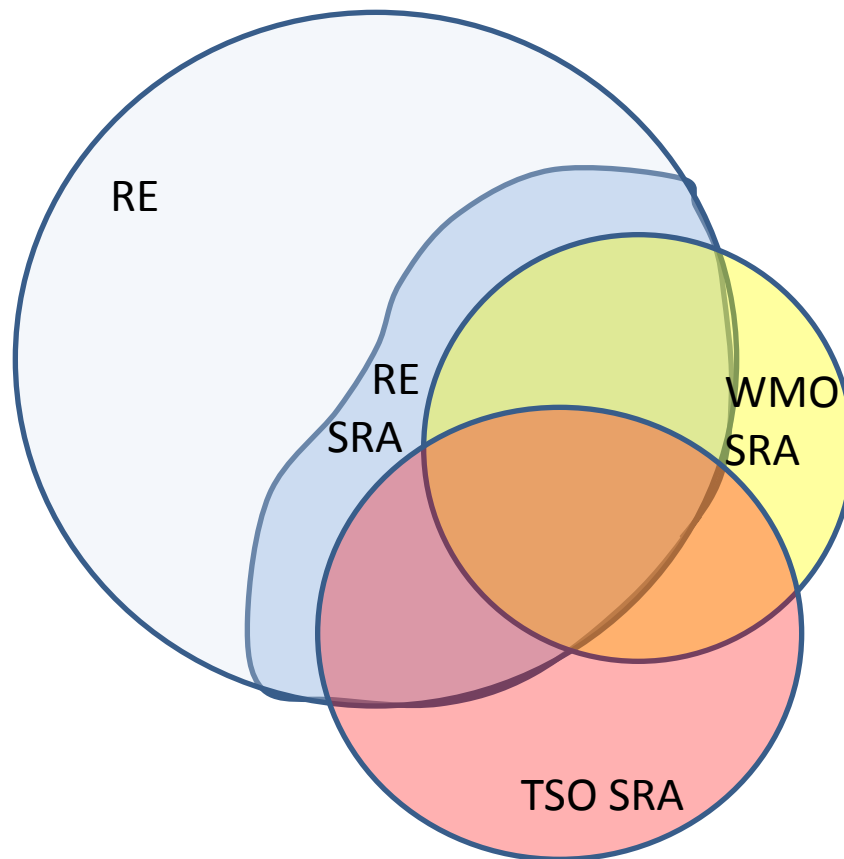
- The WG includes a representation of **both advanced and less advanced programmes**
- Several RE have strong long term research programs of their own
- Others define their research program primary by the needs of WMO or TSO
- Some RE have access to advanced research infrastructure: hot laboratories, advanced light sources, supercomputing facilities,...
- Only the largest RE have an overall vision on all the various aspects of geological disposal

ELEMENTS OF THE SRA-RE

- Integration of scientific understanding in the safety case and in assessment of its uncertainties
- Crosscutting ill and well defined processes
 - ✓ impact on radionuclide migration by colloids, organic matter, microorganism
 - ✓ incorporation of radionuclides in solids, considering thermodynamics, speciation and strong sorption
- Upscaling and complex THMC couplings, including reactive transport
- Work on waste forms, source terms, characterisation and integral HLW nearfield experiments
- The long term THMCB(R) performances of near field rock, EDZ, bentonites, seals and plugs
- Geotechnical studies on bentonite barriers (resaturation...)
- Transformations at interfaces of various materials
- Production and fate of gases and the understanding of resaturation of void spaces
- Geopolymers and cement systems
- Monitoring science: operational phase, radiological, criticality, leakage, redox, sensors, long term stability, ...
- Social science studies: ethical framework, expectations of citizens in safety...



Towards creating a joint program in WP4



RE will participate in Joint Horizontal Activities

- ✓ State-of-Knowledge activities (WIKI based?)
- ✓ Training activities
- ✓ Guidance & strategic studies
- ✓ Access to research infrastructure
- ✓ Think-tank activities

Conclusions: RE in Joint R&D Activities

- 22 European research entities participated in working group
- RE provide services to WMO and TSO
 - This will continue but it is considered part of the research contribution of WMO and TSO
- Contribution of research by RE is needed:
 - ✓ To maintain excellence as base of scientific credibility of repository projects, licensing steps and safety evaluation
 - ✓ To provide a prospective and evolutionary knowledge base, whose scientific quality can be tested by peer review, impact factors...
 - ✓ To carry a long term vision (multi decennial) on research needs in nuclear waste disposal
- It was found that there is generally **no restriction on the topics** that can be shared among all actors