



Association for Multinational
Radioactive Waste Solutions

ERDO, an example of a multinational approach to back-end strategy

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24 February 2021 | NEA - IFNEC Joint Webinar

ERDO approach to multinational solutions

Multinational solutions

- Supranational
- Add-on
- **Shared**
- Multinational repository (MNR) option is recognized by IAEA, EC and an increasing number of national programmes

Development of shared solutions for disposal is best taken in small steps and based on mutual trust

Shared solutions

- In some European countries it is difficult or impossible to develop purely national solutions for the management of radioactive waste:
 - financial and technical resources,
 - research capacity,
 - suitable geological formations
- Others are interested in economic optimisation:
 - economies of scale
 - more productive uses for public funds



Development of **shared** solutions for disposal

SAPIERR I 2003 - 2005



Conclusions

- Potential advantages widely acknowledged in the EU
- Clearest advantages in the field of economy
- Most of the problems comparable with that of national programmes (in particular siting)
- Increased efforts needed now
- For further work a structured framework must be established

SAPIERR II 2006 - 2009



Conclusions

- Political, strategical issues rather than technical research
- START SMALL - move forward in adaptive, staged manner

SAPIERR II 2006 - 2009

feasibility

SAPIERR I

implementation
strategy

research



policy

SAPIERR II

The ERDO-WG produced two milestone reports that summarise the advantages of the dual track approach, present a roadmap for a jointly owned ERDO and provide starting models for the structure, programme and financing. The documents have been distributed to relevant decision makers in Member States of the European Union.

ERDO
working group

ad-hoc working group of interested countries to the ground-work: agree organisational framework and project plan and allocate funds



implementation
repository

SAPIERR II 2006 - 2009



Conclusions

- Political, strategical issues rather than technical research
- START SMALL- move forward in adaptive, staged manner
- First step: ad-hoc working group of interested countries to agree organisational framework and project plan and allocate funds
- Many decisions have to be taken before formal establishment of an ERDO – organisational, technical and political
- **Potential ERDO partners should get to know and trust one another, define a common need, develop joint projects**

ERDO WG 2009 - 2020

feasibility

SAPIERR I

implementation
strategy

research



policy

SAPIERR II

ERDO
working group

mission evolved beyond the
eventual goal of a shared MNR
to include activities in the pre-
disposal phase that could
benefit from sharing
knowledge,
technologies or facilities



implementation
repository

ERDO WG 2009-2020

Multinational working group:

- Practical, strategy & policy rather than R&D
- Comprised of 11 organisations **nominated** by the **appropriate Government-level organisations**
- Self-funded by the 11 organisations

ERDO WG ACTIVITIES

- Working group (WG) meetings twice a year
- Members cooperate & exchange knowledge
- WG organises symposia, workshops, meetings with EC
- WG & Members participate projects/activities on MNR (IAEA, IFNEC, INPRO, EURAD (routes), ...)



ERDO Association

feasibility

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ERDO

working group

mission evolved beyond the eventual goal of a shared MNR to include activities in the pre-disposal phase that could benefit from sharing knowledge, technologies or facilities

ERDO

formal association representing its members, launching joint projects, knowledge centre shared solutions, spokesman multinational solutions



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ERDO

ERDO Association 2021 - now

An Association is a legal entity and can:

- Represent its members in official forums (e.g. meetings with EC, OECD and IAEA)
- Participate in International programmes (e.g. EURAD)
- Launch joint projects, enter into contracts and hire consultants
- Work as a knowledge centre on shared disposal
- Act as a spokesman for multinational solutions

Founding members were COVRA, DEKOM, and NND



WG members have started to join to the association

Interest from other organisations

ERDO Association

- Our **mission**: to work together to address the common challenges of safely managing the long-lived radioactive wastes in our countries
- Our **aim**: to enable the establishment of one or more operational, shared multinational European waste management solutions as a complement to national programmes
- ***Membership is open to any organisation supporting the aims of the Association:*** commonly,
 - waste management organisations
 - regulators, ministries
 - research entities or
 - international organisations

Lessons from the ERDO approach

1. Development of shared solutions for disposal is best taken in small steps and based on mutual trust.
2. Support from international organisations (IAEA, EC and OECD-NEA) can strongly help development of multinational initiatives such as ERDO.



A full ERDO webinar on a roadmap to MNR later this year

