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## EU helps Ukraine to improve safety of radioactive waste storages near 5 largest cities

New EU project “Comprehensive Safety Assessment of Radioactive Waste Management Sites operated by State Corporation “Ukrainian State Association “Radon” and Design of Remediation for Specific Facilities” with a budget of EUR 1.4 mln was launched in November 2018 in the framework of the EU-funded Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. It will contribute to improvement of safety and further rehabilitation of the radioactive waste storage facilities located in the vicinity of the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Lviv and Odesa. The project will re-assess safety of old radioactive waste storage facilities and will develop technical solutions for rehabilitation of the most problematic ones.

The kick-off meeting for this 3-year project was held on November 20, 2018 with the participation of the European Commission, the State Agency of Ukraine for Exclusion Zone Management, the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine, the State Corporation RADON and other stakeholders.

*“The EU continues supporting Ukraine in development of the Radioactive Waste Management Infrastructure in line with best international practices, with the ultimate objective to ensure safety and radiological protection to the population of Ukraine and the environment,” Ulf Rosengard, EU Project Manager, said on the project kick-off meeting.*

*“The Soviet times radioactive storage facilities had been located near the densely populated areas, which are not acceptable according to the up-to-date safety standards. This project gives a practical start to activities for designing a process of rehabilitation of these storage facilities and relocation of wastes to the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone for safe disposal,” Oleh Nasvit, First Deputy Head of State Agency of Ukraine for Exclusion Zone Management, said.*

Beneficiary of the project is the State Agency of Ukraine for Management of Exclusion Zone, and the end user is the State Corporation RADON. The project is being implemented by the German-Ukrainian Consortium led by Brenk Systemplanung GmbH and comprising Plejades GmbH, UkratomInstruments Corporation Ltd. and DMT GmbH & Co.

### Background information:

Radon’s State Interregional Specialised Plant sites collect, treat and store radioactive waste not related to the nuclear cycle. These sites are located near Ukraine's largest cities - Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Lviv and Odesa. They were designed in the Soviet times. According to the government decision, these sites should be rehabilitated and radioactive waste should be moved from them to the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone and placed in specially designed storages for safe disposal.

Following the Chornobyl accident, the EU launched a nuclear safety programme, initially in the frame of the Financial Instrument for Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS), which was superseded in 2007 by the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. Through these two instruments, the European Union’s contribution toward nuclear safety in Ukraine has exceeded EUR 950 mln.

Direct support delivered to Ukraine’s Nuclear Operator SE NNEGC Energoatom and the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine through the 2+2 Programme is close to EUR 300 mln. Meanwhile, contributions toward the long-term safe management of radioactive wastes resulting from the Chornobyl Accident, the Chornobyl decommissioning programme and the long-term storage and disposal of radioactive wastes from operating units in Ukraine exceeds EUR 600 mln.

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