



Kyiv, July 12, 2018

EU launches RODOS nuclear emergency management system in Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

The European Union has helped Ukraine to introduce a Decision Support System in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (ChEZ). The RODOS system models and predicts potential consequences of radiological accidents and prepares adequate response to them, thus increasing radiation safety in Ukraine. RODOS was already used to assess the consequences of a forest fire in ChEZ this June. This was announced at a press conference in Kyiv on July 12, 2018, organised by the EU project "Extension of the RODOS Decision Support System in Ukraine to cover the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone".

"The performance of the new tool to assess forest fires is a big step forward in our capabilities to deal with environmental problems," **Leonid Tabachny, Head of the Centre for Prediction of Consequences of Radiological Accidents of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Centre**, said.

The RODOS system has been developed by a large research community including scientists from Ukraine with support of the European Commission and installed in national emergency centres in more than 20 countries in Europe and worldwide. It has been introduced in Ukraine since 2011 by the German Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in close cooperation with Ukrainian research institutes, the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine, the National Nuclear Energy Generating Company "Energoatom", the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine, the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

The RODOS system has been adapted to Ukrainian conditions within four projects with an overall budget exceeding EUR 2 mln supported by the EU. It operates at all Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs), including Chernobyl NPP, the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine, the Centre for Prediction of Consequences of Radiological Accidents of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Centre of the State Emergency Service, Energoatom's main and backup crisis centres. The system is connected to the existing systems of automatic radiation monitoring. It uses the Numerical Weather Forecasting System developed under these RODOS projects for the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center of the State Emergency Service. RODOS is actively used in national and international emergency drills.

The latest project integrated RODOS with the radiation and meteorological monitoring system of ChEZ operated by Ecocentre, Chernobyl, in April 2018. This system was adapted to assess potential damage of fires in highly contaminated forests, tornadoes and flooding at the Pripyat River in the area of the cooling pond of the Chernobyl NPP.

Background information:

Since 1991, the European Union has contributed more than EUR 900 million to increase radiation safety in Ukraine. Its projects help improve safety of Ukraine's four nuclear power plants, support the establishment of an appropriate national radioactive waste management infrastructure, provide institutional support to Ukraine's nuclear regulator, finance a new safe confinement over the damaged Chernobyl reactor, as well as a number of social projects to support the communities living with the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl Accident.

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THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

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