



Kyiv, 24 March 2021

EU supports long-term planning of Ukraine's Geological Disposal for Radioactive Waste

The nuclear power industry is of critical importance for the Ukraine's economy, meeting more than half of the country's electricity demand and making a significant contribution toward reduced carbon emissions. Alongside the benefits, nuclear power produces radioactive waste and spent fuel all of which requires an appropriate infrastructure to ensure safe management and eventual disposal of those waste materials. Whilst much of that infrastructure is in place, an estimated c25 thousand cubic meters of radioactive waste, much of which has resulted from 1986 accident at the Chernobyl power plant, and up to 14 thousand tons of spent nuclear fuel, will need to be buried deep underground. Geological disposal will protect both people and the environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation that is emitted from these waste products.

Financed by the European Union's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, over the past 30 months, Experts from the world's most advanced deep geologic disposal programmes; Finland, France, Sweden and Germany, have worked closely with the Ukrainian Authorities in the development of "National Plan and implementation schedule for Radioactive Waste Geological Disposal in Ukraine".

On March 24th, 2021 the project results were presented to stakeholders at an online workshop.

The National Plan covers activities from initial siting of a facility for the safe disposal of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, through to its eventual closure. Results of the project which contributed directly to developing the National Plan include: the identification of technology for safe and efficient disposal using experience gained in other European countries; the definition processes for suitable technology selection that would be socially acceptable; the development of a detailed plan and estimated costs for establishing a geological disposal; and, training Ukrainian experts and specialists in the aspects required to ensure the safe establishment and management of a geological facility. The project also provided support in approaches for implementing public consultations.

Christina Thormählen Project Manager at Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Unit "Climate Change and Sustainable Energy; Nuclear Safety" stated: *"This project, marks an important milestone in the process of planning for the establishment of Geological Disposal for Radioactive Waste in Ukraine and EU support to ensure an appropriate and safe Radioactive Waste Management Infrastructure, is one of the principal objectives of the INSC Programme. Ukraine's adoption of this National Plan is a major prerequisite to a project that will take several decades to complete."*

Oleksandr Taraniuk, Responsible Expert for the Project from SAUEZM emphasised: *"SAUEZM highly appreciate EU and EC support in safe management of RAW, in particular in developing recommendations for development of National RAW Geological Disposal Programme. We believe, the results of this project to be the first major step towards the creation of Ukraine's Geological Disposal"*

The EU funded project was implemented in cooperation with SAUEZM and CRWME together with experts from a consortium of companies led by BGE TECHNOLOGY GmbH (Germany) in partnership with ANDRA (France) and SKB International AB (Sweden). The consortium was supported by 'Posiva Solutions Oy' (Finland) and the Radioenvironmental Centre of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Background information: Since 1991, the European Union has contributed more than EUR 1.05 billion to support Ukraine in its nuclear safety improvement programme. The EU has supported the improved safe operation and maintenance of Ukraine's NPP's, the establishment of an improved national RAW Management infrastructure, and provided institutional support to Ukraine Nuclear Regulator. Additionally, the Programme has made significant contribution to the EBRD Managed NSA and CSF and contributed to a number of social projects in support of communities living with the consequences of the 1986 Chornobyl accident.

For additional information, please contact:

Christina Thormählen, EC Project Manager, Christina.Thormaehlen@ec.europa.eu

Oleksandr Taraniuk, State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management, raw@dazv.gov.ua



The project is funded by
the European Union

Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine
Address:
101 Volodymyrska Street,
01033 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: +38 044 39 08 010
Fax: +38 044 39 08 015

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.