



# EURADWASTE'22

30 May - 3 June 2022  
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## ERDO – a road to sharing radioactive waste management solutions

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10<sup>th</sup> European Commission Conference on EURATOM Research and Training in Radioactive Waste Management  
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## Content

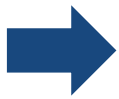
- Why to join ERDO
- How to share solutions
- Who can join ERDO
- ERDO: from an EU project to an association
- Way forward



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## Shared solutions

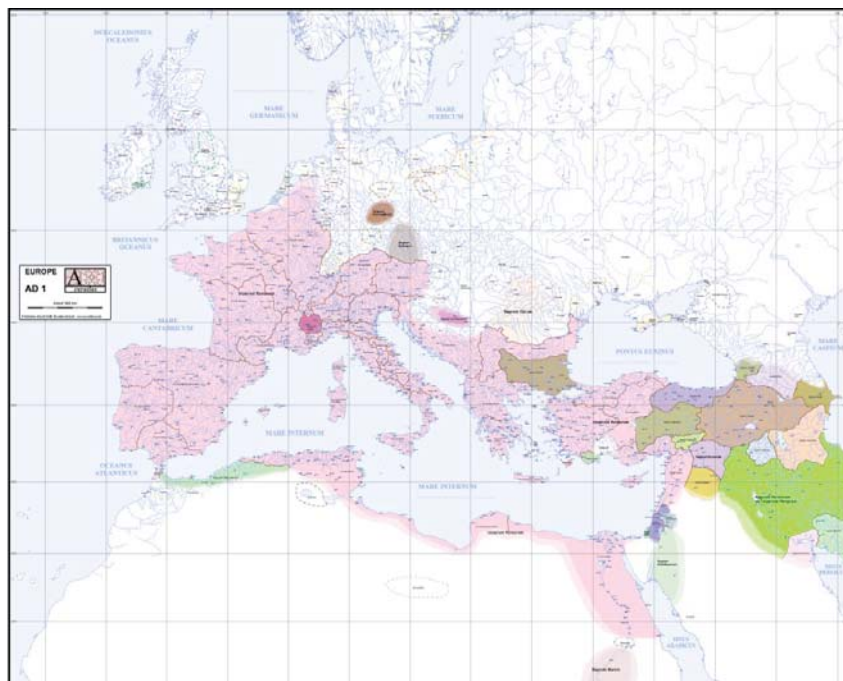
- In some European countries it is difficult or impossible to develop purely national solutions for the management of radioactive waste:
  - financial and technical resources,
  - research capacity,
  - suitable geological formations
- Others are interested in economic optimisation:
  - economies of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



Think beyond national borders!



## 1 AD



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## 500 AD



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## Logic of a dual-track policy

### Shared solutions

- **CLEAR ADVANTAGES.**
  - Lower costs,
  - More choice of possible suitable locations,
  - Pooling technical capacity and supranational supervision
  - Diversification of disposal per waste type
- **DISADVANTAGES**
  - Longer distances,
  - Deviating (national) legislation and definitions,
  - Different timetables and locations from where the waste will be delivered



**COOPERATION**



**ERDO Shared Programme**

- Shared staff, teams, facilities, projects... reduces costs
- Membership of ERDO provides prospect of a shared solution
- NP and shared ERDO 'tracks' run together, nested within each other

**National GD Programme**



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## 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



## Activities on Multinational Approaches European Commission (EC)

- Resolution 1157 (1998) calls on MS to *“study the technical, economic and political feasibility of the creation of international repositories..”*
- 2003-2009 support of SAPIERR Projects – 5 key reports
- Waste Directive 2011 – confirms feasibility of shared facilities *“if agreement has entered into force between the Member State concerned and another Member State or a third country to use a disposal facility in one of them”*.
- 2018 EURAD –Waste management routes in Europe from cradle to grave (ROUTES) Task 6 – Shared solutions in European countries
- 2021 HORIZON-EURATOM-2021-NRT-01-08; Towards a harmonised application of the international regulatory framework in waste management and decommissioning



## ERDO Association evolution



## 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



Most WG members have joined to the association



Interest from other organisations



## ERDO Association membership

- 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



## The ERDO approach: 2 paths to an MNR



## To conclude

- Increasingly open recognition by countries of the benefits of an MNR
  - International studies have involved dozens of countries
  - EC Waste Directive reports submitted by EU Member States indicate that around half are open for the MNR concept
  - Including an MNR strategy in a dual track approach can allay concerns of international bodies that an MNR option could lead to countries adopting a ‘wait and see’ attitude to disposal planning
- Dual-track policy is a credible approach
  - A dual track approach means both working on national repository and a multinational repository
  - The second track costs little extra, but provides a potential long-term reward as well as short-term benefits
- Collaboration starts pre-disposal through ERDO



## Acknowledgements

- Arius Association
- ERDO members and associate members:
  - ARAO, COVRA, DEKOM, ENEA, FOND-NEK, Ministry of Climate and Environment (PL), NND, ONDRAF/NIRAS





**Thank you !**

## **Any questions ?**

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