

NEWSLETTER N°3

December 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG.2

Did you know?
A look back

PG. 3

Digest – External
Advisory Board
Upcoming events

PG.4

Focus – UMAN first
seminar

PG.5

We are out there

BREAKING NEWS



ANNUAL EVENT

EURAD's first annual event has been postponed to March 2021 due to the COVID-19 crisis. As it is still not possible to organize a face-to-face event it was decided that it will be entirely carried out remotely. The agenda of the event is therefore slightly modified.

Tuesday 16th

Morning only

Introduction

First plenary
session

Wednesday 17th

Full day

Three parallel
breakout sessions

PhDs and post-docs
presentations

Thursday 18th

**Morning + beginning
afternoon**

Second plenary session

Findings from the
breakout sessions and
take home message by
Chief Scientific Officer

SCHOOL OF RWM WEBSITE

On December 21st 2020, WP13 launched the [website of the School of Radioactive Waste Management](#). Through this website, EURAD aims to collect and organize all information concerning training and mobility. It will become a centralized place where people, both in- and outside of EURAD, can find all relevant information on training courses organized within EURAD as well as by external partners, the EURAD Mobility Programme, the EURAD PhD Community and EURAD webinars. In the future, the website will also include a discussion forum to help connect people in the field of radioactive waste management. This way, this website aims to facilitate the formation of a tight EURAD Community.

A LOOK BACK



EC Review

The first EC review took place early September 2020. The official report, published in October is overall positive. The Experts mandated by the EC noted the serious progress made in the first year and the quality and fairness of the processes in place. They also underlined that the governance and the commitment of the different actors is at a satisfactory level and allows the project to continue under the best conditions.

The scientific results seem promising and the work on the KM Programme is relevant.

Areas for improvements have also been identified, such as the dissemination and opening to new partners.

SFC Annual WP Meeting



On September 28-30, 2020, the work package on spent nuclear fuel characterisation and evolution until disposal (SFC) conducted an annual meeting via remote connection. Three half-days contained detailed reports of status and results from the tasks in the work package with in the order of 70 participants. The work package is progressing fine but with some delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically on work performed in laboratories. Despite the pandemic, some results have been published, one highlight is a JRC report on a non-destructive analysis method to be used in standard controlled area conditions.

A non-destructive analysis method to determine the neutron output of a spent nuclear fuel sample under standard controlled area conditions was developed. The method was applied to determine neutron output of a spent nuclear fuel sample from a fuel rod irradiated at the Tihange-1 PWR reactor in Belgium. The procedures and results including a full uncertainty analysis are documented in a technical report:

P. Schillebeeckx, M. Verwerft, G. Žerovnik, Y. Parthoens, B. Pedersen, G. Alaerts, G. Cools, K. Govers, J. Paepen, G. Varasano and R. Wynants, "A non-destructive method to determine the neutron production rate of a sample of spent nuclear fuel under standard controlled area conditions", EUR 30379, European Atomic Energy Community, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-22349-8 (where available), JRC121586

DID YOU KNOW?



The 30th November 2020, more than 90 researchers have participated to a joint webinar between the work packages FUTURE, ACED, CORI and DONUT.

The main aim of the workshop was:

- to provide a status update on the state of the art understanding of RN transport in crystalline and argillaceous rocks,
- to give an overview of the currently available modelling tools and simulation concepts,
- to address the conceptualization of repository near and far fields using small and large scale models,
- to discuss the boundary conditions on in situ geochemistry in the repository near field and its time evolution,
- to handle uncertainties and their conceptualization in PA,
- to evaluate the opportunities for cross topical collaboration between the above mentioned WP.

The webinar has highlighted that many collaborations are actually ongoing and will foster new ones.

The presentations are available on [ProjectPlace](#).

DIGEST



EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

Following the approvals of the last General Assembly (September 2020), the official launch of the External Advisory Board meeting took place early December.

The four members of this board (Saida Engström, Philippe Lalieux, Pierre Toulhoat and Hans Wanner) as well as three European Commission observers (Gianfranco Brunetti (ENER), Roger Garbil (RTD) and Manuel Martin-Ramos (JRC)) exchanged their first views on how EURAD should face the different challenges and how they wish to intervene.

The main goals of this board is to ensure that EURAD hears about and acts upon the expectation of the 'outside world' and that EURAD is visible to an heard by the 'outside world'. Its members are here to advise the General Assembly on strategic and implementation issue to the Annual Work Plan and its coherence with respect to the Strategic Research Agenda and Roadmap.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

14th-15th Aarhus Convention and Nuclear Roundtable

18th EURAD General Assembly n° 4

20th-22nd ACED Annual Meeting

27th Lunch-and-learn session on Celebrating 20 years of the IGSC

27th-28th DONUT Webinar

March

16th-18th EURAD annual event



Do not miss the next Lunch-and-Learn Session:

[Celebrating 20 years of the IGSC](#)



EURAD's Lunch & Learn sessions are short, informal, one hour sessions that are aimed at everyone in EURAD. They are used to inform you on work being done in EURAD, sharing good practice, invited talks.



The Lunch & Learn sessions are organized monthly: on the last Wednesday at 13:00 p.m.

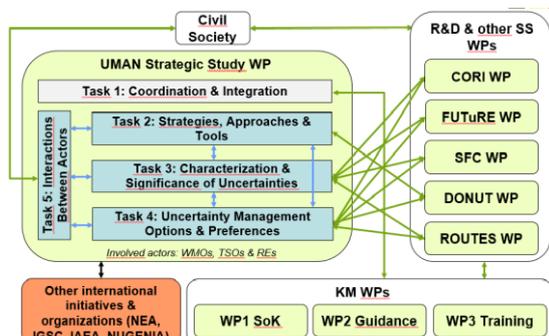
Got something you want to share? Please contact the PMO to book a L&L session.

FOCUS



UMAN FIRST SEMINAR

The UMAN project is dedicated to the management of uncertainties potentially relevant to the safety of different radioactive waste management programmes and phases. Task 5 of the project is in charge of organizing pluralistic analyses of key outcomes of other tasks of UMAN through a set of yearly seminars. By implementing interactions between representatives of civil society, regulatory bodies in addition to EURAD beneficiaries and linked third parties, commonalities and differences between the different views and ways to mitigate these differences, if needed, are identified. The outcome of these interactions allows to establish a more global picture of uncertainty management complementing and enriching the results of UMAN.



Seminar n°1 held remotely on October 26 and 27, set the scene for this pluralistic process by addressing the meaning of uncertainty management for different actors and its relationships with risk, safety and the safety case. It gathered 49 participants providing a well-balanced representation of the views of Waste Management Organisations, Technical Support Organisations, Research Entities and Civil Society Organisations. A representative from the NEA IGSC and regulators from Belgium, Czech Republic, England and Germany also participated.

Keynotes presenting the views of each type of actors on 4 key topics (Meaning of Uncertainty management, Types of Uncertainty, Possible Evolutions of Uncertainty and Interactions with Civil Society) served as a basis for pluralistic discussions in working groups. These keynotes were notably based on the outcomes of UMAN Subtask 2.1 on generic strategies for the management of uncertainties, and of Subtask 3.1 on the different types of uncertainties to be addressed in a safety case.



Many noteworthy issues were raised during this first seminar (e.g. how to address “unknown unknowns” and “ignored knowns”, the meaning of “independent expertise”, uncertainties related to governance, factors to further explore, etc.). Preliminary analysis of the results indicates that there may not be so many differences between the actors’ views at a general level (agreement on the importance of uncertainty management) but differences may appear in the concrete implementation according to cultural contexts, the advancement of the RWM programme, the role in the process and the appetite for risk.

