

WP 3 ASTRA  
**RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT:  
ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES AND  
CHALLENGING WASTE**

**WORKSHOP FOR INTERACTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY  
WITH THE THREE TECHNICAL COLLEGES (“ASTRA 3+1”)**

**MAY 27-29, 2026**

**Location:** In person: EIMV, Hajdrihova 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2634072629>

**Registration link:** <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ASTRAworkshopLjubljana2026>

The EURAD research programme has a focus on certain disposal concepts for deep geological repositories especially for high level and some intermediate level wastes. Nevertheless, alternative waste management strategies have and are being discussed and researched. This includes responsibility for the radioactive waste being passed on from one generation to the next, preserving the possibility of retrieval, recharacterization and repackaging of the waste during final disposal, at least for some intermediate period.

Long-term interim storage is an ubiquitous alternative especially if no final repository might become available in the near future. Deep borehole disposal (DBD) is an alternative for deep geological disposal. Legacy waste and challenging waste types also need alternative management routes, as they might not fulfill waste acceptance criteria for DGRs and often are outside radioactive waste regimes.

The ASTRA work package of EURAD-2 made visible a lot of approaches and problems but also good practice and future research needs concerning alternative waste management strategies. In this workshop we will build on these outcomes and discuss them from civil society’s points of views with a focus on the needs for transparency and public participation, as well as for building a vision for long-term governance and stewardship.

The overall objective of the workshop is to strengthen safety & security and transparency & public participation for all types of waste and all management routes.



This event has a preference put on in-person participation and is ★★ hybrid with enabling online participants to ask oral questions.

# Agenda

**Wednesday, 27th May 2026**

13:00-14:00 **Lunch (cafeteria near EIMV)**

14:00 **Introductory session**

14:30 **First session: Challenging waste**

All radioactive waste has special challenges, but some types of radioactive waste are referred to as being especially challenging, due to different reasons. Among those types are uranium mine and mill tailings (in short: UMMT), so-called NORM waste (NORM = naturally occurring radioactive material), depleted uranium, and some legacy waste.

The first session will focus on the status, management options and problems of challenging waste that became visible in the work in EURAD-2.

17:30 **End of the first day**

18:30 **Social Dinner**

**Thursday, 28th May 2026**

09:00 **Introduction and welcoming** of participants

09:10 **Second session: Long-term interim storage and Deep Borehole Disposal**

The session will focus on both alternative radioactive waste management strategies long-term interim storage and deep borehole disposal.

12:00-12:30 **Restitution in the plenary**

12:30 to 14:00 **Lunch (cafeteria near EIMV)**

**14:00 Third session: Long-term governance and stewardship**

The session will focus on the long-term future: How should intergenerational justice be defined in radioactive waste management? How to avoid creating burdens for future generations?

What is needed to develop stewardship models and implement them? Who, why and how should participate in this process? How urgent is it for all this to happen?

**17:00 Conclusion of the workshop**

**17:30 End of the second day and end of the workshop**

**Friday, 29th May 2026 Technical Visit**

**Disposals at closed Rudnik Žirovski vrh**

<https://arao.si/dolgorocni-nadzor-nad-odlagalisci-jalovine/>

**8:30 Bus from Ljubljana**

**10:00 Technical visit**

During the extraction and processing of uranium at the Žirovski vrh uranium mine and during the closure of the mine and the ore processing plant, radioactively contaminated material was generated, which is deposited in two landfills in the Žirovski vrh area. The Jazbec mining tailings landfill and the Boršt hydrometallurgical tailings landfill are environmentally rehabilitated, closed facilities and have the status of a state infrastructure facility. Their management, long-term supervision and maintenance are carried out by the Radioactive Waste Agency (ARAO) as part of the mandatory public service.

- 1h presentation and discussion
- 2h for visiting the two disposal sites

**13:00 End of technical visit**

**13:00 Lunch**

Appr 14:00: **Going back to Ljubljana** by bus via airport (appr. arrival 15:15) and train station (appr. arrival 15:45)