

Terms of Reference for the operation of the:

European Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery

Acronym: NERIS

Version, 27 April 2012

PREAMBLE

In recent years, major improvements have been made internationally (i.e. within IAEA and OECD/NEA) and in Europe (i.e. within the EURATOM Framework Programmes) in the management of response and recovery to nuclear and radiological emergencies. This notably includes advances in decision support tools and improved methods for information and data exchange. Moreover, in the spirit of the Aarhus Convention, participative governance processes have been initiated in several countries to favour cooperation between national and international experts and local stakeholders in the development and support of territorial activities related to emergency and recovery management.

Notwithstanding the broadly adequate provisions now in place in most European countries and internationally, there is a shared interest to further improve the current national approaches, to identify new and emerging challenges and to ensure a European training programme to maintain and develop expertise.

As a consequence, the signatories of the present Terms of Reference agree to set up and participate in the operation of the European Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery described below.

ARTICLE 1 **Objectives**

The objectives of the Platform are to contribute to:

- Improving the effectiveness of current European, national and local approaches for preparedness concerning nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Promoting more coherent approaches in preparedness for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery throughout Europe.
- Identifying gaps and needs for further developments in preparedness for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Addressing new and emerging challenges in the field of preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Maintaining and improving know-how and technical expertise in preparedness for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery among all interested stakeholders in Europe.

To achieve the above objectives, the Platform will:

- Establish a forum for dialogue between European, national, regional and local authorities; technical support organisations (TSOs); operators; professional organisations; research institutes; universities; non-governmental organisations (NGOs); consultants, national and local stakeholders.
- Initiate and support through partnership working European, regional, national and local activities and projects in preparedness for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Initiate and coordinate networking activities to share experience, to contribute to a better harmonisation in Europe, to promote maintenance, development and adaptation of existing tools and methods for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Ensure a supranational training programme by stimulating continuation of the training courses developed during the EURATOM 6th Framework Programme, launching of new training courses and workshops/exercises according to the needs of all the various actors.

ARTICLE 2

Activities

The Platform will operate the following activities:

- A website with all the information (documents, links, etc) related to the Platform activities.
- A newsletter to diffuse and advertise the on-going activities of the Platform.
- Topical workshops.
- Working groups open to all relevant organisations.
- Topical projects and activities at the European, regional, national and local levels.
- Training courses.
- Users groups of operational tools (e.g. Handbooks on management options) and Decision Support Systems (e.g. ARGOS, RODOS, ...).

To support these activities, the Platform will consider:

- Participation in research and development activities.
- Organisation of technical exercises and participation in demonstration activities.
- Promotion of participation of its members in international exercises.

ARTICLE 3

Membership of the NERIS Platform

Membership of the Platform is open to all European organisations concerned with nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery preparedness having expressed interest in the activities of the Platform and having signed the present Terms of Reference.

The membership is composed of two colleges:

- College 1: European, national, regional and local authorities, technical support organisations (TSO's), operators and professional organisations.
- College 2: Research institutes and universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), consultants, and national and local stakeholders.

ARTICLE 4

Supporting organisations of the NERIS Platform Association

To manage the NERIS Platform and financially support it, the NERIS Platform Association is created. The supporting organisations of the NERIS Platform Association are the organisations having signed the NERIS Platform Association statute.

ARTICLE 5

General Assembly

All the representatives of the supporting organisations of the NERIS Platform association constitute the General Assembly of the Platform. When a decision is taken during the General Assembly, each organisation has one vote.

All the other members of the NERIS Platform (as defined in Article 3) could participate to the NERIS General Assembly as observers but have no vote.

The General Assembly meets once a year, whenever possible, e.g. at the occasion of a Topical workshop of the Platform, to review and endorse the general program of the Platform as proposed by the Management Board.

ARTICLE 6

Management Board

The budget of the NERIS Platform Association is managed by a Board of 10 members (including 4 members of College 1 and 4 members of College 2, the Chair of the R&D Committee and one representative of the Secretariat – See Articles 6 and 7). Each member is nominated by the General Assembly for a period of 3 years. Only one person per organisation supporting the NERIS Platform Association can be nominated to the Management Board at the same time. The Management Board meets twice a year (including one at the occasion of the General Assembly meeting) under the chairmanship of one of its Members.

The Management Board defines the work program of the Platform in coherence with its objectives and the means for achieving them. It also performs a follow up of their implementation.

In case of extraordinary circumstances, extra meetings can be organized by the Management Board.

ARTICLE 7

R&D Committee

The Committee is in charge of coordinating all R&D activities of the Platform related to the maintenance and development of: decision aiding tools, governance processes and methods, and information and data exchange systems supporting nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery. Members of the Committee are representatives of organizations taking care of the maintenance of the existing European tools and methods and any other interested organization member of the Platform. Members of the Committee are proposed by their organizations and approved by the General Assembly. The Chair of the Committee is a member of the Management Board. The Committee reports to the Management Board.

ARTICLE 8

Secretariat

The Secretariat is provided by one organisation of the Platform nominated by the General Assembly. The Secretariat is in charge of technical administration of the Platform (e.g. website, newsletter) and provides practical assistance for the organisation of the various activities of the Platform.

The Secretariat coordinates with other European or international networks to avoid work duplication.

ARTICLE 9

Resources

Financing of the activities of the Platform is ensured by:

- The direct support of the members participating to the activities (i.e. working time, mission costs...)
- Annual fees paid by each member organisation of the NERIS association to cover the operating cost of the Platform, if the General Assembly decides to levy such, taking into account the available resources. The fees for the two colleges are fixed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Management Board.
- Resources coming from national, regional or European projects.

The budget for the training courses and the regular workshops are directly supported by the participants and by potential sponsors.

ARTICLE 10

Withdrawal of the Platform

Any Member may withdraw from the Platform at any time by giving in advance written notice to the Management Board.

ARTICLE 11

Final provisions

These Terms of Reference shall enter into force on 15 June 2010 and shall remain in force for an initial period of **three years** from that date. They may be extended thereafter by agreement of the General Assembly Members.

These Terms of Reference may be revised and amended at any time by the General Assembly.