

INTERACTIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN EURAD

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This contribution will highlight the processes and main results of EURAD interactions between civil society members and experts of the three EURAD colleges: waste management organisations, technical safety organisations, research entities. In accordance with the requirements of the Aarhus Convention that grounds the civil society participation in EURAD research programme vision, the interaction with civil society (ICS) activities carried out have demonstrated that managing uncertainties through a pluralistic and inclusive approach is essential to improve safety and transparency in radioactive waste management (RWM). Interactions with civil society were carried out in different categories of work packages, from strategic studies (UMAN, ROUTES) to technical work packages (MODATS, CORI). A large number of pluralistically organised seminars and workshops have successfully brought together researchers, technical experts, and civil society representatives, fostering productive interaction and constructive dialogue. The development of collaborative frameworks, including interactive workshops, training programs and multi-stakeholder dialogues, has shown excellent results and is seen as a promising path to improve mutual trust. These interactions have facilitated a shared understanding of points of views on key processes in RWM and have contributed to the enhancement of decision-making processes. The double-wing model, which includes both a larger civil society group and a group of civil society experts, has proven to be an effective framework for fostering meaningful engagement and dialogue. By continuing to build on this foundation and implementing the recommended strategies, the projects in EURAD-II, notably in work packages CLIMATE, OPTI and ASTRA, can further improve the safety and transparency of RWM, developing RWM to “a long-term complex decision-making process, with a perspective of uncertainty management, involving a plurality of stakeholders”.

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