

## **HARPERS - CONDITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACHES IN NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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The 3-years Euratom HARPERS (HARmonised PracticEs, Regulations and Standards in waste management and decommissioning) project aims to establish and clarify the benefits and added value of a more aligned practices, methodologies and approaches for prioritised topics related to decommissioning and radioactive waste management between EC Member States. One of the technical themes included in the HARPERS project is focused on addressing the most important conditions and opportunities for promoting Circular Economy approaches.

The first phase of the project was dedicated to the identification (through a deep stakeholder interaction) of the priority areas for Circular Economy considerations and they included: (i) National regulations and criteria for Clearance, (ii) Benchmarking of Circular Economy approaches and technologies, (iii) Sustainability assessment.

Those topics were further analysed in the second phase of the project to:

- identify the differences between national regulations, release criteria and methodological approaches, and their impact on the reuse and recycling of waste
- identify the advantages and weaknesses, as well as the points that could be balanced through greater cooperation and/or recommending good practice for wider use
- collect and analyse actual examples and case studies (in and outside the nuclear field) outlining implementation of Circular Economy approaches and technologies to the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and related radioactive waste and materials management
- set up a robust decision support framework that enables the comparison between linear and circular economy approaches in radioactive waste management and decommissioning

All the collected data and assessment are then integrated in a Summary Position Paper for Circular Economy considerations.

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