

PREDIS: HOW STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT INFLUENCED THE PREDIS PROJECT AND MAXIMIZED THE VALUE AND IMPACT– LEADING TO IMPROVED SUSTAINABILITY IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

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The “PREDIS: Pre-disposal of Radioactive Waste” project (2020-2024), targeted the development and implementation of activities for pre-disposal treatment of radioactive waste streams, other than nuclear spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste. As R&D projects have greater impact when they focus on the needs of stakeholders and end users, interaction was established on different topics and at different moments in time.

For PREDIS, the needs of stakeholders were evaluated to define the scope of the project and the project content was adapted to these needs, already during the preparation phase of the project. During the first months of the project, a Gap Analysis was performed, where further information from stakeholders and end users was gathered. A variety of methods, such as quantitative and qualitative surveys, live polling, interviews with end users and webinar presentations, was used. The outcome of the Gap Analysis led to an update of the work plan of some of the technical work packages, incorporating research aspects which are relevant for end-users.

Another example of the impact of PREDIS stakeholder engagement was the interactive process of developing the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). The baseline PREDIS SRA focused on the consolidation of the existing published SRAs, while the revised 2nd edition SRA document was developed based on the needs of PREDIS Stakeholders and the End Users. The SRA will guide R&D in the coming years, to ensure maximum impact for the end users. The PREDIS SRA has informed the EURAD-2 project where SRA topics on pre-disposal are taken up in the work programme.

Throughout the PREDIS project, technical interactions with stakeholders and end users were maintained. All interactions directed the project to ensure maximum impact and utilization of the results. This was clearly reflected during the final workshop, where end user opinions were shared, highlighting the relevance of PREDIS' outcome. By the end of the project, PREDIS had reached 119 individual stakeholders, representing 29 countries and 4 continents. 25 External end users became part of the end user community, covering 14 countries. Stakeholders and end users have been invited to more than 25 public events such as webinars and the projects annual meetings, where they could interact directly with the technical WPs. This interaction directed the project to ensure maximum impact and utilization of the results, which will improve sustainability of radioactive waste management. The good practices and momentum of stakeholder and end-user engagement will be continued in EURAD-2 (2024-2029); contacts are welcome to get involved.

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