

4 th meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the European and Central Asia Safety Network (EuCAS)

Vienna, Austria

14-15 May 2019

Draft Summary



The 4th meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the European and Central Asia Safety Network (EuCAS) was held in the IAEA 14-15 May 2019 and gathered 20 participants from 15 Member States (MS) and from partner organizations. In addition, 2 experts from the Agency attended and provided presentations to the Steering Committee Members (Refer to the attached participants list).

Session 1: Opening Session

1.1 Welcome opening remarks by IAEA

Mr G. CARUSO, Director of Office of Safety and Security Coordination (NSOC), NS/IAEA, welcomed the EuCAS SC members of the 4th Steering Committee meeting. He mentioned the role of EuCAS under GNSSN and thanked donors, including Norway. He emphasized that strong commitment and active support is needed from all SC members and the governments of all EuCAS member countries for continuous improvement of EuCAS. He also encouraged EuCAS to explore opportunities to interact and collaborate with other regional networks.

1.2 Welcome and opening remarks by Chairperson

Ms M. Sneve (DSA, Norway), Chairperson of EuCAS welcomed the participants. She mentioned that, even though EuCAS was established in 2016, the network has already organized and held workshops with very good outcomes. She emphasized that this SC meeting was very important for planning current year activities and to begin the discussion around the further strategy for EuCAS.

After a round table introduction of participants, the proposed agenda was adopted.

1.3 Approval of new member's application

Ms C.A CHO (NSOC, IAEA) informed the Steering Committee about the application sent by the Permanent mission of Republic of Kyrgyz in July last year. All SC members welcomed this new application.

Session 2: Discussion on Workplan

2.1 Progress report and 2019 plans of EuCAS network by Chairperson

The Chairperson Malgorzata Sneve briefly presented the status and achievements of the EuCAS network since its establishment in 2016, with a focus on activities of the last year.

The main results of the 3rd Steering Committee meeting were summarized as follows:

- Establishment of new Working Group 4 on Education and Training; and,
- Election of second vice-chair, Mr. N. Grozev (BNRA, Bulgaria) and leaders for WG2 and WG4, Mr. V. Stanchev (BNRA, Bulgaria) and Ms E. Sukhorebraia (JSC VO Safety, Russian Federation), respectively.

The outcomes of WG3 workshop on “Licensing of Remediation Activities” organized by State Office for Nuclear Safety of the Czech Republic (SUJB) with support from National Radiation Protection Institute (SURO) in Prague from 27 to 29 August 2018 and WG1 workshop on “Sharing Experience on Regulatory Interactions with Neighbouring Countries” organized by State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (SRARNS) in Sarajevo from 10 to 12 December 2018, were presented, including detailed recommendations to be considered for next activities in both WG3 and WG1.

The activity plan for 2019 was introduced;

- **WG1 Workshop** on “The importance of information exchange with neighbouring countries in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency” will be held in Athens, Greece, 4-6 September 2019.
- **WG4 Workshop** on “Identifying specific priority themes on Education and Training” will be held in Moscow, Russian Federation, 15-17 October 2019.
- **WG2 Workshop** on “Radon-type facilities for temporary storage of low and intermediate level Radioactive waste” in Moldova will be postponed to the beginning of 2020. The meeting will allow for translation from Russian to English as discussed.
- **Joint Workshop** between IAEA, NEA, ICRP and DSA on “Regulatory Supervision of Legacy Sites and Wastes from Recognition to Resolution under the EuCAS network: Building Optimization into the Process” will be held in Tromsø Norway, 30 October-01 November 2019.
- Cooperation with IAEA TC and with existing networks (WENRA, HERCA and other relevant networks).
- **EuCAS meeting during 63rd GC** will be held as a side event in Vienna, Austria
- One of the SC meetings planned for this year will be postponed to next year and be held together with the earliest workshop.

Mr. L Guo (NSOC, IAEA) proposed to have country presentations; other regional networks already have sessions for the national presentations for information exchange. Ms Sneve expressed a positive attitude for the proposal and pointed that there is a necessity to find an efficient method for the presentations, taking into account the number of EuCAS members.

Mr. Guo suggested for IAEA staff to have the possibility to demonstrate how to use the IT platform for EuCAS under GNSSN. The platform is intended for the collation and exchange of information between members. He explained how the members of the SC and working groups could access the restricted area of this site using a username and password.

2.2 The report on results of the workshop from 10 to12 December 2018 Sarajevo

The Coordinator, Mr. Zoran Tesanovic (SRARNS, Bosnia and Herzegovina) presented the outcomes of the first WG1 workshop on sharing experience in regulatory interactions with neighbouring countries, organized under the EuCAS Network. 14 participants from 10 Member States and experts from HERCA and IAEA identified several recommendations for future activities of EuCAS WG1, and evaluated the challenges, good practices and areas of common interest related to the formal and informal mechanisms of regulatory cooperation.

For the workshop to be conducted effectively, there was sent in advance a questionnaire to collect information on the current status in each MS and to recognize common interests regarding regulatory interactions with neighbouring countries. Obtained results were presented in a matrix and will provide the basis for further discussion to specify and prioritize activities within WG1.

Session 3: Invited presentations for the development of EuCAS plans

3.1 Introduction to the Asian Nuclear Safety network (ANSN)

Mr. Mamoru Maeoka (NSNI, IAEA) presented the ANSN approach for making support activity plans for 2018-2020 with a focus on Gap-based support-planning for NPP with a mapping matrix using SSG-16 “Establishing the Safety Infrastructure for a Nuclear Power Programme” as a template.

In this approach, “Gaps’ means recommendations and suggestions identified by IRRS (Integrated Regulatory Review Service) and INIR (Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review) Missions plus results of self-assessment using IRIS (Integrated Review of Infrastructure for Safety) software. The results of self-assessment include answers, analysis and national action plans, provided by Members States.

Mr. Maeoka noted that the support activity plan of ANSN could be systematic, not like a shopping list, and this approach could be applied for planning EuCAS activity based on common gaps of EuCAS.

3.2 Introduction to TC Europe Programme and Best Practice

Mr. Alexey Katukhov (TCEU, IAEA) presented an overview of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme with information on key principles, topic areas, support tools, project types etc. TCEU regional projects were also introduced to provide information that EuCAS members would be interested in.

The discussion was focused on how TCEU and EuCAS could work together and contribute to each other with a view to providing further efficient support to EuCAS. The participants and Mr. Katukhov addressed that, if there is a procedure in the stage of design of TCEU project that could reflect the interests of EuCAS members, it would be effective and help both EuCAS and TCEU support each other. The participants were encouraged to inform their NLO of TCEU about EuCAS.

Ms Sneve announced that there would be a meeting with Ms Steyskal, Section head of TCEU on 16 May, in order to discuss how to cooperate and contribute between TCEU and EuCAS.

3.3 Bi-lateral agreements on Regulatory Cooperation Programme; EEA and Norway Grants projects

Mr. Roland Kovács (DSA, Norway) introduced the overview of European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants and the current projects related to EuCAS members. The presentation mainly consisted of who can be beneficiaries, how EuCAS members, including non-EU countries, can be involved in regional cooperation, and how to start project preparation. After the presentation, there was Q & A session that attracted high attention from the participants. Most of the questions were focused on how to participate in the Grants and Ms. Sneve kindly offered to be point of contact for if there is interests in and/or questions about the Grants.

3.4. Introduction to Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO)

Ms Barbara Boretta (NSOC, IAEA) provided a presentation on the programme of the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO), which was created in 1997 for promoting safety and enhancing the harmonization of regulatory practices. It was highlighted how FORO determines and implements projects, how the results of FORO projects are shared, and what is the role of the IAEA for FORO.

Session 4: Discussion on Workplan

4.1 Work plan for 2020

The planned activities on the drafting of a work plan in 2020 were discussed. The information provided by the Coordinators of each working group was used as a basis, namely:

- The 5th Steering Committee of EuCAS will take place in April 2-3, 2020 in Moldova, back to back with the WG2 workshop. Ms Sneve reminded the Coordinator of each WG to prepare the Terms of Reference for discussion.
- The workshop of WG1 will be held in June 2020 in Tajikistan on one of the topics identified during the Sarajevo 2018 meeting in order to specify and prioritize activities within WG1 or on "Experienced by TS Organizations to the Nuclear Regulator".
- The workshop on "RADON facilities" under WG2 will be in March 2020 in Moldova. (RADON facilities are so named because their designs were based on the same concept as that of the two central facilities near Moscow and St. Petersburg operated by the Scientific and Industrial Association RADON). Mr. Grozev addressed the topic of a new coordinator for WG2; Mr. V. Stanchev will continue in the role of coordinator.
- WG3 will organize a workshop on "Regulatory system for remediation and decommissioning" based on discussions during the workshop in Prague in 2018. The workshop will be held toward the end of September 2020 in Kazakhstan. A site-visit to a remedied legacy site in Belgium will be organized if possible.
- WG4 will consider 2 topics for 2020: one being self-assessment in capacity building for finding common gaps of regulatory bodies competence; the other being transportation of nuclear materials. A specific time frame was not agreed.

4.2 Initiative and discussion on the action plan for developing a long-term strategy

The participants agreed the ANSN approach could be a good starting point for finding common interests.

Mr. Maeoka suggested that EuCAS could identify common gaps by using the IAEA review mission reports already published. He will prepare a draft of a mapping matrix for NPP through the analysis of IRRS/INIR mission reports of EuCAS members, using IAEA SSG-16 as a template before the next Steering Committee meeting and, preferably, before October 2019. For the purpose of the mapping matrix, participants reviewed which reports could be used.

The discussion was focused on how to avoid duplication in IAEA support activities, considering time and resource limitations. It was commented that EuCAS could expand the field of using this approach from NPP to radiation sources etc. gradually.

4.3 General Conference GC63

The 63rd General Conference (GC63) of the IAEA will take place in Vienna in September 16-20, 2019.

Ms. Sneve noted the fact that a side event during GC63 would be a good opportunity for promoting EuCAS.

With the decision made to hold a EuCAS meeting during GC63, participants discussed what should be the focus area for the first side event of EuCAS and who to invite to ensure the success of the event. The following suggestion for the side event were made:

- Present the role and achievements of EuCAS.
- Highlight achievements as well as improvements through the implementation of EuCAS activities.
- Invite DDG of NS, IAEA (to address why IAEA strongly supports EuCAS) and a TC person for finding a way forward for cooperation.
- Invite donor countries supporting EuCAS (Norway, EC, USA), and CGULS (Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites) for sharing the strategic master plan and good practice in Central Asia.
- Invite high-level officials from Member States.

agree and disseminate the side event date as soon as possible

Mr. Guo addressed that the EuCAS factsheet (1 sheet) could be provided with the help of communication experts within the IAEA Secretariat. The factsheet will be linked to the website of EuCAS.

Ms Sneve asked participants to encourage high-level officials to attend the first side event of EuCAS in advance. The draft Agenda will be sent to the members before the meeting for comments.

4.4 Approval of Annual report 2018

Ms Sneve adopted the draft of the Annual Report 2018 with minor corrections on some facts. For the next year, the participants suggested to restructure and streamline the format of the Annual Report. Instead of using whole minutes of the activities, they can be summarized with general issues, and progress and achievements of each of the working groups in order.

4.3 Closing Remarks

Ms Sneve, the EuCAS chairperson, acknowledged participants for their active involvement and the IAEA Secretariat for meeting preparation and continued support.

Mr. Guo thanked Ms Sneve for her excellent leadership and all participants for their contribution. He further committed to continued support to EuCAS.



Appendix 1 : Agenda

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

| Time | Presentation/Activity |
|--------------|--|
| 09:30-10:00 | Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks <i>by Mr. G Caruso, Director, NSOC</i> • Opening remarks <i>by Ms Malgorzata Sneve, Chair of EuCAS</i> • Introduction of the participants • Adoption of Agenda • Approval of new member's application: Kyrgyzstan republic • Group photo |
| 10:00-10:45 | Discussion on Work plan (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report and future plans of EuCAS network <i>by Ms M Sneve</i> • The report on results of the workshop form 10 to12 December 2018 Sarajevo <i>by Mr. Zoran Tesanovic, Coordinator of WG1</i> • Review and Approval of work plan for 2019 (Discussion on WG2 in Moldova + Chair of WG2) |
| Break | |
| 11:00 12:30 | The introduction to Asian Nuclear Safety network <i>by Mr. M Maeoka, NSNI</i> |
| | The introduction to TC Europe Programme and Best practice <i>by Mr. A Katukhov, TCEU</i> |
| | Invited presentation: Bi-lateral agreements on Regulatory Cooperation Programme, EEA and Norway Grants projects <i>by Mr. R Kovács, DSA (Norway)</i> |
| Lunch | |
| 14:00-15:15 | Discussion on Work plan (2) for 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC: how many, where and when • WG: how many, where, when and the subject |
| Break | |
| 15:30 16:45 | Initiative and discussion on the action plan for developing long-term strategy (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the Concrete purpose (Identity of EuCAS) • Mechanisms for coordination and more effective collaboration with existing programs and networks |
| 16:45-17:15 | Summary of the day |
| 17:30 | Reception hosted by IAEA in VIC restaurant Salon A |

Wednesday, 15 May 2019

| Time | Presentation/Activity |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>9:00-10:30</i> | Review of the EuCAS annual report for 2018 |
| | Initiative and discussion on the action plan for developing long-term strategy (2) |
| | Other topics to be discussed |
| break | |
| <i>11:00-12:00</i> | Side event by EuCAS during General Conference 63 (agenda & factsheet) |
| | Next EuCAS Network Steering Committee Meeting |
| | Closing Remarks by Chair and IAEA |
| <i>12:00-12:30</i> | Short Coordination Meeting: Chair + IAEA |

Appendix 2 - List of participants

| Country | Title | Last Name | First Name | Affiliation | Address | Attendance |
|------------------------|-------|----------------|------------|---|------------------------------|------------|
| Armenia | Mr | Bzuni | Surik | Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority | s.bznuni@nrsc.am | Yes |
| Azerbaijan | Mr | Guliyev | Akbar | State Agency on Nuclear and Radiological Activity Regulation | akbar.guliyev@fhn.gov.az | Yes |
| Belgium | Mrs | Mommaert | Chantal | Bel V | Chantal.mommaert@belv.be | Yes |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Mr | Tesanovic | Zoran | State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety | zoran.tesanovic@darns.gov.ba | Yes |
| Bulgaria | Mr | Grozev | Nikolay | Nuclear Regulatory Agency | n.grozev@bnra.at | Yes |
| Czech Republic | Mr | Jurda | Miroslav | State Office for Nuclear Safety | Mirosla.jurda@sujb.cz | Yes |
| France | Ms | Mathieu | Anne | IRSN | anne.mathieu@irsn.fr | Yes |
| Georgia | Mr | Gedevanishvili | Vasil | Agency of Nuclear and Radiation Safety | v.gedevanishvili@anrs.gov.ge | Yes |
| Kazakhstan | Mr | Kim | Alexander | Atomic and Energy Supervision and Control of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan | alafkim@gmail.com | Yes |
| Moldova | Mr | Apostol | Ion | National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities | apostolmd@hotmail.com | Yes |
| Norway | Ms | Sneve | Malgorzata | Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority | Malgorzata.Sneve@dsa.no | Yes |
| | Mr | Kovac | Roland | | Roland.Kovacs@dsa.no | Yes |
| Russian Federation | Ms | Kuzmina | Antonina | Federal State Unitary Enterprise VO "Safety" | kuzmina@vosafety.ru | Yes |
| | Ms | Shcheglova | Evgeniya | | shcheglova@vosafety.ru | Excused |
| Serbia | Mr | Brajic | Branko | Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Security Agency | brajic@srbatom.gov.rs | Yes |
| | Ms | Milovanovic | Jasmina | | milovanovic@srbatom.gov.rs | Yes |
| Slovakia | Mr | Turner | Mikulas | Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic | Mikulas.Turner@ujd.gov.sk | Yes |
| Tajikistan | Mr | Mirsaidov | Ilkhom | Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency AS RT | agentilhom@mail.ru | Yes |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----|---------------|----------|--|---|-----|
| USA | Ms | Yilma | Haimanot | U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission | Haimanot.yilma @nrc.gov | Yes |
| | Ms | Petrachenkova | Liliya | US DOE/NNSA | liliya.petrachenk ova@nnsa.doe.g ov | Yes |

IAEA:

| Title | Last Name | First Name | Organization | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Mr | Caruso | Gustavo | NSOC | Attended |
| Mr | Guo | Lingquan | NSOC-NMPS | Attended |
| Ms | Cho | ChungAh | NSOC-NMPS | Attended |
| Mr | Maeoka | Mamoru | NSNI-RAS | Attended |
| Mr | Katukhov | Alexey | TCEU | Attended |
| Ms | Boreta | Barbara | NSOC-PSCS | Attended |