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ANNEX 2

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan for the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation for 2024

Action Document for Safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste 2024

ANNUAL PLAN
This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 7 of the INSC Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title **OPSYS business reference** **Basic Act**	Safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste 2024 ACT-62492 & ACT-62493 Financed under the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out worldwide, in particular in the Neighbourhood East
4. Programming document	European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Multiannual Indicative Programme (2021-2027) of 3 December 2021 (C(2021) 8687)
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	This action contributes to the responsible and safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, including environmental remediation, in the partner countries or regions
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Responsible and safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, including environmental remediation
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 16 (Strong Institutions) Other significant SDGs: SDG 11 (Disaster Risk Reduction), SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality)
8 a) DAC code(s)	23510 – Nuclear energy electric power plants and nuclear safety – 100%
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	10000 – Public sector institutions

9. Targets	☐ Migration ☐ Climate ☐ Social inclusion and Human Development ☒ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☐ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers **(from DAC form)**	**General policy objective** @	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☐	☒
	Aid to environment @	☐	☐	☒
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	☐	☒	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☒	☐	☐
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity @	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change adaptation @	☒	☐	☐
11. Internal markers and Tags:	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation @	☒	☐	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	☐	☒	
	digital governance	☐	☒	
	digital entrepreneurship	☐	☒	
	digital skills/literacy	☐	☒	
	digital services	☐	☒	
	Connectivity @	☒	☐	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	☐	☒	
	energy	☐	☒	
	transport	☐	☒	
	health	☐	☒	
	education and research	☐	☒	

	Migration @	☒	☐	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities @	☒	☐	☐
	Covid-19	☒	☐	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.060100 Total estimated cost for 2024: EUR 16 900 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution for 2024: EUR 16 900 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	**Direct management** through procurement for Component B (Armenia) **Indirect management** with: - the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) and/or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for Component A (Ukraine) - the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for Component C			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The main purpose of this Action is to support partner countries in the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel according to the best international standards.

Following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the illegal occupation and seizure of the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone and the reported shelling and bombarding of other radioactive waste management installations, the Action will provide support to restore and strengthen Ukrainian capacities in the area of spent fuel and radioactive waste management.

The Action will continue our support to Armenia in aligning their nuclear waste management practices to the best international standards.

The Action will provide support to the IAEA in implementing radioactive waste management activities worldwide.

The action is in line with the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)[1] and its thematic areas of engagement "Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women" as well as "Promoting equal participation and leadership".

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The promotion of radiation protection and nuclear safety is a key priority for the EU since the early days of the EURATOM Community. The European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation[2] (INSC) is the specific tool of the EU addressing nuclear safety issues in partner countries, including candidate countries, complementing other financing instruments for external action such as the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III).

The international recognition of the added value of the Instrument was acknowledged in 2017 at the 7th IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety review meeting where 'the implementation of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation Program for assisting non-EU countries' was officially recognised world-wide as 'good practice'.

[1] https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gender-action-plan-iii-towards-gender-equal-world_en

[2] Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/948 of 27 May 2021 establishing a European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation complementing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe on the basis of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 237/2014

The final evaluation of the INSC 2014-2020[3] recognises the positive contribution of the Instrument, noticing its capability to respond swiftly to new needs. It acknowledged INSC's unique added value due to the institutional framework that allows the European Commission to act at a global level; the instrument is supporting complementarities, coordination and synergies and is effective in leveraging financial resources for nuclear safety.

The main target of this Action is to support partner countries in the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel, including the remediation of former legacy sites, according to the best international standards.

The European Commission's services maintain a close working relationship with the EEAS and its EU Delegations in partner countries, in order to help ensure a coherent approach, taking the latest relevant developments into account.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Component A: Ukraine – Restoration and strengthening of spent fuel and radioactive waste management
The activities in Ukraine will focus on supply and/or works for the restoration or replacement of radioactive waste management equipment, installations and related services, focusing on the installations in the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone and other nuclear facilities and equipment damaged, looted or lost in relation to Russia's war of aggression. In particular, radiation monitoring networks installed at spent fuel and radioactive waste management facilities have been damaged. Ongoing INSC projects are partially addressing these issues but further support is required. The intervention will be carried out in full coordination with the responsible Ukrainian organisations.

Component B: Armenia – Strengthening radioactive waste management infrastructure
Armenia is implementing a plan to improve its radioactive waste management strategy. This action will support the establishment of a radioactive waste management facility.

Component C: IAEA – Strengthening nuclear safety and radioactive waste management activities worldwide
The cooperation with the IAEA is driven by the synergy and complementarity of the actions that are commonly discussed at the annual Senior Officials Meeting. The IAEA may implement projects with the financial support of the EU as the organisation is best placed to achieve the objectives of the action. Based on these elements, we are closely working with and supporting the IAEA in various aspects related to maintaining nuclear safety and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

The Action will ensure the meaningful participation of women and men in decision-making processes related to radioactive waste management. This involves creating opportunities for women and men from diverse backgrounds to contribute their perspectives, knowledge, and concerns.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:
As duty bearers:
Component A – Ukraine: Ukrainian radioactive waste management operators, in particular the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management (SAUEZM) and its subsidiaries, and the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU).
Component B – Armenia: Organisation responsible for radioactive waste management in Armenia, Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP)
Component C – IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

As right holders:

Representatives from non-governmental organizations, women's associations, organizations of persons with disabilities and academic institutions, organization of safe and efficient activities in the field of radiation safety and radiation.

[3] https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/climate-environment-and-energy/nuclear-safety_en

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste according to best international standards.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are:

1. Restored and strengthened spent fuel and radioactive waste management in Ukraine
2. Strengthened radioactive waste management infrastructure in Armenia
3. Nuclear safety and radioactive waste management activities strengthened worldwide

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

Contributing to Outcome 1 (Ukraine):

1.1 Urgent restoration and strengthening of spent fuel and radioactive waste management facilities and functions, including decommissioning, and further alignment with EU *acquis*

1.2 National radioactive waste management strategy and waste treatment routes updated to the context of Russia's war of aggression

1.3 Enhanced capabilities in radioactive waste characterisation and treatment

1.4 Solutions for a radioactive waste disposal facility defined for all waste types updated to the current context of Russia's war of aggression

Contributing to Outcome 2 (Armenia):

2.1 Independent capacity to produce radioactive waste storage containers established

Contributing to Outcome 3 (IAEA):

3.1 Strengthened regulators' capabilities in radioactive waste management

3.2 Effective implementation of national radioactive waste management strategy

3.2 Indicative Activities

The description of the activities may not be exhaustive.

Outcome 1: Restored and strengthened spent fuel and radioactive waste management in Ukraine

Activities relating to Output 1.1:

- Reconstruction and clean-up activities in Ukraine, in particular in the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone

Activities relating to Output 1.2:

- Support assessment on analysis of radioactive waste management options and definition of a national strategy/programme (in line with Article 11 of the Directive 2011/70/Euratom) taking into account current and postwar context and needs

Activities relating to Output 1.3:

- Review of safety documentation related to radioactive waste management facilities with gender sensitive approach

Activities relating to Output 1.4:

- Support analysis and definition of radioactive waste disposal options for all waste types updated to the current context of Russia's war of aggression taking into account the specific needs and concerns of women and men.

Outcome 2: Strengthened radioactive waste management infrastructure in Armenia

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Supply of equipment and associated services for waste storage containers production facilities considering gender-responsive health and safety measures to protect workers and communities from the potential hazards associated with radioactive waste management

Outcome 3: Nuclear safety and radioactive waste management activities strengthened worldwide

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

- Preparation of guidance and methodological documents in the area of e.g. considering external events in siting of waste disposal facilities, assessing safety in transition from operations to decommissioning, and building the safety culture programme in the regulatory body with gender sensitive approach and including persons with disabilities

- Development of self-assessment tools for e.g. regulatory self-assessment, Technical Support Organisation capability assessment, and measuring national implementation of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources
- Developing training and e-learning material, organising workshops and providing training courses on topics such as safety culture, nuclear radiological leadership for safety, drafting regulations, and providing guidance on radiological and environmental impacts of releases to the environment
- Conducting awareness trainings and campaigns about gender dynamics in radioactive waste management and ensuring that both women and men have equal access to training opportunities and resources
- Conducting IAEA peer review missions and advisory services to enhance national infrastructure for radiation and waste safety

Activities relating to Output 3.2:

- Implementation of basic safety standards and radioactive waste management with focus on conditioning, packaging and transport operations of Ra266 or other isotopes
- Improving environmental monitoring and assessment of radiation protection in radioactive waste management
- Establish gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress
- Regular collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data to inform decision-making when necessary

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The activities contribute directly to the protection of the environment by enhancing the safe storage of radioactive waste and implementing environmental remediation.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

Women are underrepresented in spent fuel and radioactive waste management, as well as in the nuclear field in general, so it is important to understand and tackle the barriers that women can face to joining and thriving in this field. The contribution of the INSC to gender equality is mainly achieved through activities related to training and tutoring for which the European Commission strongly encourages the participation of women that in turn will provide additional opportunity for career development. Women are also underrepresented in STEM[4] and leadership roles, even when considered in terms of their representation in the nuclear workforce.[5] This action aims amongst others at gender balanced training and tutoring for safe management of radioactive waste as well as environmental remediation in partner countries. Studies and advisory services will fully integrate gender aspects. Gender-specific indicators and data disaggregated by sex, age and disability will be included, where relevant. This action will work with partners to ensure a balanced representation of women and men in all activities. Therefore, as per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1.

Human Rights

This action is designed and will be implemented taking into account the need to uphold national and international human rights and to respect the five working principles of the human rights-based approach: respecting all human rights, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency principles, as well as ensuring participation of all stakeholders.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the action is not considered relevant for inclusion of persons with disabilities. However, this action will ensure that rights of persons with disabilities will be respected and will encourage stakeholders and programme participants to take the initiatives to protect and ensure equal access of persons with disabilities. This action is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)[6] and the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030[7].

Disaster Risk Reduction

All components have aspects of disaster risk reduction, because nuclear safety activities are directly and indirectly reducing the chance of or the impact of incidents or accidents relating to nuclear activities or applications of radioactivity.

[4] STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

[5] Gender Balance in the Nuclear Sector, Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) 2023

[6] Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

[7] EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
People and the organisation	Lack of political commitment and administrative support in the partner countries	L	M	Continued dialogue with authorities at all levels in partner countries on the importance of INSC actions
People and the organisation	Insufficient or inadequate gender mainstreaming could reinforce gender inequalities and the nonrealisation of human rights including the lack of respect for persons with disabilities in the sector and hinder the efficiency and sustainability of the action	M	M	Use of available knowledge and tools of gender mainstreaming Gender-sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data, and gender sensitive indicators Gender mainstreaming in all phases of the intervention cycle
External environment	Ukraine: Engaging will remain difficult because of the continuation of Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine	H	H	Maximum flexibility will be applied
External environment	Ukraine: Needs for restoration of waste management infrastructure will be much larger than can be covered by the INSC budget	H	H	Current budget will be allocated for priority emergencies and assessments Extra budget allocation will be sought
Lessons Learnt: Extensive and broad experience has been gained in successfully implementing similar INSC projects in partner countries and regions, both in the framework of the TACIS[8] Nuclear Safety Programme and the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC). This experience will be used in optimising the design and implementation of this action. Communication and support from the partners and end-users will remain a key element for successful implementation. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report of the 'Evaluation of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation 2014-2020'[9] have informed the formulation of this Action. Component A (Ukraine)				

[8] Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States

[9] https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/climate-environment-and-energy/nuclear-safety_en

Since the start of Russia's war of aggression on 24 February 2022, outputs and activities of ongoing INSC interventions had to be adapted, as well as their implementation modality and timeframe, due to dramatic events, e.g. extensive damage in the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone. Hence for Ukraine in particular, new INSC interventions should be defined with a broad enough scope and timeframe to allow for an easy and rapid adaptation to changing circumstances. Regular donor coordination, including with Member States providing bilateral support, under the leadership of the Ukraine government avoids overlap and gaps while ensuring a more effective and synergetic use of scarce resources.

Component B (Armenia)

The EU and Armenia are cooperating since the 1990's. This partnership is constructive and cooperative, but sometimes incurring delays. Therefore, flexibility will be necessary. INSC contract A4.01/09, completed in 2015, assisted Armenia in the development of a radioactive waste and spent fuel management strategy.

Component C (IAEA)

Extensive and broad experience has been gained in successfully implementing similar activities with the IAEA in the framework of the INSC. This experience will be used in optimising the design and implementation of this component. The Commission selects from a list of IAEA project proposals on the basis of criteria, such as relevance for INSC, EU priority, IAEA comparative advantage, cost effectiveness and avoidance of overlap and duplication.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that all projects contribute to enhanced radiation safety levels in the partner countries and regions, and develop spent fuel and radioactive waste management systems in line with national strategies according to best international standards. By ensuring effective radioactive waste management in Armenia and worldwide and by restoring radioactive waste management in Ukraine, the risk of unwarranted exposure to radiation of the public and the environment will be reduced.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.
On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest.
New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.
The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste in third countries and regions according to best international standards	1 Feedback on INSC cooperation during meetings of the IAEA Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management 2 Feedback from IAEA peer review missions	1 Recognised as good practice (2017) 2 Depending on country (2023)	1 Positive (2028) 2 Positive in all INSC partner countries (2028)	1 IAEA joint convention reports 2 IAEA peer review reports	*Not applicable*
Outcome 1 (Ukraine)	1 Restored and strengthened spent fuel and radioactive waste management in Ukraine	1.1 Extent to which spent fuel and radioactive waste management infrastructures are in place and regularly functioning	1.1 Damage to facilities and infrastructure are being partially assessed by ongoing projects (2024)	1.1 Facilities and infrastructure mostly restored (2028)	1.1 Project reports and SNRIU reports in international fora	War ends / no further significant deterioration of the military situation
Outcome 2 (Armenia)	2 Strengthened radioactive waste management infrastructure in Armenia	2.1 Operational waste management plant	2.1 Tenders under preparation (2023)	2.1 Waste management plant operational (2028)	2.1 Projects reports, report for the IAEA Convention on RAW and SNF management	
Outcome 3 (IAEA)	3 Nuclear safety and radioactive waste management activities strengthened worldwide	3.1 Extent to which the culture and standards for nuclear operations and radioactive waste management are in line with international best practices with gender sensitive approach 3.2 Extent to which IAEA member states have acquired the human and technical resources for a safe management of radioactive waste, disaggregated by sex and disabilities	3.1 Partially addressed (2023) 3.2 Partially addressed (2023)	3.1 100% (2026) in those areas targeted by the action 3.2 100% (2026) in those areas targeted by the action	3.1 Project's final report / assessments 3.2 Project's final report / assessments	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Urgent restoration and strengthening of spent fuel and radioactive waste management	1.1.1 State of play of restoration	1.1.1 TBD (2024)	1.1.1 TBD (2028)	1.1.1 Project reports	War ends or at least Russian forces do not gain additional territory

	facilities and functions, including decommissioning activities, and further alignment with EU *acquis*					
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 National radioactive waste management strategy and waste treatment routes updated to the context of Russia's war of aggression	1.2.1 Status of national radioactive waste management strategy with focus on disruption caused by Russia's war of aggression	1.2.1 Strategy under discussion (2024)	1.2.1 Strategy approved by Parliament (2028)	1.2.1 Official journal	
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3 Enhanced capabilities in radioactive waste characterisation and treatment	1.3.1 Status of regulatory approval of new or upgraded radioactive waste management facilities	1.3.1 Not approved (2024)	1.3.1 Approved and inspected (2028)	1.3.1 License issued by regulatory authority, regulatory inspection reports, project reports	
Output 4 relating to Outcome 1	1.4 Solutions for a radioactive waste disposal facility defined for all waste types updated to the current context of Russia's war of aggression	1.4.1 Status of analysis for disposal facility options	1.4.1 Type of facility and potential site not defined (2024)	1.4.1 Type of facility and location defined (2028)	1.4.1 Regulatory authority decision, project reports and Reports to the Joint Convention	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Independent capacity to produce radioactive waste storage containers established	2.1.1 Equipment and associated services for the container manufacturing plant provided	2.1.1 0% equipment available and operational (2023)	2.1.1 100% equipment available and operational (2028)	2.1.1 Project documentation	Building available at delivery time
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	3.1 Strengthened regulators' capabilities in radioactive waste management	3.1.1 Number of guidance documents, learning material and tools developed with EU support 3.1.2 Number of trainings provided with EU support 3.1.3 Number of persons trained in radioactive waste management disaggregated by sex and disabilities	3.1.1 0 (2023) 3.1.2 0 (2023) 3.1.3 0 (2023)	3.1.1 TBD (2026) 3.1.2 TBD (2026) 3.1.3 TBD (2026)	3.1.1-3 Project documentation	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	3.2 Effective implementation of national radioactive waste management strategy	3.2.1 Number of IAEA Member States assisted in implementation with EU support	3.2.1 0 (2023)	3.2.1 TBD (2026)	3.2.1 Project documentation	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with Armenia concerning Component B.
In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement for Components A and C.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 (for Component B) will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 84 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.
The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 (for Components A and C) will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 84 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.
Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures[10].

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

Component B will contribute to enhancing the capabilities of Armenia to levels comparable with those in the EU in the area of safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

Subject	Indicative type (works, supplies, services)
Component B: Armenia	Supplies

4.3.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

Component A (Ukraine) of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) and/or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). This implementation entails all activities detailed under chapter 3.2 (Outcome 1). The envisaged entities have been selected using the following criteria:

- STCU: Strong expertise in managing nuclear safety related projects; close and productive working relationship with the Ukrainian authorities in charge of nuclear safety; demonstrated management capacities under recent and on-going INSC interventions; necessary competences and privileges (e.g. tax exemptions) for project implementation; proven track record in efficient and effective implementation of nuclear safety projects; up-to-date knowledge on the situation in Ukraine; and headquarters in Kyiv since 2005 with many of its staff based in Ukraine.
- EBRD: Strong expertise in managing funds linked to nuclear safety related programmes in Ukraine; Close relationship with the Ukrainian authorities in charge of nuclear safety; manager of the multi-donor fund (International Chernobyl Cooperation Account (ICCA), to which the EU is the main contributor, dedicated to the reconstruction of the nuclear safety capacities in Ukraine; demonstrated management capacities under recently closed and still ongoing multi-donor funds to which INSC

[10] www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

contributed substantial amounts; necessary competences and privileges (e.g. tax exemptions) for project implementation; and proven track record in efficient and effective implementation of nuclear safety projects.
Component C (IAEA) of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: complementary activity planned by the organisation with potential financial contribution and necessary competences and privileges (as e.g. tax exemptions) for project implementation. This implementation entails all activities detailed under chapter 3.2 (Outcome 3)

4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If the part of the action in direct management as per section 4.3.1 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside the Commission's control, it may be replaced by implementation through indirect management with a pillar assessed entity meeting the following criteria: experience with safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste related projects, demonstrated capacity to perform similar activities in the partner country or region and the willingness to agree to comply with the EU communication and visibility guidelines.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply. The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 11(8) INSC Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/948 of 27 May 2021).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	**EU contribution (amount in EUR)**
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
SO 1 Restored spent fuel and radioactive waste management in Ukraine, composed of	
Indirect management with STCU and/or EBRD - cf. section 4.3.2	6 000 000
SO 2 Strengthened radioactive waste management infrastructure in Armenia, composed of	
Procurement (direct management) - cf. section 4.3.1	6 400 000
SO 3 Nuclear safety and radioactive waste management activities strengthened worldwide, composed of	
Indirect management with IAEA - cf. section 4.3.2	4 000 000
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1	*6 400 000*
Indirect management – total envelope under section 4.3.2	*10 000 000*
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 **Audit** – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
Contingencies	500 000

Total	16 900 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Each intervention will tentatively include a steering committee, set up with representatives of the key organisations, including the partner country and the implementing partner. Each steering committee provides support, guidance and oversight of the intervention and shall meet whenever deemed necessary by the end user, the European Commission, or the implementing partner.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- The indicators, corresponding data sources and baselines are indicated in the logframe above. Arrangements for monitoring and reporting will be specified in the individual contracts.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex and age, and disability if possible.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination[11]. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract. The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

In addition, all evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

[11] See best practice of evaluation dissemination

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention[12] (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

- Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;
- Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);
- Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as:

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
☐	Single action	
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
☐	Group of actions	
Contract level		
☒	Single Contract 1	Contract under Component A (Ukraine)
☒	Single Contract 2	Contract under Component B (Armenia)
☒	Single Contract 3	Contract under Component C (IAEA)
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
☐	Group of contracts 1	

[12] For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including 'Action' and 'Intervention' where an 'Action' is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission financing Decision and 'Intervention' is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the concept of intervention.