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WP3.5 – Conditions for Civil Society involvement in Joint Programming Initiative on Radioactive waste Disposal

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The European project JOPRAD provides an opportunity for Civil Society to get involved in the joint programming of research and development on radioactive waste management and geological disposal.

What are the objectives of the JOPRAD project?

The European research project JOPRAD¹ started in June 2015 and will end in November 2017. It aims at preparing a proposal for the setting up of a “Joint Programming (JP) on Radioactive Waste Disposal” between Waste Management Organisations (WMOs), Technical Support Organisations (TSOs) working for regulators, and Research Entities (REs). The JP will contribute to the EU objective of building the European Research Area through enhanced cooperation and coordination of national research programmes. It would bring together at the European level, the aspects of R&D activities implemented within national research programmes where synergy from Joint Programming is identified. The aspects of R&D activities brought together concern geological disposal of spent fuel and other high activity long lived radioactive waste, including waste management aspects linked with their disposal and accompanying key activities (Education and Training, as well as Knowledge Management). The research needs of the three main actors identified in the project (WMOs, TSOs, and RE) should be established independently.

What are the opportunities for Civil Society Engagement in the JOPRAD project?

The JOPRAD project provides an opportunity for involved Civil Society Organisations to access information, to express expectations, concerns and recommendations vis-a-vis the possibility of a Joint Programming (JP) of R&D on Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) and Geological Disposal (GD), between national WMOs, TSOs, and REs at the European level.

In the framework of the JOPRAD project, the involved Civil Society Organisations will:

- Access information on the new considered patterns of EU governance of R&D on Radioactive RWM and GD, that constitute “environmental information” in the sense of the Aarhus Convention;

¹ The acronym of the project means: “European **JO**int **PR**ogramming Project on **RA**dioactive Waste Disposal”.

- Formulate questions, concerns and recommendations on the considered new schemes of governance of R& D that would involve WMOs, TSOs, and REs;
- Formulate recommendations on rules, processes, conditions and means of involvement of Civil Society in this Joint Programming Initiative (in the perspective of the Aarhus Convention);
- Determine Civil Society R&D priorities and provide input on European and national RWM R&D programmes on important issues to be included.

What are the objectives of task 3.5 of the JOPRAD project?

The objective of Work Package 3, task 3.5 of the JOPRAD project is to interact with a group of Civil Society Organisations in order to assess the Joint Programming proposal and to determine the conditions and means for involving CS in the future, in the perspective opened by the Aarhus Convention. The work is divided in two sub-tasks:

- Establish the expectations and views of Civil Society regarding the conditions and means for setting a JPI and regarding its potential involvement in the governance of the JPI,
- Identify key research areas that Civil Society would like to see included into the research programmes.