

Draft Programme
*Remembering the Past in the Future: Building Awareness of Radioactive Waste
Repositories Together*

<http://www.oecd-nea.org/egapworkshop>

22-24 November 2022
Dessel, Belgium

How can we - the present society – pass on knowledge of the existence, nature and history of high-level radioactive waste to future generations over timescales ranging from decades to neverending? This 50-year-old, timeless question, was in the centre of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) initiative on the “Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) Across Generations” in the 2010’s, and it is followed-up in the NEA’s “Expert Group on Awareness Preservation” (EGAP) since 2020. Progress towards viable and shared RK&M/awareness preservation strategies has been documented in the RK&M Initiative’s final report ([NEA 7421, 2019](#)), where a number of tools and techniques are presented as the “RK&M toolbox”. The EGAP is working on new concepts and alternative approaches to be taken into account in a comprehensive strategy.

In order to disseminate and discuss first results, to receive feedback and to broaden the discussion to include various stakeholders, the EGAP is organising the workshop “Remembering the Past in the Future: Building Awareness of Radioactive Waste Repositories Together”. The workshop constitutes an element of a participatory process that should be inherent to any conclusive RK&M preservation strategy. Awareness preservation has been found to be as much a process (like discussing, learning, involving, sharing) as it is about products (like a marker, a message, and an archive), and the workshop is designed to reflect this by providing a platform to discuss and participate. A major international conference and debate, focused entirely on RK&M / awareness preservation, was held in Verdun, France, in 2014. The current workshop in Dessel, Belgium, will take up and foster this debate in 2022.

The workshop is initiated and led by the EGAP, in collaboration with the NEA Forum for Stakeholder Confidence (FSC). A dedicated Programme Committee has been established to design the content and format of this public workshop, including representatives from the EGAP, FSC, the NEA Expert Group on Archiving for Radioactive Waste Management Activities (EGAR) and the NEA Secretariat.

This workshop will be hosted at Tabloo in Dessel, a multi-functional visitor centre developed near the site of a future radioactive waste disposal facility for low and intermediate level short-lived waste. Tabloo was developed in close collaboration between the Belgian National Agency for Radioactive Waste and enriched Fissile Material (ONDRAF/NIRAS) and local community partnerships, and serves as a living example of a local approach for awareness preservation of a nuclear repository for workshop participants to observe.

Inputs from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Commission, local partnerships in Belgium, and other relevant NEA groups such as the Regulators’ forum were sought out. Contributions from specialists outside of the nuclear field will also be included in the content of presentations and discussions to foster a greater exchange of ideas and experience.

EGAP Workshop Day 1 – Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Time / Location	Session
9h15-10h30	<p>Introductory Session: Where do we stand?</p> <p>This session will discuss the “state of the art” in international thinking, concepts and guidelines on the preservation of awareness of nuclear repositories. An overview of the results of the NEA RK&M Initiative, which developed an in-depth understanding of the issue at stake, as well as a specific methodology to address these results will be provided. Local stakeholders will also present in order to span perspectives which contribute to a holistic view on RK&M, awareness preservation, and the participatory processes involved.</p> <p>Master of Ceremonies: Robbe Geysmans, Sociologist, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK-CEN), Belgium</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Rebecca Tadesse, Head of Division, Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning (RWMD), Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)</p> <p>Martin Kunze, Founder, Memory of Mankind, Austria</p> <p>Local community members Mol and Dessel on 'living memory' and Tabloo visitor centre</p> <p>Stephan Hotzel, Scientific Officer, Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management (BASE), Germany</p>
10h30-11h00	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
11h00-13h00	<p>Session 1: Awareness preservation processes at nuclear heritage sites</p> <p>The nuclear field has created and continues to create tangible and intangible legacies for current and future generations. Radioactive waste, decommissioned nuclear sites, nuclear accidents, or cultural artefacts are some of the examples in which nuclear might continue to have an impact on the future. An important issue in this context is whether and how awareness should be preserved on such legacies. This session will explore awareness preservation processes in the context of different nuclear heritage projects and sites.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Benjamin Offen, Scientific Officer, Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management (BASE), Germany</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Anne-Lize Kochuyt, Coordinator, Tabloo Visitor Centre, Belgian National Agency for Radioactive Waste (ONDRAF/NIRAS), Belgium</p> <p>Ayako Araki, Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Japan (NUMO), Japan</p> <p>Brian Zimmerman, Site Manager, Office of Legacy Management, Department of Energy (DOE), United States</p> <p>Michelle Donoghue, Information Governance Manager, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), United Kingdom</p>
13h00-14h15	<p><i>Lunch break</i></p>

14h15-15h00	<p>Keynote Session:</p> <p>Rosemary A. Joyce, Interim Director of Global, International, and Area Studies; Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, United States</p>
15h00-17h30	<p>Session 2: Challenges of existing regulatory approaches in nuclear</p> <p>This session aims to discuss the place of regulatory provisions in the overall system for awareness preservation regarding radioactive waste repositories. It will also explore the interactions of regulatory and participatory processes with regard to awareness preservation. In various national programmes, the regulatory framework defines a set of provisions that should be implemented for knowledge and awareness preservation over the lifecycle of radioactive waste repositories. This session will discuss the interactions between such compliance activities, on one side, and best practice and supporting activities, on the other side, with a special focus to participatory processes.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Rebecca Tadesse, Head of Division, Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning (RWMD), Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Petri Paju, Adjunct Professor, University of Turku, Finland</p> <p>Jean-Noël Dumont, Senior Advisor and Programme Manager, Memory for Future Generations, National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management (ANDRA), France</p> <p>Florence Poidevin, Programme Manager, Memory for Future Generations, National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management (ANDRA), France</p> <p>Carl Henrik Pettersson, Investigator, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, Sweden</p> <p>Sami Naumer, Research Scientist, VTT, Finland</p> <p>Felix Altorfer, Head of Waste Management Division, Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate, Switzerland</p>
30-minute break at 16h00	

EGAP Workshop Day 2 – Wednesday, 23 November 2022

Time / Location	Session
9h00-10h30	<p>Session 3 - Approaches for the unknown future</p> <p>Efforts have been made to convey information about the modern world to future generations, societies or civilisations on a global basis or in specific countries. We are not able to predict when, where, and how such information is received; however, various approaches have been developed, regarding not only the transmission method, but also regarding the material of the recording media and the expression method such as characters and symbols. Presentations will include representative case studies of these approaches.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Pascale Künzi, Specialist for Stakeholder Involvement, Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE), Switzerland</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>N.A.J. Taylor, Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Deakin University, Australia</p> <p>Daniel Beck, PhD Student, London College of Communication, United Kingdom</p> <p>Barbara Habermacher, Documentalist, Nagra, Switzerland</p> <p>Arne Berckmans, Project Manager, ONDRAF/NIRAS, Belgium</p>
10h30-11h00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h00-12h30	<p>Session 3 - Approaches for the unknown future (continued)</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Morgan Packer, Specialist, Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning (RWMD), Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ele Carpenter, Professor, Umeå University, Sweden</p> <p>Martin Kunze, Founder, Memory of Mankind, Austria</p> <p>Thomas Beaufils, Lecturer, University of Lille, France</p>
12h30-15h00	<i>Lunch break & visit to interactive Tabloo exhibition</i>

15h00-17h30	Session 4: Conceptualizing remembrance across generations
15-minute break at 16h15	<p>This session aims to discuss new developments that may be important for awareness preservation per se or for understanding mechanisms behind successful long-term memory.</p>
	Co-chairs & presentations:
	Cornelius Holtorf , Professor and UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures, Linnaeus University, Sweden
	Anders Högberg , Professor, Linnaeus University, Sweden
	Speakers:
	Carina Green , Lecturer in Sociology, Örebro University, Sweden
	Carl Henrik Pettersson , Investigator, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, Sweden
	Egle Rindzeviciute , Lecturer, Kingston University, United Kingdom
	Francesco Mazzucchelli , Senior Assistant Professor, University of Bologna, Italy

EGAP Workshop Day 3 – Thursday, 24 November 2022

Time / Location	Session
9h30-11h30	Next steps for awareness preservation A roundtable discussion session and reflection exercise Co-chairs: Pascale Künzi , Specialist for Stakeholder Involvement, Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE), Switzerland Robbe Geysmans , Sociologist, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK-CEN), Belgium
11h30-12h00	Workshop wrap-up and closing remarks Chair: Martin Kunze , Founder, Memory of Mankind, Austria
12h00-13h30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13h30-16h30	Site visit to HADES Underground Research Laboratory (URL) HADES is the oldest underground laboratory in Europe, located in the Boom Clay at a depth of 225 meters. HADES URL plays a central role in research into the safety and feasibility of geological disposal of radioactive waste, where experts use it to develop and test industrial technologies for building, operating and closing a waste repository in deep clay. Due to capacity limitations underground, the site visit will be limited to 30 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration for the site visit opened to fully registered and paid participants for the EGAP workshop on 3 October 2022 at 12h CET.