



Association for Multinational Radioactive Waste Solutions

The initiating Organisations from seven countries and the Founding Board Members are shown below.

Initiating Organisations	Founding Board Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ARAO, Slovenia• Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus, Austria• COVRA, Netherlands• Dekom - Danish Decommissioning, Denmark• ENEA, Italy• Fond-NEK, Croatia• NND, Norway	<p>Ewoud Verhoef, COVRA (President)</p> <p>Ole Kastbjerg Nielsen, Dekom (Vice President)</p> <p>Håvard Kristiansen, NND</p>

▼ Contact the ERDO Secretariat: secretariat@erdo.org



▼ **ERDO**
Association for Multinational
Radioactive Waste Solutions

Spanjeweg 1
4455 TW Nieuwdorp
The Netherlands
0113-61666

info@erdo.org
www.erdo.org

Association for Multinational Radioactive Waste Solutions

Our goals are:

- ▼ to work together to address the common challenges of safely managing the long-lived radioactive wastes in our countries
- ▼ to carry out the necessary groundwork to enable the establishment of one or more operational, shared multinational waste management solutions

The ERDO Association is based at the headquarters of the Dutch radioactive waste management agency, COVRA, and is registered in the commercial register of The Netherlands. After a decade of preparatory work by the ERDO Working Group, the activities of the Association run from the beginning of 2021 and involve from the outset founding members from several European countries.



▼ A Sound Factual Basis

Shared solutions have been researched over the last 20 years and much of the knowledge base lies within the ERDO Association. The founding feasibility studies for sharing disposal solutions in Europe were carried out by ERDO-WG members in the SAPIERR projects of the EC. This led to the establishment of the ERDO Working Group in 2009.

Over the following decade, both the fundamental concepts and the practical aspects of multinational waste management solutions were also researched and promoted by the IAEA, with central involvement of ERDO-WG members. The ERDO Association has established working relationships with a wide circle of organisations involved in radioactive waste management inside Europe and globally.

As a result: ►

- ▼ There is a sound knowledge base on the key issues associated with the economics, legal and political aspects, and the societal implications of shared waste management solutions
- ▼ There is experience in analysing scenarios for how various types of shared facility might evolve and become reality
- ▼ The knowledge basis is being further enhanced within the ERDO Association for the benefit of its members

▼ What will the ERDO Association do?

ERDO envisages a long-term programme of shared activities that aim to spin-off concrete solutions to waste management problems and, eventually to enable progress towards shared facilities. As a relatively small, self-financed body, the ERDO Association can concentrate resources and manage projects effectively on modest budgets with efficient timescales. Specifically, the ERDO Association will:

- ▼ Act as an open forum for sharing technical knowledge and experiences among its members through regular meetings to share information and update each other on progress
- ▼ Identify and carry out projects to achieve specific aims: these will build on projects transferred from the ERDO Working Group, which are currently studying costs of shared disposal, the pre-disposal issues associated with managing legacy wastes and the potential for developing a reference deep borehole disposal solution that could be incorporated into members' national programmes
- ▼ Establish a knowledge centre for members to assist them in resolving issues in their own programmes
- ▼ Act as knowledge centre for external organisations seeking expertise in shared solutions
- ▼ Act as a voice in the international media and fora to promote shared waste management solutions

The legal structure of the Association allows it to act as a representative body in international groupings and to enter into contracts with external organisations, thus facilitating all of the above activities.

▼ Membership and Governance

The ERDO Association operates under the legal requirements of an association laid down in Dutch law. Below some of the key aspects of membership are listed. The full details are documented in the Articles of the Association.

- ▼ Membership is open to any organisation supporting the aims of the Association: commonly, ministries, waste management organisations, regulators, research entities or international organisations
 - Full Members have voting rights and can delegate two representatives into the highest body of the Association – the Assembly of Members (AoM)
 - Associate Members can also have two representatives at the AoM; these participate in discussions but do not have voting rights
- ▼ The Association is managed by a Board elected by the Members from within their number and a Secretariat, which is based at the offices of COVRA in the Netherlands
- ▼ Annual contributions from Members finance the work of the Secretariat and any external project work decided by the Members. Contributions at the founding of the Association in 2021 are set at EUR 10'000 per year for Full Members and EUR 2'000 per year for Associate Members

▼ The Benefits of Multinational Cooperation

Every country has a national responsibility under the IAEA Joint Convention and, for EU Member States, under the EC Waste Directive, to establish a programme and schedule for the safe management and disposal of radioactive wastes and spent fuel.

This requires substantial financial, technical, and human resources to be invested. Because many of the challenges faced are common to different countries, there are potential benefits to be gained through sharing knowledge, technologies and facilities.

- ▼ Shared, multinational approaches to common problems have economic advantages: the work and the costs involved in developing a national programme can be reduced
- ▼ Decades of cooperative RD&D have helped to optimise technical solutions but shared strategic initiatives to implement joint solutions and facilities can optimise the costs of waste management
- ▼ There will be strategic and economic benefits for countries that make use of shared facilities – and also benefits to countries that host these.

▼ The Logic of a Dual-Track Approach

Every country using nuclear technologies generates some wastes that require geological disposal. A deep geological repository (DGR) is the most complex waste management facility to implement. For almost all countries, target dates for operation of a national DGR lie decades into the future. This allows ample time for evaluation in parallel of the shared DGRs that are one focus of the ERDO Association. Our members are developing both options until the optimum solution for each country becomes apparent – this is the Dual-Track approach. It allows countries to keep options open whilst fulfilling their obligations to the IAEA and the EC.

- ▼ Dual-Track maintains flexibility and meets national and international responsibilities
- ▼ Involvement in Dual-Track projects implies no prior commitment to use or host a shared DGR
- ▼ It is already the preferred option of several European countries
- ▼ The prospect of a shared disposal solution encourages the development of common technical approaches to the interim treatment and storage of radioactive wastes
- ▼ Dual-Track encourages developing effective national capabilities not only for a domestic programme, but also to act as a provider or an 'intelligent customer' of shared solutions

