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International Atomic Energy Agency

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EC-IAEA Cooperation on Nuclear Safety

**The Project on Regional Coordination of Coastal EPR
arrangements of the non-EU Mediterranean Member
States for port and maritime emergencies**

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Background



- Port and maritime radiological emergencies **can potentially affect** human health and the environment as well as the trade, tourism and transport
- GC(57)/RES/9 Para 99 encourages MSs **to strengthen** their national, bilateral, regional and international EPR mechanisms
- EU-IAEA MedNet Project (2013-2016) identified need for addressing issue of **EPR in maritime transport**
- Preparedness of countries in the region is **uneven**



Project Objectives and Scope



- To enhance preparedness for and response to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the coastal ports and maritime areas under the jurisdiction of the Mediterranean coastal states, irrespective of their cause.



Project Objectives and Scope – cont.



- This objective is to be achieved by providing guidance on:
 - notification of emergencies
 - sharing of information
 - provision of assistance
 - communications with the public
 - sharing of information at the preparedness stage
 - organization of training and exercises

Notification of emergencies



- Notification of emergencies and sharing of information
 - Other Med. States directly, USIE
 - Information should be supplemented by:
 - Details of a contact person for further information
 - A description of the event
 - Other specific info required by maritime int. conventions
 - Press releases

Assessment of an emergency



- **Emergency assessment and provision of assistance**
 - If capabilities to assess potential consequences exist, country encouraged to share such info with other Med. states
 - If not, RANET (Response and Assistance NETwork) can be used
 - Med. countries encouraged to register their capabilities with RANET
 - Currently 112 MS signatories to the Assistance Convention
 - 30 MS registered their capabilities in RANET

Communications with the public



- **Communications with the public**
 - Media releases related to the event to be shared with other Med. states to assure consistency

Sharing of information at the preparedness stage



■ Sharing of information at the preparedness stage

- States are expected to develop and harmonize protection strategies as per GSR Part 7
- Encouraged to share info through contact points
- Through EPRIMS
 - Main elements of EPR and relevant national bodies
 - Regional and bilateral agreements in force
 - Identified hazards
 - Criteria for taking protective actions
 - Arrangements for public communication
 - Considered places for refuge for vessels in distress

Organization of training and exercises



■ Organization of training

- IAEA developed training package for the preparedness and response to a nuclear or radiological emergency in a coastal port and at sea
- Pilot workshop 28 – 31 October 2019 in Vienna
- National training programs may be developed based on the IAEA package
- Further support possible through:
 - the IAEA TC
 - Mediterranean Transport Safety Network (MedNet)

Organization of training and exercises



■ Organization of exercises

- Guidelines to be tested at regular intervals:
 - Testing communication at least once in 6 months;
 - Regional exercises once in 3 years
 - Participating in ConvEx exercises organized by the IAEA
- In addition, national exercises are encouraged – for harmonization and coordination other states should be invited as observers

Secretariat, language and revision



- **Technical secretariat**
 - Technical secretariat to be established on the first meeting in one of Mediterranean coastal states
 - Until then (but not past 31.12.2020) the IAEA can hold this function
- **Language of communication**
 - English, as the internationally accepted maritime language
- **Revision of the Guidelines**
 - Guidelines to be reviewed every 3 years

Benefit for non-EU MSs



- To **strengthen EPR capabilities** in non-EU Mediterranean Member States to detect and respond to port and maritime radiological emergencies within the Mediterranean basin
- To improve **harmonization and consistency** with international safety standards in the area of EPR by applying the project to the Mediterranean countries



Expected Outputs



- **National capabilities** assessed, needs identified
- **RANET capabilities** registered and updated
- **Regional plan** for response to port and maritime emergencies developed
- **Training programme** developed and implemented
- **Regional exercise** held



Expected Outcomes



- The **arrangements** of the participating countries for responding to port and maritime radiological emergencies are:
 - **effective,**
 - **coordinated and consistent with international safety standards** in the area of emergency preparedness and response,
- The **arrangements** to use regional and international assistance through a regional plan and through **RANET** established.





REGIONAL COORDINATION OF COASTAL EPR ARRANGEMENTS OF THE NON-EU MEDITERRANEAN MEMBER STATES FOR PORT AND MARITIME RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

Beneficiary Member States:

- Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.
- Albania and Montenegro added upon the project start



Results Achieved to Date



- **Regional EPR Plan** Prepared and sent to ALL Mediterranean MSs
 - Workshop 24 – 27 June 2019
- **Training Material** developed and presented to MSs on the Workshop
 - Workshop 28 -31 October 2019



Ongoing and future activities



- **Expert missions** are offered to the beneficiary countries to advise on best practices and practical steps for:
 - Possible improvements in operational procedures, including coordination arrangements;
 - Possible improvements to the national EPR plan;
 - Providing and receiving assistance through Radiological Assistance Network (RANET);
 - Possible improvements regarding training programme; and



Ongoing and future activities – cont.



- Implementation of **training activities on national levels**
- **Regional EPR plan to be endorsed** by all MSs in a special meeting
- Preparing the **regional exercise** to be held in 2020



Regional exercise



To test national and regional EPR arrangements

- Preparation

Host countries + Countries in the region + IAEA

- Conduct

Table top + Field exercise (preferably)

- Evaluation

All participating countries



CONCLUSIONS



- The regional plan is understood as the mechanism for **cooperation** and **communication** among the Mediterranean countries at the **preparedness** stage and during the **response**.
- Most participating countries have clearly defined roles of the **RB** and **civil protection authority**, with good cooperation between them. However, many countries recognized lack of cooperation with **port and maritime authorities**.
- All countries have **designated contact points under USIE**. Countries should inform the IAEA which **relevant national bodies** (Annex I) and **contact points** (Annex II) will be used for the Mediterranean project.

CONCLUSIONS – cont.



- Data in **self-assessment reports** are basis upon which regional arrangements are built. Countries which did not submit the reports are encouraged to do so.
- There are also **other regional initiatives** but they are not available to all countries in the Mediterranean region.
- **The approval** process should take into account that it is a non-binding document so signing it at the governmental level should not be necessary.

Contact points

PROJECT

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Thank you!