

## HEADING 4: Global Europe

### Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

Lead DG: DEVCO

#### I. Overview

##### *What the programme is about?*

The promotion of nuclear safety is a key priority for the EU since the early days of the EEC and Euratom. The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation contributes to the promotion of the implementation of international treaties and conventions as well as the adoption of the highest safety standards complementing work inside the EU. It also exports the ‘*acquis communautaire*’ worldwide and promotes nuclear safety cooperation. The INSC is the only specific tool of the European Union addressing nuclear safety issues in partner countries, complementing other external financing instruments, for example as part of the neighbourhood policy. It covers cooperation in nuclear safeguards which is essential to the global non-proliferation policy.

The Fukushima Daichii accident in 2011 after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 showed that any accident has trans-boundary effects, and impacts the international community widely. The access to nuclear or radioactive materials is a security concern for the global world, with proven evidence that non-State actors are trying to access such materials. The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation has successfully contributed to the reduction of both risks, by providing support especially to regulatory authorities, in particular in countries under the EU’s neighbourhood policy such as Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Ukraine engaged in nuclear power generation. It also contains health and ecological measures directed to the population that suffered from the Chernobyl accident in Ukraine and Belarus.

The safe management of waste has included support to Ukraine in dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as in cleaning up contaminated sites, and a large remediation programme in Central Asia to address the legacy of former uranium mining sites left abandoned after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Both programmes have had an important and direct impact on the affected population living in the area, in order to improve their safety as well as their quality of life.

##### *EU added value of the programme*

The INSC is the external policy instrument of the EU that plays a role in the framework of the G7 in particular the Global Partnership Program against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction and supports G7 decommissioning programmes. It provides for the EU’s policy role at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in this field.

The added value of the Instrument received international recognition at the 7th IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety review meeting in 2017, where ‘*the implementation of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Co-operation Program for assisting non-EU countries*’ was officially acknowledged worldwide as ‘good practice’.

The completed Mid Term Review (MTR) on the external financing instruments of the EU acknowledged INSC’s<sup>(1)</sup> unique value added due to the institutional framework that allows the Commission to act at a global level; the instrument is supporting complementarities, coordination and synergies to other thematic and geographical external policies and is effective in leveraging financial resources for nuclear safety.

The major decline over time in the scale of cooperation with nuclear operators (from 63M in 2007-2009 to 3M in 2012-2013) and the cessation of support for safety improvements, due to the events related to the Fukushima accident, warrants careful reflection for the future. Nuclear safety is, in practice, achieved by those who design, construct, operate and decommission nuclear installations. Failure to fully recognise this reality is likely to result in the sub-optimal allocation of future INSC resources in enhancing global nuclear safety. While the importance of transferring European knowledge and experience in supporting the establishment of competent and independent nuclear regulators elsewhere is not in question, the transfer of European experience in the safe design, construction and operation of nuclear installations is likely to be even more effective in enhancing global nuclear safety. This aspect warrants careful consideration in optimising the scope and content of further INSC activities.

##### *Implementation mode*

The implementation of the projects is primarily done through centralised management (90 %) by international call for tenders. In specific cases (Chernobyl, Central Asia), the INSC contributes to international funds through grant agreement. DEVCO also uses grant agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Science and Technology Center of Ukraine and the International Science and Technology Center when relevant. Finally, DEVCO is implementing a joint project with a Member State implementing agency in Georgia through a grant agreement.

**More information:** [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/instrument-nuclear-safety-cooperation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/instrument-nuclear-safety-cooperation_en)

<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0605&qid=1550490928991&from=EN>

## II. Programme Update

### *Implementation Status (2017-2019)*

The Commission adopted 43 actions for the period 2016 – 2019 to be implemented in Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, the Philippines, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ghana as well as regional projects in Central and South-East Asia, Southern Africa, the Balkans and Gulf countries. These actions are distributed in line with the multiannual indicative programme around the four pillars: promotion of nuclear safety culture (20 actions), safe management of spent fuel and radioactive wastes (13), nuclear materials safeguards (6) and support measures (5).

The annual Action Programme 2017 consists of 11 Actions (Armenia, (2), Georgia, Iran (2), Serbia (2), Ukraine, Contribution to the Nuclear Safety Account and the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia and support measures). The two contributions to the funds managed by the EBRD have been paid in 2017. All actions without financing agreement with the beneficiary countries are subject to N+1 rule and therefore were contracted before 31/12/2018. Several projects, subject to the N+ 3 rule, were contracted by the end of 2021 (7 contracts).

The Annual Action Programme 2018 consists of 4 Actions addressing the promotion of the nuclear safety culture (6 actions), the safe management of radioactive wastes (5), the nuclear safeguards (3) and the support measures (1) implemented in (Ukraine (2), Ghana, Iran, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia (2), Emergency Preparedness and Response, Training and Education (4), cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and support measures). One of the project with Ukraine failed to be implemented; the Programme has been amended to contribute to the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia. The contribution to this fund managed by the EBRD was paid in 2018. All actions subject to N+1 rule will be contracted before 31/12/2019. Several projects, subject to the N+ 3 rule, will be contracted by the end of 2022 (5 contracts).

The Annual Action Programme 2019 consists of 7 Actions addressing the promotion of the nuclear safety culture (4 actions), the safe management of radioactive wastes (3) and the support measures (1) implemented in (Ukraine (2), Armenia, Iran, Georgia, Central Asia and South East Asia. The contribution to the Environmental Remediation Account managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EUR 10 million) has been paid in 2019. All actions subject to N+1 rule will be contracted before 31/12/2021 (4 contracts). Several projects, subject to the N+ 3 rule, will be contracted by the end of 2023 (3 contracts).

### *Key achievements*

**Promoting the nuclear safety culture:** Competence of the staff working in the nuclear area is of utmost importance to ensure that the use of nuclear technology is safe. Confirming the success of the programme, the Training and Tutoring (T&T) actions transferring the EU knowledge to students and young professionals has trained more than 2 400 staff in the beneficiary countries during 2014-2019 period, of which 33 % of women contributing to the gender goal in a highly specialised scientific area.

**Safe management of Radioactive Wastes:** The **Central Asia** states have inherited one billion tons of hazardous processing waste highly toxic chemical and radioactive residues left behind and unsafely stored in uranium legacy sites. The EU flagship programme for the remediation of the legacy sites is now mature for implementation, with the completion of the necessary feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments. The EBRD, upon the European Commission request, established in 2015 a dedicated multi-donor Environmental Remediation Account (ERA). The European Commission has organised in 2017 and 2018 a very successful side event during the 72<sup>nd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York, the latter with the participation of former Commissioner Neven Mimica. A donor's conference took place on 8 November 2018 at the EBRD in London where six donors pledged EUR 17.16 million. The first two remediation projects in Kyrgyzstan are starting in 2020.

A major milestone to make the **Chernobyl** site environmentally stable and safe was met on 29 November 2016 by sliding the New Safe Confinement over the nuclear reactor destroyed in April 1986. The New Safe Confinement is a giant arch-shaped structure that covers the damaged Chernobyl Unit 4 in order to prevent any further radioactive release. It is a unique engineering project with the following proportions: a span of 257 metres, a length of 162 metres and a height of 108 metres. The New Safe Confinement also contains the remotely operated equipment for ultimate removal of the damaged reactor and radioactive material. This important milestone in the project was achieved thanks to the joint effort of the European Union, Ukraine, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the international community. The total project cost is in the order of EUR 1.5 billion, to which the EU contributed more than 430 million (under the Tacis (EUR 210 million) and INSC (EUR 220 million) programmes). In July 2019, the facility was officially handed-over to the Ukrainian government.

**Capacity Building:** The first project supporting the **Iranian** Nuclear Regulatory Authority has been kicked-off in July 2017 and is running smoothly in a very cooperative atmosphere. Two follow-up projects are on-going to the establish the Nuclear Safety Center in Tehran, in compliance with the EU commitment to the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and perform the stress tests at the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Another project has been adopted under the Annual Action Programme 2019 demonstrating the reaffirmed commitment of the EU to the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and a fifth one will be submitted under the annual action programme 2020.

### *Evaluation/studies conducted*

The Common Implementing Regulation (in Article 17) requires a mid-term review report of the EU's external financing instruments ('the instruments') to assess whether these instruments remain fit for purpose, with a view to ensuring the effective

implementation of the EU's assistance. The mid-term review COM(2017) 720 final and the related staff working documents were published on 15 December 2017, concluding that the current set of instruments is still relevant and has proved to be sufficiently enabling.

A series of external evaluations took place in 2016-2017 on all the instruments.

The INSC mid-term review report SWD (2017) 605 final <sup>(2)</sup> was presented by the Commission on 15 December 2017. The final report of the External Evaluation of the DCI for 2014-mid 2017 was published in June 2017.

Three evaluation upon the request of the Member States have been completed and presented to the INSC committee in 2019. They assessed the results of the Training and Tutoring programme, the EU support to Armenia and the support to Ukraine in the area of waste management. A final evaluation of the INSC as foreseen in the regulation is planned for 2023

### ***Forthcoming implementation***

The priorities for 2019 / 2020 are defined in accordance with the objective of the INSC Regulation (2014-2020) and the corresponding MIP (2018 – 2020). Priority will be given to Accession Countries (Balkan Countries) and countries in the European Neighbourhood area (ENP East: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine; ENP South: Jordan, Morocco, Iran and Iraq) and Africa. The improvement of the nuclear safety culture will remain the primary objective under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. Activities in waste management including environmental remediation and decommissioning will continue and cooperation in the field of Safeguards will be maintained.

In 2020, the support to the Iranian Nuclear Regulator will continue including the establishment of the Nuclear Safety Center foreseen under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and for which the feasibility financed by the EU has been completed early 2018. Continuation with Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia as well as implementation of the action plan for the Western Balkans in emergency, preparedness and response will be proposed. The 2020 programme will include nuclear waste projects to address the issue in Moldova and Ukraine.

### ***Outlook for the 2021-2027 period***

On 30 May 2018, the European Commission presented the proposal for a Council regulation establishing a European Instrument for Nuclear Safety, complementing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (EINS). This proposal aims at continuing the activities currently carried out under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation with a global geographical coverage.

## **III. Programme key facts and performance framework**

### **1. Financial programming**

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (Euratom) No 237/2014 of 13 December 2013 establishing an Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation	2014 – 2020	225,3

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	1,2	1,4	1,4	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	9,9
Operational appropriations	29,3	59,7	70,4	50,0	31,5	32,2	31,4	304,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,5</b>	<b>61,2</b>	<b>71,8</b>	<b>51,4</b>	<b>33,0</b>	<b>33,6</b>	<b>32,9</b>	<b>314,4</b>

### **2. Implementation rates**

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	33,630	99,94 %	29,527	98,15 %	32,885	2,81 %	25,191	5,54 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	33,630	99,94 %	30,038	98,08 %	32,885	2,81 %	25,715	6,05 %

(\*) Authorised appropriations include voted appropriations, appropriations originating from assigned revenues (internal and external) as well as carried-over and reconstituted appropriations; the execution rate is calculated on 15 April 2020

### **3. Performance information**

#### **Programme performance**

(2) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0605&rid=1>

During previous programmes (Takis from 1991 to 2006 and INSC from 2007 to 2020), cooperation with the regulatory authorities was primarily aimed at improving the governmental, legal and regulatory frameworks, based on the experience in the EU. This involved the transfer of regulatory practices used in the EU Member States. This will continue in the future by transferring the EU regulatory methodologies and providing institutional support, including training and education. It will also aim to promote the EU’s integrated approach towards nuclear safety, and set up regional cooperation in this area, in particular on emergency preparedness and response. This support will also promote relevant international Conventions and Treaties and encourage the countries which are not yet part to consider joining.

The Programme will also continue to support nuclear waste management activities, including environmental remediation and management of radioactive wastes and spent fuel issued from the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. Support will cover, in general, the development of regulatory frameworks, national strategies and feasibility studies and, in some cases, the implementation of the strategies, including establishment of safe and secured waste repositories.

Last but not least, the programme will aim at strengthening and enhancing nuclear material accountancy and control in relevant nuclear fuel cycle facilities. The objective of the cooperation will be the improvement of technical and organisational measures in line with State or Regional System of Accountancy and Control (SAC) mechanisms based on recommended international standards and EU expertise.

**General objectives**

**General Objective 1:** The Union shall finance measures to support the promotion of a high level of nuclear safety, radiation protection, and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries

Indicator 1: Number of countries benefiting from EU support in developing of a culture of safety for nuclear energy								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Countries: 6	Actual results							12
	6	13	17	19	21	25		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Regions:	Actual results							3
			2		4	4		

Narrative: 3 target regions are Central Asia, Africa, South East Asia

Comment: Armenia, Belarus, Indonesia, Jordan, Thailand, Vietnam, Iraq, Morocco, Tanzania, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Iran, Mongolia, the Philippines, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ghana. Regional project in Central Asia, Southern Africa, the Balkans and Gulf countries. The countries embarking on nuclear energy are: Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. The countries with radioprotection issues are Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

**Specific objectives**

**Specific Objective 1:** The promotion of an effective nuclear safety culture and implementation of the highest nuclear safety and radiation protection standards, and continuous improvement of nuclear safety.

**Performance**

**Indicator 1:** Number of regulatory documents produced in the beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise

The ultimate aim of the Programme is the functioning of independent and competent nuclear safety authorities in each of the partner countries. This will result in effective and efficient licensing processes and activities of supervision, notification and emergency response. Improved nuclear safety, accident prevention and severe accident management are the major expected outcomes.

At the preparation phase of the projects, a number of issues are identified through several Cooperation Forums with the IAEA. Subsequently during the implementation phase, these issues are addressed through actions (e.g. training, reports, and draft regulations). This indicator measures the number of nuclear safety regulatory documents (and actions such as laws, regulations, guidelines) that are produced with the support of the EU project and which proposes solution to the issues identified. At the final stage, those documents are adopted by the Beneficiary country and applied by the concerned stakeholders (operators, regulatory authorities, nuclear facilities).

**Indicator 1:** Number of regulatory documents produced in the beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							Total 2014-2020
4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8
	Actual results							
	5	8	13	18	30	36		

Comment: The number of deliverables in 2018 reached a peak corresponding to the reported increase with the completion of major projects. These document are; i) the feasibility study for the Nuclear Safety Center in Iran foreseen in the annex 3 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action presented in June 2018 to the representatives of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China and Russia; ii) the pre-construction safety assessment report for the radioactive waste disposal facility in Iraq; iii) 6 regulation and guidelines for Jordan; iv) 4 reference regulatory documents for Iran. Commission Implementing Decision of 13.06.2014 on the Instrument for Nuclear Safety cooperation Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014 – 2017) COM(2014)3764 Final.

This indicator describes the implementation of EU projects:

At the preparation phase of the projects, a number of issues are identified through several Cooperation Forums with the IAEA. Subsequently during the implementation phase these issues are addressed through actions (e.g. training, reports, draft regulations). This indicator measures the number of nuclear safety regulatory documents (and actions such as laws, regulations, guidelines) that are produced with the support of the EU project and which proposes solution to the issues identified. At the final stage, those documents are adopted by the Beneficiary country and applied by the concerned stakeholders (operators, regulatory authorities, nuclear facilities). This indicator is amongst the programme implementation indicators in the MIP 2014-2017.

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

### Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1.Number of regulations and/or guidance in nuclear safety benefitting of the transfer of EU expertise	21 06 01	1	9,9
2. number of staff trained in the beneficiary countries	21 06 01	120	3
3. EC additional contribution to EBRD for the Chernobyl accident related projects*	21 06 02		0
<b>Total</b>			12.9

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.number of regulations and/or guidance in nuclear safety benefitting of the transfer of EU expertise	F	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	P	5	8	13	18	30	36	
2. number of staff trained in the beneficiary countries	F	90	180	280	400	520	600	740
	P	291	706	1226	1691	2256	2600*	
3. EC additional contribution to EBRD for the Chernobyl accident related projects (EUR million)*	F	N/A	30	70	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
	P	0	30	70	89.1			

\* The number of trainees under the ‘Training and Tutoring’ programme is annual and amount to 344 trainees, among whom 13 tutees in 2019. It reflects the attractiveness and efficiency of the programme that corresponds to an identified need in the beneficiary countries. This increased value (compared to the foreseen output) is due to the cumulative effect of the projects that are running in parallel

**Specific Objective 2:** Responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, namely transport, pre-treatment, treatment, processing, storage and disposal, and the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations.

### Performance

It is expected that the projects under this component will contribute to the development and/or improvement of national strategies, feasibility studies and regulatory frameworks related to the management of radioactive waste, spent fuel, nuclear material and radioactive sources, some of which will have implications for the improvement of nuclear security.

The indicator ‘Number of waste management and remediation documents developed with EU support’ measures the number of documents produced with the EU support in the area of nuclear wastes: strategy, policy, regulation, laws, guidelines, environmental impact assessment and feasibility studies for remediation or decommissioning. ‘Waste management documents’ has a broad meaning and does include also documents like spent fuel, nuclear waste and decommissioning strategies.

Indicator 2: Number of waste management and remediation documents developed with EU support								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							Total 2014-2020
4	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	9

	Actual results						
	2	3	5	8	13	18	

Comment: Infrastructure improvement for radioactive waste management remediation of contaminated sites and decommissioning in Ukraine including the following document: ‘Analysis of investigation priorities for 32 DWSF facilities with uncertain site conditions and radioactivity inventory data’; ii) Development and final approval of 2 remediation plans including feasibility studies for sustainable environmental remediation of uranium legacy sites of Degmay and Taboshar in Tajikistan; iii) National Strategy for Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel Management complemented by Action Plan for the Strategy Implementation and Feasibility Study of radioactive waste management at Sewaqa site in Jordan’. The increase of the target from 8 to 9 is reflecting the newly identified need in Moldova that was unplanned at the beginning of the exercise. We are engaging jointly with Sweden in supporting the country under the current instrument taking into account the framework now fully in place to allow implementation of projects.

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

**Expenditure related outputs**

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of regulatory document issued benefitting of the transfer of the EU expertise	21 06 01	2	13.5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of national strategies developed with EU support	F	1	1	2	2	3	4	4
	P	2	3	3	3	5	5	
Number of regulatory document issued benefitting of the transfer of the EU expertise	F	0	1	1	2	3	3	3
	P	0	1	3	6	7	12	

**Specific Objective 3:** The establishment of frameworks and methodologies for the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material in third countries.

**Performance**

Strengthening and enhancing nuclear material accountancy and control in relevant nuclear fuel cycle facilities remains a priority for this programme. Cooperation is expected to reinforce the training of authorities and intensify the transfer of modern equipment and methodologies. The regulatory body in charge of this area is also often involved in non-proliferation activities. Enhanced safeguards and improved nuclear material accountancy and control of nuclear materials will contribute to the improvement of security. This is in line with the current EU and global initiatives in this field, in particular those under the umbrella of the IAEA.

The indicator ‘Number of nuclear safeguards authorities benefitting from EC funded projects’ describes more effectively the implementation of our projects. During the preparation phase of projects a number of issues are identified through several Cooperation Forums with the IAEA. Subsequently, during the implementation phase these issues are addressed through actions (e.g. training, reports, and draft regulations). The indicator measures the number of national or international safeguards organisations that benefit from projects transferring the EU expertise in the area of safeguards.

Indicator 1: Number of nuclear safeguards authorities benefitting from EC funded projects								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen						Total 2014-2020	
0	0	1	1	2	3	3	3	3
	Actual results							
	0	1	1	3	4	4		

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

**Expenditure related outputs**

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support to regional safeguards systems	21 06 01	1	5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Support to regional safeguards systems	F	0	1	1	2	2	3	3

	P	0	1	1	2	3	4	
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**4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies**

***Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action***

The environmental remediation projects in Central Asia and Ukraine are contributing to the **Climate Change Adaptation** in the concerned regions. Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimize the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. As an example, the environmental remediation program in CA is all about **Climate Change Adaptation**. We are preventing serious ecological and environmental risks and disasters by remediating fragile and unsecure tailings sites located next to the rivers. These rivers are more and more frequently experiencing spring flash floods due to rapidly melting glaciers in Central Asia. Climate change will generate increased natural hazards (as e.g. rainfall, landslides, mudflow, etc.) that will in turn disperse toxic materials if not properly contained.

***Gender mainstreaming***

The contribution of the programme to gender equality is mainly achieved through all activities related to training and tutoring for which the European Commission strongly encourages the enrolment of women that in turn will provide additional opportunity for career development.

**5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals**

***SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture***

The European Union and its Member States agree to the new framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). The Commission is committed to a thorough approach for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda.

The European Consensus on Development <sup>(3)</sup> reiterates the need for full compliance with international environmental and nuclear safety standards in partner countries. Through its multidimensional approach that touches on the interlinkages between nuclear safety, health, the environment, and related issues, the INSC programme contributes to various other key areas of the European Consensus on Development. More specifically, the INSC advances the following Sustainable Development Goals:

**SDG 2.** The remediation programme of uranium legacy sites will clear water and land for a sustainable agriculture in a region known as the breadbasket of Central Asia (Ferghana Valley).

***SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages***

Remediation programmes in Central Asia and Ukraine will have a direct positive impact on the health of the affected population.

***SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all***

The Training and Tutoring programme provides education opportunities in the beneficiary countries.

***SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all***

Remediation activities, in particular in Central Asia, aim at restoring and providing to clean water.

***SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss***

Remediation activities in central Asia and Ukraine, aim at reversing land degradation.

<sup>(3)</sup> ‘The new European Consensus on Development: Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future’. Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission (OJEU C 210/1, 30.6.2017).