



Regional Meeting on Establishing and Updating Operating Procedures in Research Reactors

Hosted by
The Government of Kazakhstan

through the
Institute of Nuclear Physics

Institute of Nuclear Physics (INP), Kazakhstan

17-21 August 2026

Ref. No: ME-RER1025-2601220

Information Sheet

This event provides a forum for participants to discuss a structured approach to developing, maintaining, and updating operating procedures for research reactors, in alignment with relevant IAEA publications. It offers a comprehensive understanding of the key steps involved in drafting, reviewing, and revising operating procedures to ensure consistently high levels of safety, reliability, and regulatory compliance.

Purpose:

The purpose of the event is to discuss and share experience on the operational performance of research reactors by establishing or updating operating procedures to strengthen safety and efficiency in alignment with international standards.

Working Language(s):

The working language of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **22 May 2026** will not be considered.

Project Background

The project is aimed at continuous improvement of the level of enhancing the utilization, operation and safety of research reactors in the region. Research reactors play a critical role in scientific research, medical isotope production, industrial applications, and education. Nineteen Member States with more than 70 operational research reactors as well as Member States that shown interest in utilization or building research reactors participated in the previous regional project on Research Reactors. The current project RER1025 “Enhancing Utilization, Operation, and Safety of Research Reactors” includes three main thematic components which are in line with IAEA’s “Specific Considerations and Milestones for a Research Reactor Project”: improving utilization of the existing research reactors; enhancing operation, including increasing operational hours; enhancing safety of research reactors through modernization and upgrades of current research reactor fleet. The main project beneficiaries will be the local nuclear research institutions, regulatory bodies, local universities and medicine organizations. Key activities will include the organization of regional workshops and training courses where stakeholders can exchange their experiences in the fields of utilization, operation and safety of research reactors. The project will also revitalize the activities/efforts of European Advisory Safety Committee for Research Reactors. This project will also contribute to the sustainable development of nuclear science and technology in the region.

Scope and Nature

The event is intended to cover operating procedures related to normal operational states, anticipated operational occurrences, design-basis accidents, the conduct of irradiations and experiments, maintenance activities, periodic testing and inspection, utilization, radiation protection, emergency preparedness and response, radioactive waste handling, facility modifications, management systems, and commissioning activities.

Following are included in the event framework:

- **Participant Presentations:** Short presentations by participants outlining the methodologies their organizations use for developing, updating, and overseeing operating procedures for their research reactor(s).
- **Expert Lectures and Case Studies:** Presentations delivered by subject-matter experts, complemented by practical case studies illustrating good practices and common challenges.

- **Interactive Discussions and Group Work:** Facilitated discussions and group exercises designed to reinforce learning and promote exchange of experience among participants.
- **Practical Examples:** Review and analysis of real-world examples of operating procedure development, enhancements, and implementation.
- **Technical Tour:** A technical visit to the **WWR-K research reactor facility**, providing participants with direct insights into operational practices and procedure implementation.

Participation:

The event is open to 25 participants from Member States of the region.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

Candidates should be young engineers or technicians from operating organizations involved in the operation, maintenance, or commissioning of research reactors, or from regulatory bodies responsible for the regulatory supervision of such facilities. Member States are strongly encouraged to nominate qualified women candidates.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
 - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (**EVT2601220**) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the IAEA website and submit their applications to their National Authorities.

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

Occupational Exposure to Radiation

This event may involve occupational exposure to radiation. Therefore, candidates are required to duly complete and return the **Occupational Exposure History (OEH)** form upon applying for the event. The IAEA will provide selected participants in due course with a dosimeter to monitor their occupational exposure during this event.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency American Express, or a travel grant, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Note for female participants:

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

Organization and IAEA Contacts

Programme Management Officer (responsible for substantive matters):

Mr Azat Nurken
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
PO Box 100
1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26542
Email: A.Nurken@iaea.org

Technical Officer (responsible for technical matters):

Mr Sumanth PANYAM
Research Reactor Section
Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
PO Box 100
1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 21558
Email: S.Panyam@iaea.org

Administrative Contact (responsible for administrative matters):

Ms Alexandra Morscher
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
PO Box 100
1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26036
Email: A.Morscher@iaea.org