



An EU funded project managed by the European Office in Kosovo

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STRENGTHENING THE RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY IN KOSOVO – EU SUPPORT

European Union is investing efforts and funds in the strengthening of the Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety all over Europe, in its neighbouring countries, and worldwide. With the Instrument for Pre-Accession (2013) EU has included also the project for Kosovo “Support to radiation protection and Nuclear safety”.

The main Beneficiary of this project is the Kosovo Agency for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (KARPNS). It’s implementation on EU side was directly monitored and managed by the EU Office in Kosovo. The Contractor, which implemented the project, was a team led by **ITER-Consult (Italy)**, which included: Italian Nuclear Regulatory Authority - ISPRA, Finish Nuclear Regulatory Authority (STUK), Italian radioactive waste management company NUCLECO and regional environmental centre - REC- Kosovo. The project started in December 2013 and lasted for 19 months..

The project contributed mainly towards increasing the institutional and technical capacity of KARPNS. In order to achieve this it was of utmost importance the extended presence of the Technical Project Leader and the Contractor team in Kosovo, working together with the staff of KARPNS. Out of 580 working days in total employed, the Contractor team spent large majority at the Agency premises in Pristina.

In specific project tasks the Contractor provided support for developing a draft Policy, Strategy and Action plan for radiation protection and nuclear safety in Kosovo to be approved by the Government and the Parliament. The Contractor provided support for improving the Kosovo secondary legislation in the area of radiation protection and nuclear safety by transposing the EU Acquis. Five regulations on topics identified by KARPNS as the most urgent were drafted: on authorisations of practices, on inspections, on dose limits, on radioactive waste management and on recognition of technical services. KARPNS was supported in order to effectively perform its regulatory functions and duties, also for the management of radioactive materials including spent sealed radioactive sources.

Enhancement of the capacities of KARPNS to regulate, monitor and control the practices related to radiation sources, including radioactive sources and radioactive waste was achieved. A lot of efforts were spent to update the inventory of radioactive waste and sealed radioactive sources all over Kosovo including more than 50 remaining radioactive lighting rods on the roofs or pillars. Also a list of other sources with ionising and non-ionising radiation was prepared. Support in developing a registry of all radioactive sources and waste was also provided, using latest software of the International Atomic Energy Agency. After visiting all existing possibilities, an identification of a temporary storage for the most urgent cases of radioactive and nuclear waste was performed. Technical specifications were prepared for urgent set up of a safe and secure interim radioactive waste storage. In several of the tasks different stakeholders and operators were involved in workshops and seminars for information sharing and obtaining feedback.

KARPNS visibility was supported well during the project implementation by developing flyers in Albanian, Serbian and English language on KARPNS role and functions, on what should we know and do about depleted Uranium, on basics of ionizing Radiation. Flyers and posters were developed covering the invisible threat of radioactive sources in scrap metal and the X-rays and patients. Support was extended to KARPNS web development, to organising a TV interview for visibility of the project and the Agency, distributing visibility materials and preparing press release.

The fruitful collaboration established since the start of the project between EU Office in Kosovo Task Leader, KARPNS and Contractor team assured the successful implementation. The local Kosovo skilled junior expert contribution and local secretariat gave added value to the project accomplishment.

Further information about the project could be found on KARPNS Website: www.akmrrsb.rks-gov.net or requested to Mr. Argjend Rrustemaj (e-mail: ardjend.rrustemaj@rks-gov.net).

Implemented by:

