

**The independent
association of European
national nuclear regulators**

Western European

WENRA
Nuclear Regulators Association



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Developing and promoting a high level of nuclear safety

At the European level, WENRA promotes the harmonisation of national nuclear safety regulations among its members. Globally, WENRA aims to be at the forefront of nuclear safety and to disseminate exemplary levels of nuclear safety.



WENRA aims to continue to play a pivotal role among international organisations and to remain at the forefront of nuclear safety.

Our vision

WENRA is the independent association of European national nuclear regulators recognised for establishing, implementing and disseminating harmonised and exemplary levels of nuclear safety.


Cattenom
Nuclear
Power Plant,
November 2016.

Our mission

To work together as national nuclear regulators to harmonise and continuously improve nuclear safety to a level that is as high as reasonably practicable, thus protecting people and the environment.

ORIGINS

10

FOUNDING MEMBERS

The founding members were heads of the regulatory bodies in Western Europe with proven experience in operating nuclear power plants: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

1999

WENRA was established in February 1999.

OBJECTIVES

as stated in the terms of reference of WENRA in 1999

1
TO DEVELOP A COMMON APPROACH
to nuclear safety and regulation, in particular within the European Union.

2
TO PROVIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION
with an independent capability to examine nuclear safety and regulation in applicant countries which were applying to join the EU at that time.

3
TO EVALUATE AND ACHIEVE A COMMON APPROACH
to nuclear safety and regulatory issues which arise.

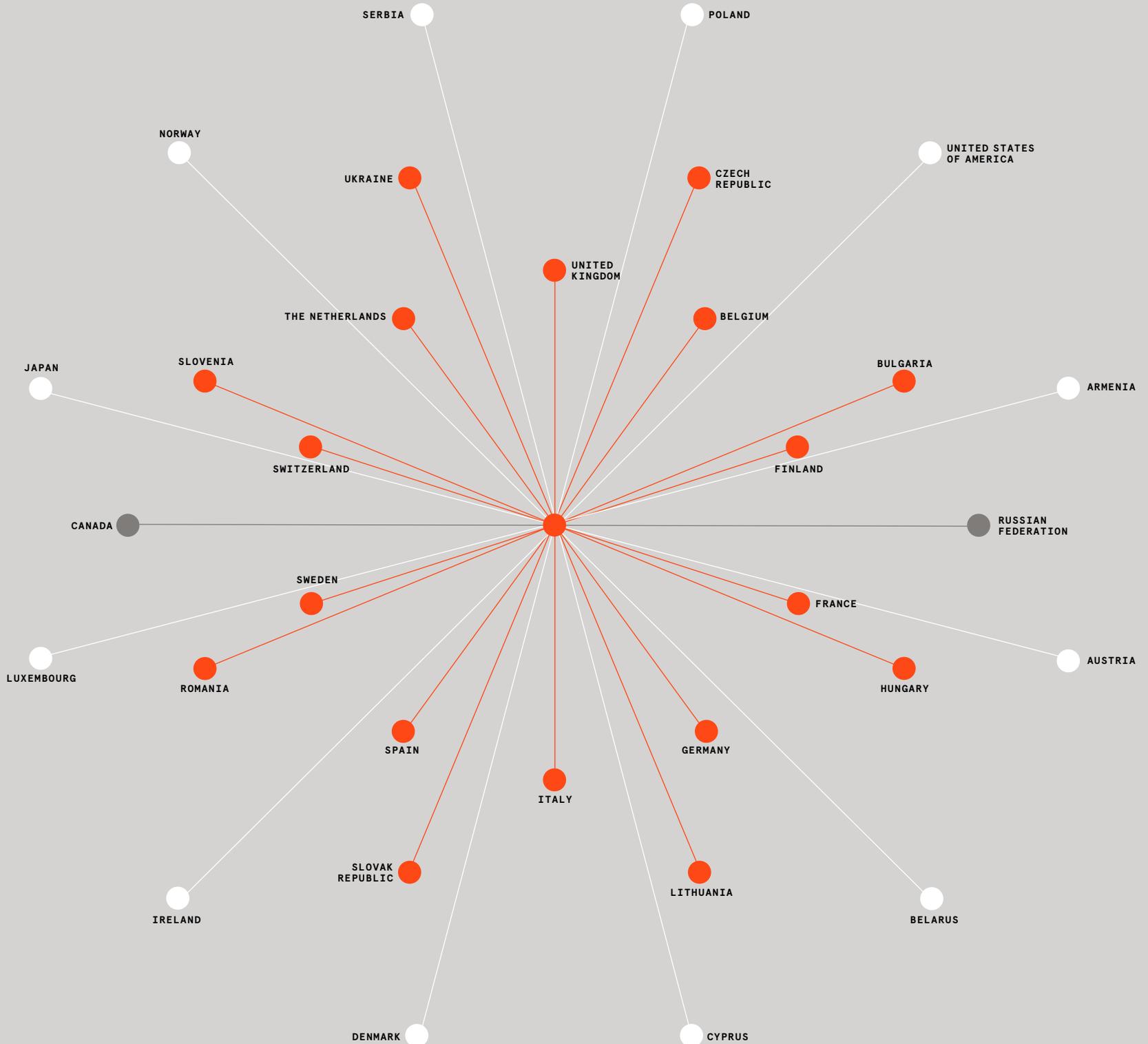
WENRA membership

WENRA is now an association which brings together the heads of 32 nuclear safety regulators. Since its inception in 1999, WENRA has enlarged its membership to non-European Union countries. The involvement of countries outside the European Union with large, established nuclear programmes provides WENRA with additional experience in nuclear regulation and further promotes the use of Safety Reference Levels.

18 MEMBERS
Regulatory bodies from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom

2 ASSOCIATED MEMBERS
Regulatory bodies from Canada and the Russian Federation

12 OBSERVERS
Regulatory bodies from Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Cyprus, Denmark, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Serbia and the United States of America



WENRA's Safety Reference Levels and publications

WENRA's Safety Reference Levels (SRLs) are the basis for regulatory harmonisation.

SRLs reflect exemplary levels of safety in all aspects of the design, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of operating nuclear power plants, waste facilities and research reactors.

They are developed by WENRA considering the most recent IAEA safety standards, complemented by the most advanced approaches implemented in the European Union for nuclear safety (the “highest quartile”).

Each WENRA member commits to implementing SRLs in its regulatory framework and to tracking this implementation. WENRA associated members commit to considering implementing the SRLs.



Other WENRA products

Beyond the SRLs, WENRA also regularly publishes position statements, guidance documents and reports that present the consensus position of its members on major nuclear safety issues. These publications also reflect the most advanced approaches and aim to reflect an exemplary level of safety. Beyond this, in 2011, WENRA drafted the technical specification for the European stress tests following the Fukushima accident and, in subsequent years, it developed the technical specification for each of the European topical peer reviews on “ageing management” and “fire protection”.

EXAMPLE →

WENRA Report—Safety Reference Levels for Existing Reactors—2020

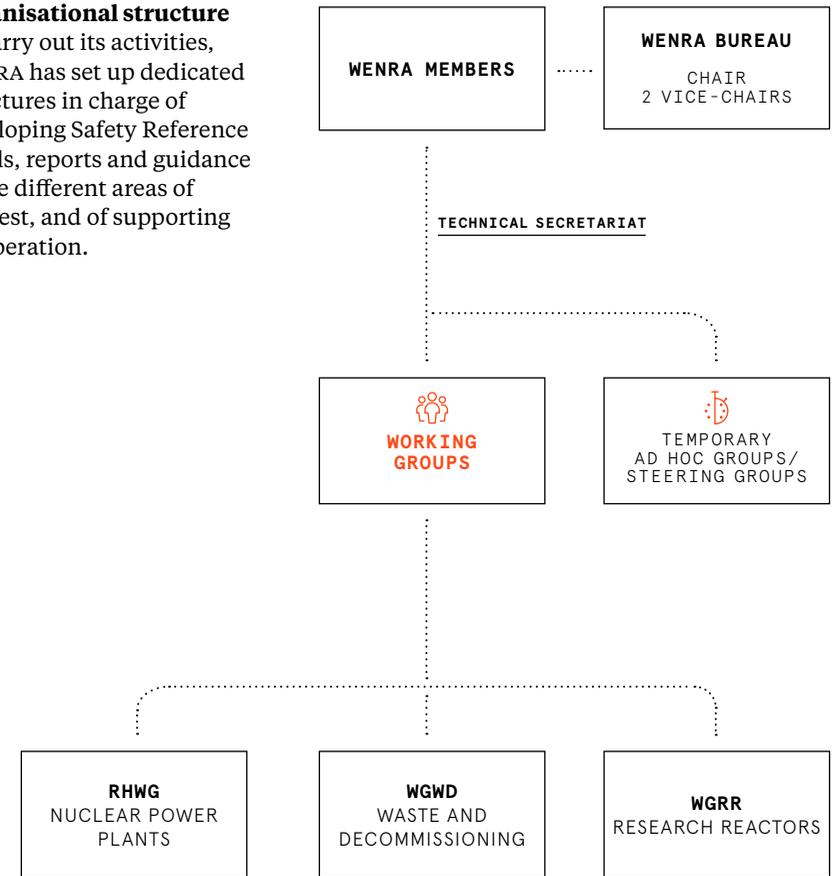


WENRA's structure

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WENRA plenary meeting,
Bonn, April 2022.



Organisational structure
To carry out its activities, WENRA has set up dedicated structures in charge of developing Safety Reference Levels, reports and guidance in the different areas of interest, and of supporting its operation.



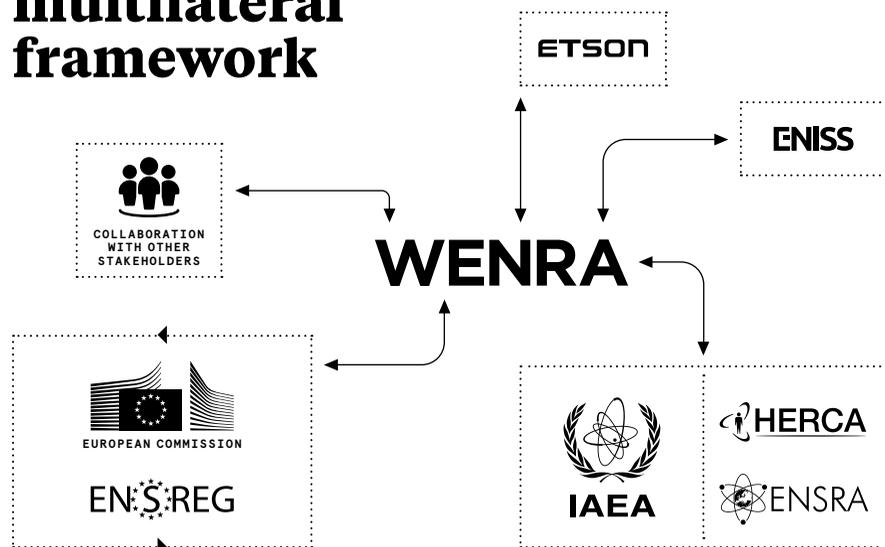
WORKING GROUPS

RHWG
The reactor harmonisation working group is tasked by WENRA with harmonising the standards of nuclear safety within the regulatory frameworks of its members for operating reactors and new nuclear power plants.

WGWD
The working group on waste and decommissioning is similarly tasked by WENRA to develop a harmonised approach to nuclear safety within the regulatory frameworks of its members in the field of waste and decommissioning facilities.

WGRR
The working group on research reactors is tasked by WENRA with developing a harmonised approach to nuclear safety for all research reactors, except critical and sub-critical assemblies, homogeneous zero-power reactors and accelerator-driven systems.

WENRA's multilateral framework



WENRA regularly interacts with international organisations such as the IAEA, the EC, ENSREG, ENISS, ETSON, HERCA and ENSRA.

These relationships help WENRA promote and disseminate its products, identify areas where further interaction or common activity would be relevant, and identify emerging safety-related issues and challenges that it can work to address. It is also a way for WENRA to widely promote a high level of nuclear safety and to obtain relevant inputs for its own programme of work.

In particular, WENRA maintains close relationships with the European Commission and its advisory group ENSREG, for instance within the framework

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WENRA
Western European Nuclear Regulators Association
- ENSREG**
European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group
- HERCA**
Heads of the European Radiological protection Competent Authorities
- ENSRA**
European Nuclear Security Regulators Association
- ETSON**
European Technical Safety Organisations Network
- ENISS**
European Nuclear Installations Safety Standards

of the Topical Peer Reviews called by the European Directive 2014/87/EURATOM, or in response to other requests for which WENRA issues recommendations, specifications or reports.

WENRA also maintains close relations with licensees and operators who are expected to implement the SRLs in their facilities. Within this framework, ENISS is a key partner for WENRA to discuss various topics of common interest, such as safety objectives for new reactors, areas where greater regulatory harmonisation would be valuable, acceptance of high-quality industrial grade items in safety applications or the supply chain.

A concrete contribution to nuclear safety

Throughout its first two decades of existence, WENRA has been a driving force in achieving a higher level of nuclear safety across Europe.

WENRA's contribution to the improvement of nuclear safety can be illustrated by:

- Negotiations by the European institutions with relevant governments, notably on the evaluation made by WENRA regarding the shutdown of certain nuclear power plants operated in these countries.

- WENRA member countries have ensured alignment with the high standards established by SRLs, which has required some to make changes to their national regulatory frameworks.

- The initiative taken by WENRA in the weeks following the Fukushima accident to propose a stress-test process to the European Commission and to draft its technical specifications in a very short period of time.

- The drafting of the **technical specifications for the stress tests (2011)** carried out to evaluate the robustness of the European nuclear power plants to extreme conditions (earthquake, flooding, etc.) after the Fukushima accident.
- **The HERCA-WENRA approach (2014)** for improved cross-border coordination of protective actions during the early phase of a nuclear accident.

2011
The drafting of the technical specifications for the stress tests

2014
The HERCA-WENRA approach

“Our operating environment is evolving and new challenges are emerging, such as climate change, sustainability, taxonomy, geopolitical context... Nuclear safety has to remain the first priority for all stakeholders. As an independent association of nuclear regulators, WENRA aims at harmonising nuclear safety to as high a level as reasonably practicable, and at being a source of inspiration worldwide.”

Olivier Gupta, WENRA Chair

WWW . WENRA . EU

Graphic design:
Atelier Marge Design

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Printed: May 2022

