

HARMONISATION OF PRACTICES TO IMPROVE NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY

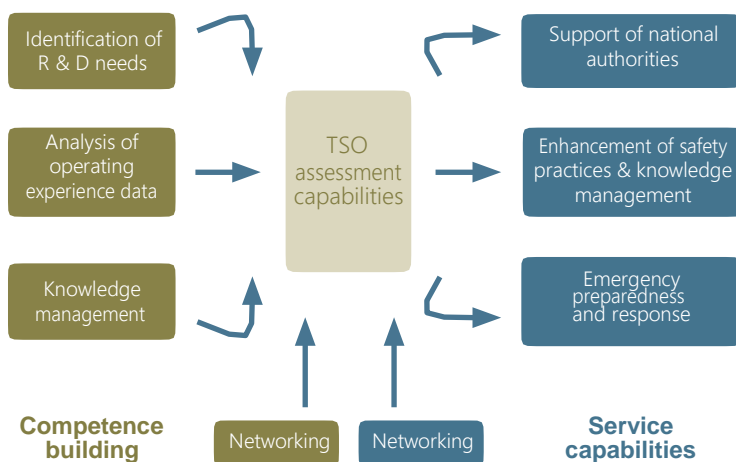
As safety and security are a growing concern to the public and to the international community, it is essential that the technical and scientific basis for regulatory decisions reach the highest level of quality and reliability. The development of Technical Safety Organisations (TSOs) contributes to this objective by providing regulators with a profound knowledge-based expertise in the field of nuclear and radiation safety and security.

The aim of the European Technical Safety Organisations Network (ETSON) is to promote the international exchange of safety assessments, methodologies and research in the field of nuclear safety and security. ETSON therefore contributes to the harmonisation of nuclear safety practices and initiates and carries out joint nuclear safety research programmes. The members of ETSON commit themselves to principles, values and practices that guarantee their independence of judgment in their technical work and the quality of their services.

An expanding network

European Countries and the European Union have made significant efforts over the last decades in order to build up a sustainable TSO capacity. The creation of ETSON in 2006 through a Memorandum of Understanding emphasised the contribution of this network to the harmonisation of nuclear safety assessment practices in Europe and encourages initiatives to define and implement coherent European research programmes. In 2011, ETSON became an Association according to French law and consists of twelve members and three associated member organisations.

Operational goals to develop nuclear safety practices



- **Pool efforts** whenever possible, to develop and share the knowledge and tools ETSON members require to meet their objectives;
- Work to promote **convergence of technical practices in the field of nuclear safety assessment**, both in and outside of Europe, through improved knowledge;
- Develop and optimise **international cooperation on nuclear safety and security research**.



Committed to various international initiatives to promote nuclear safety and security

ETSON members are actively involved in global scientific networks and also in training their experts to meet the needs of various countries.

- At European level, through the following initiatives :
 - Providing the **European Commission** and interested countries with multinational technical support to facilitate the application of the European Directive on Nuclear Safety and to take full advantage of operational feedback from nuclear power plants throughout Europe.
 - Acting within the overall framework of **SNETP (Sustainable Nuclear Energy Platform)**, ETSON members drafted a position paper aimed at presenting their views on safety issues associated with the different generations of nuclear power plants and defining relevant priorities for future research programmes.
 - Developing a **EUROSAFE approach** with their partners **which includes the annual international EUROSAFE Forum, the EUROSAFE Newsletter and the EUROSAFE website**. An objective of that conference is to provide all stakeholders from different countries that are involved in nuclear safety and security with an opportunity to discuss relevant issues and develop a common understanding of the responsibilities, needs and opportunities.
 - Offering vocational training and tutoring within the framework of the **European Nuclear Safety Training and Tutoring Institute (ENSTTI)** to maximise the transfer of safety and security knowledge, practical experience and culture.
- At international level, through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):
 - In promoting the **Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) initiative**, ETSON co-operates with the **IAEA** on co-ordinating safety organisations around the world.

A common initiative under shared values to drive progress in nuclear safety

The members of ETSON share common values which guarantee a high level of technical expertise, work and impartial judgment. These public or private non-profit organisations:

- perform safety assessments with a global regulatory vision, **on a regular basis and with a broad scope**;
- build and maintain a high degree of expertise for this purpose and implement available best practices, in particular **on research results and operating experience feedback**;
- abide by values such as **transparency, impartiality, proactiveness and initiative**, and follow a **code of ethics** that precludes any conflict of interest;
- provide their experts with **continuing vocational training**, and manage all the knowledge and technical resources acquired;
- set up R&D programmes to **guarantee access to the state-of-the-art knowledge** and expert resources they need to carry out their activities.

ETSON

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