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HARPERS Project Phase I - Methodology to identify needs and priorities in issues related to harmonised practices, regulations and standards in waste management and decommissioning

The 3-year HARPERS project aims to establish and clarify the benefits and added value of more aligned and harmonised regulations, practices and standards in decommissioning and radioactive waste management between EC Member States. The project focuses on the following themes i) cross border services/facilities, ii) moving to a circular economy and iii) implementation of advanced technologies.

The project output will be a series of position papers that will provide clear guidance regarding different impacts (technological, business, economic, societal, etc.) identified for a selection of prioritised topics identified in relation to the themes above. The consolidated outputs can be used to inform (future) strategic research agendas (and updates).

For reasons of pragmatism for the short time frame of the project, the project will only focus on a limited set of identified priority topics which serve as case studies. The identification of the priority topics was conducted in 4 steps. First a broad gap analysis was performed on identified relevant documents (69 documents analysed) which provided a solid basis of possible issues/topics. Secondly (in parallel), a stakeholder community was built (300 organisations contacted). Thirdly, a series of webinars were conducted with registered stakeholders to engage with them on the outcome of the gap analysis in order to further fine tune identified priority areas. In the 4th step, the outcome of the workshops was carefully evaluated to narrow down to a limited list of priority topics that will be further analysed within the 2nd Phase of project.

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