

Policy and Procedures for TC Regional Projects

1. Objective

This document establishes the regional project policy and provides procedural guidance for regional project management.

2. Project Criteria

- The standard [TC Programme Quality Criteria](#) apply to regional projects, i.e. relevance, ownership/commitment, sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency;
- A regional project aims to address the common needs of a group of Member States in a region and to provide support to their ongoing national capacity strengthening efforts.
- A regional project provides a framework for sharing knowledge, experience and technology, for networking and cooperation among countries of a region or sub-region, and for facilitating interaction at the regional level between mandated national institutions.

3. Project Categories

Regional projects deliver TC support across national boundaries and address the common needs of several Member States in a specific region. Regional projects are an integral part of the TC programme and are subject to IAEA and TC management policies and procedures. Regional project proposals are considered simultaneously with national programming discussions.

Every regional project should fall under one of the following four categories: *transnational, regional, capacity building or joint activities*.

- *Transnational projects* deal with challenges involving more than one country, but not necessarily all countries in a particular region. Only countries facing the challenges addressed by the project that have demonstrated interest and commitment to successful project implementation and sustainable impact are considered for participation. As in national projects, the screening process is applied to verify that the countries initially selected possess the requisite infrastructure and capacity to take part in the project.
- *Regional standard setting projects* provide a framework for the equitable participation of Member States on a regional scale. Projects may include the design of guidelines, curricula, teaching materials and the documentation of best practices. Country participation should be such that it ensures a balanced representation of Member States. Extrabudgetary funds should be leveraged, when needed, to facilitate such projects.
- *Projects on capacity building for developing countries* provide support to candidates from developing countries so that they can participate in conferences, seminars and workshops that have been approved under the IAEA Major Programmes. This promotes networking, knowledge sharing, South-South and triangular cooperation. Capacity-building projects for developing countries also support the fellowship component of the TC programme in specific, previously identified areas, in particular in encouraging young female scientists to train in nuclear applications. Extrabudgetary funds should be leveraged, when needed, to facilitate such projects.
- *Joint TC activities with a regional or international entity*, formalized through a cooperation agreement, are also regarded as regional. In the case of such projects, the participation of the countries should be coordinated together with the entity coorganizing the activity.

4. Formulating and Managing Regional Projects

Standard TC project management procedures (described in the Guidelines for the Planning and Design of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme) are applied in the design, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, closure, and performance review of regional projects.

Planning

Regional project proposals can be made by: regional groups or Agreements¹; a group of Member States from one region; technical Department(s); and the TC Department. Regional project proposals are screened in accordance with TC project planning guidelines. In line with the project criteria detailed in paragraph 2, the equipment component of a regional project should be kept to a minimum.

Implementation and Management

A designated PMO is responsible for planning, management and reporting on one or several regional projects. Where relevant, regional projects also comply with Agreement-specific operational guidelines, usually involving the designation of a lead country per project and the appointment of an implementation team of national experts/counterparts.

Evaluation Criteria

The standard monitoring and evaluation process embedded in the TC programme cycle is followed. In addition, regional projects with a total value of over €1 million (of IAEA funding) are subject to mandatory independent evaluations.

Annex: Examples of regional projects from each category

¹ ARASIA (Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology); RCA (Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific); ARCAL (Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean); AFRA (African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology)

ANNEX I: Examples of Regional Projects from each Category

Transnational project: A project on strengthening capabilities for uranium mining, milling and regulation of related activities addresses the needs of several Member States in one region, as many of them do not have appropriate legislative frameworks to regulate the activities related to uranium exploration and exploitation, nor do they have the required skilled human resources to effectively monitor the activities of the companies involved in mining ventures or to negotiate profitable contracts.

Regional standard setting project: A project on standardizing nuclear medicine applications falls in this category, as it helps ensure the good quality of medical procedures and equipment across the region and assists Member States in incorporating up-to-date nuclear medicine techniques in the strategy of investigation and management of diseases..

Project on capacity building for developing countries: Under this category, the IAEA can, for example, improve educational and training capabilities in nuclear science and applications, like energy production, medical applications, biophysics, environmental applications, material research and production control and cultural heritage preservation, and support the establishment of a regional network that would provide the opportunity for a more efficient use of dispersed and not equally distributed educational facilities. Such a project may also lead to the optimization of Regional Resource Centres, and thereby increase the use of existing capacities.

Joint TC activities with a regional or international entity: This category includes, for example, cooperation with the UNDP-Global Environment Facility (GEF) on the integrated management of the Nile river basin and the shared Nubian aquifer, which was formalized through project documents signed by the participating governments, UNDP and the IAEA.