

# NEA Nuclear Risk Communication Training Course

## PROGRAMME

17-20 November 2025

Bucharest, Romania





# Foreword from the Nuclear Energy Agency

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As demand for electricity accelerates around the world and governments look to ensure energy affordable, secure and low-carbon energy supplies, interest in nuclear power is growing. Both countries with established nuclear energy programmes and newcomer countries are increasingly looking to add nuclear energy capacity to their mix, including through the development of new technologies such as small modular reactors, microreactors and advanced reactors that can offer new solutions and applications. In this context, risk communication has never been more important. Clear, transparent and adaptive communication is key to building and maintaining the trust on which nuclear energy's future depends.

The NEA has long supported efforts to strengthen the relationship between the nuclear sector and society. Established in 2023, the NEA High-Level Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Trust, Transparency and Social Sciences (HLG-SET) brings together senior policymakers, regulators, industry and academic experts to foster dialogue and develop mechanisms that support communication, public engagement and building of trust. The NEA has recently held its 4<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Involvement Workshop 15-17 October in Paris, where we discussed good practices and lessons learned from over 30 case studies. The NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshops provide a forum to discuss the practical application of such initiatives through sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learnt relating to engagement, trust and transparency by diverse stakeholders from across the international community. These workshops highlight risk communication as a key tool of exchange as part of wider engagement. Similarly, the Expert Group on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organisations (EGPC) provides a platform for sharing best practices in regulatory communication. For example, the 2024 publication *Characteristics of a Trusted Nuclear Regulator*<sup>1</sup> offers practical guidance on how regulators can build and sustain trust with stakeholders.

The Risk Communication Training Course (RCTC) emerged from these initiatives. It is a unique capacity-building programme for organisations responsible for nuclear energy-related decisions—such as siting of facilities—to strengthen the ability of technical staff and communications staff to engage public stakeholders in sometimes difficult and complex discussions. Since its launch in 2022, the course has brought together participants from around the world to share tools, strategies and perspectives on communicating risk effectively in diverse contexts.

This year's course, to be held in Bucharest, Romania in co-ordination with the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) and the Nuclear Agency for Radioactive Waste (ANDR), will focus on the core challenge of fostering trust in an evolving information environment, where social media, new technologies such as artificial intelligence and shifting public expectations continue to transform how risks are perceived and communicated. Building on the success of previous editions, the RCTC will remain a vital training opportunity to strengthen expertise and support improvements in stakeholder engagement in important nuclear energy decisions.

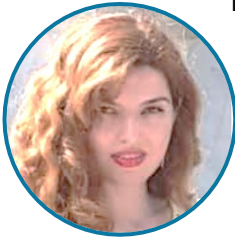
**William D. Magwood, IV**  
Director-General  
Nuclear Energy Agency

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1. NEA (2024), *Characteristics of a Trusted Nuclear Regulator*, OECD Publishing, Paris, [www.oecd-nea.org/7618](http://www.oecd-nea.org/7618).

# Foreword from the ANDR

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The peaceful use of nuclear energy has become an essential component of Romania's strategic vision for sustainable development, energy security and technological innovation. Within this vision, the **Nuclear and Radioactive Waste Agency (ANDR)** plays a pivotal role in ensuring that all activities associated with the nuclear programme are conducted safely, responsibly and transparently, from the generation of radioactive waste to its final disposal.

At the heart of ANDR's mission lies the **National Strategy for the Safe Management of Radioactive Waste**, which provides the framework for long-term, responsible governance of radioactive materials in Romania.

This strategy ensures that the country's approach to nuclear energy is aligned with the highest international standards, while also reflecting national priorities protecting people and the environment, preserving options for future generations, and fostering confidence in the institutions that oversee nuclear activities.

Implementing this strategy goes beyond technical excellence; it requires public understanding, stakeholder engagement, and a sustained commitment to open communication. The management of radioactive waste can only be effective when it is trusted – and trust can only be earned through transparency, dialogue and accountability. ANDR, therefore, places great importance on risk communication, ensuring that the public is informed not only about what we do, but also why and how we do it. This includes explaining complex scientific concepts in accessible language, engaging with local communities, and promoting education and awareness as part of a broader culture of safety.

Romania's nuclear energy programme has evolved in step with global expectations for sustainability and good governance. As the country continues to strengthen its energy resilience and pursue new nuclear technologies, ANDR's work ensures that the management of radioactive waste remains a model of responsibility and foresight. In this process, international co-operation – particularly with organisations such as the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – plays a critical role. By participating in global dialogues, sharing best practices, and supporting international training initiatives, Romania contributes to strengthening the global framework for safe and effective radioactive waste management.

Hosting the **NEA Risk Communication Training Course 2025** in Romania reflects our shared understanding that safety and communication are inseparable. The ability to communicate clearly, confidently, and compassionately about nuclear issues is vital not only for crisis situations, but for daily engagement with society. Through this collaboration, we reaffirm our commitment to continuous improvement, professional development, and mutual learning.

Ultimately, the goal of ANDR's work is to ensure that nuclear energy in Romania is understood as it truly is – a responsible, sustainable and forward-looking choice for the nation's future. By combining technical expertise with openness and dialogue, we can strengthen trust, empower informed decision-making, and demonstrate that transparency is not only a regulatory principle, but a cornerstone of modern governance.

**Ramona Georgiana Popescu**  
Director General and Vice President  
Nuclear and Radioactive Waste Agency (ANDR), Romania

## Foreword from CNCAN

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Effective risk communication is not only a matter of technical accuracy – it is about trust, empathy and credibility built over time through genuine dialogue and transparent action. In Romania, the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) has learned that communication must evolve alongside society's expectations and that preparedness is as much about people as it is about procedures.

In recent years, CNCAN has worked to strengthen its communication framework and emergency preparedness capacities, drawing lessons from both real events and complex national and international exercises. The [Valahia 2023](#) exercise marked a milestone in Romania's national emergency response system, demonstrating how co-ordinated communication among regulatory bodies, operators and response authorities can foster public confidence during radiological events.

Building on this experience, the [ConvEx-3 2025](#) exercise, organised under the IAEA framework, provides a unique opportunity to test our ability to communicate across borders, in real time, under high uncertainty. For CNCAN, these exercises reaffirmed that timely, clear and compassionate communication, especially when information is incomplete, is key to maintaining credibility and trust, both nationally and internationally.

CNCAN is honored to co-host the [NEA Risk Communication Training Course 2025](#) in Romania. This event reflects our shared commitment to strengthening the global safety and communication culture, and to fostering collaboration among regulators, communicators and technical experts. Together, we continue to learn how to better engage with the public, how to respond to emerging challenges, such as misinformation and disinformation, and how to build resilience through trust and openness.

Ultimately, risk communication is about people listening, explaining and engaging sincerely. For CNCAN, every exercise, every discussion and every partnership brings us closer to a common goal: ensuring that the public remains informed, confident and protected, even in the face of uncertainty.

**Petre Min**

Head of Emergency Preparedness and Response  
National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN), Romania

# General information

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## Objectives

The NEA Risk Communication Training Course (RCTC) aims to help participants improve their day-to-day risk communication to enhance public understanding. The course provides communication and technical professionals working in a range of organisations (e.g. regulatory bodies, technical support organisations, agencies for radioactive waste management, operators, practitioners and others) with the fundamentals of risk communication.

The objectives of the RCTC are to:

- provide practical tools and techniques to help communicators and technical professionals to better communicate with the public about nuclear and radiological risks;
- present, analyse and discuss the history and nuances of risk communication in the nuclear sector, and to gather the key lessons learnt from past events;
- transfer knowledge and experience to those with roles in communication and/or engagement;
- learn how to use plain language and terms that would help the public understand potential risks related to the nuclear sector;
- ensure that participants are able to design a clear Risk Communication Plan for a specific issue in accordance with recommended best practices;
- learn and help build understanding on how to identify target audiences to communicate risk proactively;
- provide participants with a critical view of different national communication strategies, best practices, and their evolution, to reach a better understanding of their commonalities and differences, and to try and establish a common framework that considers the differences in how various countries and organisations communicate, taking into account different cultural norms;
- support the development and strengthening of the international network of participants to share experiences on risk communication;
- evaluate the participants' understanding of training course concepts through a final group project.

## Time/venue

**Date:** 17-20 November 2025

**Duration:** 4 days

**Location:** Bucharest, Romania (*please see logistics note for venue details*)

**Optional site tour:** 21 November 2025 – Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant, Constanța County

## Language

The RCTC will be held in English.

## Format

Participants will receive a professional certification (no academic credits). A Participation Certificate will be delivered by the NEA to each participant following completion of the course, which consists of:

- two virtual preparatory modules;
- four days of in-person meetings, which will include lectures and interactive sessions (exercises, case studies);
- a one-day site tour (optional).

## Target audience

The RCTC is intended for professionals working in nuclear regulatory bodies, technical support organisations, radioactive waste management agencies, nuclear operators, practitioners and other related organisations. This includes early- to mid-career professionals who are responsible for communicating and/or engaging with the public, as well as decision makers and technical staff members who need to consider nuclear and radiological risks, impacts and associated topics.

- Communication professionals (directors, managers, officers, communication advisors and others).
- Technical staff members involved in nuclear safety, nuclear security, environmental protection, waste management, radiation safety, radiological protection, safeguards or from related areas that have a role in the communications chain.

## Contact

The RCTC Team can be contacted at [rctc@oecd-nea.org](mailto:rctc@oecd-nea.org).



## Programme – RCTC 2025 – Final overview

### E-learning (preparatory work)

Code	Title	Speaker/notes
E-1	Risk communication vs. crisis communication	Holly Harrington, Senior Level Advisor, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Public Affairs
E-2	Keys to an effective communication plan	Salah Al Hashimi, Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)
E3	Preparation material: NEA report <i>Characteristics of a Trusted Nuclear Regulator</i>	NEA, Expert Group on Public Communication (EGPC)
E-4	Reading material: <i>Introduction to nuclear and radiological risks</i>	Professor Yoshihito Takeda (Hokkaido University)

### Day 1: Stakeholder and risk communication workshop

Time	Duration	Session title	Speaker(s)/notes
08:30-09:00	30 mins	Registration of participants	NEA and CNCAN
09:00-09:10	10 mins	Welcome to participants	Tamara Yankovich, Deputy Head of Division, RP-HANS, NEA  <b>Moderators:</b> Tamara Yankovich, Deputy Director, RP-HANS, NEA Diane Screnci, retired Senior Public Communications Officer US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
09:10-09:30	20 mins	Welcome address and scene setting	William D. Magwood, IV, NEA Director-General
09:30–09:50	20 mins	Welcome from Polytechnics University	Mihnea Costoiu Rector, Polytechnics University Dumitru Chirlesan, Pro rector, Polytechnics University
09:50–10:05	15 mins	Welcome from CNCAN and ANDR	Ramona Popescu, Vice President and Director-General (ANDR) Petre Min, Head of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CNCAN)

Time	Duration	Session title	Speaker(s)/notes
10:05–10:30	25 mins	Participant introductions and recap of E-learning	All participants/moderator(s)
10:30–10:50	20 mins	Coffee break and group photo	
10:50–11:30	40 mins	1-1. Overview of risk communication objectives, challenges and assessment of risk perception	<a href="#">Tanja Perko</a> , Senior Researcher, Scientific Project Leader and Lecturer, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN)
11:30–12:10	40 mins	1-2. Romania case: Public communication strategy during the war in Ukraine  1-2-1 Nuclear and radiological risk, health	<a href="#">Petre Min</a> , Head of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CNCAN)  <a href="#">Ioana Pop</a> , National Public Health Consultant, Romania World Health Organisation (WHO)
12:10–12:50	40 mins	Group discussion based on 1-2	<a href="#">Petre Min</a> and lecturers
12:50–14:00	70 mins	Lunch	
14:00–14:40	40 mins	1-3. Stakeholder engagement in current times	<a href="#">Cristian Ghiță</a> , E-ARC's Communication Coordinator, Romania
14:40–15:20	40 mins	1-4. How to build trust and practical tool	<a href="#">Rhonda Walker-Sisttie</a> , Director General for Strategic Communications, CNSC
15:20–16:20	60 mins	1-5. Trust self-assessment exercise	<a href="#">Rhonda Walker-Sisttie</a> , Director General for Strategic Communications, CNSC <a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> , Communications Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) <a href="#">Miriam Vachová</a> , Director of Chancellery, ÚJD, Slovak Republic <a href="#">Diane Screnci</a> , retired Senior Public Communications Officer US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
16:20–16:40	15 mins	Coffee break	
16:40–17:20	40 mins	1-6. Communicating risk after trust is lost	<a href="#">Valentina Dinu</a> , Head of External Communications, Sustainability and Investor Relations, (SNN, Romania)
17:20–17:40	20 mins	1-7. Wrap-up and reflections from the day	Moderator(s)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Session title</b>	<b>Speaker(s)/notes</b>
17:20	–	End of day 1	
17:40-19:30	2 hours	Reception (self-funded)	

## Day 2: The art of effective risk communication

Time	Duration	Session title	Speaker(s)/notes
09:00-09:10	10 mins	Overview of day 1 and introduction to day 2	Moderator(s)/participants
09:10-09:50	40 mins	2-1. Countering rumours, conspiracy theories and fake news	<a href="#">Miriam Vachová</a> , Director of Chancellery, ÚJD, Slovak Republic
09:50-10:30	40 mins	2-2. Your audience – Messaging: Get to the point	<a href="#">Christian Lindmeier</a> , Spokesperson for the World Health Organization
10:30-10:50	20 mins	Coffee break	
10:50-11:30	40 mins	2-3. Keynote presentation: Ground zero of compassion – Crisis communication at Bucharest’s North Station	<a href="#">Cristi Pitulice</a> , Head Manager of Stimaco Project SRL
11:30-12:10	40 mins	2-4. Q&A session and group reflections	Lecturer(s) and participants
12:10-13:20	70 mins	Lunch	
13:20-14:00	40 mins	2-5. Ice breaker and recap of previous sessions	<a href="#">Diane Screnci</a> , Retired Senior Public Affairs Officer, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
14:00-14:40	40 mins	2-6. Communication rules – not only for media engagement	<a href="#">Christian Lindmeier</a> , Spokesperson for the World Health Organization
14:40-15:00	20 mins	Coffee break	
15:00-15:40	40 mins	2-7. Identifying and responding to misinformation: Practical strategies	<a href="#">Nayana Jayarajan</a> , Emergency, Risk, Crisis Communication and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer, IAEA
15:40-16:20	40 mins	2-8. Group discussion on nuclear topics: e.g. social media and its impact on risk perception and trust	Lecturers and participants
16:20-16:50	30 mins	2-9. Closing reflections, key takeaways, and participant input	Lecturers and participants
16:50	–	End of day 2	

### Day 3: The techniques, practical implementation and specific challenges

Time	Duration	Session title	Speaker(s)/notes
09:00-09:10	10 mins	Overview of day 2	Moderator(s)/participants
09:10-09:50	40 mins	3-1. Techniques, tools and channels in nuclear and radiological risk communication	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> , Communications Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN)
09:50-10:30	40 mins	3-2. Simulation exercise: Interview, podcast or media scenarios with disinformation	<a href="#">Christian Lindmeier</a> , Spokesperson for the World Health Organization
10:30-10:50	20 mins	Coffee break	
10:50-11:30	40 mins	3-3. Plain language in risk communication, plus exercise under pressure	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> , Communications Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN)
11:30-12:10	40 mins	3-4. Opportunities and challenges of AI in risk communication	<a href="#">Nayana Jayarajan</a> , Emergency, Risk, Crisis Communication and AI Officer, IAEA
12:10-13:20	70 mins	Lunch	
13:20-14:00	40 mins	3-5. Speaking to the heart and mind: Bias, emotion and rationality in risk communication (20mins)	<a href="#">Tanja Perko</a> , Senior Researcher, Scientific Project Leader and Lecturer, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN)
14:00-14:20	20 mins	Coffee break	
14:20-15:00	40 mins	3-6. Interactive group discussion on AI: e.g. using different tools	<a href="#">Tanja Perko</a> , Senior Researcher, Scientific Project Leader and Lecturer, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN) <a href="#">Nayana Jayarajan</a> , Emergency, Risk, Crisis Communication and AI Officer, IAEA
15:00-15:40	40 mins	3-7. Preparation for final project	<a href="#">Miriam Vachová</a> , Director of Chancellery, ÚJD, Slovak Republic
15:40-16:40	60 mins	3-8. Final project group work	Participants, self-organised: (Participants may continue beyond 16:40 as needed)

## Day 4: Presentation, wrap-up and closing

Time	Duration	Session title	Speaker(s)/notes
09:00-09:10	10 mins	Overview of day 3	Moderator/participants
09:10-10:15	65 mins	4-1. Final project preparation	Group work
10:15-10:35	20 mins	Coffee break	
10:35-12:15	1 hr 40 mins	4-2. Final project presentations and Q&A (7 groups: ~15 mins each incl. Q&A)	Moderated panel of lecturers
12:15-13:25	70 mins	Lunch	
13:25-14:00	35 mins	4-3. Wrap-up session	All lecturers
14:00-14:20	20 mins	4-4. NEA ongoing activities on public communication and stakeholder engagement	<a href="#">Hannah Romses</a> , Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety, NEA
14:20-14:40	20 mins	4-5. Closing remarks	<a href="#">Tamara Yankovich</a> , Deputy Head of Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety, NEA
14:40	–	End of RCTC 2025	



## Day 5: Site tour (optional)

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### Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant, Constanța County



CNPP

### 8AM- 6PM

Situated on the Danube-Black Sea Canal, Cernavodă is Romania's only nuclear power station and a cornerstone of its energy system. Operating two CANDU-6 reactors, it supplies about 20% of the nation's electricity, while ongoing projects, such as a tritium removal facility, strengthen its role in clean, safe and sustainable energy production.

## Speaker biographies

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### **William D. Magwood, IV** **Director-General, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency**

Mr Magwood took up his duties as Director-General of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) on 1 September 2014. He has extensive experience in both the regulatory and developmental aspects of nuclear energy, including at the international level.

From 2010 to 2014, he served as one of the five Commissioners appointed by the US President and confirmed by the US Senate to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). While a commissioner, he served as global voice for the importance of nuclear regulatory independence and advocated the necessity of maintaining strong, credible and technically sound nuclear regulation in the United States and all countries that use nuclear power.

Prior to his appointment at the NRC, from 2005 to 2010 he provided independent strategic and policy advice to US and international clients on energy, environment, education and technology policy issues. From 1998 to 2005, Mr Magwood was Director of the US Government's civilian nuclear energy programme at the US Department of Energy (DOE). During his tenure, he established the Idaho National Laboratory; created activities that reversed the decline of US nuclear technology education; and launched important initiatives such as the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) and US "Nuclear Power 2010," which helped restart nuclear plant construction in the United States. He was also actively involved in the work of the NEA, serving as a Steering Committee Bureau from 1999 to 2003, and as Chairman of the Steering Committee from 2004 to 2005.

Prior to his experience at the DOE, Mr Magwood managed electric utility research and nuclear policy programmes at the Edison Electric Institute in Washington, DC, and was a scientist at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr Magwood, a US national, holds bachelor degrees in physics and English from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.



### **Ramona Georgina Popescu**

Ramona Georgiana Popescu is the Director General and Vice President of Romania's Nuclear and Radioactive Waste Agency (ANDR). She leads national efforts to ensure the safe, peaceful use of nuclear energy and the long-term management of radioactive waste.

With nearly two decades of experience in nuclear policy, international co-operation and regulatory affairs, she has represented Romania in negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the European Union, and international partners. Before becoming Director General in 2019, she headed the International Technical Cooperation Service at ANDR, co-ordinating bilateral agreements and technical co-operation projects. Her earlier career at the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) gave her extensive expertise in regulation and project management.

Ms Popescu holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies and has completed specialised training in security, European integration and nuclear communication. She is recognised for combining technical expertise with strategic vision in advancing Romania's nuclear energy programme.



### **Petre Min**

Petre Min is the Head of Emergency Preparedness and Response at the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN), Romania. He is a seasoned nuclear engineer with nearly two decades of expertise in radiation protection, nuclear safety and accident management. Beginning his career as a nuclear operator, he has advanced to leading the Emergency Preparedness and Response Compartment at CNCAN, where he co-ordinates national EP&R activities, develops regulatory frameworks, and represents Romania at international platforms such as the European Commission and the IAEA. He has played a key role in transposing major EU directives into national legislation, shaping nuclear risk management standards, and developing Romania's Nuclear Emergency Response Plan and crisis communication strategy. Since 2019, he has also served as an IAEA consultant, contributing to global efforts to strengthen nuclear safety and resilience.



### **Mihnea Costoiu**

Mihnea Costoiu is the Rector of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest and General Secretary of the Romanian National Council of Rectors since 2012.

He held several political positions from 2001 to 2014, including Secretary General, State Secretary and Minister Delegate for Higher Education and Research within the Romanian Ministry of Education.

In 2012, he was elected Senator in the Parliament of Romania, and in 2016, he was re-elected senator and member of the Committee for Education, Science, Youth and Sport, and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate.

Since 2017, Mihnea Costoiu is a Member of the Board of Directors of CESAER (Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research), while between 2020 to 2023, he held the position of Vice-president of the association.

Mihnea Costoiu is also a member of the Council of Administration of Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) since 2017, actively promoting the academic Francophonie.



## Dumitru Chirleşan

Dumitru Chirleşan is an Associate Professor and Vice-Rector of the National University of Science and Technology Politehnica Bucharest, with extensive experience in academic management, scientific research and European co-operation. With a university career spanning more than three decades, he has held several key leadership positions, including Rector of the University of Piteşti (2016–2023) and Coordinating Vice-Rector of the Piteşti University Centre within UNST Politehnica Bucharest. He also serves as an independent, non-executive member of the Board of Directors of Nuclearelectrica S.A., the national nuclear energy company of Romania.

Professor Chirleşan graduated from the Faculty of Physics of the University of Bucharest, majoring in Engineering Physics – Nuclear Reactors, and earned his PhD in Condensed Matter Physics from “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi. He has completed numerous international training and specialisation programmes in educational policy, governance, regional co-operation, and research management.

Throughout his career, he has made a significant contribution to the development and modernisation of Romanian higher education, to its integration within the European Higher Education Area, and to the promotion of interdisciplinary research. He has served as a European Commission expert in the evaluation of educational programmes and has coordinated multiple national and international projects focused on professional training, innovation and sustainable development.

For his outstanding achievements, Professor Chirleşan has been awarded the Order of Merit for Education, Officer Rank (Romania, 2004) and the Order of Academic Palms, Officer Rank (France, 2022).

## Salah Al Hashimi



Salah Al Hashimi is the Director of Government Communication at the UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) with more than 20 years of experience in marketing and communications. He is responsible for leading the corporate communication function and FANR’s international co-operation. Mr Al Hashimi was also the former Chief Happiness and Wellbeing Officer at FANR, responsible for developing and implementing the UAE National Happiness and Positivity Program at the entity.

Prior to joining FANR, Mr Al Hashimi held multiple leading roles across different industries, ranging from banking to investment, property development and government. He was a senior corporate communications manager at Majid Al Futtaim Holding and a director of Government Communication at the Community Development Authority in Dubai and AVP Head of Corporate Communication at Dubai Islamic Bank. Mr Al Hashimi holds a master’s degree in marketing communications from Middlesex University and a higher diploma in communication and mass media from Glasgow Caledonian University in the United Kingdom.

Mr Al Hashimi is a certified trainer from the UAE Government Leaders Program under the Prime Minister’s Office and a member of the “Strategic Partnership and Government Development” initiative, which aims to transfer the knowledge and the UAE Government’s best practices to international partners such as Egypt, Jordan and other countries. In 2020, Mr Al Hashimi became a member of the Nuclear Energy Agency Working Group for Public Communication, working on multiple initiatives to develop international communication standards across the nuclear energy sector.

He is a graduate of the first edition of the Chief Happiness and Wellbeing Government Program in 2017 and also the founder of the “Happiness Without Borders” volunteering initiative, which provides free consultancy services and training to organisations that are seeking to create a happy and strong working environment and culture.

## Valentina Dinu



Valentina Dinu is Head of Communications and Public Relations at S.N. Nuclearelectrica S.A., Romania's national nuclear power company. In this role, she oversees media relations, investor communications and external affairs, acting as a key point of contact for both the press and the investment community. She regularly represents Nuclearelectrica in earnings calls, shareholder communications, and international forums, ensuring transparency and accessibility in the company's engagement with stakeholders. Valentina also works closely with the Romanian Nuclear Energy Association, where she is recognised as a principal communications lead, promoting dialogue on nuclear energy and Romania's energy transition.

## Cristian Ghiță



Cristian Emilian Ghiță is the Communication Co-ordinator of the Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre and the Editor-in-Chief of the Euro-Atlantic Resilience Journal.

He has gained experience in public administration, both at the local and central levels. He worked as a Parliamentary Advisor for four years and advised three ministers within the Romanian government. Between November 2020 and February 2022, he held the rank of Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

Cristian Ghiță holds a PhD in classical studies from the University of Exeter, United Kingdom. He authored the book *Eastern Asia Minor in Hellenistic Times: An Experiment in Cultural Hybridity* (Editura Universității din București, 2014) and co-edited the volume *Quest for a Suitable Past: Myths and Memory in Central and Eastern Europe* (CEU Press, 2016). He has also published literary translations, articles and studies in the fields of classics, international relations and resilience.

## Holly Harrington



Holly Harrington is a Senior Level Advisor in the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Public Affairs, in Rockville, Maryland. She provides strategic advice to agency leadership, especially related to crisis response and social media.

Ms Harrington joined the NRC in 2004 and has also served as speechwriter to the Chairman, as a Public Affairs Officer and as Special Assistant to the Office Director. In 2012, she received the NRC's Meritorious Service Award, in part for her response efforts during the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident.

Previously, Ms Harrington was a public affairs officer at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and held public affairs positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Central Office and two medical centres. She was an adjunct professor at Trinity College (Washington, DC) for 15 years, teaching a variety of communication courses, including media ethics, public speaking, speech writing and digital communications. She began her career as a print journalist in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ms Harrington holds a bachelor's degree in journalism (reporting and editing) and a master's degree in mass communications, both from San Jose State University.



## Nayana Jayarajan

Nayana Jayarajan is an Outreach Officer in the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, currently working with the Incident and Emergency Centre. In this role, she supports the development and implementation of technical guidance and training for Member States on communicating with the public during nuclear or radiological emergencies.

Before joining the IAEA, she worked as a journalist and crisis/strategic communicator for both intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. She has built and managed websites, social media platforms, publications and multimedia content, and served as a spokesperson for organisations including the KAICIID Dialogue Centre and the International Press Institute.

Her earlier professional work included positions at India's national newspaper *The Hindu*, the global television network CNBC and Greenpeace, where she engaged in policy advocacy through communications.

Ms Jayarajan combines her media background with technical expertise to help bridge the gap between nuclear-safety professionals and the public particularly in times of emergency.



## Christian Lindmeier

Christian Lindmeier has had a longstanding, multifaceted communication career with different UN bodies and the European Union. He is currently a Spokesperson for the World Health Organization at their headquarters in Geneva.

Mr Lindmeier started his international career at the turn of the millennium in Kosovo, where he soon joined the UN Mission, UNMIK. After his second UN Mission in Haiti, from 2004 to 2008, he joined the WHO for the first time in 2008 and was, among other things, deployed to the Horn of Africa to support the relief efforts around the drought in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda.

He then joined the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, UNRWA, from 2013 to 2014 to lead their communication efforts in the Gaza strip.

The Western Pacific Regional Office of the WHO was the next step, where he served as Regional Information Officer and spokesperson for several months before rejoining the WHO in Geneva as WHO Spokesperson in August 2014.

In addition to his daily interactions with international media representatives, Mr Lindmeier advises and trains WHO colleagues and senior management as well as other UN staff in media communication and risk and crisis communication, and he moderates press conferences, meetings and events.



### **(Sky) Mary Jane Mallari, PhD**

(Sky) Mary Jane Mallari is a social scientist with expertise in cultural dynamics, stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming in international policy. She works in the Division of Radiological Protection and Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety at the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), where her focus areas include stakeholder engagement, trust-building and risk communication. She has been actively involved in several of the agency's flagship initiatives, including the Risk Communication Training Course, the International Radiological Protection School, and the Stakeholder Involvement Workshop Series. She also contributed to the NEA's inaugural mission to the Philippines, advancing co-operation on regulatory readiness and stakeholder engagement in the country's nuclear energy programme. Prior to joining the NEA, she worked with the Asian Development Bank on regional co-operation projects in South Asia, leading gender equality and social inclusion strategies, and served as a lecturer and diversity liaison in higher education in Japan. She holds a PhD in international culture and communications from Waseda University, Japan.



### **Tanja Perko**

Prof. assistant, Dr Tanja Perko is a senior researcher, scientific project leader and lecturer at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN) and at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She holds a PhD in social sciences, which she obtained with a thesis entitled "Modelling Risk Perception and Risk Communication in Nuclear Emergency Management: An Interdisciplinary Approach" (University of Antwerp, Belgium). She also holds a master's degree in political studies and a bachelor's in journalism from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

She was a journalist at a daily news programme and for evening news at the National TV station in Slovenia and was head of the public relations department at the Ministry of Defence. Since obtaining her PhD in risk communication in 2012 in Belgium, she has published more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 7 peer-reviewed book chapters from the field of risk communication and societal aspects of radiation. She works in inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary teams. She applies quantitative research methods (public opinion surveys, media content analysis), qualitative methods (interviews, non-participatory observational studies, focus groups, consensus workshops, media framing analysis and discourse analysis) and mixed methods.

She combines social science and humanities (SSH) research with R&D of ionising radiation (IR) technologies and makes the societal aspects more visible to the technical and policy stakeholders related to IR technologies in Europe by boosting European SSH research, stimulating multidisciplinary approaches and supporting the integration of research, innovation and society in the field of IR. She is one of the founders of SHARE (European platform for social sciences and humanities in ionising radiation research) and a management board member of the Belgian radiation protection society. She is also a project or task leader for different EU projects in the field of risk and health communication related to ionising radiation.



### **Cristi Pitulice**

Cristi Pitulice is Manager at Stimaco Project SRL in Bucharest, a position he has held since 2015. He previously worked in management and business development, including at Globe365. With experience in organising and executing projects, Mr Pitulice brings a hands-on perspective to communication, stakeholder engagement, and project co-ordination. In his keynote presentation, “Ground Zero of Compassion: Crisis Communication at Bucharest’s North Station,” he draws on this experience to explore how compassionate, clear messaging can be delivered in moments of crisis, particularly in high-traffic public settings. He holds a degree from the University of Bucharest.



### **Ioana Pop**

Ioana Pop is an Assistant Lecturer within the Department of Public Health and Management at Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy and has been serving as a National Public Health Consultant at the World Health Organization (WHO) Office in Romania since 2020. She holds international academic training with a specialisation in global health policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

For the past five years, Ioana has been an active member of the WHO Romania team, contributing to strengthening the resilience of the national health system through projects such as the “Refugee Response Plan,” with a focus on medical support for Ukrainian refugees. Her work has facilitated access to essential health services, supported the integration of vulnerable communities and addressed key public health and strategic inter-institutional co-ordination issues. Since the beginning of this year Ioana has been co-ordinating the implementation of the WHO Romania CBRN Project, focusing on improving the operational framework for medical emergency response and enhancing hospital preparedness for mass-casualty incidents. She has actively promoted the involvement of academia in supporting CBRN implementation by organising workshops, interdisciplinary training sessions and simulation initiatives, ensuring effective knowledge transfer between universities and the public healthcare system in Romania. Through her work, she advances inter-institutional co-operation, strategic partnerships and the sustainable development of Romania’s medical response capacity in times of crisis.



### **Hannah Romses**

Hannah Romses is a Senior Stakeholder Engagement Specialist in the Division of Radiological Protection and Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), as of June 2025. Prior to working with the NEA, Hannah worked in the Canadian public service for five years as a negotiator on international climate policy at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations from the University of British Columbia and a master’s degree in public policy and public administration from Concordia University.



## Adriana Scialdone García

Adriana Scialdone García is a Communications Advisor for the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council in Madrid. She is part of the Chairman's Cabinet and her main responsibilities include all forms of incoming and outgoing communications on nuclear and radiological matters. She heads the Council's social media efforts and oversees its website and updates both with press releases, graphic content and event planning. She is responsible for drafting press releases and overseeing relationships with stakeholders and journalists. Ms Scialdone forms part of the Regulator's emergency network and helps streamline communications from the emergency press room throughout real or simulated nuclear emergencies. Previously, Ms Scialdone worked as both writer and television reporter for Spanish national television (RTVE), as well as Cuatro TV and CNN+.

She is a member of the NEA's CNRA Expert Group on Public Communications, where she co-leads the Risk Communication Training Course together with Diane Screnci. She was also a member for six years of the ENSREG working group to improve transparency in regulatory organisations.



## Diane Screnci

Diane Screnci has more than three decades of experience as a nuclear communicator. She retired earlier this year as the Senior Public Affairs Officer in the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region I office in Pennsylvania. During her tenure, she served as an agency spokesperson on NRC's oversight of the commercial power reactors in the region, as well for research and test reactors and licensed materials users. She joined the NRC as a regional Public Affairs Officer in 1990. Prior to joining the NRC, Ms Screnci worked as a reporter, news anchor, editor and writer at all-news radio stations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Wilmington, Delaware.

Ms Screnci holds a bachelor's degree in English and communication arts from LaSalle University. She received the NRC's Meritorious Service Award in 2005. She was the NRC's representative to the Nuclear Energy Agency's Expert Group on Public Communication for six years and was co-lead of the Risk Communication Training Course with Adriana Scialdone Garcia.



## Yoshihito Takeda

Yoshihito Takeda is a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University. His specialty is risk assessment and risk communication on chemical substances. He conducts research, education and practice in risk communication and community dialogue with residents and businesses. After graduating from the Faculty of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima University, he attended the Graduate School of Science and Engineering at the University of Tsukuba and received a doctorate at the Graduate School of Urban Sciences, Tokyo Metropolitan University.

Mr Takeda acquired work experience in the Defence Agency Maritime Self-Defense Force, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and at the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE). Since 2013 he has also served as a visiting associate professor at the Graduate School of Environment and Information Studies, Yokohama National University. He has been working at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Engineering since 2019.



### **Miriam Vachová**

After completing a master's degree at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovak Republic (teacher's training with specialisation in physics and technical education), she worked almost continuously in various positions at the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (ÚJD SR). She started in 1997 as a safety analyst in the Division of Safety Analysis and Technical Support. Since 2009 she has worked in the Division of International Relations and European Affairs as the senior state adviser for the Authority's bilateral relations agenda and the Slovak Republic's co-operation with the NEA. Since 2018 she has been appointed as the Director of Chancellery. In this position, she is in addition to other competencies responsible for the internal and external communications of ÚJD SR. Moreover, she is an active member of the CNRA Expert Group on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organisations of NEA as well as the ENSREG Working Group on Improving Transparency Arrangements.



### **Rhonda Walker-Sistie**

Rhonda Walker-Sistie has been the Director General for Strategic Communications at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) since September 2017. Under her leadership, the Directorate is responsible for communication strategy, advice and services in support of the CNSC's nuclear safety mandate, including effective emergency communications, regulatory and digital communications, as well as media relations.

Prior to this, she was the A/Director General of Communications for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), including the Canadian Coast Guard, from 2015 to 2017. During this time, she successfully led the Department's crisis communications team through a number of serious incidents. Ms Walker-Sistie has worked in the field of government communications since 2010. Before her career in the public service, she held a number of positions on Parliament Hill, culminating her time there as Chief of Staff to the Minister of State (Sport, responsible for the 2010 Olympics).

Ms Walker-Sistie holds a doctorate in communication from Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication.



## Tamara Yankovich

Dr Tamara Yankovich took up the role of Deputy Head of Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety at the NEA in June 2024. In this capacity, she manages key programmes and initiatives that focus on stakeholder engagement, transparency and building of trust in the social sciences, as well as on human and organisational factors, safety culture, gender balance initiatives, and safety culture.

Dr Yankovich is a Canadian with more than 30 years of practical experience working on complex sites, including nuclear power, research reactor and uranium mine and mill sites. She is a recognised expert in environmental impact assessment and risk assessment, with significant experience in engagement of diverse stakeholders in support of decision making relating to planned nuclear facilities, as well as the clean-up of historically contaminated ecosystems. She has served as a Canadian representative on various international working groups over many years, addressing issues related to monitoring, modelling and assessment of environmental impacts in the environment from a compliance perspective in consultation with local communities and decision makers.

Dr Yankovich worked at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria for nine years, supporting member states in establishing, strengthening and implementing their legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure and demonstrate protection of the public and the environment within the nuclear sector in accordance with international standards and good practice. She has been awarded two IAEA recognition awards for exceptional performance and is the recipient of a G. William Morgan Lecturer Award from the American Health Physics Society.

Dr Yankovich holds an Honours BSc in biology (with a minor in chemistry), an MSc in biogeochemistry and watershed ecosystems, and a PhD in radioecology and watershed ecosystems. She also has two diplomas in the social sciences from the Centre for Executive Education at the University for Peace in Costa Rica, and is certified by the United Nations Executive Management Programme in Turin, Italy. Dr Yankovich has been awarded two Paul Harris Medals by Rotary International for her humanitarian work to build capacity, create access and enable sustainability in less fortunate communities internationally.

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