Minutes of the 2nd KMC Webinar

Thursday, August 31th 2023

Introduction

The aim of this second Knowledge Management Committee (KMC) webinar was to collect participants ideas for EURAD-2 Knowledge Management (KM) activities and to survey organisations interest in developing ideas for EURAD-2 KM.

Out of the 192 registered participants, 25% represented a Waste Management Organisation (WMO), 17 % a Technical Support Organisation (TSO), 41 % a Research Entity (RE) and the rest (17%) was unsecure which category they belonged to. 81 % responded that they are interested in participating in the EURAD KM Programme. It is not clear which fraction of this referred to management of the KM tasks and activities, and which of them refer to implementing the actual KM work. The actual number of online participants fluctuated during the 2-hours webinar but was as most 129.

The agenda of the webinar was the following:

The webinar was comprised of three parts; status of the KM programme development, a break-out room session and a plenary session that addressed the outcome of the break-out room discussions complemented with discussions including all participants, which was rounded off by a summary and how/when the next steps of the KM programme development will take place.

- 10:00h Welcome, Objectives and Practicalities (P. Carbol & A. Valls)
- 10:05h KMC Presentation
  - Knowledge Management Committee (A. Valls)
  - Position Paper (J. Miksova)
  - Potential activities (A. Tatomir)
  - Task 2 for R&D and StSt WPs (A. Tatomir)
- 10:30h Break out room Session (P. Carbol & A. Valls)
  - Lessons learned from EURAD and PREDIS
  - Suggestions for activities to be implemented in the Knowledge Management Program in EURAD-2
- 11:00h Break out room: Outcome summary (P. Carbol)
- 11:30h Open discussion (A. Sjöland)

11:50h Summary of the webinar, next steps and closure (A. Valls)

12:00h End of the webinar

The KM programme development presentations were given on the function and composition of the Knowledge Management Committee, the KMC position paper on the EURAD-2 KM programme, examples of potential activities, and the interaction between the R&D and Strategic Studies (StSt) work package and the KM work package (Task 2 in WP descriptions of R&D and StSt WP).

Breakout Session

In the next part of the webinar, four break-out rooms were used to facilitate exchange on five topics (same topics in all rooms). The topics were:

- Lessons learned from EURAD and PREDIS
- Suggestion of activities to be implemented in the EURAD-2 KM programme
- How to make best use of resources?
- New and innovative activities
- How to address new target groups?

The purpose was to collect feedback and potential new ideas for EURAD-2 KM activities and improve activities that will be continued. The outcomes of the break-out session from the different rooms were:

Room 1 :

- Concern was raised how to avoid turbulence at the upstart of the EURAD-2 KM activities, based on experience from the two initial years of EURAD KM. How to bring stability to the start of the KM work?
- A question was raised about which IT tools will be used and how these will be implemented in the KM proposal.
- Only two SoK reports were produced in EURAD which is far too few, how will this be handled in EURAD-2?
- There was a recurring request for clarity of content, budget and urgency when it comes to the Task 2 KM activities in R&D and Strategic Studies WPs. When will that information be distributed? Some of these questions were answered in the room.
- A positive outcome of EURAD KM work was that it was successful, and one should take advantage of all that good results/deliverables produced. But it was also recognised that researchers in the R&D WPs does not very much bother about KM, so it would be needed to better support R&D WPs on KM issues.
- The KM programme needs full support from colleges, end-users, stakeholders, and it should not compete with national/international KM activities, but rather be complementary. It was not clear how this would be tackled and organised.
- As universities are knowledge providers, there was a question if the KMC has access to representatives from educational establishment to give input to the KM proposal. The question was answered in the room; Anders Sjöland and Niels Belmans are KM knowledgeable.
- There was a question on new KM activities taking into consideration; (a) a general KM strategy and (b) detailed case studies for single Member States/organisations needs.
- The question on proposals sent to core group, by RWM organisations some month ago will be considered in the selection of KM ideas.
- Missing ideas how to use modern/attractive IT tools to reach out to the young generation.

Room 2 :

- Regarding the lessons learned from EURAD: there are concerns about being very ambitious with proposing new ideas, since also in EURAD there were ambitious plans that were later on proven not to be in line with reality. Also networking required more time to be implemented. Suggestion to start with a scrutiny of what has been reached as the starting point for the future KM program.

- Much depends on the willingness of the participants. If at the beginning many were very enthusiastic that gradually were fading away, we didn't manage to motivate all end-users and target groups, e.g. trouble to engage experts. Therefore, we should focus on better communication, and provide clear specification in description of Task 2, clarify their roles. Promoters of project would be helpful.
- Lesson learned from the Guidance WP: mobility and guidance needed to be much better linked to each other, so that it is easier for the experts to schedule, travel and meet. A limitation was the budgetary issue.
- The links between KM and other WPs, end-users and target groups should be strong and improved. There should not be any disadvantage if there is one or more KM WPs. From the management point of view, the topic of KM being broad, if one wants to put it into one WP it will be too much. A solution to have several WPs under the umbrella of a committee that covers all.
- It is important to provide collaborative spaces, as well as a central point to search for knowledge. This requires the development of a portal. (Frank Dierschow/GRS showed interest in contributing to this activity).
- Development of new technologies, e.g., AI tools to produce KM documents, document summaries for different target groups. BGE started testing of iFinder complemented with Artificial Intelligence .
- It is required to clarify who is the target audience for the future (e.g., who are the less scientific technical communities). What resources should be allocated?
- Communities of Practice should be covered in EURAD 2.
- Involvement of participants on EURAD 2 KM activities proposals through Colleges suggested (collection of ideas, prioritization, etc.)
- How to address target groups?
  - one could start with the knowledge maps. This allows the visualization of the results and ensures easy access to all interested communities.
  - The target groups can be categorized
  - We should make use of social media platforms to reach different target groups (e.g., LinkedIn, etc.)

Room 3 :

- Concerns about funding rates for both future KM WP and WP Tasks 2 were expressed, saying it really could facilitate KM work in WPs if rate is 100 %. –> KMC just received information about this, this will be shared with community.
- KM should take into account the economic state of countries concerning training, in order to have an equal chance to participate in trainings or workshops. The major concern was the cost. However, the mobility programme can be used to cover the travel costs.
- Codes which are developed in the frame of EURAD should be accessible to all the EURAD community but also from outside, there is a need for platform → a data management plan should be carefully written in order to allow data sharing in EURAD including all tools that allow to produce knowledge from data.
- Some huge documents are sometimes difficult to read and extracting targeted knowledge for specific purpose could be tricky. It is proposed to implement tools (AI ones for example) to try to evaluate beneficial from this.
- Some local communities/municipalities would like be to involve in KM activities to bring their own vision and ideas, that could consists in knowledge coming from outside of EURAD.

- A close and strong link should be established between WP Tasks2 and KM WP in order to create a dynamic networking and enhance knowledge dissemination.
- KM should allow to inform more widely about what is existing in the frame of knowledge management, also it should be easier for someone who is not already included in community (community of practices for example), to be able to request for knowledge. Example is the option to subscribe to a KM newsletter, which contains an update on most recent publications/activities

Room 4:

- There was multiple reference to the potential benefit from a platform/database, managing (collecting, storing and making available) data and information. In this context, reference was made to the amount of information and its limited accessibility. Data needs to be managed in on-going close interaction with a broader external expert community in order to be up-to-date.
    - The proposals for the content varied from:
        - A database where any information can be uploaded,
        - Specific databases with information relevant for the Safety (uncertainty), addressing the needs for different types of target groups/communities.
    - It was noticed that such a tool can be used for informing also a broader interested community about what is important for safety.
    - Finally, it was argued that such a database for both data and knowledge require some actor to apply for hosting and implement the necessary platform.
- Feasibility Studies: The role of such studies was clarified, and the question raised if such an instrument would not also be useful for R&D and StSt.
- It was suggested to use extended SWOT analysis for assessing the outcome of activities, measures and the programme.
- It was suggested to support summary publications in the open literature in order to create links to the underlying grey literature generated within the R&D programme.
- The Mobility Measures are very successful, however, there is the need to broaden this, both with respect to the number of mobilities for scientists, but also for other groups needed in the RWM field.
- There is an urgent need for expertise across the nuclear field due to retirement and people leaving the field, especially in countries where future perspectives are modest. The Knowledge Capture of the KM Programme is focussing very much on detailed knowledge. The actual need is a broad introduction to the overall field to the next generation entering, as well as for experts entering from other fields. The specific, detailed individual Knowledge in a particular field of activity is then developed through learning-by-doing / training-on-the-job.

Open discussion after presentation of the outcome of the Break-Out room discussions

- The level of success in meeting the actual demands of the community in the past was questioned. It was stated, that the KM programme is not sufficiently targeting the problem of the generation gap.
- When setting priorities to the KM Programme, there are several dimensions to be regarded:
    - Who is the target group? There is a need to design the KM activities to meet the needs of the different target groups.

- What are the subjects and what is the level of detail required? The public, the next generation of experts and experts involved in the deep science of the safety case with detailed uncertainty management, are target communities with different needs with respect to content and level of detail/accessibility.
- With respect to different needs, not only the implementer view should be regarded, but also the needs for the regulatory function (legislation, legal and regulatory systems in different countries, ….).
- Who is defining the priorities? One way of improving this would be to better involve the Colleges as Drivers.
- What is the time-horizon (immediate, coming decades, coming century) for the KM needs of different countries and organizations? It was noted, that at the end, the challenges with respect to time-horizons are comparable for different countries.

- With respect to training/knowledge transfer:
  - It was pointed out that direct involvement of industry in professional training, can support future workforce with practical experience.
  - The EURAD Programme as bridging between WMOs and Universities may be considered.
  - Individual National Programmes are subcritical for implementing a basic programme on training the next generation of experts, and nuclearization of experts from other fields. Consequently, a European Effort is required.
- Early-Stage Programmes: It was noted with disappointment, that albeit being a very important target group in view of involvement in support of them implementing their National Programmes, with very few exceptions, Early-Stage Programmes were basically absent.

Some general remarks at the end, were:

- The challenges with respect to access to expertise is similar across the EU. A programme on a European level is required for training the next generation of experts (both young generation and experts from other fields). Such a training programme should be formalized and provide a broad general understanding and knowledge. This is then the basis for developing in-depth knowledge through training-on-the-job.
- The level of engagement of EU Member States across different implementation stages and levels is very variant.
- If the KM programme has not yet delivered in response to the main needs of the community members, then a major revision of the KM programme may need to be considered. The question then is: Who are the community members with their respective needs and how are these needs captured and balanced against each other?

Next steps:

- 1st September: KMC will send Feedback Questionnaires to Webinar Audience and to College representatives to be distributed to the entire community
  - Questionnaire 1: Suggestion of activities for EURAD2 KM Programme
  - Questionnaire 2: Interest on participating to the operation of the KM in EURAD2
- 13th September: Deadline for submitting the Feedback