

GA/SRA Webinar Summary

Webinar Date	September 1, 2021
Webinar Time	14:00 to 17:00 EEST
Chair	Erika Holt
Prepared by	Tim Schatz

Background

The PREDIS project hosted an informational webinar (*PREDIS Gap Analysis & Strategic Research Agenda*) on September 1, 2021. This webinar was aimed at presenting the outcomes of the recently completed Gap Analysis (GA) and baseline Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) work in the PREDIS project. Implementation of the GA outcomes and next steps in the SRA development were also discussed. The PREDIS GA deliverable was published on May 31, 2021 and is available on the PREDIS web site (https://predis-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PREDIS-D2.2-Gap-Analysis_Final_2021-05-31.pdf). The PREDIS baseline SRA milestone was published on August 20, 2021 and is also available on the PREDIS website (https://predis-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PREDIS-T2.2_Baseline-SRA_M2.3_August-2021.pdf).

The program (see Appendix 1 for agenda) for this webinar consisted of two sessions of presentations: a session on the PREDIS GA & SRA and a session on SRA development in the EURAD and SHARE projects.

- Seif Ben Hadji Hassine (EC) gave a presentation regarding EC views on needs for gap analyses and strategic research agendas. In principle, gap analyses, strategic research agendas and roadmaps are important documents that ensure Euratom projects and programmes are in line with Euratom regulations and objectives. A sound gap analysis will help identify the R&I needs of stakeholders/end-users and shores up the relevance and legitimacy of the work plan and indicates an appropriate allocation of RD&D resources. An effective strategic research agenda will describe the hierarchy of identified gaps and needs, including how to address them in terms of clear, reachable and quantifiable objectives. A roadmap sets out the timeline and implementation milestones of the SRA objectives.
- Tim Schatz (VTT) discussed the motivation, scope, activities and outcomes from the PREDIS Gap Analysis work. Phase 1 which aimed to identify industry needs for RD&D and initially define the scope of the project was performed during project preparation in the Spring and Summer of 2019. Inputs were gathered directly from the end-user community resulting in focusing the project on four specific waste streams having the highest urgency and importance across Member States. Phase 2 sought to further review, refine and prioritise project plans against identified needs and discern additional areas of interest and was carried out over the first eight months of the project from September 2020 to April 2021. Further insights into end user needs, challenges and priorities were obtained and the level of engagement and reach of the project was widened leading to opportunities to further orient the project scope for more benefit.
- The PREDIS technical work package leaders briefly reviewed their assessment of the gap analysis outcomes relative to refining scopes of work. Seven topics/issues identified in the gap analysis will be directly addressed by the WPs during their project durations. All of the proposed revisions can be integrated into the project work rather seamlessly and will not require any significant project management, budget or consortium membership changes.
- Alan Wareing (NNL) described the first phase of the development of the PREDIS SRA. This work was carried out during the first year of the PREDIS project and examined existing SRAs and other related

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strategy documents published by world-wide nuclear waste management organisations, focus groups and governing bodies, with the intention of identifying the topics of research currently of interest relating to the management of nuclear waste in the pre-disposal phases. A number of common themes and topics were recognized that could be assigned to keywords based on the defined PREDIS SRA sections. These were sorted into groups of common topics and developed into single sections. This baseline work forms the starting point for development of the PREDIS SRA. Future issues of this document will set out, discuss and further develop the research topics identified within the PREDIS project through ongoing engagement with the PREDIS partner and stakeholder organisations, and through linkage with the EURAD SRA due in 2024. In future iterations this section will therefore set out the proposed way forward for implementation of the PREDIS SRA. The SRA will consider ways to prioritise research topics, accounting for the varying maturity and needs of work programmes. In particular, it will address the issues surrounding long-term management and sharing of PREDIS knowledge and engagement of stakeholders.

- Anthony Banford (NNL) outlined the anticipated further progression of the PREDIS SRA. Over the next two years, the aim is to develop an informative long-term, future focussed SRA based on a holistic lifecycle philosophy which will be of both relevance and use to the EC and various other stakeholders. The key to achieving this aim will be extensive engagement with pertinent stakeholder communities. The PREDIS GA, the SHARE SRA, the EURAD SRA update and the SNETP/Nugenia TA5 SRA update will also serve as key inputs. The next steps in the process include defining the structure and bounds of the SRA, detailing the delivery program and establishing a user engagement strategy.
- Valéry Detilleux (Bel V) discussed the process and current status of the update to the EURAD SRA. The founding version of the EURAD SRA (<https://www.ejp-eurad.eu/publications>) was published in 2019 and focussed on seven themes across three areas regarding the long-term management of radioactive waste. A planning process is now underway to agree how the EURAD SRA will be updated in the 2nd part of EURAD. The goals of this SRA update are to promote interactions between EURAD actors, identify new SRA needs and priorities (in R&D, strategic studies and knowledge management), specify activities of interest for the next ten years and ensure alignment with the EURAD Roadmap. The EURAD SRA update will consider a number of upcoming SRAs from stakeholder community as inputs. Additionally, the EURAD SRA update will employ a classification scheme based on drivers (motivating factors). Activities classified under this scheme will not be processed further to establish a hierarchy or list of priorities; it is intended that such programming will be made in a potential future Joint Programme by the directly involved parties themselves.
- Kurt Van Den Dungen (SCK CEN) described the status and expectations for the SHARE project gap analysis and strategic research agenda. The overall approach of the SHARE project is based on a consultation process considering the needs and points of view of different stakeholders involved in the decommissioning value chain across the world. A total of 645 stakeholders in more than 50 countries were targeted. Results from a thorough survey were divided into thematic and sub thematic areas, ranked in terms of importance and urgency and weighted. These survey results and follow-up workshops were used to establish gap analysis outcomes in terms of genuine needs and challenges and proposals of actions. The gap analysis outcomes (distributed into 71 sub thematic areas across 4 main types of actions) will be used as input for the SRA which is to be finalized in 2022.

The presentations are available on the PREDIS website (<https://predis-h2020.eu/predis-gap-analysis-strategic-research/>).

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Following the formal presentation sessions, a set of small group discussions were held. Attendees were randomly assigned to 1 of 3 moderated breakout rooms. The aim of the 30-minute discussion session was to gather perspectives framed around the following questions (although discussions were not limited).

- How to engage end users in producing an SRA?
- How to prioritize SRA topics?
- How to utilize an SRA in practice?

In all, more than 100 participants registered to attend the webinar. Representation was divided between PREDIS end user group members + general stakeholders and consortium partners at 37% to 63%. A total of 96 people joined the webinar over its duration.

Outcomes

Some key takeaways from the deliberations of the discussion sessions were as follows:

Engagement

- ☑ Webinars (by recent necessity and now by proven value) are a good way to build effective stakeholder engagement.
- ☑ Numerous interactive tools are available (live polling/surveying, white boards, sticky notes, etc) to both increase audience participation and collect information.
- ☑ Surveys (online or form-based) remain indispensable tools for collecting SRA input from a wide audience.
- ☑ The right questions need to be asked to the right people;
 - ▶ The right people need to be identified and contacted.
 - ▶ The right questions can be established through trial surveys.
- ☑ Is it best to engage with stakeholders early in the process or undertake upfront work and then engage/reassess?
- ☑ Engagement with civil society should lead to a better-informed citizenry.

Prioritization

- ☑ Weightings are required as not all the drivers or interests carry the same weight (different importance or urgency). For example, safety and risk reduction are commonly weighted as high.
- ☑ Establish clearly upfront who the SRA is for (end user/audience). Striving to have one SRA that is common/agreeable to all is an impossible task, the lead end users must be therefore acknowledged.
- ☑ Different stakeholders will have different interests and be motivated by different drivers; establishing a set of common needs/opportunities may be challenging. The SRA should transparently express all received needs and interests as well as any employed prioritization scheme. Additionally, an independent review process can be utilized.
- ☑ The strategy must be clear about what is targeted at the end, i.e., what should be achieved? For example, is the target to understand those topics where there will be the best return on the investment, and/or those topics that support Member States at a local level?

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- ☐ The EC tends to favour the best return on investment for Member States.

Utilization

- ☐ The SRA must be effectively communicated/disseminated to decision makers as a valuable way to frame the future. It should provide insight to organizations as to where future opportunities will arise, i.e., inform pipeline activities and talent development.
- ☐ To be productively utilized, the SRA must be connected to strong, established (stakeholder) networks which are committed to its aims. For example, the EC can formulate new calls in alignment with the SRA.
- ☐ The SRA should establish itself as a tool to support discussion between different perspectives and actor groups, to gather mutual experience and establish a broad view.
- ☐ The SRA should be used hand-in-hand with a Roadmap to direct the prioritisation and timing of implementation.
- ☐ The goals and aims of the SRA should lend themselves to progress monitoring and updating.



PREDIS Gap Analysis & Strategic Research Agenda

Free webinar on September 1, 2021 from 14-17 EEST

Agenda

14:00 to 17:00 EEST (UTC+3)

Introduction

- 14:00-14:10 Welcome & Introduction (Erika Holt, VTT)
- 14:10-14:20 EC views on needs for GA and SRA project outputs (Seif Ben Hadj Hassine, EC)

Session 1:

- 14:20-14:40 PREDIS GA approach and outcomes (Tim Schatz, VTT)
- 14:40-14:55 Handling of PREDIS GA recommendations (WP 4-7 Leaders)
- 14:55-15:15 Overview of PREDIS SRA Phase I (Alan Wareing, NNL)
- 15:15-15:30 The way forward for PREDIS SRA and linkage to SNETP (Anthony Banford, NNL)
- 15:30-15:35 break

Session 2:

- 15:35-15:55 EURAD SRA (Valery Detilleux, Bel V)
- 15:55-16:15 SHARE SRA (Kurt Van den Dungen, SCKCEN)
- 16:15-16:20 break

16:20 to 16:50 Breakout Room Discussions

- how to utilize an SRA in practice
- how to prioritize SRA topics
- how to engage end users in producing an SRA

16:50 to 17:00 Close

- 16:50-17:00 Feedback from breakout rooms / Summary and Conclusions
- 17:00 Adjourn

