



# Joint Research Centre Institute for Transuranium Elements

Thierry Wiss

4<sup>th</sup> UK Nuclear Academics  
Discussion Meeting

University of Sheffield  
8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc>

Joint  
Research  
Centre



**Serving society  
Stimulating innovation  
Supporting legislation**

# The JRC inside the European Commission



President  
**Jean-Claude JUNCKER**

**28 Commission Members**  
(president, 7 vice presidents +  
20 commissioners)



Commissioner for Education,  
Culture, Youth and Sport  
**Tibor Navracsics**



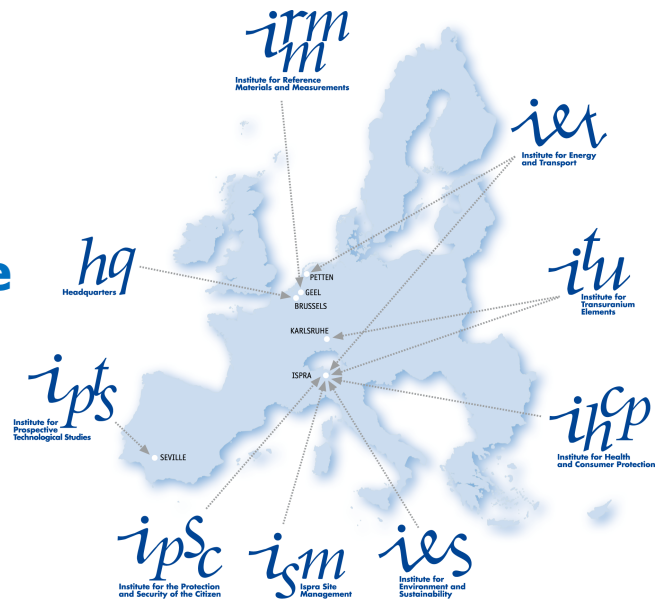
Director-General  
**Vladimír Šucha**  
*Joint Research Centre*

*DG Education and Culture*





**Agriculture and food security**  
**Economic and monetary union**  
**Energy and transport**  
**Environment and climate change**  
**Health and consumer protection**  
**Information Society**  
**Innovation and growth**  
**Nuclear safety and security**  
**Safety and security**  
**Standards**



# Partners & Stakeholders



 **European Commission**

 **ITRE** Industry, Research and Energy  
European Parliament

 **IAEA**  
International Atomic Energy Agency

  
**CONSILIUM**

**Scientific and Technical  
Committee (STC) Euratom**

**Advisory Board  
JRC BoG**

**DG JRC**  
**Nuclear safety  
and security**

 **NEA**   
Nuclear Energy Agency

**European Nuclear  
Energy Forum**  
Bratislava - Prague

**Member States**

BELGIEN	BULGARIEN	DÄNEMARK	DEUTSCHLAND	ESTLAND	FINLAND	FRANKREICH
GRÖKENLAND	GROSSBRITANNIEN	IRLAND	ITALIEN	LÄTTLAND	LITAUEN	LUXEMBURG
MALTA	NIEDERLANDE	ÖSTERREICH	POLEN	PORTUGAL	RUMÄNIEN	SCHWEDEN
SLOWAKEI	SLOWENIEN	SPANIEN	TSCHECHISCHE REPUBLIK	UNGARN	ZYPERN	EUROPEAN UNION

**EERA**  
European Energy Research Alliance



**GEN IV** International  
Forum

**EN S REG**  
European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group  
Research  
Centre

**IGD-TP**

**SNETP**  
SUSTAINABLE NUCLEAR ENERGY  
TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

The mission of JRC-ITU is to provide the scientific foundation for the protection of the European citizen against risks associated with the handling and storage of highly radioactive material.

Institutional budget (~ 45 M€)

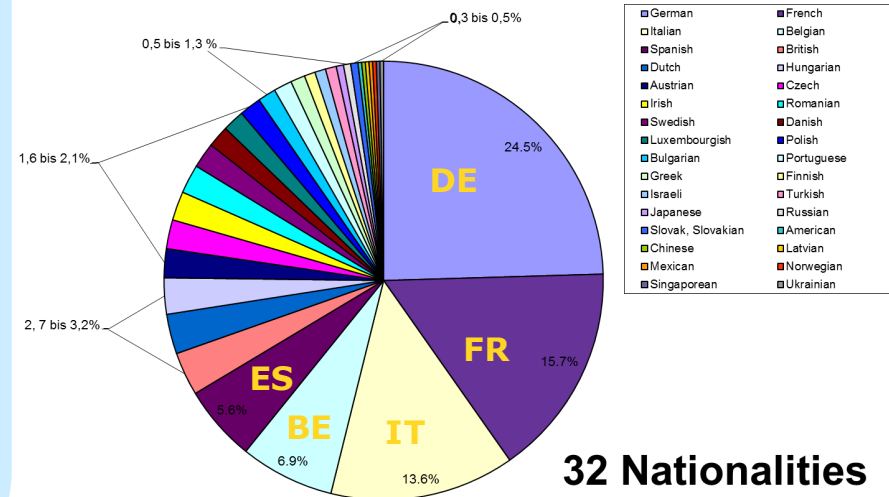
- JRC EURATOM programme (85%)
- Competitive activities (15%)

Staff

KA: ca. 300 plus ca. 150 external  
Ispra: ca. 70

European School  
Karlsruhe

~ 1000 pupils



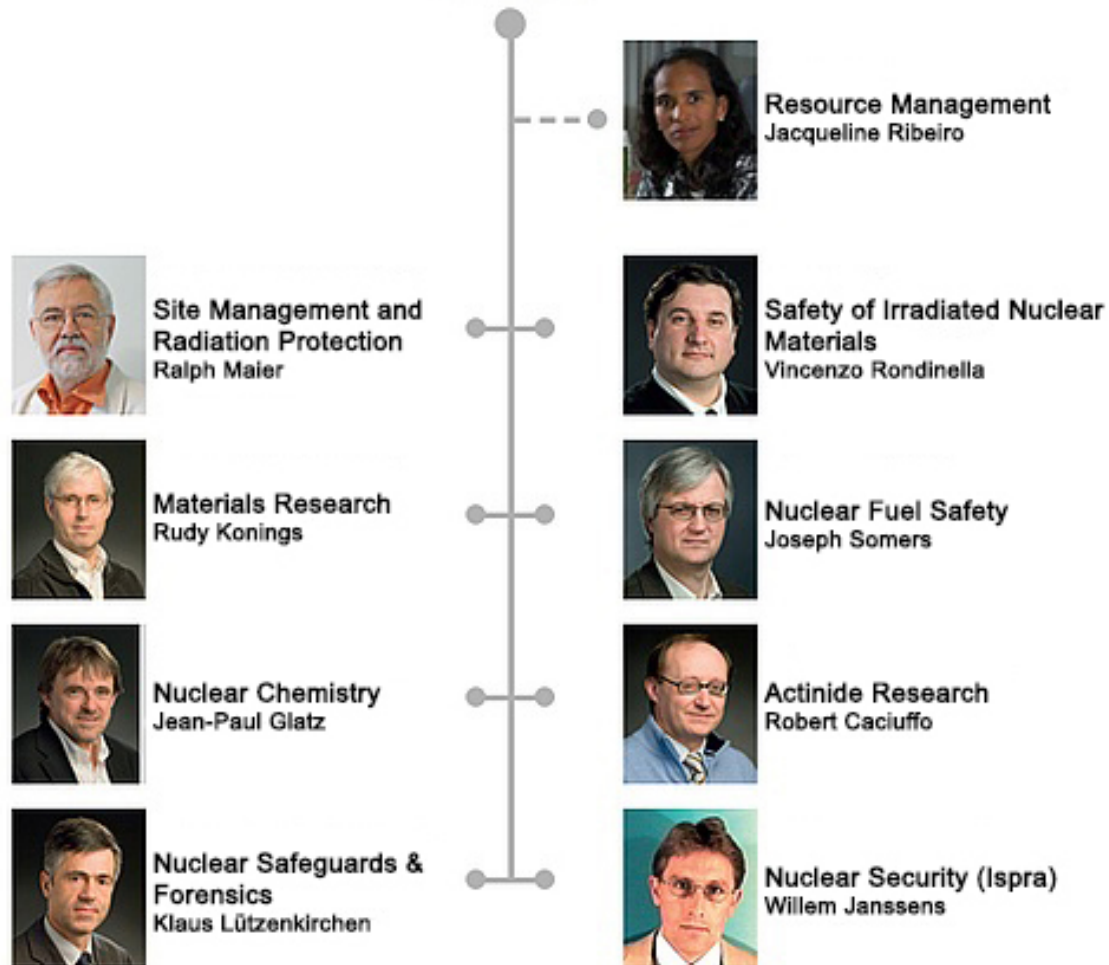
# JRC-ITU Organigramm



European  
Commission



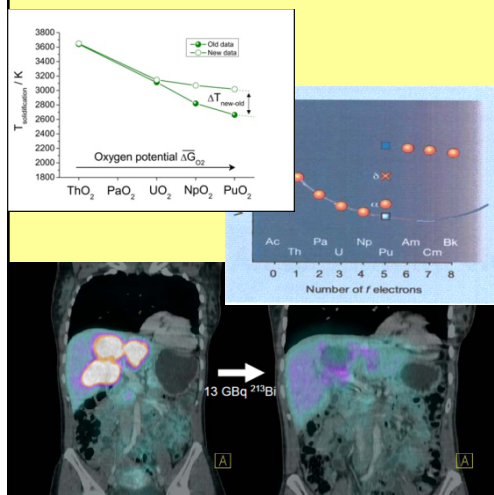
**JRC-ITU Director**  
Maria Betti



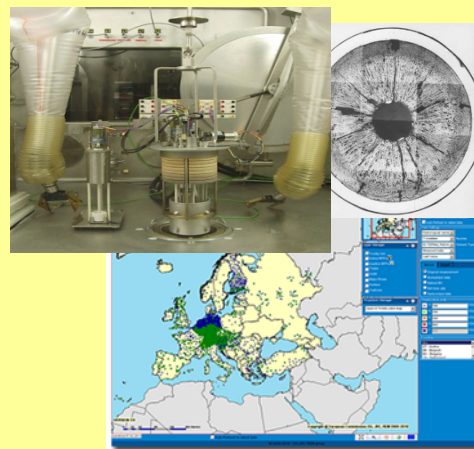


## NUCLEAR SAFETY and NUCLEAR SECURITY

### Scientific Excellence: Fundamental properties & applications



### Safety of nuclear fuel cycle / waste management & decommissioning / environment



### Nuclear safeguards, non-Proliferation, security & forensics



### Training & Education

# Unique infrastructure and equipment



Solid State NMR



Hot Cells (24)



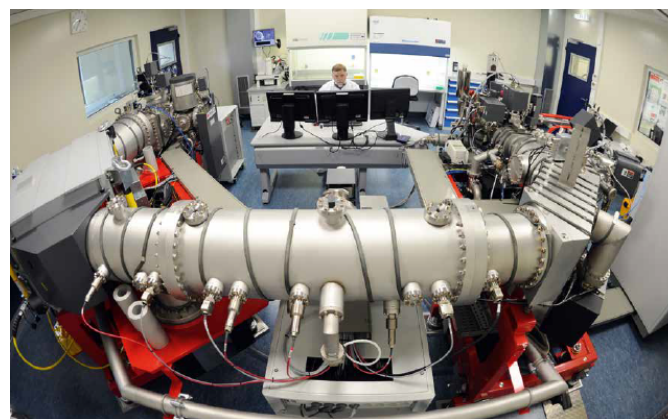
Transmission Electron  
Microscopy



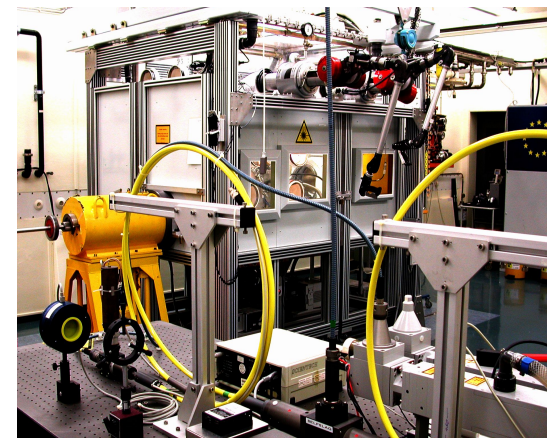
Minor Actinide  
Laboratory



Surface Science



Large Geometry Secondary Ion  
Mass Spectrometry (SIMS)

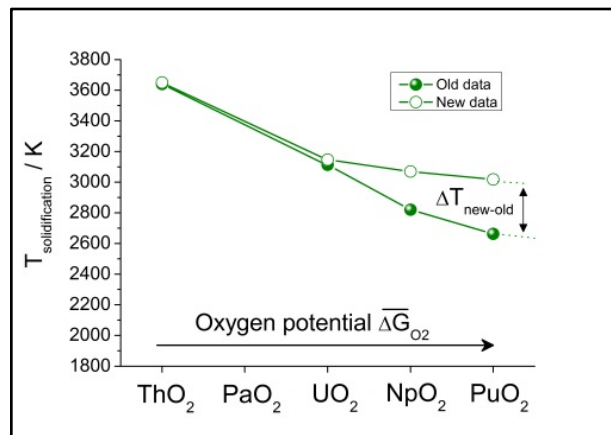


Thermophysics &  
Thermodynamics

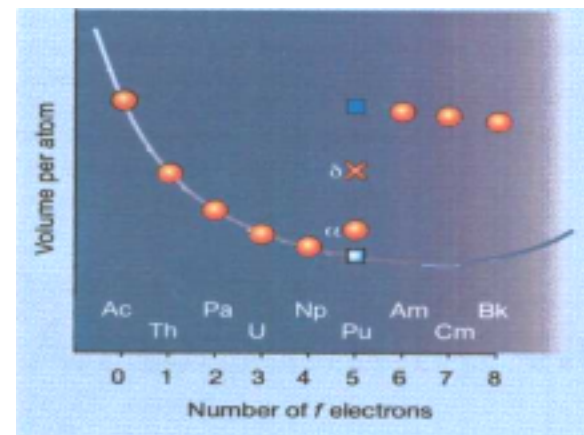
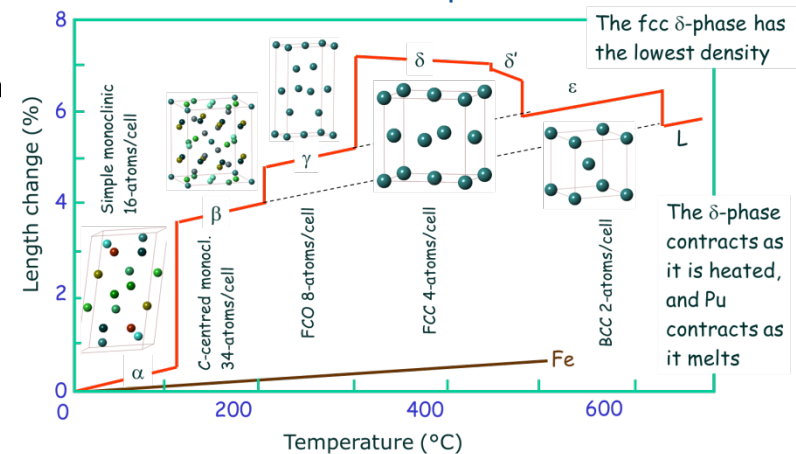


## Fundamental Properties of Actinides & Nuclear Materials

- Physical properties under extreme conditions of temperature, pressure and magnetic field.
- Physical-chemistry of surfaces and interfaces of model materials
- Co-ordination chemistry
- High-temperature thermodynamic properties
- Radiation effects in condensed matter

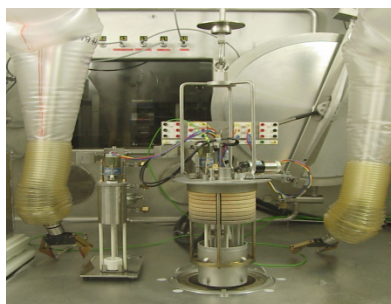


## Allotropic phases of Pu and anomalous thermal expansion



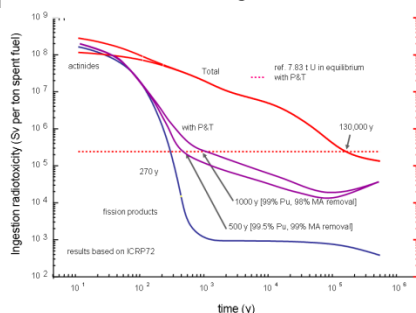


## Safety of nuclear fuels



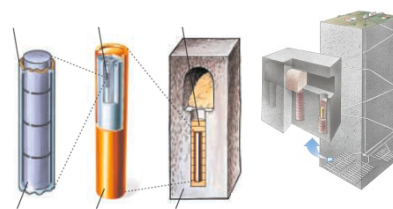
- Advanced/conventional fuels
- In-pile behaviour
- Normal, transient and accidental conditions
- Characterization of irradiated fuel from real and simulated accidents
- Code and Modelling (Transuranus)

## Safety of nuclear fuel cycle



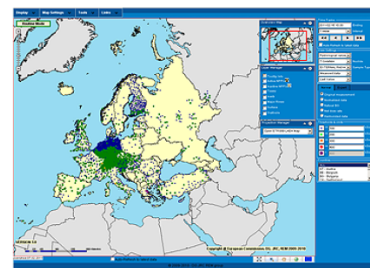
- Safety assessment of closing the nuclear fuel cycle
- Advanced aqueous partitioning
- Pyro-reprocessing technologies
- Head-end conversion processes

## Nuclear Waste Management & decommissioning



- Safe/responsible disposal: assessment and modelling of key alteration processes / Implementation of EU directive
- Corrosion studies on irradiated fuels
- Conditioning matrices for minor actinides
- Long-term behaviour of spent fuels under storage conditions: Increased focus on interim storage / cladding issues / MOX fuels

## Radioactivity in the environment



- Traces analysis
- Procedures for data collection, evaluation and harmonisation
- Dispersion model (routine and emergency conditions)
- Radioactivity environmental monitoring:
  - EURDEP (European Radiological Data Exchange Platform)
  - ECURIE

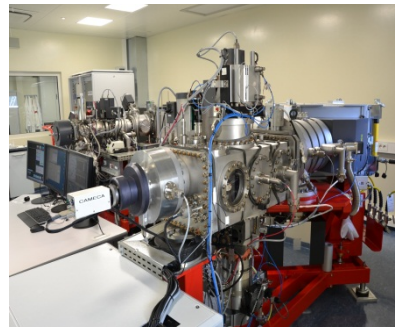


## Effective and Efficient Safeguards



- Nuclear material measurements
- Reference materials
- Containment & Surveillance
- Process monitoring
- On-site laboratories

## Verification Absence of Undeclared Activities



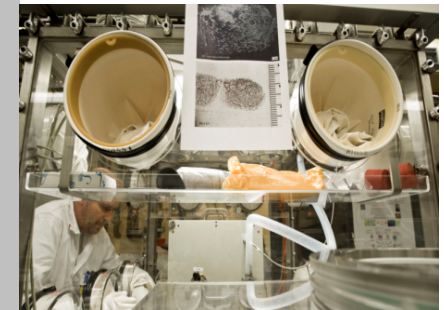
- Trace & particle analysis
- In-field tools for investigative inspector
- Reference materials

## Nuclear Non Proliferation



- Export control
- Trade analysis
- Non-proliferation studies

## Combating Illicit Trafficking



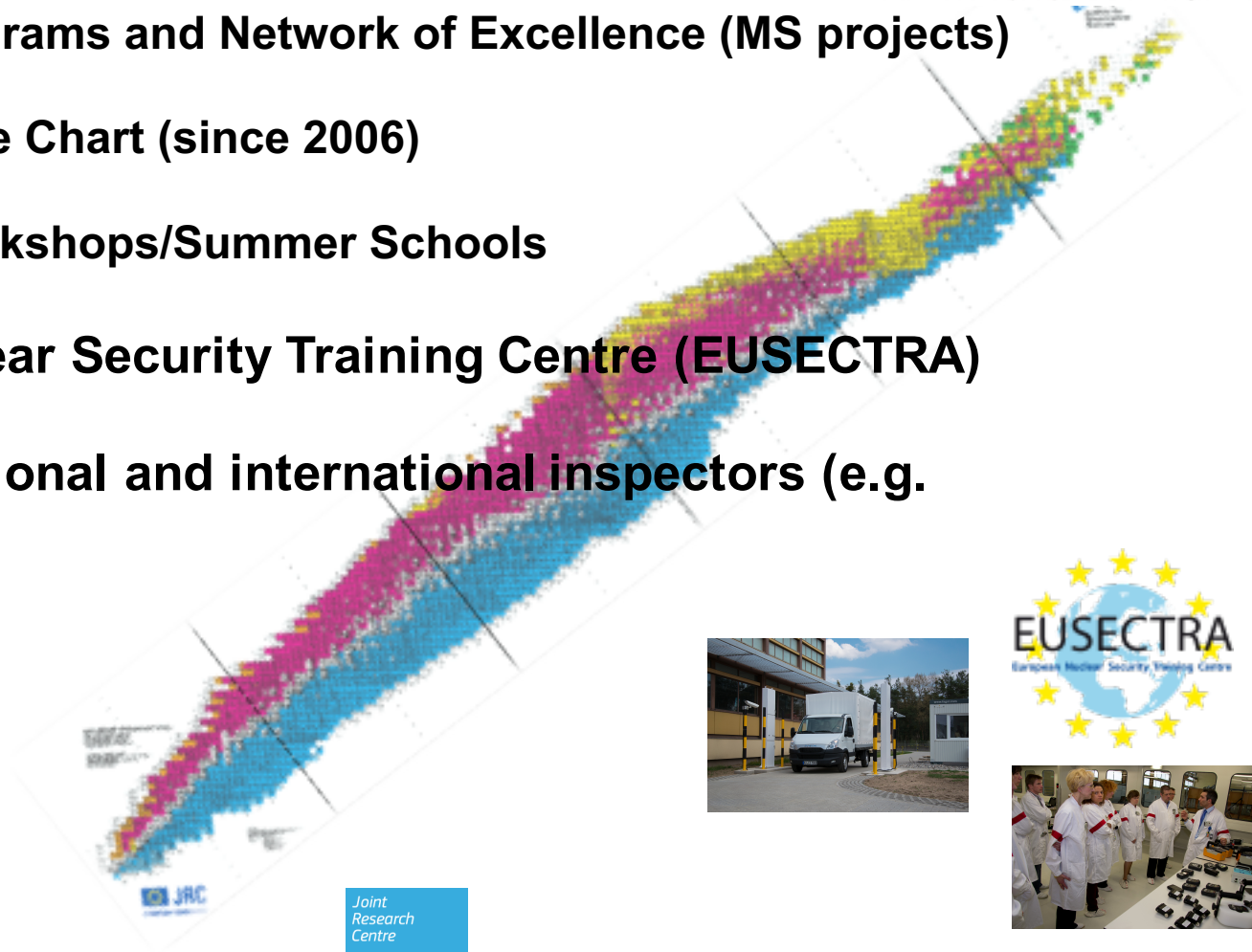
- Equipment development
- Testing & validation
- Nuclear forensics
- Nuclear preparedness
- National response plan
- CBRN, IfS, ...

**TRAINING & EDUCATION** European Nuclear Security Training Centre Promotion  
/Dissemination of EU's highest Safety/Security standards

# Training & Education @ JRC



- ☐ Training and education of next generation of scientists and experts (Grant Holders schemes)
- ☐ User access programs and Network of Excellence (MS projects)
- ☐ Karlsruhe Nuclide Chart (since 2006)
- ☐ Conferences/Workshops/Summer Schools
- ☐ European Nuclear Security Training Centre (EUSECTRA)
- ☐ Training for national and international inspectors (e.g. IAEA)







**GENTLE**

Graduate and Executive Nuclear Training and Lifelong Education

# GRADUATE AND EXECUTIVE NUCLEAR TRAINING AND LIFELONG EDUCATION

[www.gentleproject.eu](http://www.gentleproject.eu)



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# Objectives

**Create a sustainable lifelong E&T programme in the field of nuclear fission technology in Europe that:**

- Supports European stakeholders from industry, research and technical support organisations,
- contributes to their continuous professional development,
- brings together the leading nuclear academic institutions.

**To reach these objective three main pillars are implemented:**

- Student Research Experiences (through Mobility Grants)
- Inter-semester Courses for (post) graduate students
- Professional education on nuclear energy



# Students research experience

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT MOBILITY

- GENTLE provides **grants** to BSc, MSc and PhD students to gain experiences at the research facilities of a GENTLE partner and are not in the same domicile as the University at which the students are registered.
- The internships can be from 1 up to 24 months
- Open posts, in different scientific fields (nuclear fuel, nuclear data, neutronics, thermalhydraulics, etc.) are published on the GENTLE web page. Moreover, students can ***propose*** own research projects and Internships too.

# Inter-semester courses

- ✱ These are short courses (4-5 days) for graduate students on topics not generally part of the academic curriculum. They include on-site demonstrations, visits, and excursions to industrial facilities.

Name	Location/contact	Date
<i>Nuclear Data</i>	JRC-IRMM, Belgium <a href="mailto:schillebeeckx@ec.europa.eu">schillebeeckx@ec.europa.eu</a>	June 2014
<i>Safeguards and Security</i>	SCK-CEN, Belgium <a href="mailto:mcoeck@sckcen.be">mcoeck@sckcen.be</a>	July 2014
<i>Reactor Techniques</i>	BME, Hungary <a href="mailto:legrady@reak.bme.hu">legrady@reak.bme.hu</a>	Feb 2015
<i>Thermal Hydraulic Phenomena</i>	LUT, Finland <a href="mailto:arto.ylonen@lut.fi">arto.ylonen@lut.fi</a>	April 2015
<i>Nuclear Waste Management</i>	KIT, Germany <a href="mailto:volker.metz@kit.edu">volker.metz@kit.edu</a>	July 2015
Nuclear Decommissioning	UMAN, UK <a href="mailto:lennox@manchester.ac.uk">lennox@manchester.ac.uk</a>	<b>Sep 2015</b>
Nuclear Fuels	JRC-ITU, Germany <a href="mailto:dario.manara@ec.europa.eu">dario.manara@ec.europa.eu</a>	<b>June 2016</b>

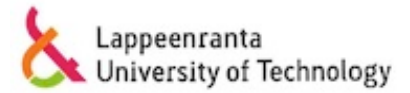
# Professional Education Program

✿ The Professional Education Programme is for participants who want to enhance their knowledge in the nuclear energy field. The programme consists of modules.

- Module 1 Understanding Nuclear Power
- Module 2 Producing energy with nuclear reactors
- Module 3 Nuclear fuel from Ore to Waste
- Module 4 Conditions for societal justification of nuclear energy
- Module 5 Management systems

**Pilot scheme under preparation**

# GENTLE PARTNER



# GRADUATE AND EXECUTIVE NUCLEAR TRAINING AND LIFELONG EDUCATION

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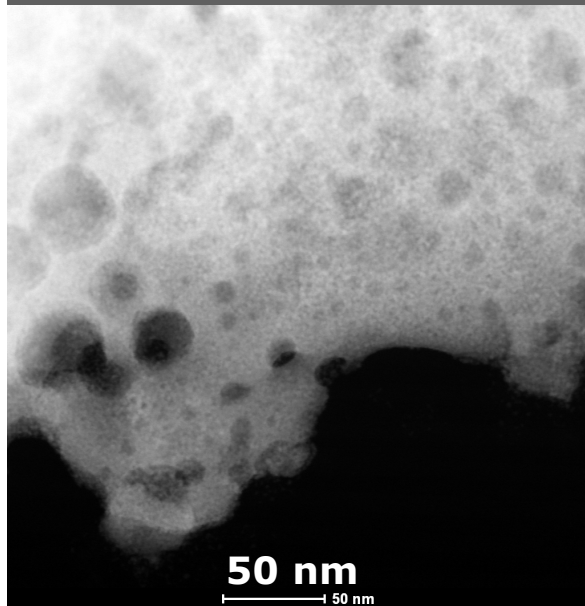
**Thank you for your attention**



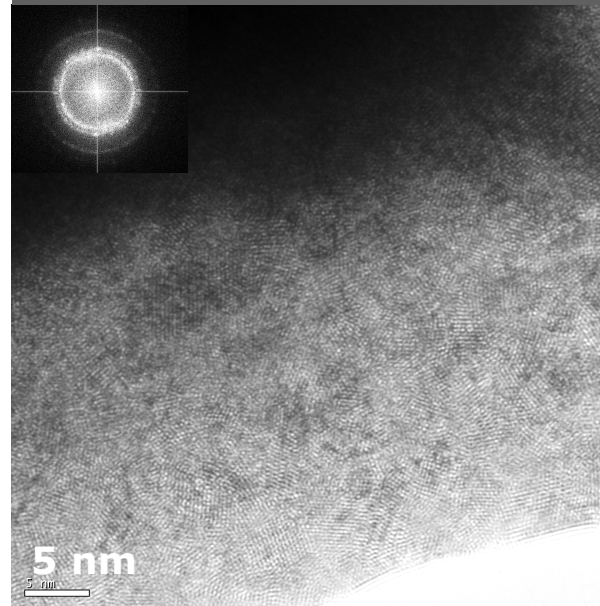
# alpha-damage AmO<sub>2</sub> - 36 dpa



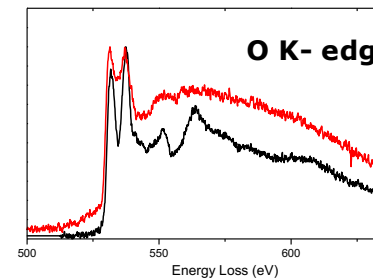
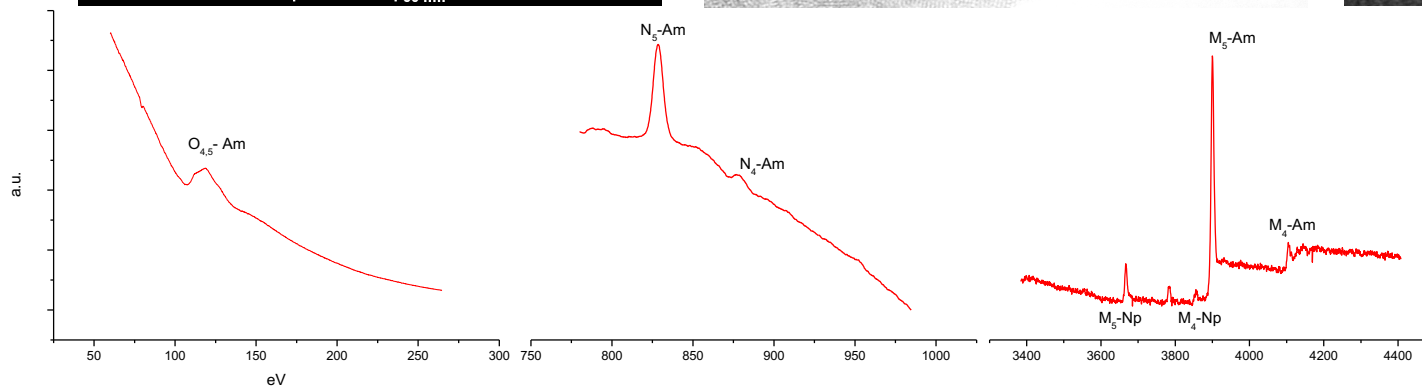
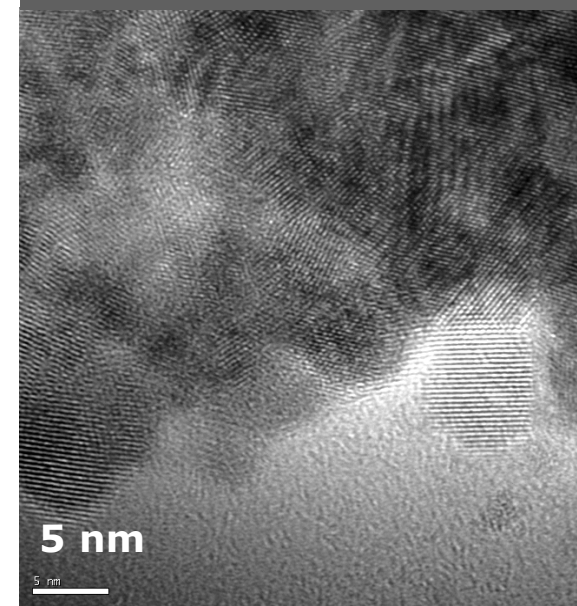
He – Gasblasen

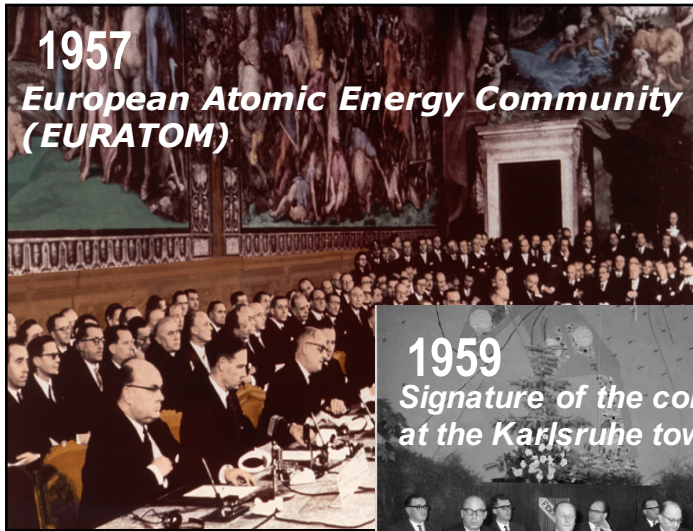


Entstehung von Strahlenschäden



Bildung neuer Korngrenzen





## Short history of JRC-ITU

**1. April 1963:** Official  
launch ceremony



**1964:** first laboratories are  
operational

# $\text{La}_2(\text{Zr}_{2-x}\text{U}_x)\text{O}_{7+\delta}$ pyrochlores

