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From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	28 November 2024
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Subject:	COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION Ex-post evaluation of direct actions under the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2014-2020 Accompanying the document REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Ex-post evaluation of the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2014-2020

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Delegations will find attached document SWD(2024) 272 final - Part 1/2.

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PART 1/2

**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION**

**Ex-post evaluation of direct actions under the Euratom Research and Training  
Programme 2014-2020**

*Accompanying the document*

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE  
COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

**Ex-post evaluation of the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2014-2020**

{COM(2024) 549 final} - {SWD(2024) 271 final}

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Staff Working Document (SWD) presents the ex-post evaluation of the direct actions of the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2014-2018 and its extension 2019-2020 implemented by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. It takes into account the interim evaluation of the Programme 2014-2018 <sup>(1)</sup> and is based on the external assessment <sup>(2)</sup> of all activities of the JRC conducted by a panel of 15 independent experts between September 2021 and July 2022.

The scope of the ex-post evaluation is to assess the progress made by the direct actions towards the Programme objectives, as well as their long-term impact, in order to feed into the following decisions related to the renewal or modification of the Programme. It also evaluated the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, European added value and relevance of the direct actions and advised on the scope for further improvement.

On effectiveness, the efforts carried out by the JRC to meet the research needs identified in the nuclear field are described in the Commission report and more in details in the Staff Working Document. The direct actions of the JRC were instrumental in meeting the objectives of the Euratom programme and supporting EU policies with numerous tangible impacts identified in key areas like nuclear safety, nuclear security, radioactive waste and spent fuel management, radiation protection, safeguards and non-proliferation, as well as knowledge management and trainings.

The efficiency of the direct actions was evaluated against productivity and impact of the JRC's research but also the management of resources. Based on bibliometric indicators and impact metrics, the JRC performance in terms of research publication ranked well above average. While JRC introduced efficiency measures in relation to project management methodology and resources reallocation along priority activities, the lack of proper indicator to assess the efficiency of the science for policy support was noted.

The Euratom programme 2014-2020 showed coherence with other EU programmes and policies. Both indirect and direct actions complemented and supported each other, ensuring the sharing of expertise and know-how. The direct actions are also aligned with research programmes carried out by EU Member States or international organisations supporting the coherency of the JRC's work at EU and global level.

The EU-added value of the direct actions was based on the JRC's unique and long standing expertise, which complemented national research programmes, contributed to research in key nuclear fields and helped to maintain and develop competencies for the whole Euratom community. The JRC also supported the implementation of EU policies (e.g. nuclear related directives and other instruments). The open access of EU scientists to the JRC's unique state-of-the-art research facilities was acknowledged as a fundamental example of EU-added value.

Following the proposals made by the external panel, the ex-post evaluation draws some recommendations for the reporting period, included investing in communication, developing foresight activities and strengthening the competencies in some fields such as small modular reactors, long term operation, decommissioning, as well as knowledge and

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<sup>(1)</sup> *Interim Evaluation of the JRC's direct actions 2014-2018* (EUR 28722 EN)

<sup>(2)</sup> Heuer, R.D., et al., *Ex post evaluation of the activities of the Joint Research Centre under Horizon 2020 and Euratom 2014-2020*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022.

data management and dissemination. It also recommends exploring the integration of social sciences in activities like risk assessment or emergency preparedness and response.