The INSSP: a customized systematic framework for enhancing a State’s nuclear security regime

“On a regional level, we don’t just share borders, we share similar challenges. The INSSP process allows us to identify strengths and map out capabilities and gaps in the region, which will inform future activities.”

M. Rodin Traicu, Chairman of Romania’s Commission for Nuclear Activities Control

The INSSP allowed the various nuclear security stakeholders in the country to know their individual responsibilities and better coordinate work in the event of a nuclear security breach”

Ms. Arame Boye Faye, Director General of Senegal’s Authority for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety.

“… One of the most significant achievements of Lebanon’s INSSP so far includes the repatriation of 42 disused radioactive sources, primarily from medical facilities, to safe storage facilities in other countries. … The successes would not have been possible without the effective cooperation of all stakeholders through the INSSP process.”

Bilal Nsouli, Director of the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission (LAEC)

The INSSP in figures

15-20 Participants from different institutions in an INSSP meeting, on average.

6 IAEA INSSP Officers working directly with Member States

INSSP regional distribution and status

47 Africa

30 Asia and the Pacific

18 Latin America and the Caribbean

19 Europe

INSSPs approved, under implementation and under development

114

INSSP missions per year, on average

25

General review cycle of an INSSP and its implementation plan

3-4 yrs

General review cycle of an INSSP and its implementation plan

For more information on the INSSP, please contact the IAEA Division of Nuclear Security:

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www.iaea.org/topics/public-events-security

nusec.iaea.org/portal/User-Groups/INSSP
What is an INSSP?
The Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) is a voluntary tool that provides States with a systematic and comprehensive framework for reviewing their nuclear security regimes and identifying areas where they need to be strengthened. The Plans also allow for the State to identify priority actions towards an effective and sustainable nuclear security regime.

The INSSP is a non-legally binding document; however, its endorsement by a State indicates a commitment to pursue the implementation of agreed nuclear security improvements contained therein. States that receive IAEA assistance in nuclear security through the INSSP process are not required to contribute to the Nuclear Security Fund.

How is an INSSP developed?
Together with the IAEA, the State consolidates its nuclear security priorities into an INSSP. Each INSSP is developed in cooperation with the requesting State and is tailored to its specific needs, based on Nuclear Security Series guidance. When available and relevant, findings and recommendations from IAEA peer review and advisory service missions and other information gathered during IAEA technical visits and expert missions can also contribute to the plans.

What areas does the INSSP cover?
The INSSP is structured around six functional areas of work in relation to nuclear security:
- legislative and regulatory framework
- threat and risk assessment
- physical protection regime
- detection of criminal and unauthorized acts involving material out of regulatory control
- security response to criminal and unauthorized acts including material out of regulatory control
- sustaining a nuclear security regime

Who is involved in the INSSP process?
Because of its flexible and tailored approach, the INSSP can be useful for all States regardless of their nuclear security regime status or presence of nuclear material.

Because of the cross-cutting nature of nuclear security, many national stakeholders are involved in the development and implementation of the INSSP. Among others, the involved national stakeholders may include the following:
- Prosecutor's office
- Regulatory body
- Ministry of interior
- Customs authority
- Law enforcement agencies
- Intelligence organizations
- Port and airport authorities
- Ministry of transport
- Ministry of defense
- Border protection agency
- Ministry of health
- Ministry of foreign affairs/Permanent mission

How is the INSSP beneficial?
The main benefit of the INSSP is to help States plan their efforts in strengthening their nuclear security regime following a comprehensive, systematic, and graded approach that will ensure sustainability over time. In addition to identifying, consolidating, and prioritizing nuclear security areas for improvement, the INSSP highlights which entity or organization within the State is responsible for each component and establishes implementation strategies and timeframes.

Additionally, the INSSP enables the State concerned, the IAEA and other entities willing to provide nuclear security assistance to plan and coordinate activities from both a technical and a financial point of view.

Overall the INSSP offers several advantages:
- flexible and dynamic strategic planning mechanism
- systematic and graded approach framework based on IAEA nuclear security guidance
- promotes national coordination and ownership
- optimizes impact of interventions and resources
- facilitates coordination with other relevant international initiatives (e.g. EU CBRN Centres of Excellence National Action Plans, UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans)
- reduces the risk for duplication of efforts