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ELSE

European Leadership for Safety Education (ELSE), a Project funded by EU's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and operated by Université Côte d'Azur (France), achieves a major milestone.



date

Professor Jeanick Brisswalter, President of Université Côte d'Azur (UCA, France) and Henriette Geiger, Director for People and Peace at the European Commission Directorate for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) welcome the certification by the UCA's Board of a new University Diploma, dedicated to the training of managers of the nuclear sector in the field of *Leadership for Safety*. This certification represents a major milestone achievement of the European Leadership for Safety Education Project (ELSE). ELSE was launched by the European Commission in 2019 in the framework of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC), to further enhance EU's support to the safe operation of nuclear facilities in partner countries by training middle career managers to better understand and address risks associated with human and organisational factors.

For Henriette Geiger, « this innovative project is fully in line with the EU commitment to nuclear safety worldwide and its promotion, which underpins the international cooperation policies supported by INSC ». And from Jeanick Brisswalter's point of view, « the ELSE project is emblematic of the strategy development of UCA, which aims to bring together academic and professional expertise to meet society's evolving needs for high level education and research. »



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With a budget worth about €800,000 funded by the European Commission, ELSE aims to develop an innovative research-based approach to advanced education in the domain of leadership for safety, bringing together the most recent academic knowledge and reference professional expertise. The field of leadership for safety has become prominent in recent years, as the lessons learnt from major nuclear accidents have clearly identified the important role of human and organisational factors among the root causes of accidents. The ELSE project has two key objectives:

- to develop a certified university diploma dedicated to professional actors of the nuclear sector, and to organize two annual sessions, in 2021 and 2022 for trainees from EU and third countries¹,
- to develop a training module at Master level in the same field, and to make it accessible to university students across Europe through a network of “implementing European Universities”.

To reach these objectives, the ELSE project also intends to develop an innovative research on organizational safety leadership. An international workshop (January 22 - 24, 2020) gathering about 25 confirmed experts was organized at Université Côte d’Azur and provided the basis of the training content and the pedagogical team. The ELSE course is made up of three academic modules, covering a period of 8 months: an initial session of two and half weeks (September), a professional tutored project conducted at the place of work (part time over 7 months, and a concluding session of 3 days (June), which includes evaluation. Through conferences, exercises and practical case studies, the syllabus addresses a wide area of themes such as safety culture, organizational resilience, high reliability organizations, organizational mindfulness, crisis management, international nuclear safety standards. The pedagogic team is multinational, with senior academics in relevant disciplines: psychology, sociology, management, civil engineering, and senior experts in the field of safety in nuclear industry, with broad international experience.

In the coming weeks, the recruitment of the first participants to receive an INSC grant to attend the ELSE course will be initiated, in cooperation with competent authorities in INSC partner countries. This first course will begin in Nice, France, on September 6, 2021.

Background

Following the Chernobyl accident in 1986, the EU launched a nuclear safety program under TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) which, between 1991 and 2006, allocated some €1.2 billion to nuclear safety and security projects. From 2007 to 2013, the EU expanded its nuclear safety assistance to third countries under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) with a total budget allocation of €524 million. In June 2014, the strategy for the implementation of Phase 2 of the INSC (2014 – 2020) was agreed, committing an extra €325 million for nuclear safety projects. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/nuclear-safety_en

Université Côte d’Azur (UCA), based in Nice (France) gathers around 32000 students and 2000 professors and researchers in a broad range of disciplines. Since January 1st, 2020, UCA has become an

¹ Third countries includes non-UE members states participating in the INSC program.



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experimental university that brings together 17 major academic entities around the historical Nice University nucleus, to constitute one of the 10 major research-intensive French universities. [Université Côte d'Azur](#)

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