

STRATEGY INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2024



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Nuklearsicherheitsinspektorat ENSI
Inspection fédérale de la sécurité nucléaire IFSN
Ispettorato federale della sicurezza nucleare IFSN
Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate ENSI

Strategy International Activities 2024

Based on Art. 6 para. 6 letter h of the ENSI Act¹, the ENSI Board defines the following:

1. Purpose of the Strategy International Activities

The tasks of ENSI pertaining to the international area are the responsibility of the Director General². Through this Strategy International Activities, the ENSI Board specifies the long-term strategic direction for ENSI. This enables ENSI to plan operational actions with which this strategic requirement is to be achieved via international cooperation. In particular, the Strategy defines the extent of ENSI's commitment, the topics to be addressed and the impact to be achieved from a strategic point of view. In an implementation plan, ENSI proposes the time- and content-related framework for the operational implementation of this Strategy.

The ENSI Board defines the strategic objectives for ENSI's international activities in the form of a performance mandate covering a period of four years. In the annual performance agreements between the ENSI Board and the ENSI Executive Board these are then implemented through concrete objectives and measures within ENSI. The four-year objectives of the performance mandate reflect the medium-term strategic orientation associated with the Strategy International Activities.

2. Legal basis

Pursuant to Article 70 of the NEA³, ENSI is the regulatory authority related to nuclear safety and security in Switzerland. ENSI's tasks are defined in Article 2 of the ENSI Act. The fundamental safety objective of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), "The protection of people, society and the environment against harmful effects of ionising radiation", is also prescribed in Articles 1 and 4 of the NEA. Article 5 para. 1 of the NEA specifies that "When designing, constructing and operating nuclear installations, protective measures must be taken in accordance with internationally accepted principles". Thus, the fundamental safety principles and the resulting provisions of the IAEA (Safety Standards and Security Guidance) and the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (Safety Reference Levels) are a central basis for ENSI's international cooperation and require these international activities. Cooperation with international organisations is based on Articles 87 and 104 of the NEA and Article 2 para. 2 of the ENSI Act.

The external international quality assurance for ENSI is defined in Article 4 of the ENSI Act and in Article 12 para. 3 of the ENSI Ordinance⁴. Both, bilateral and multilateral cooperation are governed by treaties⁵.

¹ **Federal Act on the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI Act); 22/06/2007; as at: 01/01/2012**

² **ENSI Organisational Regulations; as at: 22/07/2023**

³ **Nuclear Energy Act (NEA); 21/03/2003, as at: 01/01/2021**

⁴ **Ordinance on the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI Ordinance); 12/11/2008; as at: 01/11/2011**

⁵ **SR 0.732, see also <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/foreign-policy/international-law/internationale-vertraege.html>**

3. Objectives and benefits of international activities

The main concern of ENSI's international cooperation is the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security, and the strengthening of nuclear oversight in Switzerland. This is to be achieved through active participation in the international regulatory exchange of information and experience (3.1), through peer review missions (3.2) and the support for other federal bodies (3.3).

Furthermore, ENSI's international activities should impact on the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security as well as on the strengthening and independence of nuclear oversight at a global level.

3.1 Regulatory exchange of information and experience

ENSI is highly committed to an open and constructive exchange with other countries, in particular the respective regulatory authorities, international organisations and other partners, and, in doing so, represents the interests of nuclear oversight in Switzerland. Memberships, functions and cooperation in international boards, committees and bodies are performed competently, actively and sustainably. ENSI maintains and expands international contacts in its area of responsibility.

The findings of international cooperation flow into ENSI's current and future regulatory activities. ENSI also presents the results and findings of its regulatory activities at international events, and actively participates in such events.

ENSI monitors the developments of international safety standards and foreign regulatory authorities, the latest international state of the art of science and technology, and international operating experience. By doing so, it exerts a targeted influence on the development of international regulations on nuclear safety and security and participates in a trendsetting manner in the further development of international safety standards with safety-oriented requirements.

Through its international cooperation, ENSI contributes to compliance with national and international obligations in its area of responsibility and complies with its bilateral obligations with international partners.

The international activities of ENSI contribute to maintaining and expanding the technical competencies of its employees, especially also through participation in international regulatory safety research projects. In this context, ENSI's international activities also support the targeted advancement of women in nuclear careers and the promotion of diversity.

ENSI advocates for the consistent implementation of the IAEA's requirements regarding the independence of regulatory authorities so that nuclear regulatory authorities can act and consequently make decisions independently, both in a de-jure and de-facto manner.

3.2 Peer review missions

ENSI periodically hosts international peer review missions in Switzerland, implements the results by means of an action plan in its area of responsibility and then reports on. In turn, ENSI regularly participates in such missions abroad as competent partner.

ENSI encourages the international community to invite independent international peer review missions of regulatory authorities and nuclear installations, to implement possible recommendations and to publish the findings.

3.3 Support for other federal bodies

ENSI supports other federal bodies, such as the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), in matters concerning nuclear safety and security in international cooperation.

4. Responsibilities

The ENSI Board is responsible for the strategic direction of ENSI's international activities. Its tasks include:

- Defining the Strategy International Activities as well as the medium-term strategic objectives in the performance mandate which is to be drawn up every four years.
- Reviewing the achievement of the strategic objectives of ENSI's international activities.
- Establishing the ENSI Board's Committee International Activities.

The Committee International Activities of the ENSI Board monitors ENSI's international activities. The tasks of the Committee are:

- Deliberating on the reporting of ENSI's International Affairs Section, if necessary, with the involvement of ENSI's Executive Board.
- Reviewing the effective and comprehensive implementation of this Strategy (including the performance mandate and the performance agreements).
- If necessary, making recommendations to the Executive Board for the implementation of the Strategy International Activities.

ENSI's Executive Board is responsible for the operational implementation of the Strategy International Activities and the strategic objectives of the performance mandate. The tasks of the Executive Board are:

- Planning and developing an operational implementation plan for the Strategy International Activities.
- Specifying ENSI's commitment to international activities, the topics to be addressed and the impact to be achieved.
- Planning operational measures for the medium-term strategic objectives (performance mandate of the ENSI Board) associated with this Strategy.

5. Strategic positioning of ENSI

Through ENSI's effective and comprehensive operational implementation of the Strategy International Activities, nuclear safety and security as well as nuclear oversight in Switzerland experience continuous improvement.

At a global level, ENSI positions itself as reliable, competent, and trend-setting player. It takes on a leading role in promoting the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and security, calling for strong independent oversight and urging the regular performance of international peer review missions. ENSI is committed to an open international exchange of experience on safety-related findings.

6. Reporting and communication

The ENSI Executive Board regularly reports on ENSI's international activities at ENSI Board meetings. In addition, the International Affairs Section provides an annual review of ENSI's international projects for the reporting period and an outlook for the upcoming period.

The ENSI Board reports to the Federal Council and the public on ENSI's international cooperation as part of its activity and annual report. ENSI provides information on international activities in the context of its own reports and communication activities.

