

Theme 4: The significance of cross-sectoral collaboration and partnership in managing societal challenges.

Many societal challenges are complex and require not only a wide range of competences but also involve many different stakeholders: from local communities to politicians to expert authorities and policy-makers to professional specialists in various fields.¹ Preserving records, knowledge and memory across generations is one such challenge that requires cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships. In this session, we will begin to develop together a knowledge base about cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships that are suitable to meet societal challenges. We will do so by discussing our various experiences and lessons from collaborations and partnerships between different public, public-private and civil society collaborators. We are interested to hear about all participant's relevant experiences or knowledge of existing studies or examples from which we can draw lessons and inspiration. In particular we will focus on two main issues:

1. How can cross-sectoral collaborations be brought about?
 - a. How can all relevant stakeholders be brought together and become partners?
 - b. How can they be encouraged to work together and learn from each other?
 - c. How can they build trust in each other?
 - d. Are there limits for collaborations and partnerships?
2. How do we manage the specific strengths and weaknesses of collaborations with different partners?
 - a. What are the strengths of collaborations?
 - b. What are their weaknesses?
 - c. How can collaborations be improved?

Do we agree with the following statements in relation to information and memory for future decision making regarding nuclear waste and beyond? Should anything be changed or added?

1. *Synergies should be sought with other societal institutions and international bodies.*
2. *There are important benefits to be gained from partnerships and collaborations between different players and sectors in society.*
3. *Synergies and lessons to be learned should be sought wider than just the specific legacy of concern.*

¹ The UN's Sustainable Development Goals are a good example for complex issues and aspirations that need to be tackled in long-term collaboration across sectors and countries (see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>).