

## SAFER2028 - Update to the Framework Plan for Call for 2026

### SAFER2028 Management Group 8.8.2025

The National Nuclear Safety and Waste Management Research Programme 2023-2028 (SAFER2028) is opening a Call for Proposals for 2026 on 8.8.2025. The focus areas for the research programme are laid out in the Framework Plan, which can be found on the research programme's website<sup>1</sup>.

In their meeting on 11.6.2025, the SAFER2028 Management Group decided on additions to the focus areas described in the Framework Plan for the Call for Proposals for 2026.

- New challenges that small modular reactors, advanced modular reactors or disruptive technologies may bring concerning different safety aspects (throughout the whole lifetime of the plant and consequential waste management)
- Changing regulatory framework due to renewal of Nuclear Energy Act and STUK regulations and its consequences on the expectations for different parties (licensees, regulator) – identifying the pitfalls and possibilities of avoiding negative impacts; how to identify the unwanted development; practical measures to support improvement in implementation of the change

In this call, funding may be granted for a research infrastructure project, preferably implemented as an Excellence project of an estimated annual volume of 400 000 € and a duration for three years (2026–2028). The project is funded only if a project proposal with relevant safety significance for nuclear safety or nuclear waste management is received. The project shall create new research capabilities in the fields of nuclear safety or nuclear waste management. Priority will be given to projects involving in-house research equipment development that are able to present a realistic financing plan also for obtaining international funding.

The SAFER2028 Call for 2026 is open 8.8.- 3.10.2025. The evaluation process will take place immediately after closing the call and financing recommendations from the MG are received towards the end of December. The National Nuclear Waste Management Fund (VYR) will make their financing decisions by the end of March 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://safer2028.fi/framework-plan/>