

SAFER2028 - Update to the Framework Plan for Call for 2025

SAFER2028 Management Group 9.8.2024

The National Nuclear Safety and Waste Management Research Programme 2023-2028 (SAFER2028) is opening a Call for Proposals for 2025 on 9.8.2024. The focus areas for the research programme are laid out in the Framework Plan, which can be found on the research programme's website¹.

In their meeting on 12.6.2024, the SAFER2028 Management Group decided on an update to the focus areas described in the Framework Plan for the Call for Proposals for 2025. Proposals are especially hoped for on the field of social sciences, especially social license of nuclear energy and waste management as there is very little research on these topics in the research programme currently.

It should also be noted that the VYR terms and conditions² for research projects have been updated to include a mention of the possibility of using SAFER2028 projects as in-kind funding for Euratom projects: *"The funding share of VYR mentioned in the funding decisions may be used as a domestic contribution for participation in research projects of EU or other international funding programmes appropriate to the thematic areas of the research projects, provided that such participation contributes to the objectives of the VYR-funded research programme."* This means that starting in this call, SAFER2028 projects can be linked to Euratom projects and the link should be clearly described in the proposal.

The SAFER2028 Call for 2025 is open 9.8.- 4.10.2024. 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 2025.

The Management Group would also like to inform the research community of plans to fund a special infrastructure project in next year's call. In the autumn 2025 call for applications for the SAFER2028 programme, 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 a 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 also able to present a realistic financing plan also for obtaining international funding.

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

² https://safer2028.fi/wp-content/uploads/Terms_and_conditions_for_VYR_funded_projects_EN_22022024.pdf