AIR²
Access to INFRASTRUCTURES for Radiation protection Research

Special Issue 8
March 2020

CONCERT CORNER

Editorial

The rhythm of Special Issues is accelerating but it is quite erratic as it is a real challenge to publish all these Special Issues dedicated to the projects carried out within the framework of CONCERT by the end of May. However, due to the crisis of the new coronavirus, many of us are teleworking with enough time to write and read all these newsletters that we are sending you. Today's newsletter is dedicated to the ENGAGE project. Stakeholder involvement is very often a side task, at best a work package in a project. ENGAGE is probably the first project entirely dedicated to stakeholder involvement in radiation protection. The case studies, the lessons and recommendations from this project will be valuable inputs for the upcoming years. **Dr Laure Sabatier, CEA**

The floor to...

The ENGAGE – CONCERT project aimed at ENhancinG stAkeholder participation in the GovernancE of radiation risks. The project duration was 25 months starting from November 20 2017. It analysed and compared stakeholder engagement prescriptions and practices in three contexts: medical exposure to ionising radiation, emergency and recovery preparedness and exposure to indoor radon.

ENGAGE – ENhancinG stAkeholder participation in the GovernancE of radiation risks

It aimed at: i) analysing formal discourses prescribing or recommending engagement, as formulated in international and national legislation and guidelines, and mobilised by different actors; ii) highlighting forms of engagement that can be observed in practice; iii) investigating the role and potential benefit of radiation protection culture in facilitating stakeholder engagement; iv) building a knowledge base and formulating recommendations for more robust stakeholder engagement in radiation protection.

The cost of the project was €777,442, with €475,640 requested EU contribution. The consortium brought together radiation protection authorities, research institutes, public health organisations and academia, representing 10 European countries and all radiation protection platforms.

Key results:

- Prescriptions and practices for stakeholder engagement were analysed, showing the need to acknowledge its normative and substantive rationales, and to develop more systematic approaches to stakeholder engagement in national policies;
- Participation in radiation protection would benefit from broadening the stakeholders (e.g. by integrating radiation protection into broader frameworks) and the forms of participation (e.g. recognising the importance of informal and citizen-led engagement);
- Radiation protection culture, its aims, target stakeholders and potential role were characterised in different exposure contexts; the need for developing radiation protection culture in a participatory, multi-disciplinary way was highlighted;
- The concept for a knowledge base documenting participatory practices was proposed and illustrated with ENGAGE case studies;
- Recommendations for enhancing stakeholder engagement in radiation protection were co-developed in interaction with a wide range of stakeholders.

Catrinel Turcanu
ENGAGE Coordinator

Unit Head Nuclear Science and Technology Studies, SCK•CEN

Photo: SCK•CEN

Future events:

28 Sept.-2 Oct. 2020
ERPW 2020, Estoril, Portugal
Extended deadline for abstract submission: 30 April

WP 6 News:

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This project has received funding from the Euratom research and training programme 2014-2018 under grant agreement No 662287

ENGAGE WP1

Rationales and frameworks for stakeholder engagement

ENGAGE WP1 investigated the rationales and frameworks for stakeholder engagement in three fields of exposure (emergency preparedness, indoor radon and medical exposures to ionising radiation). The focus of analysis was on requirements and expectations for participation as highlighted in European and international discourses, and transposed at national level in participating countries. Particular attention was directed to the extent of, and justification for, stakeholder engagement.

The research questions were: i) how are "stakeholders" and engagement defined in regulations and guidelines? ii) what are the underlying rationales for engagement? iii) what is included or excluded from these frames? Data were collected through document analysis and interviews with key actors for each field (e.g. radiation protection policy makers, civil society organisations).

ENGAGE showed that in all three fields the relevance of stakeholder engagement, including wider publics, is increasingly recognised by institutional and non-institutional actors. The recently adopted revision of the European Basic Safety Standards directive provides opportunities for enhanced participation, particularly for nuclear emergency preparedness and recovery and radon risk management. However, in most regulatory frameworks (at European or national level), stakeholder engagement -if prescribed- is little elaborated upon. This causes uncertainty and potential mismatch of expectations on issues such as: when to initiate stakeholder engagement, who to involve at which stage, what to expect from it, and which (legal or not) basis can foster the participatory process. Among others, it highlights the need for more systematic approaches to stakeholder engagement in national policies, with proper allocation of responsibilities and resources.

The main motivation for engagement points often towards its instrumental use, as a tool to secure particular end points (e.g. gaining acceptance for specific radiological protection actions). This can be a valuable motivation in itself, but misses a wider view on what stakeholder engagement can deliver. In few instances, normative rationales (e.g. transparency in emergency preparedness and response, or patients' right for information in the medical field), and substantive rationales (e.g. improved decision-making) can also be discerned. To make engagement more impactful and sustainable, the ethical values underlying engagement and its contribution to the quality of decision making should be recognised by those initiating engagement processes.

Photo: Personal archive

Nadja Zeleznik

A distinction is often made in national policies between formal engagement of professional/institutional stakeholders and that of broader publics. In most cases, the former are involved in collaboration and joint decision-making, while the latter are mostly engaged through awareness raising actions and, less frequently, consultations. Recommendations and guidelines of international organisations or professional associations reflect a broader view on stakeholder engagement, supporting enhanced interactions with wider groups of stakeholders in radiation protection.

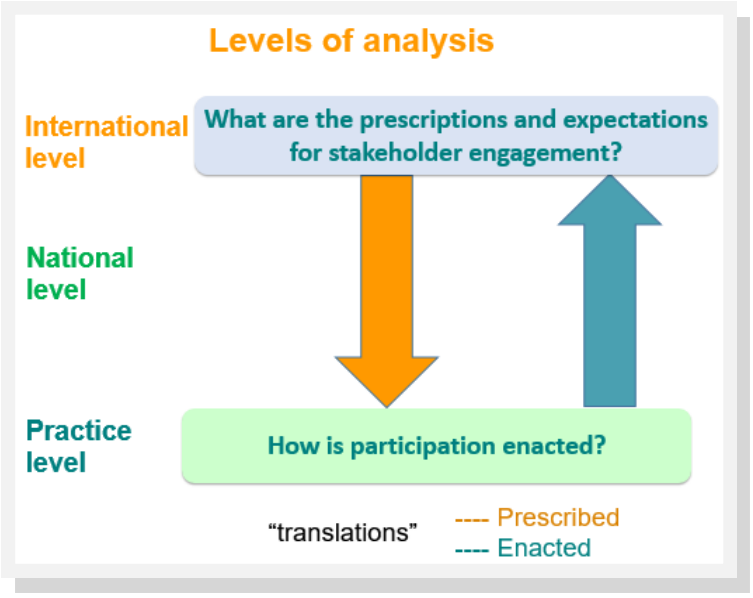

Photo: M. Van Oudheusden/SCK•CEN

Levels of analysis in the ENGAGE project - WP1 dealt with the first two levels

ID Card:

Keywords:
Rationales and frameworks for stakeholder engagement, radon, medical exposures, emergency preparedness and response

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Nadja Zeleznik, EIMV (JSI)

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- BfS, Germany
- UMIL, Italy
- ISGlobal, Spain
- EIMV, Slovenia
- JSI, Slovenia

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Data available on request

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Rationales and frameworks for stakeholder engagement in radiation protection, Zeleznik N. et al. (2019), CONCERT D9.85. https://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/Publications

Report on venues, challenges, opportunities and recommendations for stakeholder engagement in emergency and recovery preparedness and response, Zeleznik N. et al. (2019), CONCERT D9.86. https://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/Publications

Special Issue 8
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Stakeholder engagement in practice

The aim of ENGAGE WP2 was to highlight through case studies and more systematic mapping exercises the forms of real or potential stakeholder engagement in radiation protection that can be observed in practice.

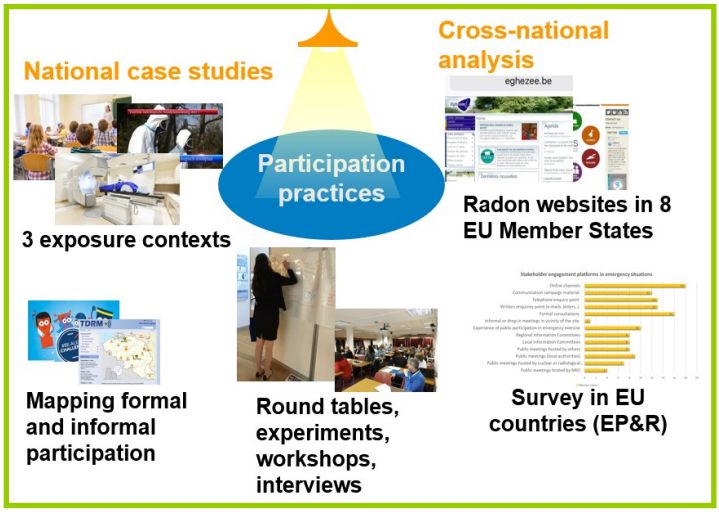

Photo: C. Turcanu/SCK•CEN

Case studies conducted in ENGAGE WP3

The analysis included:

- 15 national case studies (Geysmans et al., 2020; Schieber et al., 2020; Turcanu et al., 2020 in the Special Issue of Radioprotection 55 (HS2)), covering a broad range of participation practices in the three exposure contexts addressed within ENGAGE: emergency preparedness, response and recovery; indoor radon; and medical exposures to ionising radiations. The analysis directed attention to what the issues at stake are; how the outcomes and processes of participation are crafted; what are the main challenges and opportunities; and how these practices relate to the frames set by the legislative documents and guidelines analysed.
- a study undertaken in the framework of a PhD work on citizen science (Kenens, 2020, Special Issue of Radioprotection 55 (HS2)).
- two cross-national studies on the interaction with stakeholders through radon websites (Perko and Turcanu, 2019) and stakeholder engagement actions initiated by regulatory authorities in the field of nuclear emergency preparedness (Perko et al., 2020, Special Issue of Radioprotection 55 (HS2)).

ENGAGE showed that in all fields there is a need to broaden the understanding of how stakeholders can be engaged in radiological protection. In the field of emergency and recovery management, ENGAGE demonstrated the existence and importance of bottom-up and informal stakeholder engagement, e.g. citizen science initiatives or bottom-up radiation monitoring networks. As such initiatives provide prospects for an open and flexible way of engaging stakeholders, they should be recognized, and supported when needed. This also incites reflection on possible contributions of informal engagement for other exposure contexts (e.g. radon management).

Photo: BfS

Christiane Pölzl-Viol

Across the three fields there is a call for integration of radiation protection in broader frameworks, e.g. integrating radon risk mitigation in broader environmental and public health protection approaches focused on indoor air quality; integrating radiation protection into general patient-centred healthcare in the medical sector; or integrating nuclear emergency and recovery management in multi-hazard approaches. It is important to identify and explicitly consider the new stakeholders stemming from this integration, and their potential roles and responsibilities in radiological risk governance. Integration should be considered both vertically, at different governance levels, as well as horizontally, corresponding to different fields.

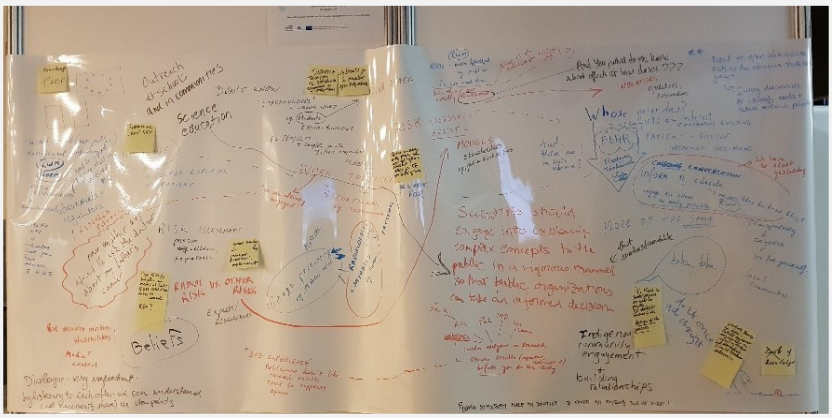

Photo: G. Meskens/SCK•CEN

Participatory mapping exercise at the European Radiation Protection Week 2018, Rovinj, Croatia

Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz

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Keywords:
Stakeholder engagement, radiation protection, radon, medical, emergency preparedness and response

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- CEPN, France
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Stakeholder engagement in radiological protection: Developing theory, practice and guidelines, Turcanu C. et al. (2020), Radioprotection (HS2)

Final report of the ENGAGE project, Turcanu C. et al. (2019), CONCERT D9.94. https://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/Publications

Is internet a Missed Opportunity? Evaluating Radon Websites from a Stakeholder Engagement Perspective, Perko T., Turcanu C. (2020), J Environ Radioact, 212, 106123

Development of radiation protection culture to support the governance of radiological risks

WP3 of the ENGAGE project centred on the role of radiation protection culture for enhancing participation and informed decision making in radiation protection. Key research questions were: i) how is radiation protection culture characterised and evaluated; ii) what is its role and potential benefit for supporting effective stakeholder engagement and informed decision-making; and iii) what are the processes to build and transmit radiation protection culture, adapted to specifics of different exposure situations.

Ten national case studies on radiation protection culture were conducted covering the three fields addressed in ENGAGE. A common analysis grid was developed to identify the target stakeholders, the aim of radiation protection culture, the characterisation of radiation protection culture, the tools, methods and processes to build radiation protection culture, and the evaluation of radiation protection culture. A dedicated stakeholder workshop was organised (Athens, 2019) to discuss the findings from case studies, provide elements to formulate recommendations and identify future research needs. Recommendations were finalised based on the feedback received from the ENGAGE final workshop (Bratislava, 2019).

Radiological protection culture, including its aims, target stakeholders and potential role were characterised in different exposure contexts (Barazza et al., 2019). Research highlighted some particularities of these contexts.

For instance, in emergency and recovery management, it incited reflection on the role of radiological protection culture in the preparedness phase and argued that its aim is to allow stakeholders to reflect on what is at stake in case of a nuclear accident, not only from a radiological point of view, but also concerning the consequences in the daily life of affected populations.

In relation to radon, key points were having radon considered as a public health issue and integrating it into indoor air quality management and the need to build and enhance radiological protection culture for the different stakeholders relevant to these areas.

Photo: Personal archive

Caroline Schieber

In the medical field, the analysis showed a need to reinforce initiatives to develop and promote radiological protection culture not only for medical professionals directly involved in the implementation of medical procedures using ionizing radiations, but also those who are not directly involved, but may be occupationally exposed and/or interact with patients and/or prescribe medical exams. This includes nurses, general practitioners or other referrers.

Finally, ENGAGE emphasized that these three fields are characterized by the need for developing the radiological protection culture in a participatory way for the various stakeholders involved in the management of the exposure situations. Besides being developed through the participation of stakeholders, this also takes stakeholder engagement as a central condition of the implementation of the radiological protection system.

Photo: EEAE

Participants at the radiation protection culture workshop in Athens, EEAE, (13-15 February 2019)

Final report on case studies, including recommendations and guidelines on building and enhancing radiation protection culture, Barazza F. et al. (2019), CONCERT D9.87. https://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/Publications

cepn

ID Card:

Keywords:
Radiation protection culture, stakeholder engagement, radon, medical, emergency and recovery preparedness

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Competence building and dissemination

The objective of WP4 was to i) draft a synthesis report of project findings with lessons learned and recommendations for stakeholder engagement in radiation protection; ii) build a knowledge base on stakeholder engagement for the radiation protection community; iii) to disseminate the results of the project to all stakeholders in the radiation protection field.

The synthesis report «Enhancing Stakeholder Participation in the Governance of Radiological Risks. Findings and recommendations from the ENGAGE project» summarises the main findings from the ENGAGE project, proposes a number of recommendations and formulates perspectives for future developments. These results are presented for each of the three exposure contexts considered in the project: nuclear emergency preparedness, response and recovery; exposure to indoor radon; and medical exposures to ionising radiation. The report contains introductory sections on stakeholder engagement concepts and the focus points for analysis. Recommendations capture key points identified through case studies and interactions with representatives of radiation protection communities during roundtables and workshops; they reflect a synthesis of findings, across all case studies, and are therefore of a more general nature. Additional details on the case studies can be found in the report's annex and the ENGAGE deliverables (https://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/ Publications; www.engage-concert.eu).

WP4 also examined the possibility to elaborate a knowledge base for documenting stakeholder engagement in radiation protection, covering the three exposure contexts. A design concept was proposed for a knowledge base which can contribute to learning from past experience, highlighting challenges and opportunities for stakeholder engagement, and thus helping to shape and improve future processes. The feasibility of the proposed knowledge base structure is illustrated by particular case studies developed within the ENGAGE project. The development of the database could continue in the future with support from the radiation protection platforms.

Photo: T. Duranova/VUJE

Tatiana Duranova

The ENGAGE final workshop took place on September 11-13, 2019, in Bratislava with 46 participants from 15 countries. It was designed as an interactive and dynamic meeting focusing on discussing the findings and co-developing the recommendations. Case studies were illustrated through posters and provided opportunities to share views and experiences with the wide range of stakeholders.

Among other publications and presentations, a Special Issue in the Radioprotection journal will be dedicated to ENGAGE findings, consisting of 10 articles (available at: http://www.radioprotection.org/). Papers are indexed at Google and Google Scholar and published in Open Access. Availability is envisaged for end of May 2020.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ENGAGE PROJECT

Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery (EPR&R)

1 Broaden the motivation for stakeholder engagement in EPR&R, in both prescriptions and practice.

2 Broaden the scope of participation in EPR&R

3 Recognise the role of informal stakeholder engagement in EPR&R.

4 Integrate stakeholder engagement in EPR&R plans and policies.

5 Establish strategies for continuous, 2-way communication about emergency and recovery planning, tailored to specific stakeholders from both local and wider areas.

6 Elaborate a strategy to foster the development of radiological protection culture in the preparedness phase.

Medical exposures

1 Engage initiatives to develop and promote radiological protection culture for the health professionals who are not directly involved in medical procedure using ionizing radiations but may be occupationally exposed and/or interact with patients.

2 Integrate or reinforce radiological protection culture as part of medical practices for the medical professionals who are directly involved in medical procedures using ionizing radiations

3 Create spaces and tools for patient engagement in the medical use of ionising radiations.

Indoor radon

1 Broaden the motivation for stakeholder engagement in indoor radon management, in both prescriptions and practice.

2 Include in radon action plans a structured approach to stakeholder engagement in the design, implementation and evaluation of actions.

3 Integrate radon risk management into a comprehensive environmental and public health protection approach, with engagement. of all stakeholders connected to these issues

4 Support the development of context specific, local / regional approaches for stakeholder engagement in radon management.

5 Develop multidisciplinary, multi-level and multi-stakeholder, participatory approaches to build, enhance and transmit radon radiological protection culture.

ENGAGE investigated participation prescriptions and practices. The objectives were to: i) Clarify why, when and how stakeholders are engaged in radiological protection; ii) Develop novel approaches to analysing stakeholder interaction and engagement; iii) Investigate processes for enhancing radiological protection culture and their role in facilitating stakeholder engagement; iv) Develop guidelines for meeting the challenges identified and build a knowledge base for stakeholder engagement in radiological protection.

www.engage-concert.eu

These recommendations were developed on the basis of research conducted in the ENGAGE project and feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, notably during roundtables and stakeholder workshops (Athens, 13-15 February 2019; Bratislava, 11-13 September 2019). ENGAGE is part of CONCERT. This project has received funding from the EURATOM research and training programme 2014-2018 under grant agreement No 662287.

Photo: C. Turcanu/SCK•CEN

ENGAGE final recommendations (summary)

ID Card:

Keywords:
Recommendations, knowledge base, workshop, stakeholders, dissemination

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Tatiana Duranova, VUJE

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- EIMV Slovenia
- UMIL, Italy
- EEAE, Greece
- FOPH, Switzerland
- ULG, Belgium
- IFIN-HH, Romania
- UFC, France
- IRSN, France
- JSI, Slovenia
- ISGlobal, Spain

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Final report of the ENGAGE project, Turcanu C. et al. (2019), CONCERT D9.94. https://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/Publications

Knowledge base for designing and documenting stakeholder engagement process, Duranova T. et al. (2019), CONCERT D9.92 https://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/Publications

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Access to INFRASTRUCTURES

Issue	Exposure platforms	Databases, Sample banks, Cohorts	Analytical platforms, Models & Tools
Published to date:			
Oct 2015, #1	FIGARO	FREDERICA	RENEB
Nov 2015, #2	B3, Animal Contamination Facility	The Wismut Cohort and Biobank	The Hungarian Genomics Research Network
Dec 2015, #3	Pulex Cosmic Silence	STORE	METABOHUB
Feb 2016, #4	SNAKE	French Haemangioma Cohort and Biobank	Dose Estimate, CABAS, NETA
Mar 2016, #5	Radon exposure chamber	3-Generations exposure study	PROFI
Apr 2016, #6	Biological Irradiation Facility	Wildlife TransferDatabase	Radiobiology and immunology platform (CTU-FBME)
May2016, #7	CIRIL	Portuguese Tinea Capitis Cohort	LDRadStatsNet
Jun 2016, #8	Mixed alpha and X-ray exposure facility	Elfe Cohort	ERICA Tool
Jul 2016, #9	SCRS-GIG	RES³T	CROM-8
Sep 2016, #10	Facility radionuclides availability, transfer and migration	INWORKS cohort	France Génomique
Oct 2016 #11	LIBIS gamma low dose rate facility ISS	JANUS	Transcriptomics platform SCKCEN
Nov 2016, #12	Microtron laboratory	EPI-CT Scan cohort	CATI
Dec 2016, #13	Nanoparticle Inhalation Facility	UEF Biobanking	The Analytical Platform of the PREPARE project
Feb 2017, #14	Infrastructure for retrospective radon & thoron dosimetry	Chernobyl Tissue Bank	HZDR Radioanalytical Laboratories
Special Issue 1	1st CONCERT Call: CONFIDENCE, LDLensRad, TERRITORIES	1st CONCERT Call: CONFIDENCE, LDLensRad, TERRITORIES	1st CONCERT Call: CONFIDENCE, LDLensRad, TERRITORIES
Mar 2017, #15	Alpha Particles Irradiator Calibration Laboratory at KIT		SYMBIOSE
Apr 2017, #16	Changing Dose rate (SU) Low dose rate (SU)		Advanced Technologies Network Center
May 2017, #17	Chernobyl Exclusion Zone	Chernobyl clean-up workers from Latvia	BfS whole and partial body Counting
Jun 2017, #18	MELAF	Belgian Soil Collection	INFRAFONTIER
Jul 2017, #19	MICADO'LAB	Estchern Cohort	ECORITME
Sep 2017, #20	DOS NDS		CERES
Oct 2017, #21	CALLAB Radon Calibration Laboratory		CORIF
Nov 2017, #22	Calibration and Dosimetry Laboratory (INTE-UPC)	German airline crew cohort	Centre for Omic Sciences (COS)

Future events:

CONCERT Short Courses

30 March 2020

EU CONCERT Radiation Protection Research Projects and UK NIHR HPRU in Chemical and Radiation Threats and Hazards Medical Radiation Theme - Final Stakeholder Dissemination Meeting,
Newcastle, United Kingdom
Contact:
Liz Ainsbury

20 April-1 May 2020

Assessment of long-term radiological risks from environmental releases,
Technical University of Denmark, Risø Campus, Denmark
Contact:
Kasper Andersson

18-29 May 2020

Modelling radiation effects from initial physical events,
University of Pavia, Italy
Contact:
Andrea Ottolenghi

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See also on CONCERT website

Editorial Committee: Maria Panagiotopoulou, Jean-Michel Dolo, Laure Sabatier

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Issue	Exposure platforms	Databases, Sample banks, Cohorts	Analytical platforms, Models & Tools
Published to date:			
Dec 2017, #23	NMG	Techa River Cohort (TRC)	iGE3
Special Issue 2	MEDIRAD	MEDIRAD	MEDIRAD
Feb 2018, #24	UNIPI-AmBe	Greek interventional cardiologists cohort	SNAP
Special Issue 3	2nd CONCERT Call: LEU-TRACK, PODIUM, SEPARATE, VERIDIC, ENGAGE, SHAMISEN-SINGS	2nd CONCERT Call: LEU-TRACK, PODIUM, SEPARATE, VERIDIC, ENGAGE, SHAMISEN-SINGS	2nd CONCERT Call: LEU-TRACK, PODIUM, SEPARATE, VERIDIC, ENGAGE, SHAMISEN-SINGS
Mar 2018, #25	IRRAD	MARiS	BIANCA
Apr 2018, #26	Forest observatory site in Yamakiya	BBM	OEDIPE
May 2018, #27	Belgian NORM Observatory Site	The German Thorotrast Cohort Study	VIB Proteomics Core
Jun 2018, #28	CERF	Mayak PA worker cohort	Geant4-DNA
Jul 2018, #29	TIFPA	RHRTR	D-DAT
Sep 2018, #30	HIT	The TRACY cohort	COOLER
Oct 2018, #31	PTB Microbeam	The BRIDE platform	BRENDA
Nov 2018, #32	AGOR Facility at KVI-CART LNK		MARS beamline at SOLEIL
Dec 2018, #33	PARISII	The ISIBELa cohort	CIEMAT WBC
Feb 2019, #34	The MIRCOM microbeam	The ISE cohort	EFFTRAN
Special Issue 4	NSRL	LSAH & LSDA	GeneLab
Mar 2019, #35	IRSE Experimental Farm	The MWF database	DSA Environmental Laboratory
Apr 2019, #36	PG stack at Barreiro, Portugal	CONSTANCES	The MCDA Tool
May 2019, #37	LERF	IMMO-LDRT01 cohort	Radiochemical and Radioactive Analysis Laboratory (INTE-UPC)
Jun 2019, #38	FAIR	The BACCARAT study	CIEMAT *In Vitro* Internal Dosimetry Laboratories
Jul 2019, #39	AMBIC	LSS	LRM
Sep 2019, #40	FRM II	REQUITE	TU Dublin Analytical Platform
Special Issue 5	CONFIDENCE	CONFIDENCE	CONFIDENCE
Special Issue 6	PODIUM	PODIUM	PODIUM
Special Issue 7	LDLensRad	LDLensRad	LDLensRad
Special Issue 8	ENGAGE	ENGAGE	ENGAGE

Future events:

Other Events

19-24 April 2020
ICRER: 5th International Conference on Radioecology & Environmental Radioactivity, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

19-24 April 2020
IM2020: International Conference on Individual Monitoring, Budapest, Hungary

5-8 May 2020
1st ISORED scientific and organisation meeting, Sitges, Spain

27-29 May 2020
6th NERIS workshop: Operational and research achievements and needs to further strengthen preparedness in emergency management, recovery and response, Barcelona, Spain

28 September-2 October 2020
ERPW2020: European Radiation Protection Week 2020, Estoril, Portugal
Extended deadline for abstract submission:
30 April 2020

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak you will need to verify the current status of each event!

Editorial Committee: Maria Panagiotopoulou, Jean-Michel Dolo, Laure Sabatier