



The value of exchange visits

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Technical visit of stakeholders group (11 experts) from Slovakia to Belarus within the WP3 activities in the framework of the NERIS-TP Project of the Euratom FP7 (GA 269718) took place from June 1 to June 7, 2013.

The Technical visit to Belarus interacted strongly with the European NERIS Platform for the **mutual benefit of all actors**.

The main goal was **to share the experience on the process, methodology and tools used for the improvement of the practical radiological culture of population living at the long term contaminated area**.

The two topics were blended together:

- 1) improvement of national-local cooperation in Slovakia and Belarus, and
- 2) radiation control and dissemination of radiological culture as the roles of the centres for practical radiological culture implemented and coordinated by RIR.





Stakeholders group was formed by representatives from different professional organisations, authorities, experts, local government and population as follows:

- emergency planning experts from VUJE,
- Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Radiation Monitoring Network
- Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
- Police Academy, Public administration and Crisis management
- Nuclear Regulatory authority of the Slovak Republic
- Slovak Medical University in Bratislava, Slovak Radiation Monitoring Network,
- Mayor of Kalna nad Hronom Municipality, Mochovce NPP District, member of the GMF – Group of European Municipalities with nuclear facilities
- Deputy Mayor of Kalna nad Hronom Municipality
- Mayor of Madunice Municipality, Bohunice NPP District, member of the GMF – Group of European Municipalities with nuclear facilities
- Section of the Crisis Management of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.



Visited **Bragin district** and had there **Seminar related to the issues of emergency response and countermeasures at long-term contaminated area** as well as to the **issues of the emergency and post-accident preparedness and recovery, Bragin, June 3, 32 participants.**



The focus was given on the **cooperation of the national and local stakeholders** within the emergency response structure and in the post-emergency period on the radiological protection of population illustrated and applied to the Bragin district of the Gomel Region. The experience of Slovakian stakeholders were presented as well and were very much appreciated especially in the area of the emergency response organization related to the operational Nuclear Power Plants Bohunice and Mochovce. The presentation of Nuclear Regulatory Authority of SR on their duties and responsibilities, structure and Emergency Response Centre capabilities was appreciated very much as useful for Belarus with starting NPP construction programme.



Governmental centre of radiological culture in Bragin, Museum with the art gallery

Visit of the **governmental centre of radiological culture in Bragin**



The **Museum with the art gallery** where exposition widely presents the Chernobyl theme and the history of Bragin has been visited. The film presenting the Chernobyl catastrophe and life after it touched all and the experience presented by the eyewitness and real stakeholder of the consequences remains in mind of all...



International Scientific Conference “Nuclear and radiation safety: lessons of Chernobyl and Fukushima” at Research Institute of Radiology, June 4, 2013 at Research Institute of Radiology, Gomel which brought together representatives and experts of Belarusian, Japanese and Slovakian research and regulatory organizations.



The major objective of the Conference was to discuss the latest research achievements and share the experience of different institutions on their practices related to development and improvement of preparedness and response system in the event of nuclear or/and radiation emergencies. The Conference has focused on the issues of overcoming the consequences of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster using the post-Chernobyl experience. The speakers also covered the radiation protection and rehabilitation issues and social and psychological rehabilitation of the affected population and information dissemination.



Visits of the **local information centres for practical radiological culture** situated at the **secondary schools in Luninets and in Vulka-2** of Luninets district of Brest Region on June 5, 2013.



The practical presentations, dialogue and discussion related to the history, current situation but also to the research of young generation and life in the contaminated area nowadays took place in friendly family atmosphere.

This activity was especially essential for the engagement and active direct involvement of mayors of Madunice and Kalna nad Hronom Municipality from Bohunice and Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant District who are the members of the Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF).





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Exchange visit offered a bundle of benefits, well beyond just acquiring information.

This visit has **created common understanding, relationships** forged in the hardships of shared experience, commitments to new approaches, and friendships as foundation for future networking.

Technical visit allowed Slovak stakeholders and Belorussian hosts to **focus time and attention on a topic, learning deeply, sharing ideas, and assessing the relevance of new approaches** in the area of the post-accident management and rehabilitation with the main goal of improvement both national and local plans for preparedness and recovery.



The essential **information came alive, in dialog, was detailed in response to specific queries, conversations were enriched by the perspective of distance and difference.**

The **chance to look behind the scenes, to get acquainted with real people,** understanding their problems and achievements have created inspiration to keep working and launch new initiatives in both countries.

The shared experiences of all participants will contribute to the **enhancement of nuclear or radiological emergency preparedness and post-accident recovery** and will **make the process of stakeholders involvement** at all levels from local through regional to the national **more complex,** comprehensive and meaningful.

The **experiences from the process of overcoming the consequences of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster using the post-Chernobyl experience** have confirmed the importance of the improvement both national and local plans for preparedness and recovery.