

M10062021

## Minutes

# TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NERIS PLATFORM

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**Location:** Web-meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, 9th June 2021

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### **NERIS Bureau:**

Thierry Schneider, CEPN: Chair

Florian Gering, BfS: Vice-chair

Deborah Oughton, NMBU: Treasurer

Wolfgang Raskob, KIT: Secretary

**Participants:** See list attached

## 1. OPENING OF THE TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The twelfth NERIS General Assembly was held via web-meeting, on June 9th 2021.

Thierry Schneider welcomed and opened the General Assembly at 14:00 PM, as President of the NERIS Platform. The list of representatives participating at the General Assembly is provided in **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.** for the NERIS Bureau and **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.** for the NERIS Supporting Organisations.

A minute of silence was observed in the memory of Ciara McMahon and Wolfgang Weiss.

**The proposed agenda, in Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable., was adopted by the General Assembly.**

## 2. ANNUAL REPORT

Thierry Schneider presented the main activities of the NERIS Platform for the year 2020. The annual report presenting in details the NERIS activities for 2020 can be downloaded on the NERIS website (<https://eu-neris.net>).

▶ New membership:

In 2020, the Federal Agency of Nuclear Control – FANC (Belgium) joined the NERIS Platform as a supporting organisation.

At the end of 2020, 66 organisations were members of NERIS with 27 Supporting Organisations. For further details, see the list in **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.**

▶ For the year 2020, the detailed list of meetings involving NERIS is provided in **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.** The president noted the main activities since the last general Assembly:

- The special situation with COVID-19 pandemic crisis leading to:
  - Meeting for the NERIS General Assembly in video-conference,
  - The cancellation of the NERIS workshop and ERPW.
- The main activities since the NERIS General Assembly in 2020:
  - Contribution to the vision paper on RP research in Europe with MEENAS,
  - Comments to ICRP draft report on emergency and recovery,
  - Organisation of a NERIS webinar on releases in Nordic sea,
  - The last ConGoo meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

▶ For 2021, the president highlighted the following points as the main challenges:

- NERIS will have a new chair, Olivier Isnard (IRSN), taking this role at the end of the General Assembly of 2021.
- The organization of several workshops:
  - The NERIS workshop itself in October, either face-to-face or remotely;
  - The contribution to RICOMET;
  - The contribute to ERPW in November.
- The involvement in the partnership for radiation protection research in Europe.
- Drawing the lessons from the Fukushima accident after 10 years, and the Chernobyl accident after 35 years.
- The dissemination of NERIS activities in the framework of preparedness actions developed by International Organisations.

**The annual report of the NERIS Platform for 2020 was adopted by the General Assembly.**

### 3. FINANCIAL ISSUES

Deborah Oughton (NMBU), Treasurer of the NERIS Platform, presented the main figures of the financial results for 2020 (workload days, costs and resources). The details of NERIS operating costs, resources and the result for 2020 are available in **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.** ; the proposed budget for 2021 is available in **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.**

#### 3.1. Results of 2020

Deborah Oughton presented, for 2020, the expenses, and the resources provided mainly by the fees of the supporting organisations. The total of the expenses is 44 165 € and the total of the resources is 48 382 €. This leads to a positive result for 2020 of 4 217 €.

Thierry Schneider mentioned that the expenses and resources were audited and certified by an external accountant.

**The participants validated the financial results for 2020.**

**The General Assembly agreed to add the positive financial results (4 217 €) to the NERIS financial reserves.**

#### 3.2. Proposed budget for 2021

For 2021, Deborah Oughton proposed the same distribution of workload, costs and resources. Equilibrium between expenses and resources is expected for 2020.

For 2022, the same fees for the supporting organisations were proposed: 2000€ for College 1 and 1000€ for College 2.

**The participants of the NERIS General Assembly validated the proposed budget for 2021 as well as the fees amount for 2022.**

### 4. ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

**With a majority of votes, Anthony Bexon has been elected as new member of the NERIS Management Board.**

### 5. REVIEW OF THE PLATFORM ACTIVITIES

For more details on the reporting of NERIS Activities, please consult the presentation in Annex 7.

#### 5.1. Activities of the NERIS Working Groups

##### ▶ NERIS-EURAMED Working Group

Wolfgang Raskob presented the members of this new Working Group, created in 2021:

- Marie-Claire Cantone ([UNIMI](#))
- Elisabeth Cardis ([ISGlobal](#))
- Eduardo Gallego ([UPM](#))
- Florian Gering ([BfS](#))
- Deborah Oughton ([NMBU](#))
- Wolfgang Raskob ([KIT](#))
- Thierry Schneider ([CEPN](#))
- Daniel Storch ([FOPH](#)).
- Isabelle Thierry-Chef [isabelle.thierrychef@isglobal.org](mailto:isabelle.thierrychef@isglobal.org)

The role of this group is to identify topics that are of interest for both NERIS and EURAMED, in the scope of EURAMED rocc-n-roll project 2.4.

In this regard, area 1 and 2 of the NERIS SRA show ways of collaboration, and a prioritization of common topics is undergoing on the following topics:

- Countermeasures & countermeasure strategies,
- Governance of preparedness, societal and ethical aspects,
- Artificial intelligence and knowledge databases,
- Decision making also decision making under uncertainties,
- Stakeholder engagement and communication,
- Health Surveillance.

▶ **Working Group on Contaminated Goods**

Sylvie Charron (IRSN) presented the activities related to the Working Group on Contaminated Goods (ConGoo). She reminded the history of the group since its creation in 2017, in 2020 the group had no meeting because of the context of COVID-19.

In 2021, the group reunited on 4<sup>th</sup> June and was the occasion to discuss on several topics as follows:

- The framework recovery on contaminated goods, with the sharing of several findings and return of experience from IAEA, the Hokkaido University, DSA, NEA/CRPPH and IRSN
- A round table dedicated on perspectives of the ConGoo Working Group.

▶ **Working Group on Information, Participation and Communication**

Eduardo Gallego presented the 2020 activities of the Working Group dedicated to 'Information, Participation and Communication'. In 2020 the Working Group has been inactive but Eduardo Gallego initiated some actions for 2021, such as: identifying relevant reports from CONFIDENCE, TERRITORIES, ENGAGE, SHAMISEN-SINGS to be put on the NERIS website, gather information to extend the NERIS community.

## **5.2. Activities of the ARGOS Users Group**

Jan Pehrsson (PDC) presented the activities of the ARGOS Users Group (AUG). He explained that in 2020, the group met on 7-9 September 2020 in web conference, with a wide variety of topics such as the Chernobyl fires, a review on the Nuclear Vessel Reference Accident, the evaluation of Spring-exercise among all AUG-members etc.

## **5.3. Webinars**

Paulo Nunes (APA) presented the Webinar on Nordic sea release that took place on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This webinar was the occasion, on the one-year anniversary of the detection of artificial radioisotopes in the Baltic Sea countries, to invite 5 experts to share some views and responses to this event in European countries. This webinar was chaired by Paulo Nunes and Deborah Oughton, presentations lasted 20-25 minutes and were broadcasted with the technical support from NMBU. There were 76 registrations from 19 countries. The record of the event will be made available on the NERIS website (<https://eu-neris.net>).

## **5.4. Organisation of a NERIS Workshop in October 2021**

Johan Camps presented the update on the NERIS Workshop, originally foreseen on 27-29 May 2020 in Barcelona, Spain, with the host ISGlobal, and finally postponed to 20-22 October 2021. A decision has still to be taken to choose between an hybrid or fully online event.

So far, 37 abstracts are maintained for the Workshop, and the general topic is kept : "Operational and research achievements and needs to further strengthen preparedness in emergency management, recovery and response"

As a reminder, the following topics are:

- Operational aspects: from theory to practice,
- Disaster management and resilience in communities,
- Preparedness for a sustainable recovery: including non-radiological consequences and effect,
- Updating handbooks, guidelines and recommendations to support decision making,
- Future research needs.

## **5.5. Organisation of the European Radiation Protection Week**

Johan Camps informed on the organisation of the European Radiation Protection Week. The event will take place on 22-24 November 2021, in hybrid (both on site and on line) in Vienna (Austria), hosted by EURAMED/EIBIR. The ERPW will also be the occasion to have the first EURAMED Rocc-n-roll workshop.

Johan Camps reminded that the Call for abstracts is scheduled to be launched soon after the NERIS General Assembly, with the following topics:

- Topic 1: Lessons learned by European RP platforms from large effect accidents (10 and 35 year after Fukushima and Chernobyl),
- Topic 2: Challenges in research on individual radiosensitivity and -susceptibility,
- Topic 3: Envisioning the future of radiation protection research: Big data, AI and beyond.

## **5.6. Information on RICOMET**

Catrinel Turcanu (SCK•CEN) presented next issue of the RICOMET meeting, organized on 8-10 September 2021 in Budapest and online.

This meeting will be the opportunity for extensive exchanges between social sciences and humanities researchers (SSH) and the broader technical and scientific community. A broad audience is expected, of researchers, practitioners, authorities, media, industry, NGO's and representatives of the civil society.

The following topics will be addressed:

- Beyond scientific disciplinary boundaries: the future of radiation protection research and practice? (8 September),
- Making nuclear cultural heritage: An institutional challenge for the nuclear industry? (8 September),
- Investigating societal aspects of radon and NORM: improving methodology (9 September),
- Participatory approaches to environmental remediation decision-making (9 September),
- Ethics and implications for medical applications of ionizing radiation (9 September),
- Societal aspects of radon at workplaces: from legal requirements to implementation (9 September),
- SHARE General Assembly (9 September).

## **6. INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE EURATOM CALL**

### **6.1. Presentation of the European partnership on radiation**

Jean-Christophe Gariel (IRSN) informed on the status of the European partnership on radiation, within the work program of 2021-2022. The full presentation is available in Annex 8.

He indicated that the total indicative budget for the topic is 30 M€ committed over 5 years, with a funding rate of 65 % of the eligible costs. Eligible participants are legal entities owning or mandated to manage national research and innovation programs.

Jean-Christophe Gariel detailed the work program, among other points "Providing a scientific basis to recommendations, procedures and tools for assuring and improving preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery".

The scope of the work program was given, underlining the need of taking into account present state of knowledge and priorities identified in the Strategic Research Agenda of radiation protection research platforms: MELODI, ALLIANCE, EURADOS, NERIS, EURAMED, SHARE; and SNETP (sustainable nuclear energy technology platform).

Jean-Christophe Gariel stressed out that it is expected to continue involvement of citizens by supporting open and participatory approaches to research and innovation in the field of radiation protection.

On the process, at the time of the General Assembly, a pre-consortium has been set up, including POMs and representatives of the 6 platforms. More than 30 organisations express their interest in contributing

to the Partnership, and work packages leaders are in the process of being nominated. The dead-line for submitting proposals is on 7 October.

## **6.2. Comments from European research platforms**

- Andrzej Wojcik (Stockholm University, Sweden), the current MELODI president, shared his interest for the activities of the NERIS platform and proposed to look into detail the links that could be explored between the two platforms.
- Arturo Vargas (UPC, Spain), representing the EURADOS platform, underlined the importance of the harmonization of data, and to reflect on the best way to distribute this data for decision makers, for preparedness of emergency situations. Thierry Schneider agreed that these points are important and could be topics of collaboration between the two platforms.
- Klaus Bacher (BNEN, Belgium), representing EURAMED, pointed out the common area of research on Artificial Intelligence, considering its use, more and more in practice for diagnosis and treatment.
- Rodolphe Gilbin (IRSN, France), representing ALLIANCE, underlined the importance to capitalize on what has been already done between the two platforms, and to prioritize game changers linked between the two SRAs. A challenge would be to agree on priorities within the partnership, and to involve all common stakeholders to have a proper feedback on this prioritization.
- Tanja Perko (SCK•CEN, Belgium), vice-president of SHARE, shared the wish to collaborate further with NERIS, notably on the institutional outtake.

Thierry Schneider agreed on the points mentioned and highlighted the need to have further collaboration, notably to identify Joint Roadmap priorities, to brainstorm and show through the partnership the expectations of the stakeholders.

Jean-Christophe Gariel emphasized the importance of the activity of this partnership on the coming month, we a need to reflect all the community at the European level. Also, he underlined the importance of education and training activities, to take into account in the partnership program.

## **7. NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **7.1. ICRP**

Jean-François Lecomte (IRSN) presented recent news from the ICRP. First, he presented the new membership for the 2021-2025 term, then, he spoke about the review and revision of the system of radiation protection, undergoing after more than a decade after Publication 103 (2007).

The review of the system goes through the assessment of areas needing further attention (scientific knowledge, societal values, practical implementation), and in concertation with organisations in formal relations with ICRP. In July 2021, the publication of a paper is expected, on identifying issues of the system at a high level that may require attention, being the starting point of a process that will take several years.

Jean-François Lecomte presented the new task groups created, among them, concerning NERIS, the Task Group 120 on “Radiological Protection for Radiation Emergencies and Malicious Events”, and new publications, with a focus on Publication 146 on “Radiological Protection of People and the Environment in the Event of a Large Nuclear Accident”.

### **7.2. OECD-NEA**

Jacqueline Garnier-Laplace (IRSN) presented updates on ongoing or planned activities of the Committee on Radiological Protection and Public Health (CRPPH), with a focus on the Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Matters (WPNEM).

On the ongoing work, the expert Group on Recovery Management (EGRM) produced a generic framework for post-accident recovery preparedness that can be adapted to address specific national circumstances, the deliverable is issued around end of 2021 / beginning of 2022.

For the commemoration of the ten years of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, the CRPPH produced 9 recommendations on future areas for improvement, with two of them primarily addressed to the CRPPH:

- Recommendation area 6: to promote stakeholder involvement approaches and risk communication to enhance community engagement and society resilience,
- Recommendation area 7: recognition of mental health impacts.

Jacqueline Garnier-Laplace then explained the CRPPH's priorities to enhance preparedness for post-accident recovery. The main objective of the CRPPH on the matter is to design, prepare and run an INEX-6 in the coming years to exercise planning and preparedness for the transition and recovery phases of an emergency.

To do this, a dedicated preparatory task force was created under the umbrella of the WPNEM in March 2021, gathering ten experts from six countries (Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom, Slovak Republic). Based on the findings of the task force, decisions on the next steps will be taken at the end of 2021 for the exercise to be conducted, potentially around 2023 or 2024. Also, the third stakeholder involvement workshop will broaden the stakeholder engagement process.

### **7.3. IAEA**

Ramon De La Vega (IAEA) presented the Emergency Preparedness and Response related publications, through the drafts of publications to be published soon. Then, he explained how IAEA analyzed the relation between the nuclear/radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response situation and Covid-19 situation.

He presented challenges and developments related to the Next Generation Reactors and EPR, and the preparation of ConvEx-3 Exercise in 2021, with details on the simulated accident.

### **7.4. WHO**

As Zhanat Carr couldn't attend the General Assembly, she shared a presentation to be consulted in these minutes in Annex 9.

## **8. CLOSING OF THE ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Olivier Isnard thanked all the members for welcoming him as new president of the platform. Thierry Schneider and Olivier Isnard thanked all the participants and closed the General Assembly at 17:00 AM.

**ANNEXES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FILE "MINUTES 12<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNEXES"**