

NERIS General Assembly:
on 4th May 2011 in Paris,
France.

First NERIS Workshop: in
Bratislava, Slovak Republic
between the 6th and 8th
of February 2012.

EDITORIAL ■ *The NERIS Platform is a pan-European, mission-oriented initiative aimed at strengthening Europe's capacity to organise and to deliver innovation in responding to and recovering from nuclear and radiological emergencies. The Platform brings together relevant stakeholders to identify the innovation challenge, develop the necessary research programme and implement the results for benefits to Europe's citizens. Today there is much important, even life saving, scientific research and technology available, and the NERIS Platform aims to deploy this knowledge to protect Europe's citizens' health and welfare in a nuclear or radiological emergency. In March 2011, the NERIS platform has 34 member organisations representing European authorities, Technical Support Organisations, professional organisations, research institutes, NGO's and other national and local stakeholders. The membership is based on the Terms of Reference accepted in the first General Assembly of the Platform in June 2010. The first NERIS activities have been launched with the organisation of the first Working Group meetings in November 2010. The second General Assembly will take place in May 2011 to consolidate the Platform's activities and organisation.*

As we are finalizing this newsletter, nuclear accidents are occurring in Japan following the tragic earthquake and tsunami. These events remind us of the importance of the topics addressed by the NERIS Platform. Warm condolences to the victims of these catastrophic events.

*Raimo Mustonen
President of the NERIS Platform*

Working Group on processes and tools for preparedness at community level

The first meeting of the Preparedness Working Group took place on the 23rd of November in CEPN, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France. 26 participants from 13 different countries discussed the existing preparedness experiences with local communities in their respective countries as well as the topics of interest of these local communities for the future. The meeting was also a good opportunity for the participants to share their views concerning the future of the Working Group. Notably, as one of the objectives of the Working Group is to connect the different initiatives and to share experiences and tools, it has been agreed to design a template to collect this information in a standardised format. Concerning the next Working Group meetings, specific topics will be addressed to deeper discuss the issues at stake at the community level. ■

Working Group on the practical implementation of the ICRP recommendations

The first meeting of this Working Group took place on the 22nd of November in CEPN, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France. 21 Participants from 15 different countries discussed the practical implementation of the ICRP 103, ICRP 109 and ICRP 111 recommendations into national emergency management procedures and regulations. In particular, the necessary modifications of simulation programs have been addressed. It was concluded, that in most European countries the implementation has not started but first attempts have been made to investigate the necessary consequences in terms of national regulations. The group also agreed on necessary modifications that should be implemented into new or modified computer programs to simulate early and late phase countermeasures. These modifications include the simulation of all exposure pathways for the calculation of the residual dose in a given time period. However, the dose from consumption of contaminated food might be estimated in a simplistic way. The simulation tools should also contain a component to support the definition and evaluation of scenarios as preparedness was seen as a key for a successful mitigation of the emergency. Finally the group supported the idea of organising an international seminar in 2012 (see below). ■

Start of the NERIS-TP Project

The NERIS-TP project «Towards a self sustaining European Technology Platform (NERIS-TP) on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery» is a 3 year research project under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme, EURATOM for Nuclear Research and Training Activities (work programme 2010). It was launched in February 2011 and involves 19 organisations from 13 countries. NERIS-TP is co-ordinated by Wolfgang Raskob from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). The working program reflects the two objectives of the project:

- Establishing a sustainable platform on emergency response and recovery preparedness,
- Research activities to improve emergency management on the local and the national level.

The establishment and operation of the European Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery will be based on the earlier created European wide NERIS Platform and also include the users groups of the two decision support systems ARGOS and RODOS. During the project, conditions will be created to favour the sustainability of the NERIS platform. Concerning research activities to close existing gaps in nuclear and radiological emergency management and rehabilitation, the aim is:

- To improve simulation models in decision support systems to deal with new international recommendations such as the ICRP 103, ICRP 109 and ICRP 111 recommendations,
- To strengthen the preparedness at the local/national level by setting up dedicated fora and developing new tools or adapting the tools developed within the EURANOS projects (such as the governance framework for preparedness, the handbooks on countermeasures, the RODOS system and the MOIRA DSS for long term contamination in catchments) to meet the needs of local communities,
- To couple an emergency information system with the existing European Decision Support Systems (ARGOS/RODOS) by developing a web based interface and a meteorological model chain that provides meteorological data for the assessments from freely available world wide data, and
- To test, train and disseminate the new modules and assure that the end users are fully integrated in the development process and that the end products will be used to their full technical capability in the community for training, exercises, preparedness and operational application. ■

Second NERIS General Assembly

The second General Assembly will take place on the afternoon of 4 May 2011 in Paris. The meeting will review the initial results of the Platform's activities, elect new members to the Management Board and discuss the long-term future of the Platform. ■

The first NERIS Platform Workshop on «Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery: Implementation of the ICRP Recommendations»

The first NERIS Platform Workshop on «Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery: Implementation of ICRP Recommendations» will be organised between February 6th and 8th 2012 in Bratislava (Slovak Republic). This first NERIS Workshop is organised by the Slovak institute for nuclear power plants applied research and operational support (VUJE) in cooperation with the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The objectives of the Workshop will be to provide a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences on the methodological and computational aspects related to the practical introduction of ICRP Recommendations 109 and 111 in the existing decision support tools and on the implementation of these recommendations into international, European and national standards and guidelines for emergency management and recovery. The Application form is available on the [NERIS Website](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact Tatiana Duranova - Tatiana.Duranova@vuje.sk – or the NERIS Secretary – sec@eu-neris.net - if you need further information. ■

[Link to the first Announcement](#)

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First NERIS Platform Workshop

“Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery: Implementation of ICRP recommendations”

Hotel Danube

Rybné námestie 1, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

6 - 8 February 2012

Workshop organized by VUJE in cooperation with ICRP

■ Introduction

The workshop is proposed by the European Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery: the NERIS Platform.

The objectives of this Platform are to contribute to:

- Improving the effectiveness of current European, national and local approaches for preparedness concerning nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Promoting more coherent approaches in preparedness for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery throughout Europe.
- Identifying gaps and needs for further developments in preparedness for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Addressing new and emerging challenges in the field of preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery.
- Maintaining and improving know-how and technical expertise in preparedness for nuclear or radiological emergency response and recovery among all interested stakeholders in Europe.

This first NERIS workshop is organised by the Slovak institute for nuclear power plants applied research and operational support (VUJE) in cooperation with the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). It is partly funded by the European Commission within the NERIS-TP Project of the Euratom FP7.

■ Objective

The Workshop will provide a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences on the implementation of ICRP Recommendations for the protection of people in emergency exposure situations (Publication 109) and living in long-term contaminated areas after a nuclear accident or a radiation emergency (Publication 111) into international, European and national standards and guidelines for emergency management and recovery. It will provide an

opportunity to explore the methodological and computational aspects related to the practical introduction of these recommendations in the existing decision support tools used in European Countries.

■ Structure of the Workshop

The workshop will consist of plenary sessions and discussion sessions in smaller working groups.

Plenary sessions will focus on the ICRP Recommendations, national approaches and experiences, methodological aspects and updates of computational models.

Discussion sessions will be devoted to specific issues related to practical aspects such as how to support exercise scenario preparation, how to select and combine suitable management options, etc.

Table top exercises will be organised in parallel to demonstrate how decision aiding tools may support the decision making process and the implementation of protection strategies.

Poster sessions focusing on different approaches to implementing ICRP Recommendations, including case studies from different countries.

■ Target Audience

The target audience of this workshop includes all stakeholders in preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery, with an expected attendance of some 100 participants from the following groups:

- European, national, regional and local authorities/regulators;
- policy and decision makers;
- technical support organisations;
- researchers (research institutes and universities);
- operators and professional organisations;
- local and regional stakeholders involved in the implementation of countermeasures;
- non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

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Expected outcome

The workshop aims to disseminate information on the development of the methodological and practical aspects relating to the management of emergency and existing exposure situations following publication of ICRP Recommendations 103, 109, 111 and other European documents. The workshop will also gather feedback from end users on topics related to the new methods, models and products. Results of the workshop will be published via NERIS web page <http://www.eu-neris.net/>. Papers and outputs from the Workshop will be included and published in a special issue of an international journal.

Organization

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Organizing/Programme Committee

(members of the NERIS Platform and NERIS-TP Project Management Board):

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Raimo Mustonen, STUK, Finland

Wolfgang Raskob, KIT, Germany

Thierry Schneider, CEPN, France

Tatiana Duranova, VUJE, Slovak Republic

Anne Nisbet, HPA, UK

Deborah Oughton, UMB, Norway

Astrid Liland, NRPA, Norway

Eduardo Gallego, UPM, Spain

Venue and Accommodation

The workshop will be held at the Hotel Danube in the centre of Bratislava, Slovakia (<http://www.hoteldanube.com/index.html>).

Details on accommodation will be published in the Second Announcement in May 2011.

Fee

There will be no registration fee.

Participants are expected to cover their own travel and subsistence costs.

Limited funds will be available to partially cover the cost of selected participants.

Working language

The working language of the workshop will be English.

Further information

If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please complete the Application form in the following NERIS link http://www.eu-neris.net/index.php?option=com_chronocontact&chronoformname=regform. The number of participants will be restricted to a maximum of 120.

Interested members from the target audience groups from different countries are invited to submit a paper, which should focus on national approaches and experiences to the ICRP Recommendations, methodological aspects and updates to computational models. An abstract, of no more than one page, should be sent to the NERIS Secretary after the Second Announcement. The Organizing/Programme Committee will evaluate the contributions and decide if they are presented orally or as a poster. The authors will be informed about the decision of the Organizing/Programme Committee in time.

For further information or to request your inclusion in the distribution list for the Second Announcement, please contact the Local Coordinator and the NERIS Secretary. You can also visit the NERIS web page <http://www.eu-neris.net/>

Important dates

Second Announcement and call for abstracts: May 2011

Registration and abstracts submission deadline: October 2011

Notification of form of presentation: November 2011

Workshop: 6 - 8 February, 2012