



Metrology for radiological early warning networks in Europe

(ENV57 „MetroERM“)

June 2015 - May 2017

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Routine Mode



More than 5000 stations provide
dose rate data in real-time

VERSION 5.4.0

0 112 224 448 672 896 Kilometers

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Routine Mode



GM tubes



VERSION 5.4.0

0 112 224 448 672 896 Kilometers

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Routine Mode



More than 5000 stations provide dose rate data in real-time to EURDEP

EC-JRC Ispra
European Union Radiological Data
Exchange Platform ("EURDEP")



About 250 air-sampler stations provide nuclide specific data (but only a few in real-time)

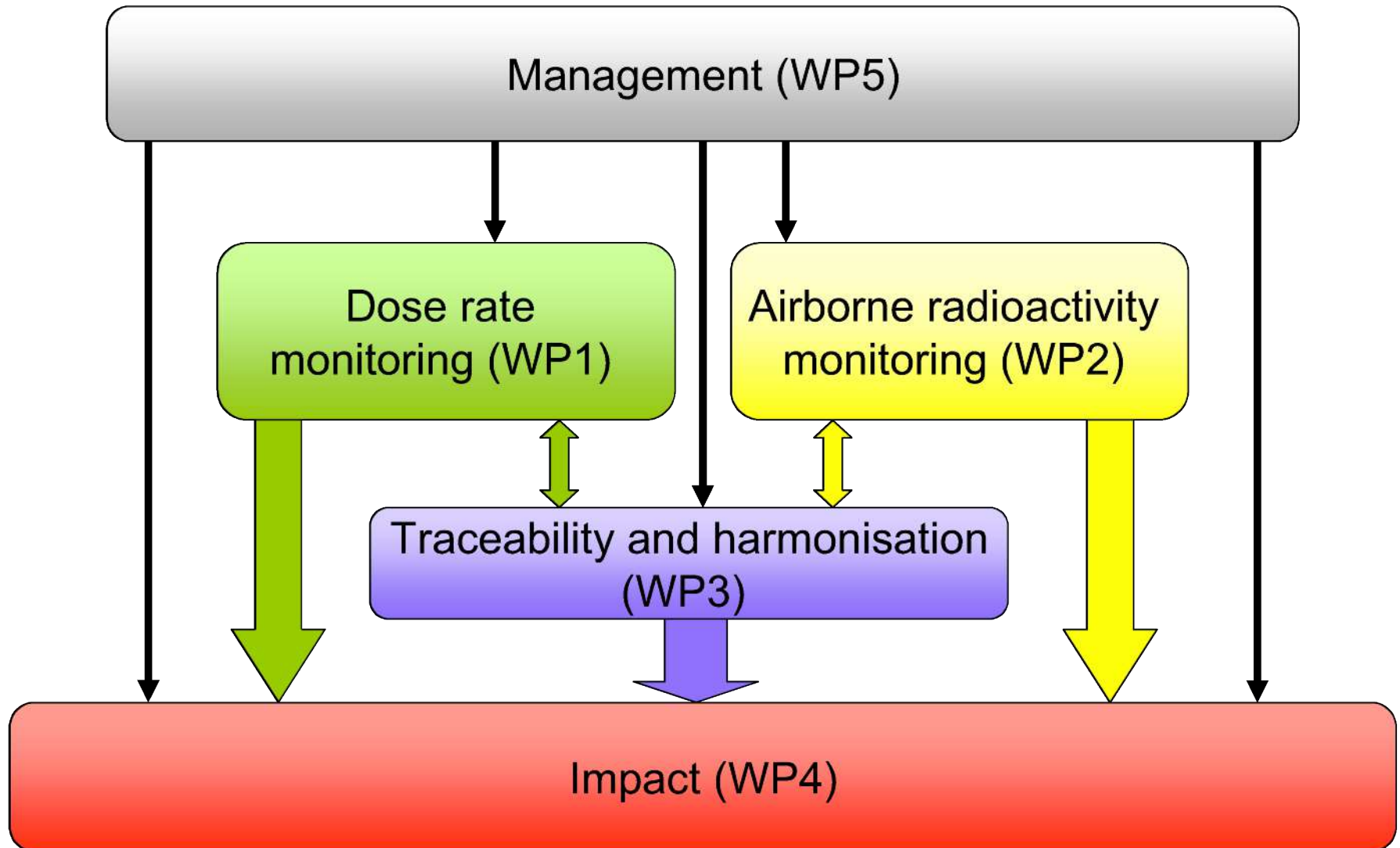
**In case of a nuclear emergency,
reliable and traceable radiological data
are of key importance for any governmental decision!**

Objectives of MetroERM

to

- harmonise dose rate and airborne radioactivity monitoring
- develop novel / improved instrumentation for field station use
- develop traceable calibration procedures and reference materials
- validate detection principles
- improve the metrological infrastructure in Europe

MetroERM: Work package structure



MetroERM consortium

17 partner institutions from 11 European countries

10 NMI/DI: PTB, CMI, NPL, TAEK;

CEA, CIEMAT, ENEA, IFIN-HH, JSI, SCK·CEN

EC-JRC: Ispra, Geel

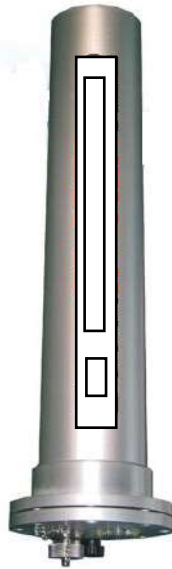
2 unfunded: BfS, IRSN

3 Researcher Excellence Grants: AUTH, UPC, NUVIA

Dosimetry systems for ERM*

Present state of the art

Geiger-Muller
counters



- No energy and no nuclide specific information
- Medium sensitivity

VS.

A new generation of
„spectro-dosimeters“

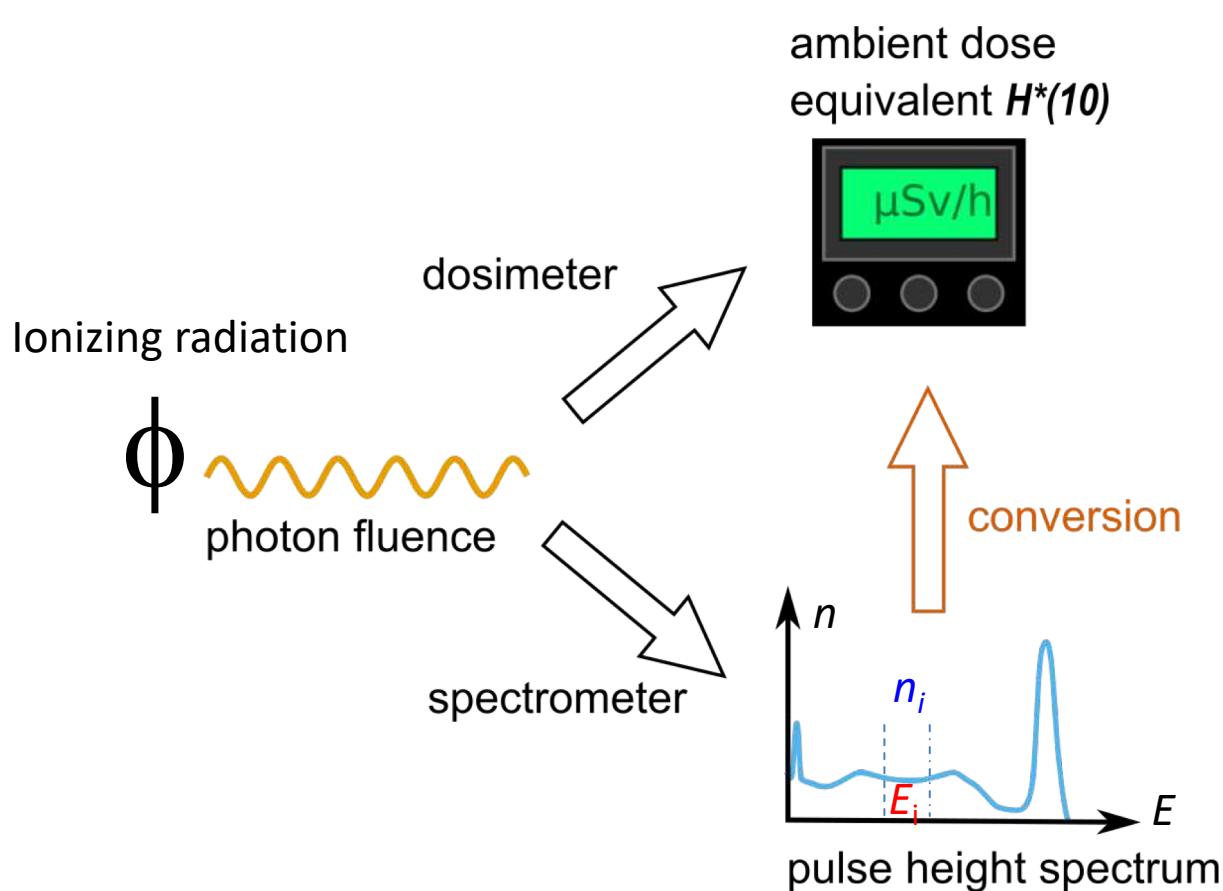


Robust scintillation-detectors
with good energy resolution:
 LaBr_3 , CeBr_3 , SrI_2

- Spectra with detailed energy and nuclide specific information
- High sensitivity

*ERM = Environmental Radiation Monitoring

Dose determination from pulse height spectra of quasi spherical spectrometers



Various **puls height to dose conversion** methods:

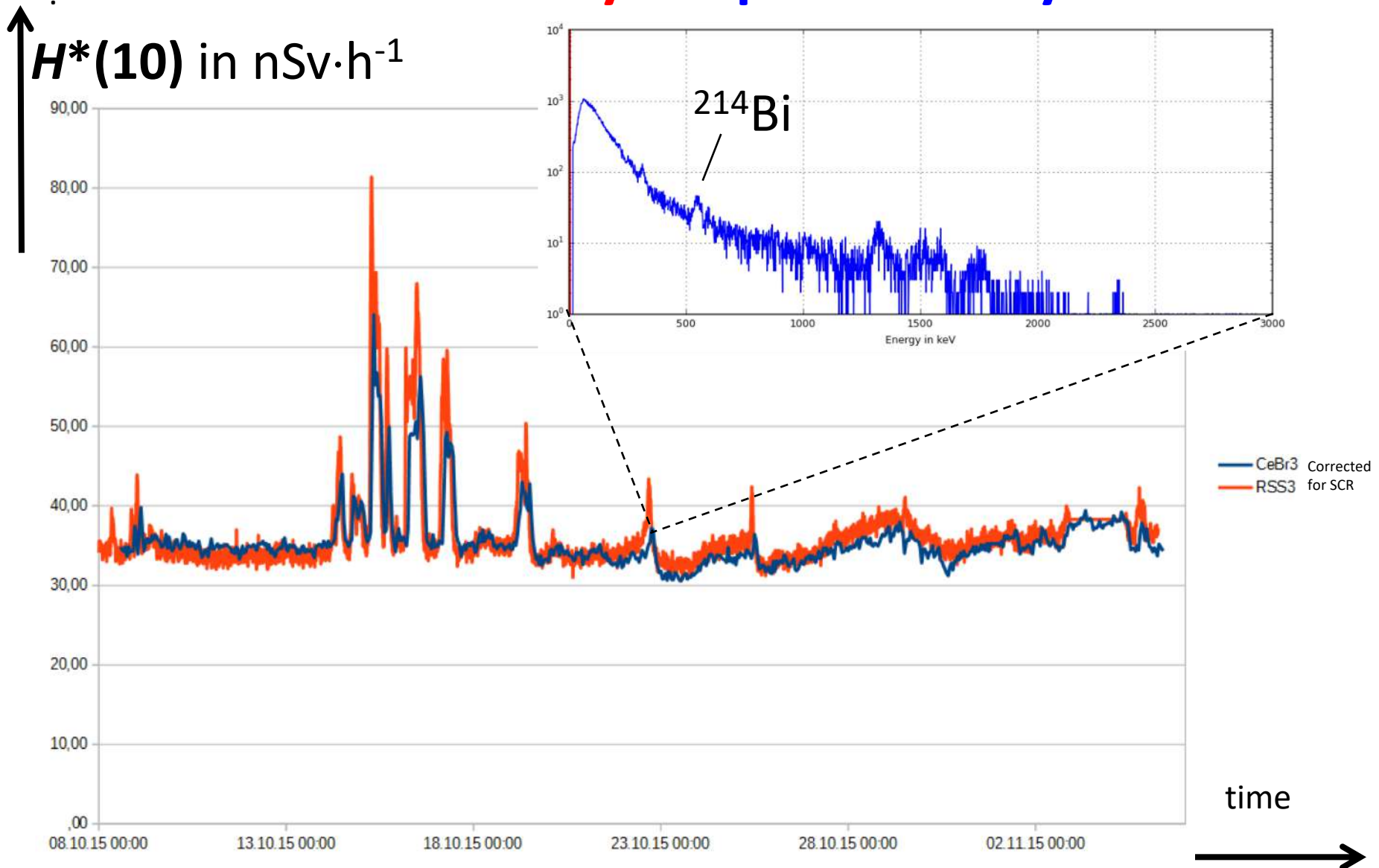
- Spectrum deconvolution by stripping
- Spectrum deconvolution using a maximum entropy approach
- Photopeak to dose conversion (not used by MetroERM)
-

$$H^*(10) = w_1 \cdot E_1 \cdot n_1 + w_2 \cdot E_2 \cdot n_2 + \dots + w_Z \cdot E_Z \cdot n_Z$$

w_i = **pulse height to dose conversion factors**, derived experimentally or by MC methods

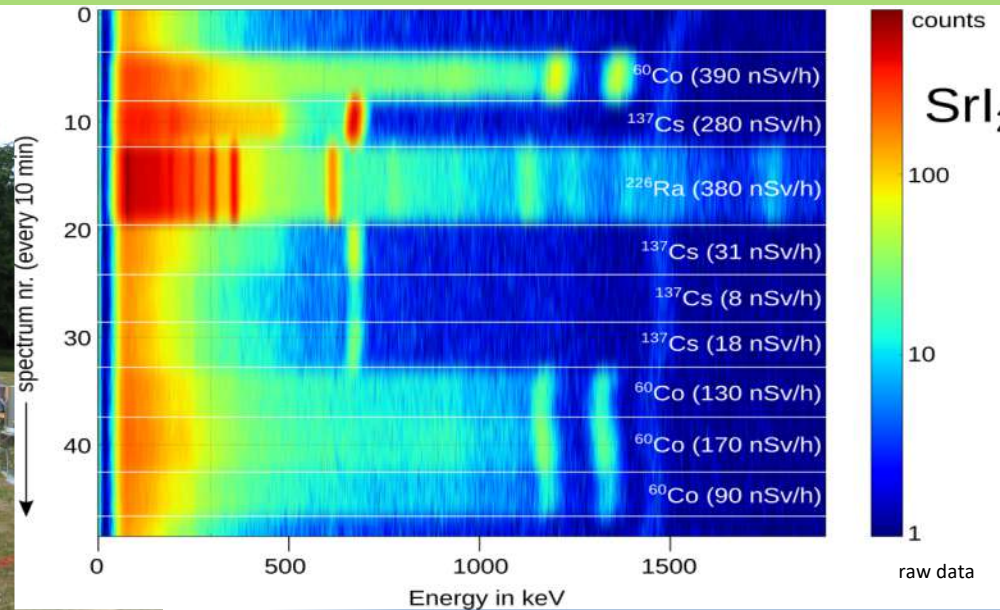
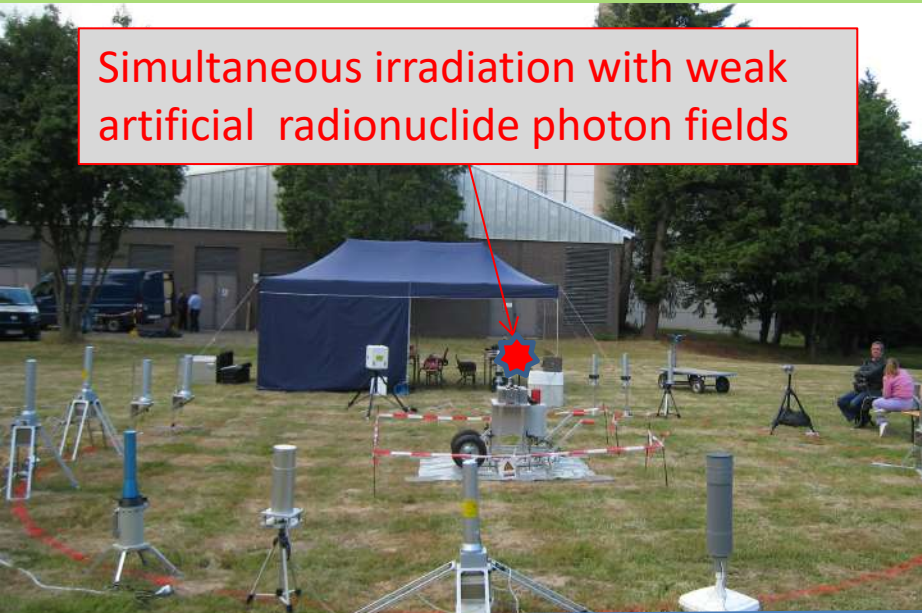
• Application of conversion factors w_i

External dose rate measurements: dosimetry vs spectrometry



Intercomparison of spectro-dosimetry systems

Simultaneous irradiation with weak artificial radionuclide photon fields



Secondary cosmic radiation



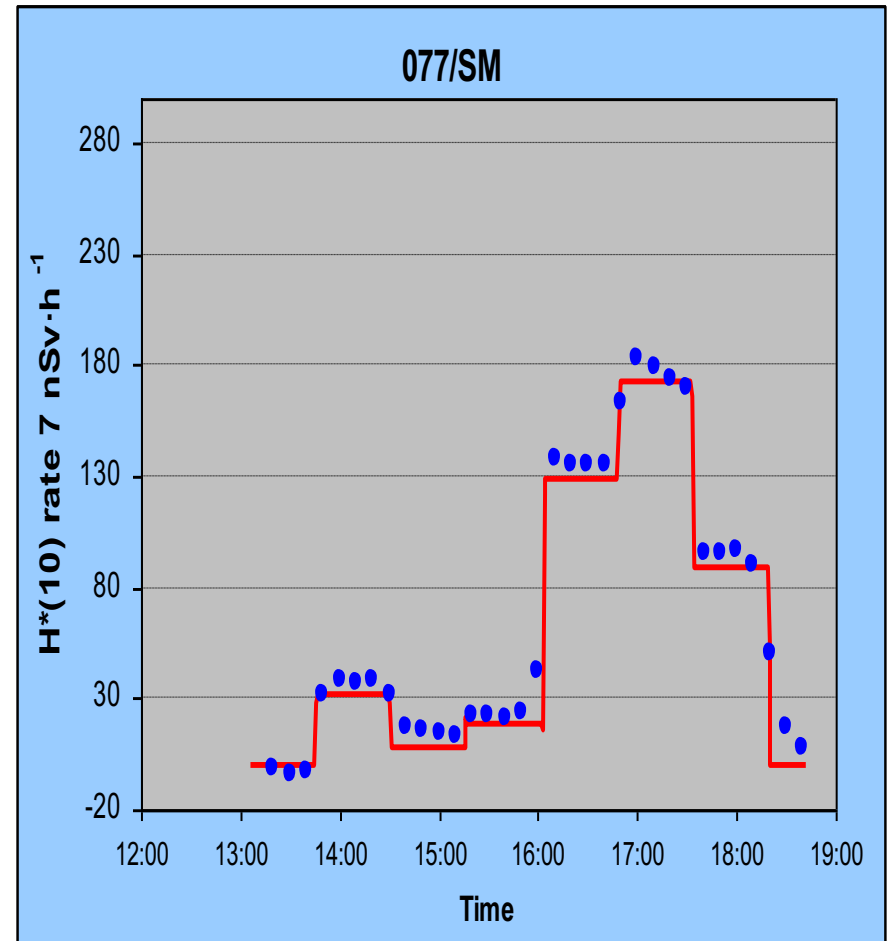
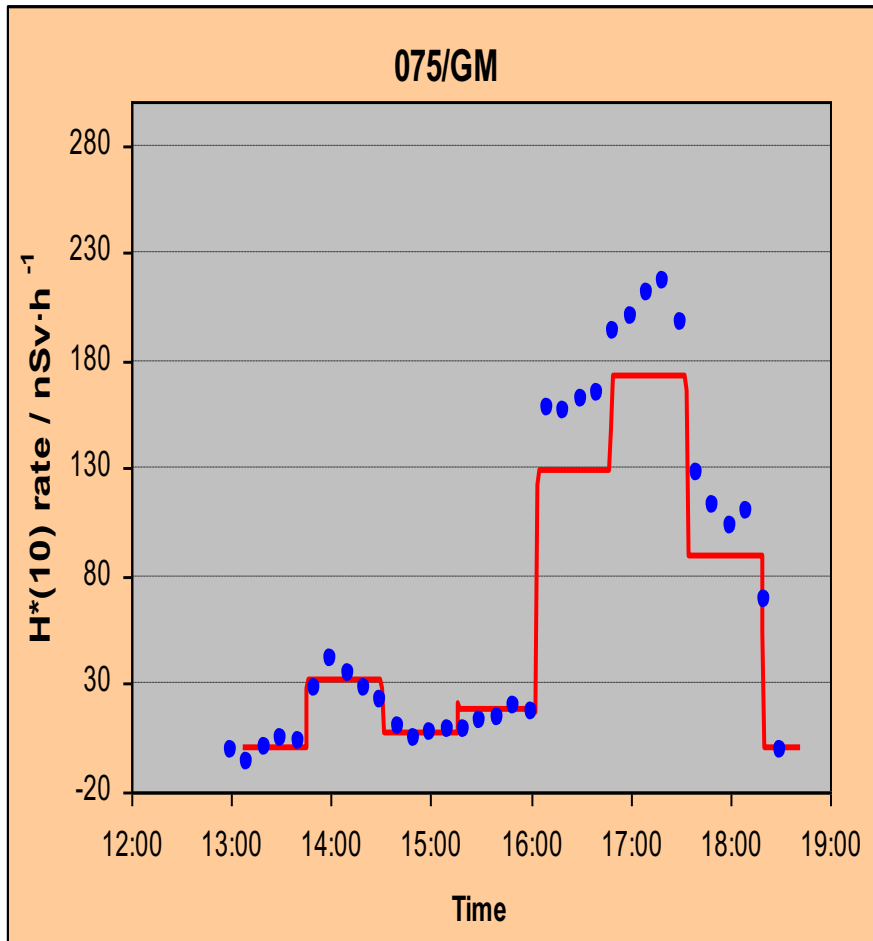
Calibration facility
deep underground (UDO II)



Measurement of plume profiles*

GM counter vs LaBr₃-spectrometer

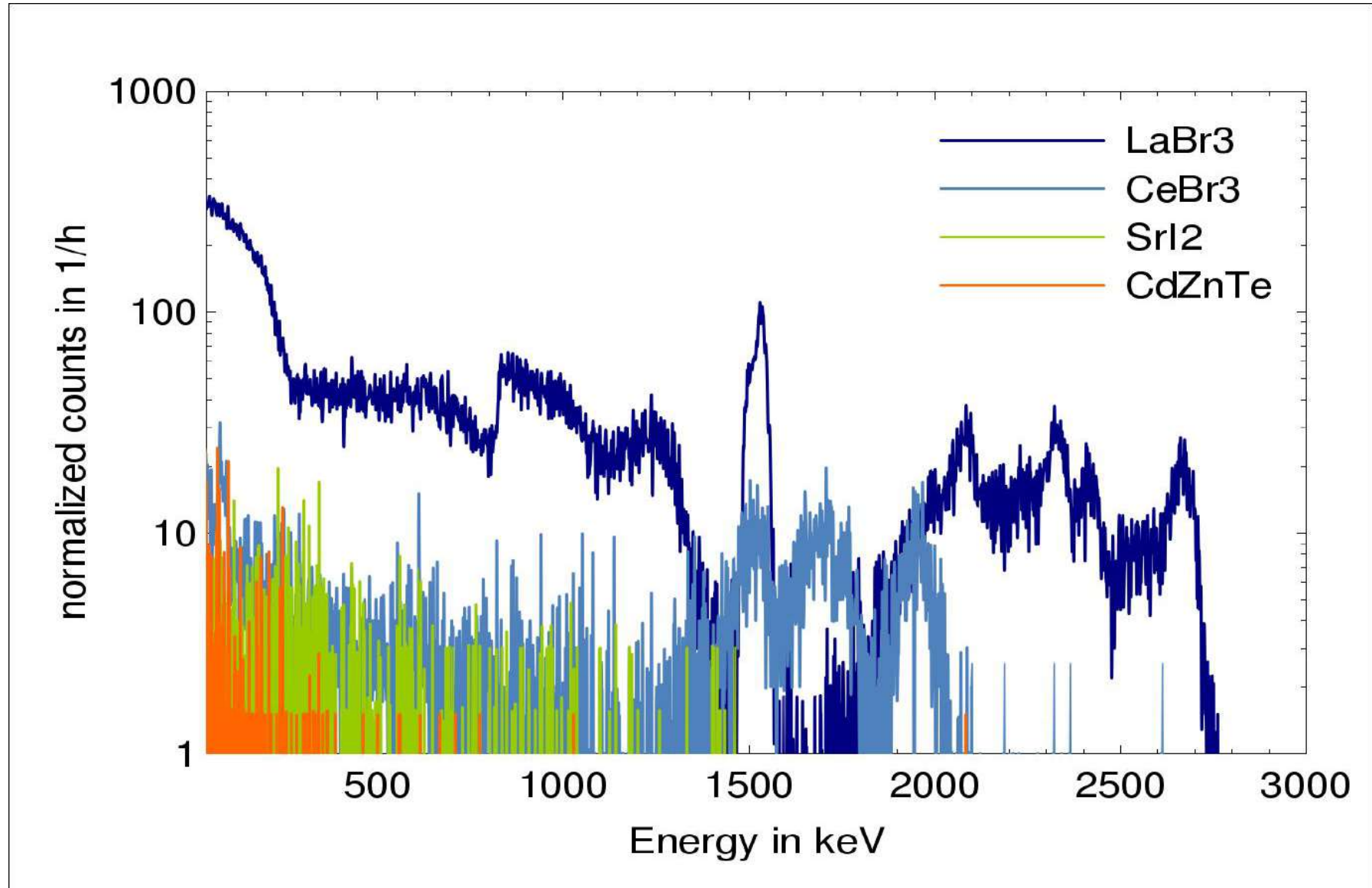
(reference curve in red)



* „natural background“ subtracted

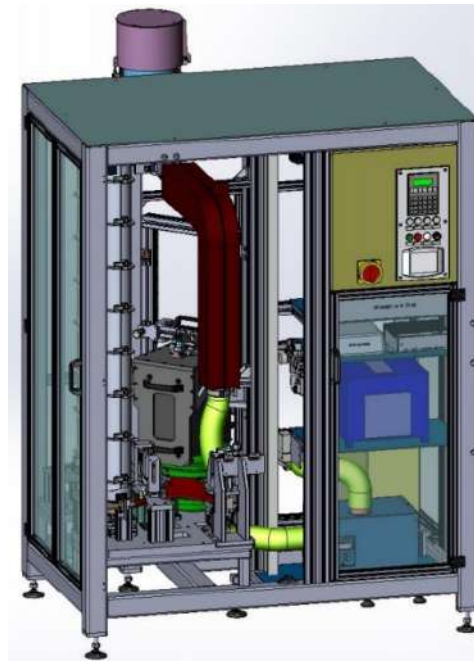
Inherent background of different detector types

measured in a lead castle in PTB's underground laboratory UDO II



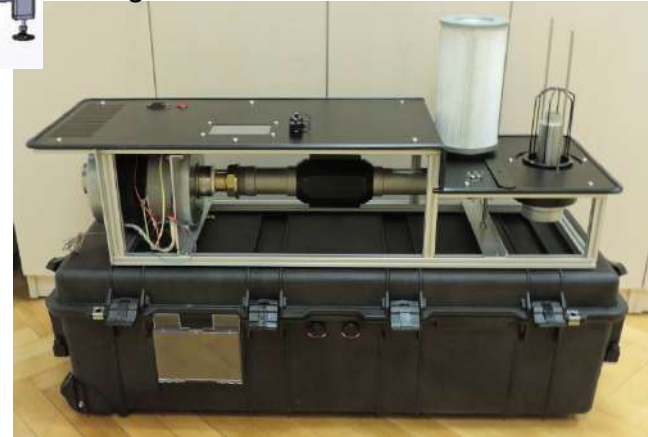
Achievements WP2:

- Novel air-samplers for airborne radioactivity monitoring
- Best practice guides for calibration and operation
- New and more rapid radiochemical techniques for analysis of aerosol samples

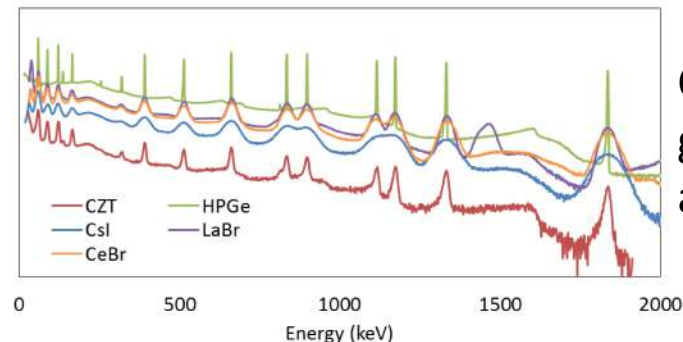


Automated air-sampler
with HPGe- gamma
spectrometer
(CMI & REG(NUVIA))

Portable air-sampler with in-situ
CeBr₃ gamma spectrometer (IJS)



Continuous air monitor
with in-situ HPGe-gamma
spectrometer (CIEMAT)



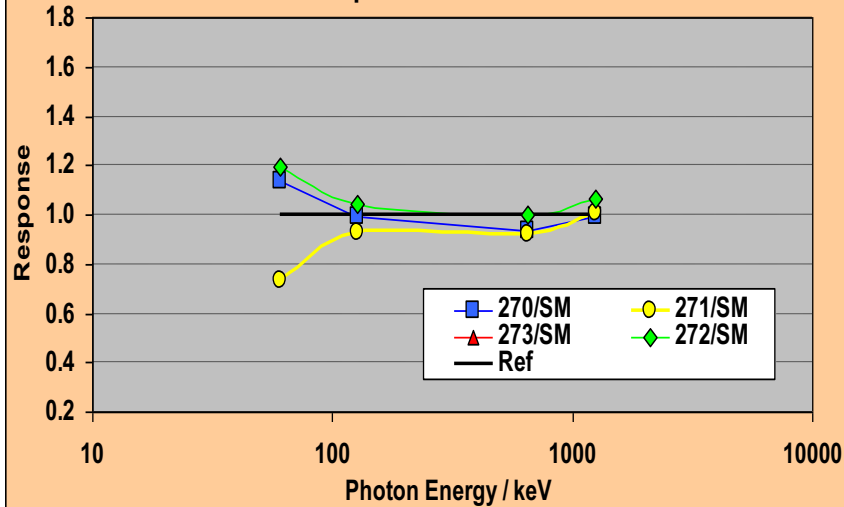
Comparison of different
gamma spectrometers for
aerosol monitoring (NPL)

Energy response of

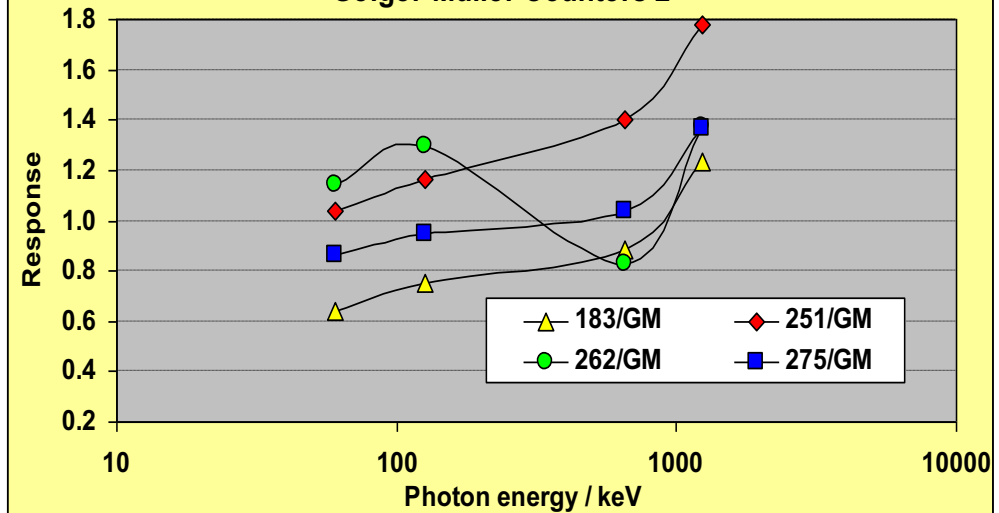
MetroERM' s spectrometers,

GM counters

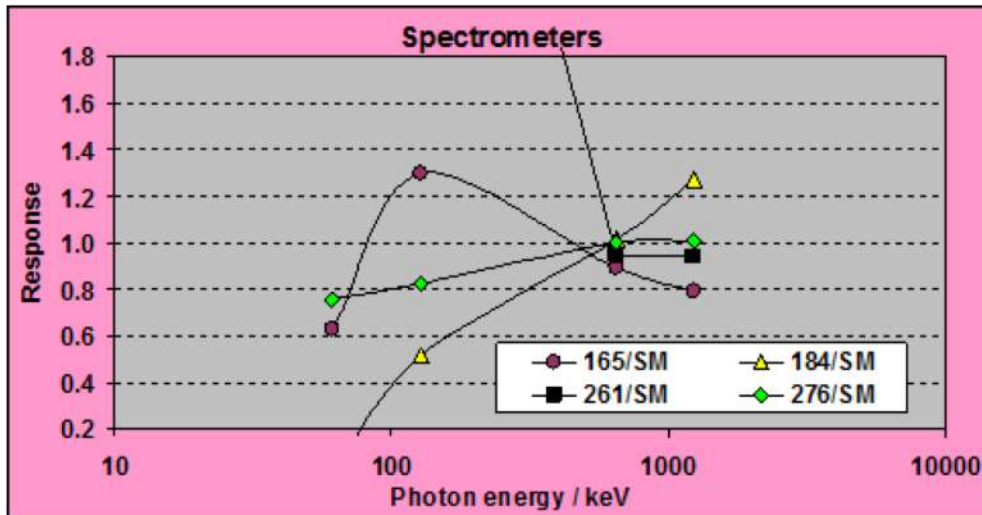
Spectrometers 3



Geiger-Müller Counters 2



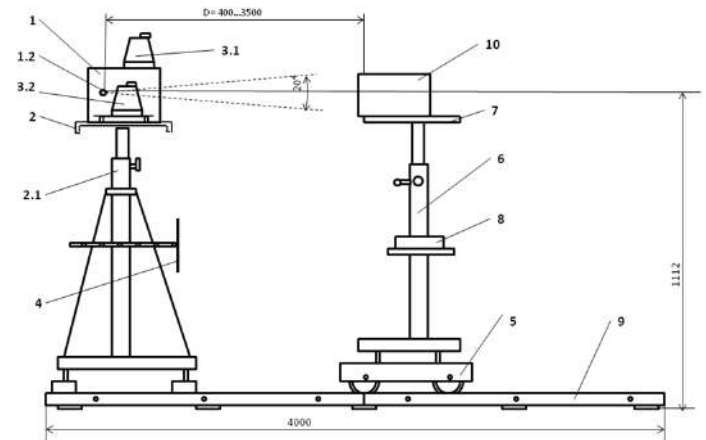
Spectrometers



and commercial spectrometers.

Achievements WP3:

Calibration facility established at the IFIN-HH underground lab. in the Unirea salt mine (- 200 m), Rumania, (IFIN-HH)



IFIN-HH, CEA, PTB, ENEA

Achievements – Summarised in MetroERM's final publishable report (42 pages)

- **A potentially new detector-generation of spectro-dosemeters for Europe's early warning network systems**
- **New prototypes of air samplers** to measure air borne radioactivity in real-time developed and successfully tested
- **A world-wide second underground facility for calibrations at low dose rates established** at the IFIN-HH underground lab, Romania

Google: "MetroERM final publishable report" (for download)

**Thank you for your
attention!**



Impact

EURAMET “good news stories”:

Results from radioactivity project invaluable in event of a nuclear accident

Spectroscopic dosimeters developed within EMRP project (ENV57 MetroERM) undergo first intercomparison worldwide and **get mention at UK parliamentary meeting.**

The early warning of nuclear accidents will help improve Europe's ability to detect and respond to radiological incidents.

Figure 12: Automatic radioactive aerosol monitor developed by CIEMAT.

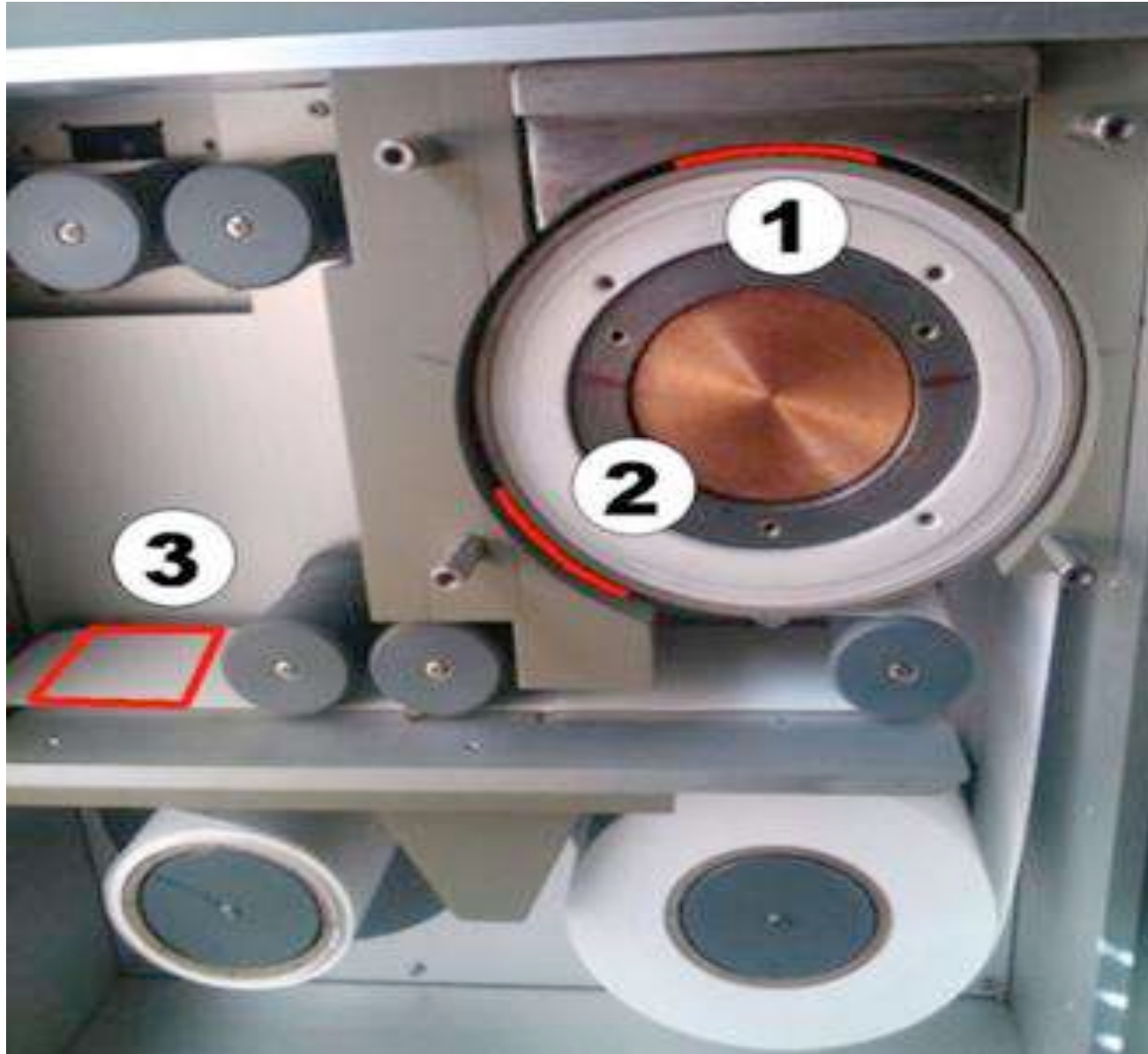


Figure 15: Modular, transportable radioactive aerosol monitor developed by CMI and NUVIA.

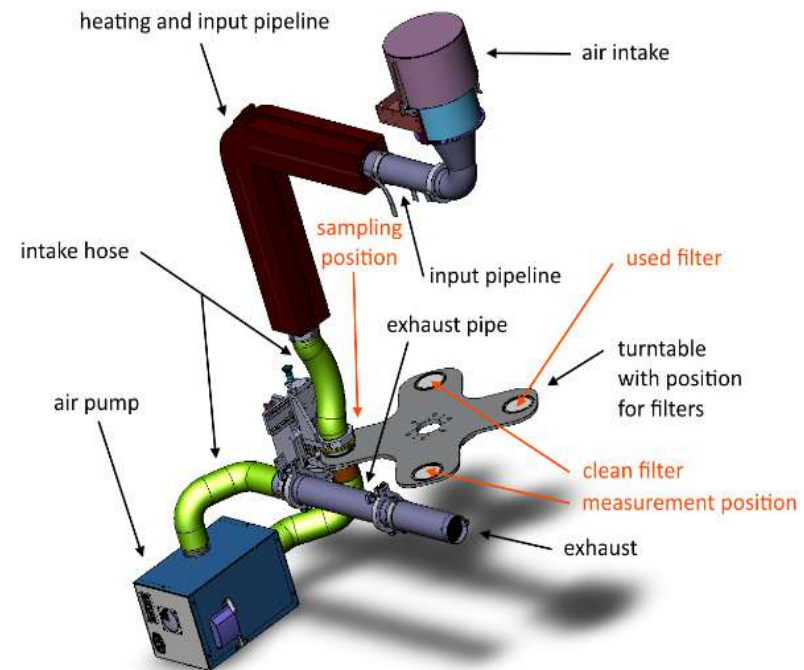
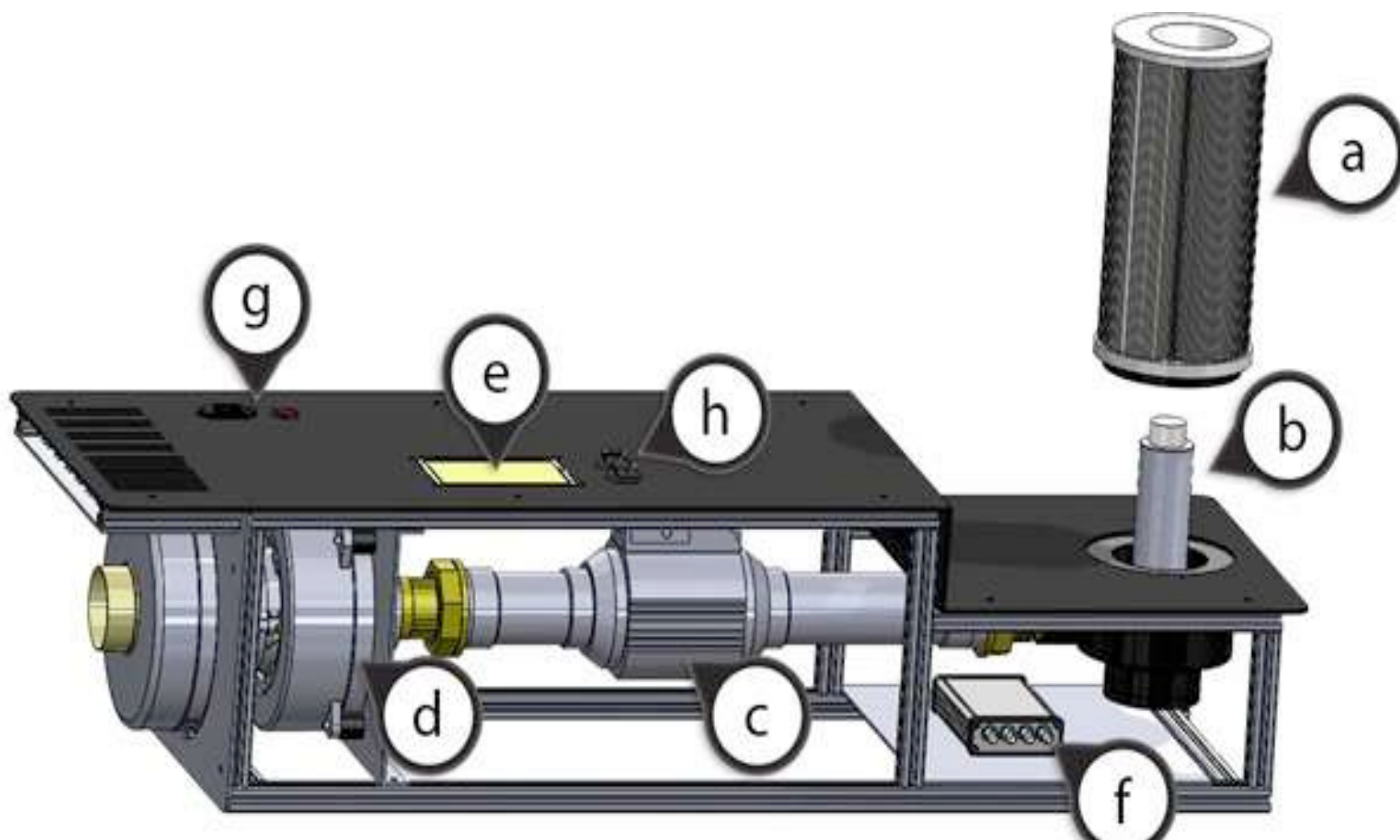


Figure 17: Novel portable Monitoring Air pump for Radioactive aErosols (MARE). The system consists of the following components:
a) concertina shaped aerosol filter, b) CeBr_3 scintillation detector with PM read-out, c) air-flow meter, d) air-pump turbine, e) microcontroller unit with touch screen, f) preamplifier and digital pulse processing unit, g) power socket, h) USB sockets for communication.



On the origin of radiological early warning networks in Europe



**Chernobyl – accident of
nuclear power plant block IV**

April 26, 1986

**European Commission
CD 87/600 EURATOM on
„Community arrangements
for the early exchange of
information in the event of
a radiological emergency”.**



Fukushima Daiichi, March 11, 2011



In Europe:

- No measurable effects on dose rate values, but
- significant increase of ^{137}Cs -activity concentrations in air

Figure 3*: Conversion coefficients w_i from counts n_i to ambient dose equivalent $H^*(10)$

$$H^*(10) = w_1 \cdot E_1 \cdot n_1 + w_2 \cdot E_2 \cdot n_2 + \dots + w_Z \cdot E_Z \cdot n_Z$$

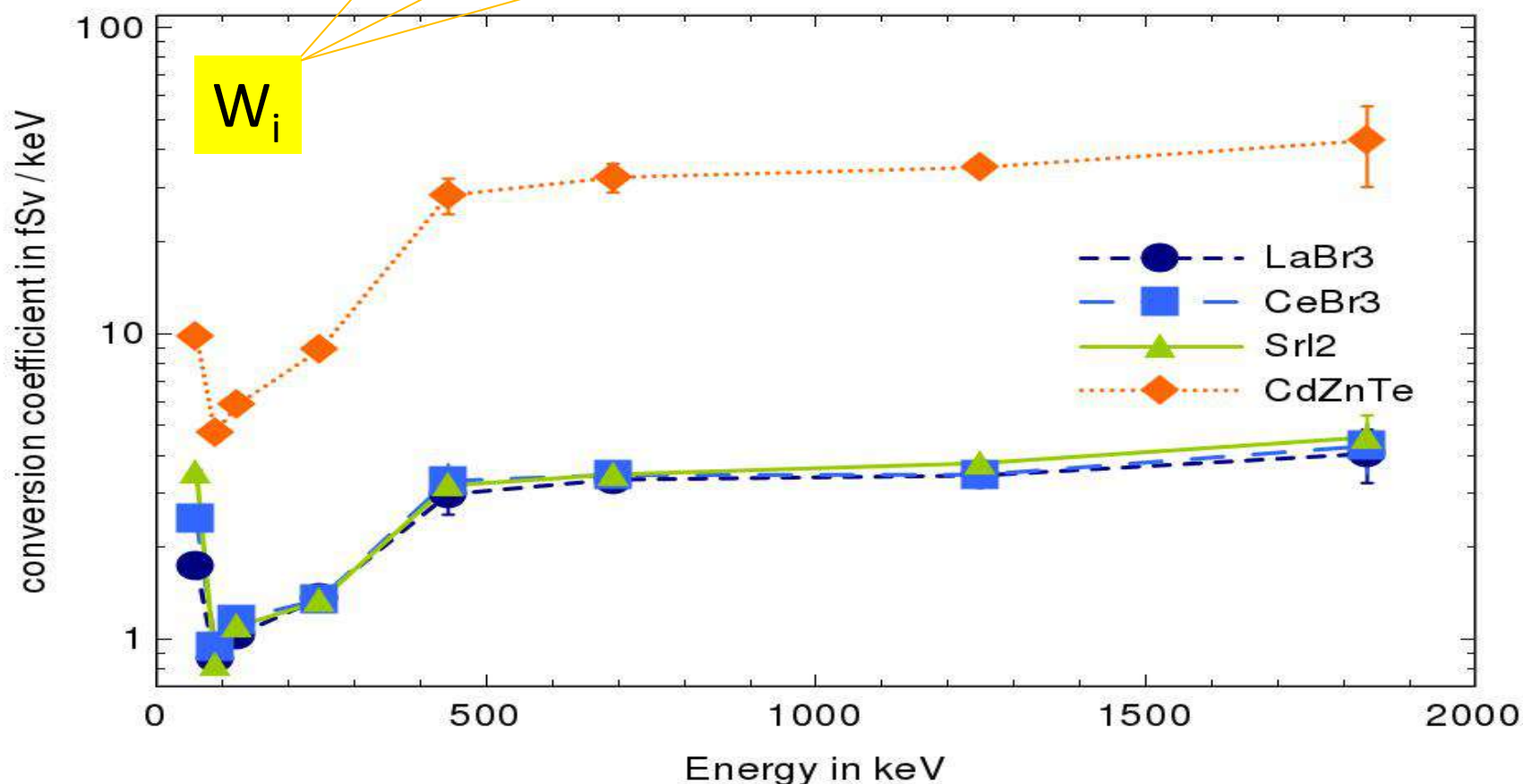


Figure 4: Relative angular response of the different detectors for 60 , 122 and 662 respectively.

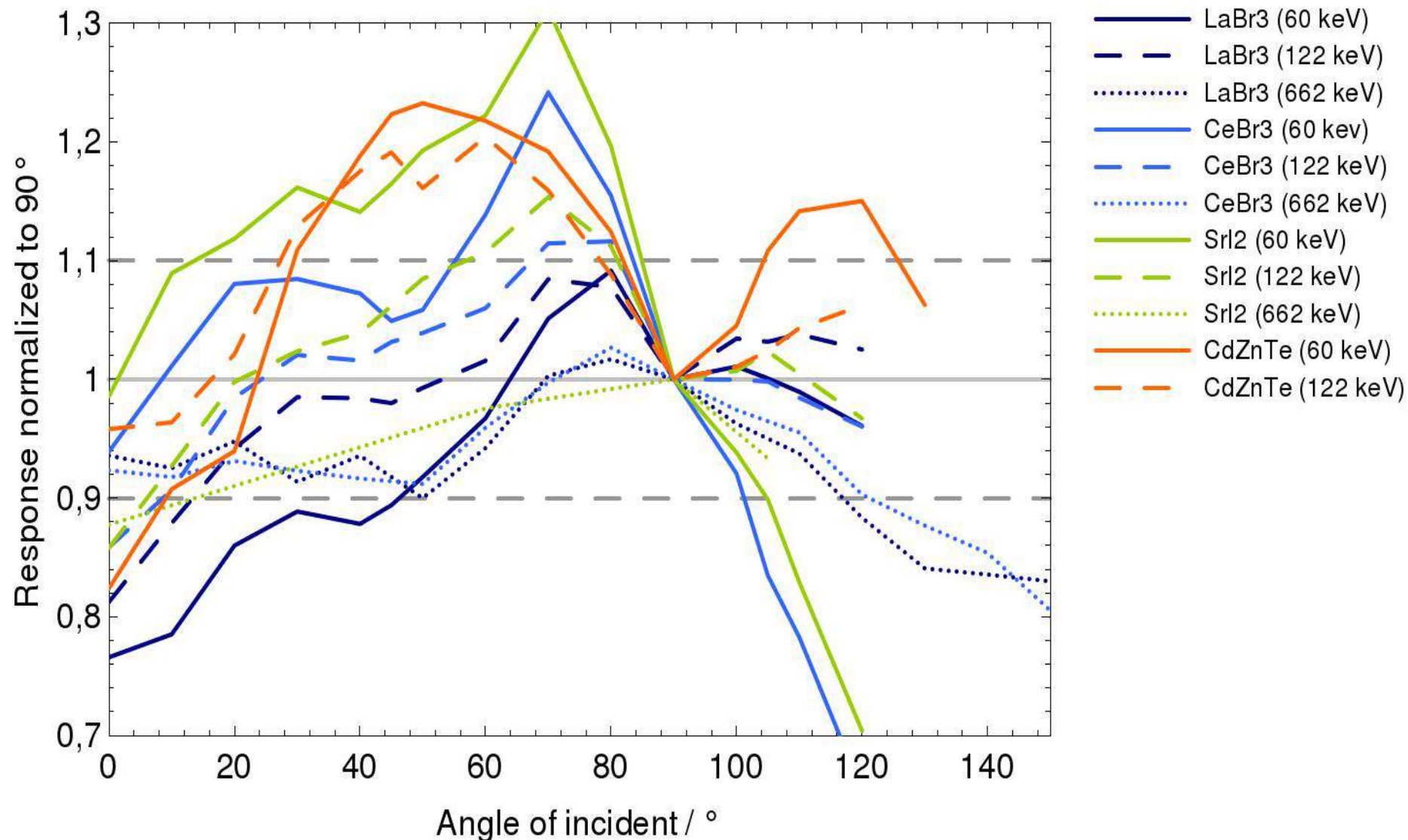
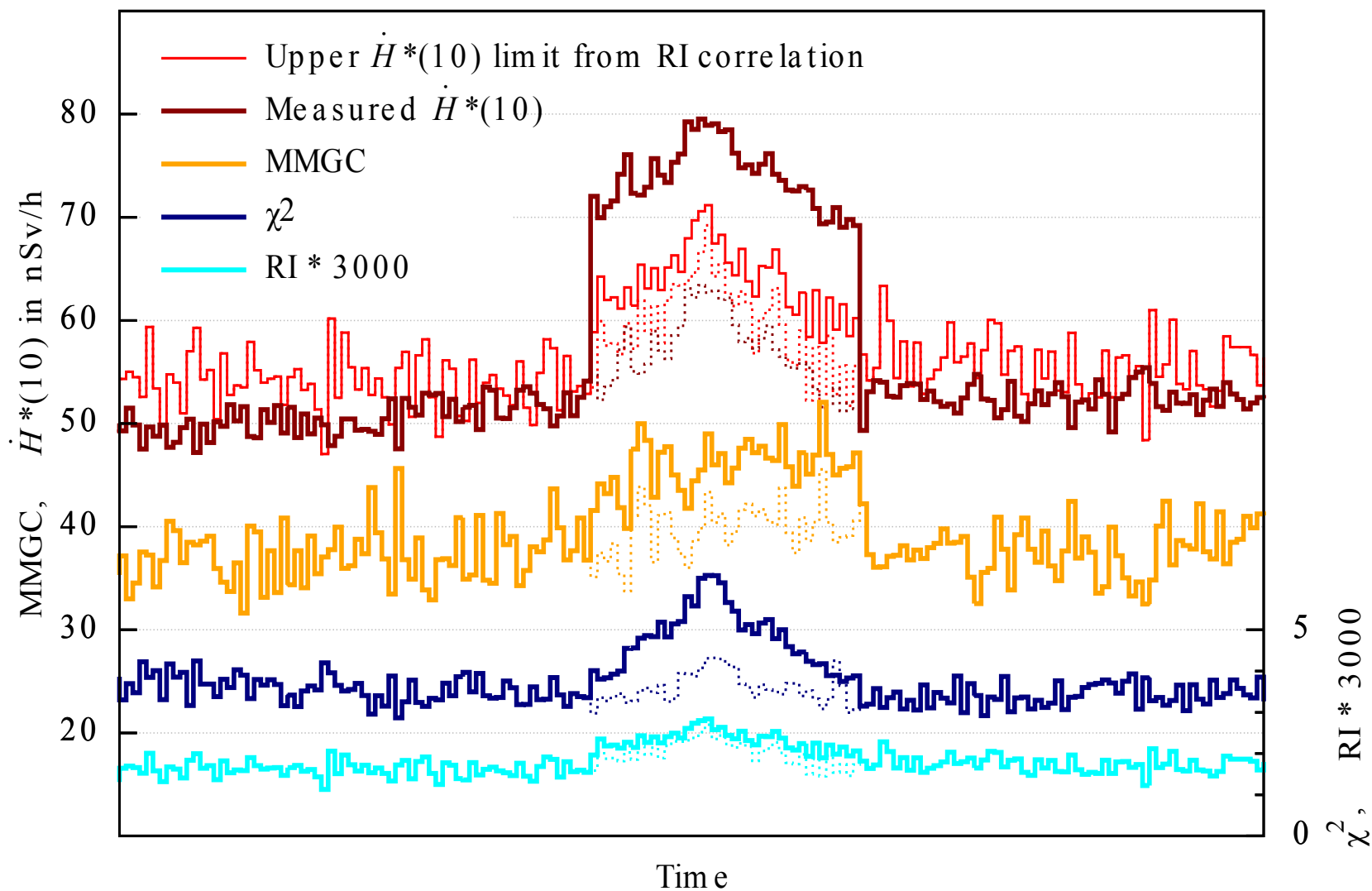


Figure 11. Results after applying the three methods for rain detection to data of a CeBr₃ spectrometer, by simulating a radioactive fallout by using ¹³⁷Cs and ⁶⁰Co sources during a rain event.

The dotted lines show dose rate values and results of the methods without the addition of the artificial spectra [21].



A photograph of a field station with various meteorological and environmental sensors mounted on poles in a grassy area, with a dense forest in the background. The sensors include anemometers, wind vanes, and other specialized instruments. A white control box is visible in the center. The foreground shows some low-lying vegetation and a small stream or ditch.

