



**15-17 May 2017**

EAN - NERIS Workshop on optimization & emergency, Lisbon, Portugal

**17-19 May 2017**

NERIS Workshop & 8<sup>th</sup> NERIS General Assembly, Lisbon, Portugal

**9-13 October 2017**

4<sup>th</sup> ICRP Symposium & Radiation Protection Week 2017, Paris, France

EUROPEAN PLATFORM  
ON PREPAREDNESS  
FOR NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

■ EDITORIAL

Issue 13 – April 2017

At the beginning of this year 2017, two new European research projects aiming at improving the management of uncertainties in emergency and existing exposure situations have been launched: CONFIDENCE and TERRITORIES. These projects have been selected within the first CONCERT call. They will certainly significantly contribute to the implementation of the NERIS strategic research agenda in the following years, addressing issues identified as research priorities, including a number of developments on social sciences and humanities issues in both projects. In this context, they will contribute to improve preparedness for emergency and recovery situations in Europe. In addition, they clearly reinforced the cooperation of NERIS' community with the teams involved in the other European research Platforms in radiation protection, first of all with ALLIANCE (dedicated to radioecology), but also with MELODI (dedicated to low doses) and EURADOS (dedicated to dosimetry). Therefore, it will be the role of NERIS during the next 3 years to facilitate the presentation and the discussion of the challenges and the results of these projects among the different stakeholders involved in emergency and recovery issues. This newsletter provides the opportunity to provide a brief introduction into these two projects.

In few weeks from now the NERIS workshop 2017 will be held in Lisbon from May 17 to 19. Interesting presentations and fruitful discussions are expected in the perspective of the updated NERIS Strategic Research Agenda. The topics to be addressed cover a large range of emergency and recovery issues: challenges in radiological impact assessment, development of countermeasures and strategies, decision support and disaster informatics, holistic framework for preparedness, stakeholder involvement and engagement approaches, and dealing with uncertainties in assessment and management in emergency and recovery situations. It has to be mentioned that the NERIS event will immediately follow a workshop organised by the European ALARA Network, conducted at the same place from May 15 to 17 and with the support of NERIS, on the implementation of optimisation in emergency situation.

From 10 to 12 October 2017 the 2nd European Radiological Protection Research Week will take place in conjunction with the 4th ICRP Symposium on the system of radiological protection in Marne La Vallée, close to Paris. NERIS is involved in the programme committee together with the other European research platforms. At this occasion, it is expected to reinforce the identification of common topics and orientation of work to better address the key challenges in radiation protection. In this perspective, the participation of a large number of NERIS members would be of benefit to all.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the recent publication of a special issue of the Journal Radioprotection (<http://www.radioprotection.org/articles/radiopro/abs/2016/06/contents/contents.html>) containing the proceedings of the dissemination workshop of the European research project PREPARE, held in Bratislava in January 2016.

*Thierry Schneider – CEPN – President of the NERIS Platform*



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## The European CONFIDENCE Project

The CONFIDENCE Project, funded under the H2020 CONCERT project, will perform research focussed on uncertainties in the area of emergency management and long-term rehabilitation. It concentrates on the early and transition phases of an emergency, but considers also longer-term decisions made during these phases. The project brings together expertise from four European Radiation Protection Research Platforms (NERIS, MELODI, ALLIANCE and EURADOS) and also from Social Sciences and Humanities, such that it can address the scientific challenges associated with model uncertainties and improve radioecological predictions and emergency management (NERIS and ALLIANCE), situation awareness and monitoring strategies (EURADOS), risk estimation in the early phase (MELODI), decision making and strategy development at local and national levels (NERIS) including social and ethical aspects (NERIS and Social Sciences and Humanities).

The work-programme of CONFIDENCE is designed to understand, reduce and cope with the uncertainty of meteorological and radiological data and their further propagation in decision support systems (including atmospheric dispersion, dose estimation, foodchain modelling and countermeasure simulations models). Consideration of social, ethical and communication aspects related to uncertainties is a key aspect of the project activities. Improvements in modelling and combining simulation with monitoring will help gaining a more comprehensive picture of the radiological situation and will clearly improve decision making under uncertainties. Decision making principles and methods will be investigated, ranging from formal decision aiding techniques to simulation based approaches. These will be demonstrated and tested in stakeholder workshops applying the simulation tools developed within CONFIDENCE. A comprehensive education and training programme is fully integrated with the research activities.

Scientists from the 31 partner organisations\* from 17 European countries have met in Karlsruhe February 16 and 17, 2017, for the kick-off meeting of the project. Details of the work plan were refined and first steps defined. Links were identified with other ongoing projects (e.g. TERRITORRIES, also funded under the CONCERT project) and the project partners are very happy to share methods and results with their colleagues.

*Wolfgang Raskob – KIT – CONFIDENCE Project Coordinator*

\* KIT (Germany), BFS (Germany), NERC-CEH (United Kingdom), CEPN (France), CIEMAT (Spain), EPA (Ireland), EEAE (Greece), HMGU (Germany), IRSN (France), Mutadis (France), NMBU (Norway), NRPA (Norway), University of Zurich (Switzerland), DH PHE (United Kingdom), DTU (Denmark), RIVM (Netherlands), SCK-CEN (Belgium), STUK (Finland), UML (Italy), VUJE (Slovakia), KNMI (Netherlands), APA (Portugal), Dialogik (Germany), University of Warwick (United Kingdom), IST (Portugal), REC (Slovenia), DLO RIKILT (Netherlands), University of Extremadura (Spain), Met Office (United Kingdom), MTA EK (Hungary), NMI (Norway)



*Participants of the CONFIDENCE Kick-Off meeting*

# FEEDBACK FROM RECENT EVENTS...



## Kick-off of the European TERRITORIES Project, 27 January 2017, Paris

On Friday, January 27, 2017, the kick-off meeting to launch the TERRITORIES\* Project was held in Paris. TERRITORIES is a three-year project (2017-2019), involving 11 partners\*\*\* from eight European countries, which was selected after the first call for projects by European Joint Programming tool CONCERT\*\*.

The TERRITORIES project targets an integrated and graded management of contaminated territories characterised by long-lasting environmental radioactivity, filling in the needs emerged after the recent post-Fukushima experience and the publication of International and European Basic Safety Standards. A graded approach, for assessing doses to humans and wildlife and managing long-lasting exposure situations (where radiation protection is mainly managed as existing situations), will be achieved through reducing uncertainties to a level that can be considered fit-for-purpose. The overall outcome will be an umbrella framework, that will constitute the basis to produce, and disseminate, novel guidance documents for dose assessment, risk management, and remediation of NORM and radioactively contaminated sites as the consequence of an accident, with due consideration of uncertainties and stakeholder involvement in the decision making process.

During the kick-off meeting, each Work Package leader was invited to introduce (in collaboration with other involved partners) works planned in each of these 5 WP: WP1 (Quantifying variability and reducing uncertainties when characterizing exposure of humans and wildlife by making the best use of data from monitoring and of existing models); WP2 (Reducing uncertainties when characterizing exposure scenarios, accounting for human and wildlife behaviour, and integrating social and ethical considerations in the management of uncertainties) ; WP3 (Stakeholder engagement for a better management of uncertainty in risk assessment and decision-making processes including remediation strategies) ; WP4 (Strategic and integrated communication, education and training) and WP5 (Project coordination and management).

Thus, this kick-off meeting was also the opportunity to initiate discussions between the partners, that were all represented by at least one scientist (often more, from various teams), and to promote interlinks sciences involved in this project (such as radioecology, human or ecological dose and risk assessments, social sciences and humanities, etc.).

Let us finish by a preliminary "save the date": you're invited to the final event of TERRITORIES that will be organized in October 2019 to share discussions about the produced guidance documents.

*Marie Simon-Cornu – IRSN – TERRITORIES Project coordinator*

*\*To Enhance unceRtainties Reduction and stakeholders Involvement TOwards integrated and graded Risk management of humans and wildlife In long-lasting radiological Exposure Situations.*

*\*\*CONCERT-European Joint Programme for the Integration of Radiation Protection Research <http://www.concert-h2020.eu/>.*

*\*\*\* IRSN, lead (France), BfS (Germany), CEPN (France), CIEMAT (Spain), NMBU (Norway), NRPA (Norway), Public Health England (United Kingdom), Belgium Nuclear Research Center (Belgium), STUK (Finland), University of Tartu (Estonia), Mutadis(France).*

# FEEDBACK FROM RECENT EVENTS...

## Final SHAMISEN Workshop with a dedicated meeting with stakeholders, 23-24 March 2017, Paris

As part of the OPERRA European Research project, the **SHAMISEN** project aims to draw lessons from the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents and other major nuclear accidents in order to make recommendations for medical and health surveillance of affected populations. These recommendations should improve preparedness for responding to the needs of people affected by previous and possible future radiation accidents, while minimising unnecessary anxiety.

After 16 months of work, SHAMISEN results were presented at the **final consortium meeting**, which took place on March 23 at the OECD headquarters in Paris, followed by a **workshop** on March 24 with relevant **stakeholders** in the field who provided feedback on the draft document.

During the first day, more than 40 consortium partners from eleven countries, plus key actors from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Japan involved in the follow-up of the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents, discussed the main deliverable of the 18-month project, i.e. a series of **recommendations** based on **lessons learned** from past nuclear accidents. On the second day, around 40 stakeholders representing international and European organisations, platforms and national institutions (including WHO, NEA-OECD, NERIS, MELODI, ALLIANCE, CONCERT, EURADOS and ICRP) were invited to provide their input on the recommendations through a series of short presentations and specialised break-out sessions.

SHAMISEN project has produced 28 different recommendations split into general principles, and the three accident phases: Preparedness, Early and Intermediate Phase and Late Phase. Generic enough to be applied in different countries, these recommendations address the following key topics: health surveillance, epidemiological studies, dose reconstruction, evacuation and training of health personnel and other actors involved in liaising with affected populations.

Overall, the project's results were applauded by the various stakeholders, who stressed that its main strength is that it **focuses its attention on the affected people**, addresses psychological and societal aspects as part of their well-being, goes beyond radiation induced diseases, and stresses the importance of empowering the populations to regain control of their lives.

The specific comments on recommendations provided by the participants will be incorporated into the draft document by the end of April. Once the final document has been approved, a communication and translation strategy will be developed in order to communicate the recommendations to the different target audiences and promote their implementation at the regional and national level.

*Elisabeth Cardis (ISGlobal), Deborah Oughton (NMBU) & Thierry Schneider (CEPN)*



*SHAMISEN Project's partners*



## Towards an updated NERIS Strategic Research Agenda

Continuing on the good NERIS Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) discussions during the Radiation Protection Week in Oxford, a NERIS R&D Committee meeting was organized in Brussels on 30-31 January 2017. The meeting was open to NERIS R&D and Management Board members and/or representatives from the different institutes.

During the first day the Scientific Program of the Lisbon NERIS Workshop was discussed. The large number and high quality of research abstracts is a clear indication of the importance of R&D in the field of nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness, response and recovery. NERIS workshops are a vital source of input for the NERIS SRA. Apart from presentations on results originating from ending and ongoing European projects, the work and vision of many researchers and institutions is presented, reflecting the research & operational challenges in this field. The updated NERIS SRA structure will be a guide along which the Lisbon workshop sessions will be largely organized.

In the second day of the R&D Committee meeting, we discussed the update of the NERIS Strategic Research Agenda. While projects in the Euratom framework focus mainly on nuclear accidents, NERIS has a broader perspective including all off-site radiation protection threats. With the recent terroristic acts in Europa, the malevolent use of ionizing radiation is high on the agenda of many Radiation Protection institutes and research organizations. To complement the current NERIS SRA framework and reflect the broader NERIS perspective a comprehensive list was drafted of nuclear and radiological threats identified. Such a list was missing and can be added to the updated SRA. In addition, it was realized that a common terminology is very important. In this context a clear scheme of the different phases and actions in the emergency response and recovery was developed. Finally, and most important the full new structure of the SRA was set-up with the identification and definition of all key topics and sub-topics. This has to be worked out now in full detail to finalize the SRA update and have a broader consultation possible. Whereas the SRA update is going into a direction of finalization, new inspiration and ideas will pop-up during the Lisbon workshop keeping the SRA a living document!

*Johan Camps – SCK-CEN – Chair of the NERIS R&D Committee*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NERIS Workshop & 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 17-19 May 2017, Lisbon



The Third NERIS Workshop on the « *State of the art and Needs for further research for emergency and recovery preparedness and response* » will be held in Lisbon (Portugal) from **17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017**.

The NERIS Workshop 2017 will provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange views with NERIS members, international organisations and European Research communities on research developments and priorities for the European NERIS Platform.

Plenary sessions will be organized on topics related to the 3 research areas of the NERIS SRA, as well as two special topics:

- Challenges in radiological impact assessments during all phases of nuclear/radiological events.
- Challenges in countermeasures and countermeasure strategies in emergency & recovery, decision support & disaster informatics
- Challenges in setting-up a holistic framework for preparedness for emergency response & recovery
- Stakeholder involvement and engagement in emergency and recovery
- Uncertainty handling issues for emergency and recovery

Participation of stakeholders to contribute to the NERIS SRA / NERIS Roadmap is also expected for this workshop.

You are encouraged to submit an abstract for oral or poster presentation on emergency and recovery preparedness and response. All topics related to the 3 research areas of the NERIS SRA or related to the Stakeholder involvement and engagement in emergency and recovery as well as uncertainty handling for emergency and recovery issues are welcomed.

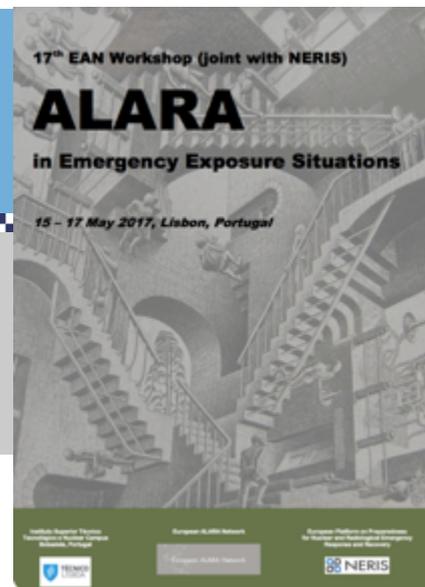
At the occasion of this workshop, NERIS will organise its **General Assembly on May 17 in Lisbon**.

For program, registration and further information, please visit the NERS Website or contact the NERIS Secretariat ([sec@eu-neris.net](mailto:sec@eu-neris.net))

**Registration website** (<http://www.planetreg.com/EANworkshop17NERISworkshop3>) :  
**Deadline on May 5, 2017.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## European ALARA Network – NERIS Workshop on ALARA in emergency and recovery situations, 15-17 May, Lisbon



Emergency exposure situations can arise as a result of a nuclear accident, a malicious or terrorist act, or any other unexpected radiological event. It requires a quick response and sustainable countermeasures and remedial actions in order to avoid or reduce adverse short-term and long-term consequences.

Radiation exposures can be received by the public, first responders, workers and volunteers engaged in the post-accident recovery.

The ICRP recommendations and European Basic Safety Standards – the bases for national regulations –re-emphasize the principle of optimisation (ALARA) as applying to emergency and existing exposure situations. For the purpose of radiological protection, reference levels for emergency and existing exposure situations should be set. More importantly, it is necessary to establish emergency and recovery plans based on an optimum protection strategy, resulting in more good than harm for the exposed people and the affected territories. In that perspective, lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident are of utmost importance.

The objectives of the workshop, organised by the European ALARA Network (EAN), jointly with NERIS, are:

- To show, in particular from the experience of Fukushima accident, the challenges posed by the optimisation of exposures in emergency and post-accident situations;
- To review the national arrangements for assessing, monitoring and mitigating the radiological consequences of an emergency, especially with regard to applying the ALARA principle to public and occupational exposures;
- To review the arrangements for managing emergency doses to workers
- To review the arrangements for providing ALARA-based training for the different types of stakeholders who would be engaged in the emergency response and long-term recovery actions.

The workshop will consist of presentations (oral and posters) intended to highlight the main issues, and a significant part of the program will be devoted to discussions within working groups. From these discussions, participants will be expected to produce recommendations on ALARA in emergency and existing exposure situations, which are addressed to relevant local, national and international stakeholder.

**For program, registration and further information, please visit the NERS Website or contact the coordinator for EAN ([sylvain.andresz@cepn.asso.fr](mailto:sylvain.andresz@cepn.asso.fr))**

**[Registration website](http://www.planetreg.com/EANworkshop17NERISworkshop3) (<http://www.planetreg.com/EANworkshop17NERISworkshop3>) :**

**Deadline on May 5, 2017.**

# Save the Date!

## RICOMET 2017 – Social & ethical aspects on the decision-making in radiological risks situations

The Third International Conference on Risk Perception, Communication and Ethics of Exposures to Ionising Radiation (RICOMET 2017) will be held from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>st</sup> of June 2017 in Vienna (IAEA premises).

The conference Ricomet 2017 will include the following sessions, each open to presentations or posters:

- Integrating societal concerns and ethical considerations in emergency preparedness and response
- Social and ethical aspects in, and of, long-term exposure situations
- Challenges and Solutions for societal aspects of environmental remediation
- Stakeholder engagement in decommissioning of nuclear installations
- Strategic research agenda for Social Sciences and Humanities in radiation protection
- History of risk regulation, including Basic Safety Standards
- Establishing a European Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities research relating to Ionizing Radiation

**Web page:** <http://ricomet2017.sckcen.be/en>



## 4<sup>th</sup> ICERER, 3-8 September 2017, Berlin

The **International Conference on Radioecology and Environmental Radioactivity (ICERER)** is an international conference that covers all subjects related to radioecology/environmental radioactivity. This conference holds every 3 years. The 2017 conference will be in Berlin (Germany) from 3rd to 8th September 2017. The conference will be held at the Maritim Hotel, in centre of Berlin (Stauffenbergstrasse 26).

ICERER 2017 will cover the acquisition of basic scientific knowledge in research dedicated to any human and wildlife exposure situations for a wide range of radioactive sources and scenarios (planned, existing and emergency situations), as well as identifying new societal needs along with technical requirements for regulators and industry. In this respect, members of the NERIS platform are highly encouraged to submit abstracts for the conference.

**Web page:** <http://www.icrer2017.com/>



## Radiation Protection Week 2017 & 4<sup>th</sup> ICRP Symposium, 10-12 October 2017, Paris

**4th International Symposium of the System of Radiological Protection** in conjunction with the **European Radiological Protection Research Week** are being organized in **Paris from 10 to 12 October 2017**.

This combined event will offer the opportunity for professionals, experts and researchers worldwide to discuss their respective concerns and the current challenges faced in all areas of radiological protection, as well as the ways forward through new research, updating doctrines, or better interactions with stakeholders.

**Web page:** <http://www.icrp-erpw2017.com>

