

Training course on Preparedness and response for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies: in Mol, Belgium between the 1st and 5th of October 2012

First meeting of the NERIS Working Group on the Contaminated Goods issues: on the 25th and 26th of October 2012 in Paris, France

Meeting of the NERIS Local Preparedness Working Group: on the 26th and 27th of November 2012 in Oslo, Norway

EDITORIAL ■

FAITH, HOPE AND CONSISTENCY

Today we live in the world where hundreds of nuclear facilities and thousands of other facilities using big radioactive sources are in operation. There are several types of events that could result in dispersion of radioactive substances into the environment. These include both intentional and unintentional events. Operators of these facilities have great faith that major accidents will not happen and the general public can only hope that this is the case. In addition to malfunctions and accidents, today we have to take into account different intentional attempts to use radiation and radioactive sources in malevolent purposes and in terrorist attacks. As the consequence of the terrorist attacks during the past few years, political leaders and authorities have become more aware of a need to re-assess existing threats and our preparedness to them. If a major nuclear accident happens, or terrorists spread big amounts of radioactive material into the environment, the consequences will be multidimensional and may extend to several countries. Actions taken to protect the affected population in different countries shall be consistent in order to preserve the public trust in decision makers both at the political and authority level. Regaining of trust is usually more difficult than losing it. NERIS Platform works on more coherent protective actions in radiological emergencies in Europe.

*Raimo Mustonen
President of the NERIS Platform*

Last Minute

The NERIS Association has been registered on the 28th of August 2012 as legal European Association under the French Law.

FEEDBACK FROM RECENT NERIS EVENTS



NERIS Third General Assembly

24 participants from 11 different countries participated to the third general assembly of the NERIS Platform that took place on the 15th of May 2012 in Glasgow at the occasion of the 13th IRPA Congress. At this occasion, the participants elected the new Management Board members and R&D Committee President (Frank Hardeman, SCK.CEN, Belgium) and unanimously adopted the new statutes of the NERIS Platform towards a legal NGO. In addition, a new Working Group on the contaminated goods issues has been created. The first meeting of this Working Group will be organised on the 25th and 26th of October 2012 in Paris. ■



First NERIS Workshop on the practical implementation of the new ICRP recommendations

One of the NERIS Platform working groups is focused on the practical implementation of the new ICRP recommendations: how they can be applied in the national context; and how they can be integrated into existing Decision Support Systems for emergency and recovery preparedness and management. This challenge is also tackled with the European research project NERIS-TP. Based on the Working Group, an international workshop has been organised by VUJE in cooperation with ICRP in Bratislava, Slovak republic in February 2012. 88 persons from 26 different countries participated.

The Workshop provided a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences on the implementation of the ICRP Recommendations. The international, European and national perspectives were presented.

(...)

(...)

Facilitated discussions were devoted to specific issues related to both the application of ICRP recommendations and methodological aspects of decision support tools. Topical break-out groups focused on how decision aiding tools may support the decision making process and gave insights into development and implementation of protection strategies.

The topics for the four parallel break-out group sessions were:

Topic 1: Regulatory challenges in the preparation for an emergency and how simulation models may support this

Topic 2: Challenges in the practical implementation of countermeasure strategies and their optimisation during an emergency and how simulation models can support this

Topic 3: Challenges in the practical implementation of countermeasure strategies and their optimisation in existing exposure situations and how decision aiding tools can support this

Topic 4: Societal and communication issues and how decision aiding tools might support this.

The main findings of the workshop and breakout session are presented in detail on the NERIS Website - www.eu-neris.net/index.php/component/docman/doc_download/297-icrp-workshop-nerisrpa13.html. ■

Aarhus Convention on Nuclear meeting

The Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN) is a convention, signed in 1998 by the EU and its member States, and based on 3 pillars : public access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters. In this context, a meeting has been organised in February 2012 in Luxemburg on the "Aarhus Convention implementation in the context of a nuclear accident with long lasting consequences – New challenges after Fukushima". The presentations made during the meeting are available on the internet - <http://www.anccli.fr/Europe-International/ACN-Aarhus-Convention-Nuclear/European-round-tables-Tables-rondes-europeennes>. ■

UPCOMING NERIS EVENTS

First meeting of the NERIS Working Group on the Contaminated Goods issues

During the NERIS RTD (Research and Technology Development) Workshop organised in September 2011 in Brussels to identify the needs for further developments and addressing new and emerging challenges in the field of preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery, the participants identified the contamination of goods as one of the issues to be further investigated in this field. As a consequence, during the third NERIS Platform General Assembly organised at the occasion of the IRPA Congress in Glasgow (May 2012), Sylvie Charron (IRSN) proposed to set up a specific Working Group on the contaminated goods issues. The overall objective of the Working Group would be to contribute to the development of strategies, guidance and tools for the management of the contaminated products, in particular foodstuffs, taking into account the view points of producers, processing and retail industries and consumers. The reflection should take into account the experience of several countries after the accidents of Chernobyl and Fukushima. The General Assembly unanimously decides to create this Working Group to address the 'contaminated goods' issues and nominates Sylvie Charron (IRSN) as chairperson of this Working Group. The first meeting will be organised during Autumn 2012 (25-26 October) in Paris, France. ■

Next Meeting of the NERIS Working Group on the Local Preparedness issues

The next meeting of the NERIS Working Group on Local Preparedness will be organized on the 26th and 27th of November 2012 in Oslo, Norway. Among the issues to be addressed: the role of experts in post-accident situations, the progress of the WP3 local-national forums, the preparation of the final NERIS Workshop, etc. If you are interested to participate to this meeting and for any question regarding the working group, please contact the NERIS Secretariat - sec@eu-neris.net. ■

ANNOUNCEMENT

Training Course on Preparedness and Response for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies

October 1-5, 2012

Mol - Belgium



Introduction

Off-site nuclear emergency management has seen major advances in recent years. This notably includes development of improved guidance on the protection of populations in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, enhanced decision support tools, information and data exchange and stakeholder participation.

The aftermath of the nuclear accident in Japan following the tragic earthquake and tsunami has emphasized again the need to thoroughly prepare all aspects of nuclear emergency planning and response.

The course will address the state of the art in nuclear and radiological emergency management including the latest international recommendations, the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident and highlight the challenges we still face.

The course is organised by the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK•CEN in collaboration with the main European actors, in the framework of the European NERIS Technical Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery.

Course content

The course offers a **comprehensive overview of nuclear and radiological emergency management** in Europe. This includes, but is not limited to, principles of intervention; radiological evaluations; decision-support tools; different aspects of planning and organisation in off-site emergency response; economic, social and psychological impact. The European and international dimension is addressed through lectures on Community legislation and international data and information exchange.

In addition, this year's edition dedicates a special session to:

• The Fukushima accident

The accident at Fukushima will be addressed throughout the entire course, and a summary of the radiological consequences and the emergency management aspects will be discussed in a dedicated session.

Throughout the course a good balance is sought between lectures, demonstrations, group exercises and discussions. A table-top exercise simulating a nuclear accident will require the participants to reflect upon and work out an effective emergency response based on information provided in the course.

This combination of theory, practice, tools and experience will help you and your organisation to:

- be prepared for an emergency;
- mitigate the crisis;
- improve the overall response to nuclear or radiological emergencies.

Venue

The course will take place during the week 1-5 October, 2012 in the Auditorium of the SCK•CEN Club-House, Boeretang 201, B-2400 Mol, Belgium.

More information, on-line registration and course programme:

<http://www.sckcen.be/en/Events/TCMOL2012>