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# First annual report of the Platform activities

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# **NERIS-TP**

*Towards a self sustaining European Technology Platform (NERIS-TP) on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery*  
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**NERIS-TP(WP1)**



**NERIS-TP(WP1)**

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## Summary

This report presents the first year operation of the NERIS Platform within the NERIS-TP project, i.e. the activities achieved, the organisation adopted at the end of this first year<sup>1</sup>.

The following Table is summarising the activities realised according to the strategic objectives<sup>2</sup> of the NERIS Platform:

**Table 1: Activities realised according to the different strategic objectives of the NERIS Platform**

Strategic Objectives	Activities realised since the NERIS-TP kick-off meeting
Improving the effectiveness of current European, national and local approaches;	Developing the NERIS Working Groups and Users Groups: First meeting of the ‘ICRP Working Group’ and ‘Preparedness Working Group’ - <b>Meeting of the RODOS Users Group on January 2012</b> - <b>Exchanges between the members of the ‘ICRP Working Group’ and ‘Preparedness Working Group’</b>
	Supporting the development of local initiatives: <b>in France, Norway, Spain, Slovak Republic, etc.</b>
	Involving new stakeholders including local stakeholders in the NERIS Platform activities: <b>43 organisations members of the NERIS Platform (including 1 local stakeholder organisation)</b>
Promoting more coherent approaches in Europe through the establishment of networking activities;	Developing NERIS events (i.e. workshops) to favour the creation of a forum for dialogue between the NERIS members and enable the identification of common views and good practices: <b>Preparation of the ICRP NERIS Workshop</b>
	Creating links with other networks and organisations (ICRP, NEA, WPNEM, CRPPH, IAEA, etc.): <b>Participation/collaboration of these organisations to the NERIS activities (e.g. RTD Workshop and ICRP NERIS Workshop)</b>
	Establishing NERIS as an autonomous Platform in the Long Term by giving a legal statute (NGO) to NERIS: <b>Process engaged (preparation of statutes and review of the Terms of Reference)</b>

<sup>1</sup> The NERIS Platform was launched at the occasion of the first General Assembly in June 2010, its activities began before the response of the EURATOM R&D call for tenders and the kick-off meeting of the NERIS-TP project in February 2011.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in the deliverable ‘D1.2 – Strategic Plan of the Platform’

Strategic Objectives	Activities realised since the NERIS-TP kick-off meeting
<p>Maintaining and improving know-how and technical expertise among all interested stakeholders in Europe by developing a supranational training programme;</p>	<p>Development of the NERIS training courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>One edition of the training course on preparedness and response for Nuclear and Radiological emergencies in 2011</b></li> </ul>
	<p>Diffusion of information to the interested stakeholders through NERIS newsletters and website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>2 issues of the NERIS newsletters published (March 2011 and December 2011)</b></li> <li>- <b>Increase of the connections on the NERIS Website</b></li> </ul>
<p>Identifying needs for further developments and addressing new and emerging challenges.</p>	<p>Organising dedicated Workshops on R&amp;D issues to allow NERIS members to exchange information, views and identify needs for further developments: <b>Organisation of a RTD Workshop on September 2011</b></p>
	<p>Setting up a common reflection and sharing issues on lessons to be learnt from the Fukushima accident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Topic addressed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and during the RTD Workshop</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact of Japanese organisations for future exchanges in the context of the NERIS activities (e.g. ICRP Workshop, WP3 coordination meeting)</b></li> </ul>

## Contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Contents</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1 Presentation of the European Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1 History and objectives of the NERIS Platform	8
1.2 Organisation	9
1.3 NERIS Platform membership	10
<b>2 The activities of the NERIS Platform since its launching</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Working Groups	14
2.2 Training courses	13
2.3 Users Group	14
2.4 Workshops	14
2.5 Dissemination	13
2.6 The future of the Platform in the long-term	15
<b>3 Document History</b>	<b>16</b>

# **1 Presentation of the European Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery**

## **1.1 History and objectives of the NERIS Platform**

In recent years, major improvements have been made internationally (i.e. within IAEA and OECD/NEA programmes) and in Europe (i.e. within the Euratom Framework programmes) in the field of nuclear emergency and post-accident preparedness and management. This notably includes advances in decision support tools and improved methods for information and data exchange. Moreover, participative governance through the setting up of local-national cooperation processes has been initiated in several countries to favour partnership working between local stakeholders and national and international experts in the development and support of local and regional activities.

In particular the European integrated research project EURANOS (2004-2009), funded by the European Commission and 23 European countries, started in April 2004 and ended in July 2009, integrated 17 national emergency management organisations with 33 research institutes and brought together best practice, knowledge and technology to enhance the preparedness for Europe's response to any radiation emergency and long term contamination.

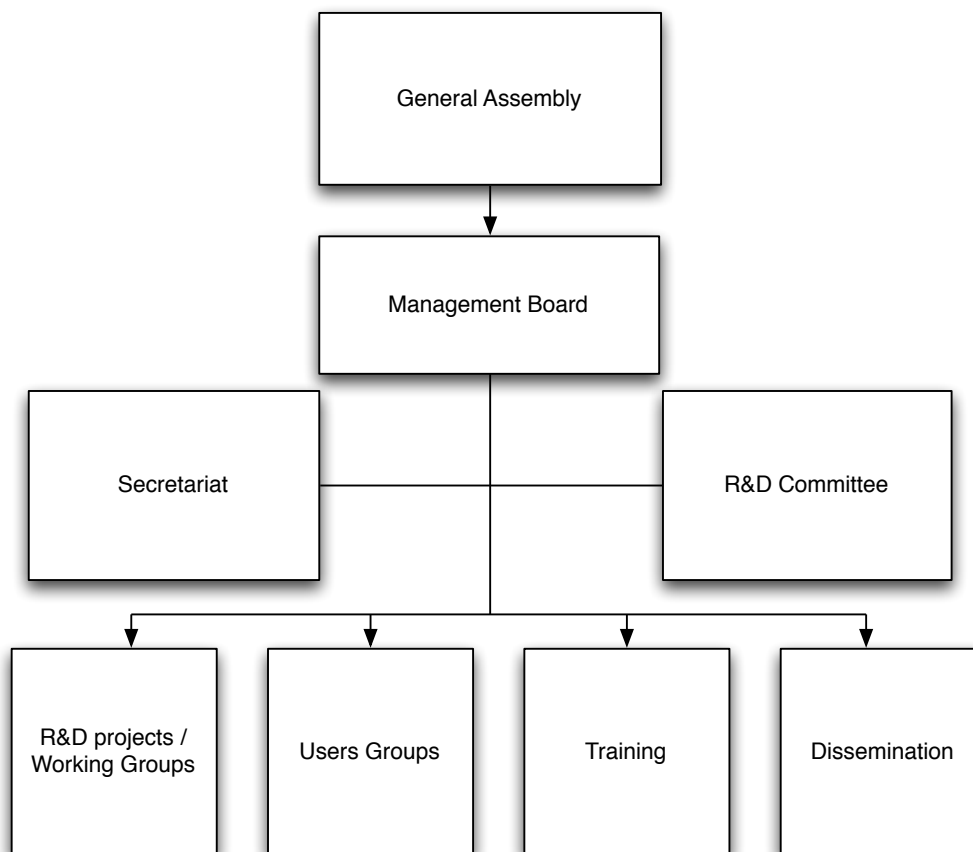
Key objectives of the EURANOS project were to collate information on the likely effectiveness and applicability of a wide range of countermeasures, to provide guidance to emergency management organisations and decision makers on the establishment of an appropriate response strategy, and to further enhance advanced decision support systems (DSS) through feedback from their operational use. Furthermore, the project aimed to develop guidance to assist EU Member States in preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery and to maintain and enhance knowledge and competence through emergency exercises, training and education. The Management Committee of the EURANOS Project started discussions on its possible follow-up in autumn 2008. In the concluding meeting of the EURANOS project in Madrid in June 2009, it was decided to continue the reflection and a meeting addressing this was organised in France in November 2009 with more than 25 interested organisations from 14 countries. These organisations decided, at the end of the meeting, to create a unique European Platform on nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery combining researchers, operational communities and relevant stakeholders.

The first General Assembly of the Platform was organised in June 2010 during the third European IRPA Congress in Helsinki to launch the NERIS Platform activities. The second General Assembly took place in May 2011 in Paris to review the initial results of the Platform's activities, taking into account the support of the EC within the research NERIS TP project, elect new members to the Management Board and to discuss the long-term future of the Platform in the specific context linked to the Fukushima accident, that show the importance of the topics addressed by the NERIS Platform.



## 1.2 Organisation

The NERIS Platform is operated by a management board of 10 members. This board defines the work programme and follows-up its implementation. A secretariat is in charge of the technical administration of the Platform (e.g. website - [www.eu-neris.net](http://www.eu-neris.net) -, publication of two 'NERIS Newsletters' per year) and provides practical assistance for the organisation of the various activities of the Platform. The Secretariat coordinates with other European or international networks to avoid work duplication. An R&D Committee elaborates the strategic orientation of the Platform based on the new areas of interest identified by the Working Groups and the expectations and demands of the NERIS partners. The Platform members meet once a year at the occasion of the General Assembly. The first General Assembly of the Platform was organised in June 2010<sup>3</sup> during the third European IRPA Congress in Helsinki to launch the NERIS Platform activities and agree on the 'Terms of Reference of the NERIS Platform. The General Assembly is the highest decision making body of the Platform (**Figure 1**). The second NERIS General Assembly was organised at the occasion of the second CODIRPA seminar (May 2011). It was also the occasion for the NERIS members to participate to this event and see how is prepared in France the strategy that would have to be implemented in the case of a nuclear post-accident situation.



**Figure 1: NERIS Platform Organisation**

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<sup>3</sup> As the NERIS Platform was launched at the occasion of the first General Assembly in May 2010, its activities began before the response of the EURATOM R&D call for tenders and the kick-off meeting of the NERIS-TP project in February 2011.

### 1.3 NERIS Platform membership

At the beginning of the NERIS-TP Project (1<sup>st</sup> of February 2011), 35 organisations were members of the NERIS Platform. As one of the objective of the NERIS Platform is to try to involve more and more partners from the different colleges as members, the Secretariat continuously contact different organisations in Europe to enlarge the membership of the NERIS Platform, including local stakeholders.

As a consequence, to date, 43 organisations from 22 countries have already joined the Platform which comprises national and local authorities, technical support organisations, professional organisations, research institutes, universities and non-governmental organisations. 22 organisations compose the college 1 - *authorities, TSOs, operators, professional organizations* - and 21 organisations the college 2 - *research institutes/universities, consultants, local and national stakeholders, NGOs-*.

#### College 1:

- CIEMAT (Spain)
- UVM (Germany)
- NRPA (Norway)
- Vuje (Slovakia)
- HPA (UK)
- Institute for nuclear Research (Romania)
- RIVM (Netherlands)
- STUK (Finland)
- SNSA (Slovenia)
- BfS (Germany)
- ASN (France)
- EVIRA (Finland)
- ISS (Italy)
- DEMA (Denmark)
- IRSN (France)
- RIKILT (Netherlands)
- DZZZ (Croatia)
- NAEA (Poland)
- APA (Portugal)
- SURO (Czech Republic)
- ITN (Portugal)
- GRS (Germany)

#### College 2:

- Risø (Denmark)
- IAE POLATOM (Poland)
- KIT (Germany)
- AIT (Austria)
- CEPN (France)
- IFIN-HH (Romania)
- Mutadis (France)
- UCEWP (Ukraine)
- UPM (Spain)
- ANCCLI (France)
- PDC (Denmark)
- UoM (United Kingdom)
- NRG (Netherlands)
- SCK.CEN (Belgium)
- IKE (Germany)
- UOI (Greece)
- UMB (Norway)
- RIR (Belarus)
- PMA (France)
- AgroParisTech (France)
- Taiwan Radiation Protection Association (Taiwan)

In addition, thanks to the financial support of the European Commission, the NERIS secretariat managed the participation of some associated partners, including local stakeholders, to NERIS activities, e.g. the RTD Workshop organised in Brussels (23 September 2011) and the WP3 meeting organised in Orsan (17 and 18 November 2011).

## 2 The activities of the NERIS Platform since its launching

Since the kick-off meeting of the NERIS-TP Project, the support of the European Commission allows to better organise the NERIS activities and better prepare the long-term future of the NERIS Platform (sustainability). This second part will present how the NERIS Platform has evolved during this first year of operation.

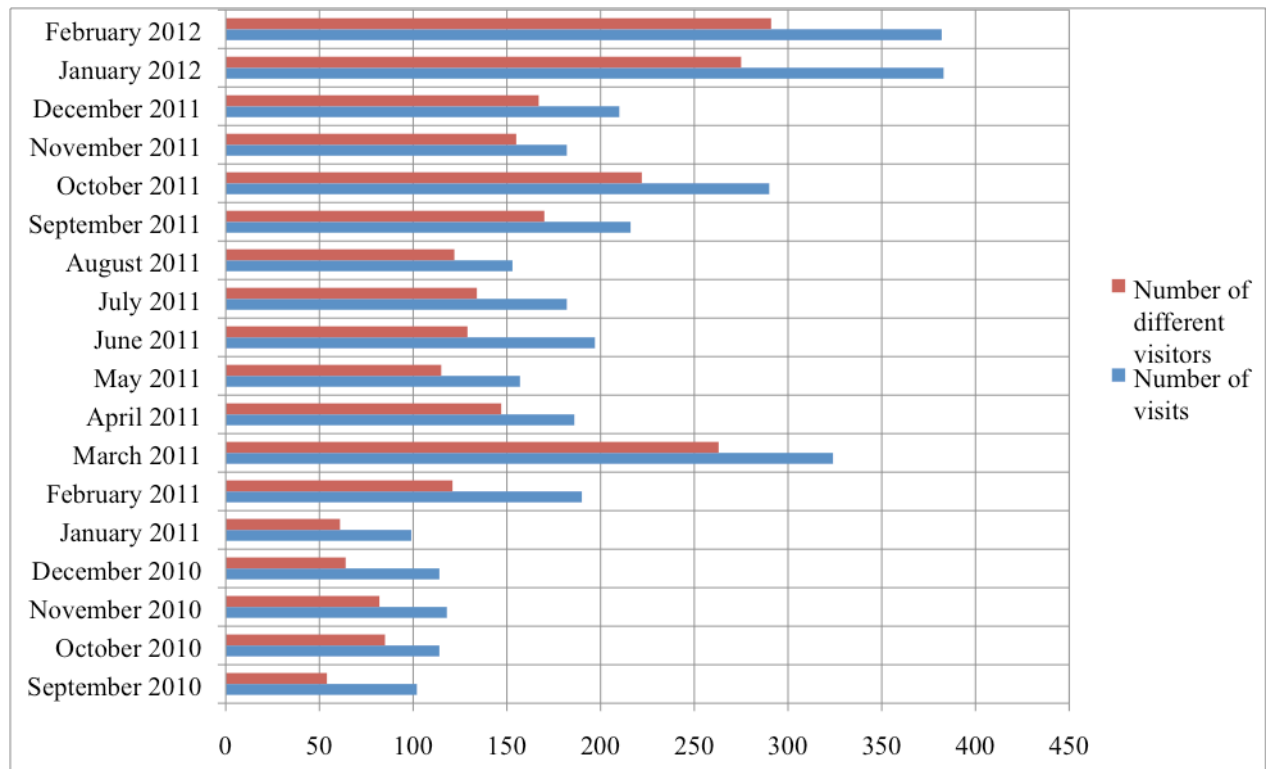
### 2.1 Dissemination

Two Newsletters are circulated every year and a Website - [www.eu-neris.net](http://www.eu-neris.net) - collates all the information related to the NERIS Platform. Since the kick-off meeting of the NERIS-TP Project, two Newsletters have been published in March 2011 and December 2011.

The Website statistics show a global increase of the visits:

**Table 2: Statistics of the NERIS Website ([www.eu-neris.net](http://www.eu-neris.net))**

Month	Number of visits	Number of different visitors
September 2010	102	54
October 2010	114	85
November 2010	118	82
December 2010	114	64
January 2011	99	61
February 2011	190	121
March 2011	324	263
April 2011	186	147
May 2011	157	115
June 2011	197	129
July 2011	182	134
August 2011	153	122
September 2011	216	170
October 2011	290	222
November 2011	182	155
December 2011	210	167
January 2012	383	275
February 2012	382	291



**Figure 2: Statistics of the NERIS Website**

Flyers have been printed in A5 format on June 2011 to disseminate information during seminars and to be distributed in case of poster presentation during conferences.

Abstracts to present the NERIS activities are also submitted for workshops and seminars. The presentations of the NERIS-TP and NERIS Platform made during conferences and seminars are also submitted for publication in scientific journals. During the period, the following presentations of the NERIS Platform have been made:

- International Conference on Radioecology & Environmental Radioactivity, 19-24 June 2011 in Hamilton, Canada – Oral presentation
- Nordic Radiation Protection Society (NSFS) meeting, August 2011 in Reykjavik, Iceland – Poster presentation
- French Society for Radiation Protection (SFRP) annual meeting, 21-23 June 2011 in Tours, France – Poster presentation
- Conference of the Slovak and Czech Radiation Protection Society - Days of Radiation Protection (DRO), 7-11 November 2011 in Vyhne, Slovakia – Poster presentation

During the period, elements to be presented at the occasion of the Aarhus Convention on Nuclear meeting organised on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2012 in Luxemburg have been prepared. In addition, NERIS presentations will be made during the IRPA Congress in Glasgow regarding the ICRP Workshop (oral presentation) and the global overview of the NERIS Platform (poster presentation).

## 2.2 Identification of needs for further development

As one of the objectives of the NERIS Platform is to identify needs for further developments and address new and emerging challenges in the field of preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery, a RTD (Research and Technology Development) Workshop has been initiated by the NERIS management board and organised by the Secretariat together with SCK.CEN on September 2011. 35 participants from 13 different countries participated to this Workshop that took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September in SCK.CEN, Brussels, Belgium. In order to address the different issues, especially after the Fukushima accident, the participants worked in break-out sessions focused on three different topics:

Topic 1. New challenges in atmospheric & aquatic model- ling - Needs for improvement

Topic 2. New challenges for better dose assessments and decision support based on improved knowledge: source term, scenarios, etc.

Topic 3. New challenges in stakeholder involvement and local preparedness and communication strategies

At the occasion of the RTD Workshop, the CRPPH (NEA Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health) provided information to the NERIS secretariat in order to present its work engaged following to the Fukushima accident. Indeed, CRPPH identified a list of questions, raised by the Fukushima experience, to be further investigated by a dedicated expert group.

One objective of the RTD Workshop was also to use the outcomes of the meeting as a starting point for identifying the key topics of the Strategic Research Agenda of the NERIS Platform. This Strategic Research Agenda will also define how to build the NERIS Platform as a sustainable entity in the Long Term.

## 2.3 Training courses

The NERIS Platform also supports the organisation of two training courses:

- The training course on "Preparedness and Response for Nuclear or Radiological Emergencies" organised by SCK·CEN in Mol, Belgium. The main objective of the training course is to provide fundamental knowledge and practical advice to all those involved in emergency planning and response. 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 impacts. During the period, one edition has been organised (October 2011).
- The training course on "Late Phase Nuclear Accident Preparedness and Management" organised by CEPN in Fontenay-aux-Roses, France. This training course deals with the post-accidental period, i.e. weeks, months and years that follow a nuclear accident or a radiological event. The main objective of the course is to provide fundamental knowledge and practical advice for those interested in the rehabilitation of living conditions in contaminated territories following a nuclear accident or a radiological emergency with long-term consequences for the population. The edition of the training course scheduled on March 2012 has been postponed. A new edition may be organised in 2013.

## 2.4 Users Group

Users group of decision support systems are also working under the umbrella of the NERIS Platform. At present, the RODOS Users Group (RUG) created during the EURANOS project to assure that demands of end-users of the RODOS system (Realtime Online Decision Support System for nuclear emergency management) were adequately considered in the development of the RODOS system, continue its operation in the frame of the NERIS Platform. The RODOS Users Group met on January 2012.

## 2.5 Working Groups

Two working groups have been created so far:

- A Working Group on «the practical implementation of the ICRP recommendations».
- A Working Group on «processes and tools for emergency and rehabilitation preparedness at community level».

New Working Groups on specific topics could be created in the future should there be sufficient interest. For example, following the Fukushima accident and as discussed during the RTD Workshop, the creation of a new working group on the ‘contaminated goods’ will be proposed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> NERIS General Assembly on May 2012.

During the period (since February 2011), the Working Group on «the practical implementation of the ICRP recommendations» supported the organisation of an international workshop in February 2012 on «the practical implementation of the ICRP recommendations» (see 2.6 Workshops).

During the period, the Working Group on «processes and tools for emergency and rehabilitation preparedness at community level» agrees to design a template to collect and share information about the preparedness initiatives developed in Europe in a standardised format. This template is based on the Framework for the elaboration of post-accident rehabilitation strategies developed during the EURANOS project<sup>4</sup>. Last but not least, a seminar on the lessons learnt will be organised in 2013.

## 2.6 Workshops

The first NERIS Platform Workshop (February 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic) on «Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery: Implementation of ICRP Recommendations» has been prepared during the period. This first NERIS Workshop was 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 were to provide a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences - for the 88 persons from 26 different countries - 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

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<sup>4</sup> Sustainable rehabilitation of living conditions in contaminated territories after a nuclear accident or a radiological event - Revised framework for the elaboration of post-accident rehabilitation preparedness strategies, EURANOS CAT3 RTD 01 (PREPARE), Deliverable number: D10C3R1

international, European and national standards and guidelines for emergency management and recovery.

## **2.7 The future of the Platform in the long-term**

During the second NERIS Management Board meeting in May 2011, the participants agreed to propose to the General Assembly the evolution of the NERIS Platform statute towards a legal NGO. As the proposal has been accepted during the General Assembly, the statute of the NERIS Platform will become a non-profit organisation under the French law. This new statute will enable to create a legal statute for the NERIS Platform. As a consequence, the NERIS Secretariat has prepared in December 2011 a first draft of the statute and sent it to the Management Board members who will send their remarks. Then, the Secretariat will prepare a second proposal to be discussed during the third General Assembly in May 2012 before registering the NERIS Platform as an association to the French administration. The terms of reference will in the same way be reviewed to present the NERIS Platform as an association. As mentioned previously, the Strategic research Agenda will also define how to build the NERIS Platform as a sustainable entity in the Long Term.

### **3 Document History**

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