
Second 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)

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Summary

This report presents the second year operation of the NERIS Platform within the NERIS-TP project, i.e. the activities achieved, the organisation adopted at the end of this second year.

The following Table is summarising the activities realised according to the strategic objectives¹ of the NERIS Platform:

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

Strategic Objectives	Activities realised during the second year of the NERIS-TP Project
Improving the effectiveness of current European, national and local approaches	Developing the NERIS Working Groups and Users Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of the NERIS Working Group on the Contaminated Goods during the NERIS General Assembly (May 2012) and first meeting in Paris, France on 25-26 October 2012 - Meeting of the WG2 on emergency preparedness and stakeholder participation in Oslo, Norway on 26-27 November 2012 Supporting the development of local initiatives: in France, Norway, Spain and Slovak Republic. Involving new stakeholders including local stakeholders in the NERIS Platform activities: 45 organisations members of the NERIS Platform at the end of January 2013
Promoting more coherent approaches in Europe through the establishment of networking activities	Developing NERIS events to favour the creation of a forum for dialogue between the NERIS members and enable the identification of common views and good practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First ICRP NERIS Workshop in Bratislava, Slovak Republic 6-8 February 2012 - Preparation of the NERIS Topical Workshop on Contaminated Goods scheduled on 22 May 2013 in Madrid - Presentation of NERIS activities at IRPA 12 Congress (Glasgow, May 2012) Creating links with other networks and organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation with ICRP for the organisation of the First NERIS Workshop (Bratislava, February 2012) - Meeting with HERCA and Radiological Alliance in Paris, France on the 2nd July 2012 - Participation to EC meetings on Research Platforms - Identification of cooperation through European research projects on radiation protection (OPERRA) and radioecology (COMETS) - Contact with NEA-CRPPH (Ted Lazo) and IAEA (Miroslav Pinak) and invitation to participate to

¹ As defined in the deliverable 'D1.2 – Strategic Plan of the Platform'

	<p style="text-align: center;">NERIS meetings</p> <p>Establishing NERIS as an autonomous Platform in the Long Term by giving a legal statute (NGO) to NERIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of the NERIS General Assembly in Glasgow (May 2012) - The NERIS Association has been registered on the 28th of August 2012 as legal European Association under the French Law. - Letter sent on the 22nd January 2013 to all members for asking them to become a supporting organisation to the NERIS Platform Association.
Strategic Objectives	Activities realised since the NERIS-TP kick-off meeting
Maintaining and improving know-how and technical expertise among all interested stakeholders in Europe by developing a supranational training programme	<p>Development of the NERIS training courses:</p> <p>One edition of the training course on Preparedness and response for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies in Mol, Belgium 1-5 October 2012</p>
	<p>Diffusion of information to the interested stakeholders through NERIS newsletters and website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 issue of the NERIS newsletter published (September 2012) - Update the NERIS Website
Identifying needs for further developments and addressing new and emerging challenges	<p>Organising dedicated Workshops on R&D issues to allow NERIS members to exchange information, views and identify needs for further developments: Organisation of the NERIS R&D committee and first meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 23-24 October 2012</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"> - Invitation of Japanese organisations to the First NERIS Workshop, - Invitation of Japanese organisations to the WG2 meetings (Oslo November 2012), - Participation to the meetings organised in Japan within the FAIRDO Project (July 2012).

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

1.1 Reminder: history and organisation of the NERIS Platform

The NERIS platform was established in June 2010 during the first General Assembly organised at the occasion of the Third European IRPA Congress in Helsinki. The mission of NERIS is to promote the involvement of different stakeholders and improve public confidence in capabilities of the key players in management of nuclear and radiological emergencies in Europe. The NERIS platform encourages European, national, regional and local authorities, technical support organisation (TSO's), operators, professional organisations, research institutes, universities, non-governmental organisations (NGO's), and national and local stakeholders to co-operate in emergency management, and to facilitate access expertise and technology in maintaining competence in the field of nuclear emergency management for the benefit of European countries and citizens.

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 -, publication of two 'NERIS Newsletters' per year) and provides practical assistance for the organisation of the various activities of the Platform. The NERIS 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 (Figure 1). During the Third General Assembly held in Glasgow on 15 May 2012 at the occasion of the 13th IRPA Congress, the participants 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 and the NERIS R&D Committee members have been nominated. The First NERIS R&D Committee meeting was organised on 23-24 October 2012, in Brussels.

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

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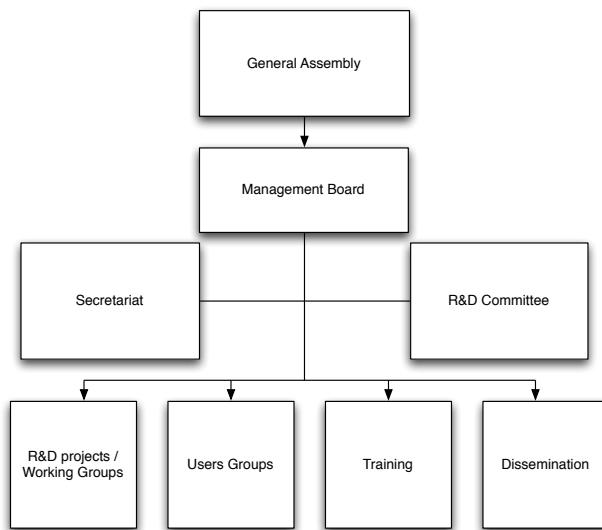


Figure 1: NERIS Platform Organisation

1.2 NERIS Platform membership

At the beginning of the NERIS-TP Project (1st of February 2011), 35 organisations were members of the NERIS Platform. In order to enlarge the membership of the NERIS Platform, the Secretariat continuously contacts different organisations in Europe, including local stakeholders.

In January 2013, 45 organisations from 23 countries have already joined the Platform which comprises national and local authorities, technical support organisations, professional organisations, research institutes, universities and non-governmental organisations. 23 organisations compose the college 1 - *authorities, TSOs, operators, professional organizations* - and 22 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)
- OFSP (Switzerland)

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)
- University of Warwick (UK)

After NERIS Platform's registration as legal European Association under the French Law on the 28th of August 2012, the work to enlarge the membership of the NERIS Platform, including local stakeholders has continued. In addition, activities are the management board decided to invite all NERIS members to become a supporting organisation.

To becoming a supporting organisation of the NERIS Platform, the organisation have to sign the statutes of the legal NERIS Platform adopted during the Third General Assembly in May 2012. The status of supporting organisation gives the possibility to participate in the key decision regarding the activities of the NERIS Platform through the General Assembly and the capacity to be candidate for becoming a member of the NERIS Management Board. The fees for the year 2013 are:

- For college 1: 1000 €
- For college 2: 300 €

A letter has been sent on January 2013 to all NERIS member in order to ask them to support the organization.

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 the second year of the NERIS TP project (February 2012 to January 2013).

2.1 Dissemination

The third Newsletter was published in September 2012.

The Website - www.eu-neris.net - has been updated at the end of 2012 with a new logo and style guide in order to facilitating reading, access and promotion of the NERIS activities. The Website statistics show a light decrease of the visits during spring and summer 2012 then an increase of the visits corresponding to update of the Website. For the duration of the second year 1748 persons have visited the Website whose 57% of new visitors (Table 2 and Figure 2).

Table 2: Statistics of the NERIS Website (www.eu-neris.net)

Month	Number of visits	Number of different visitors
February 2012	382	291
March 2012	306	225
April 2012	163	137
May 2012	182	159
June 2012	160	130
July 2012	185	138
August 2012	149	113
September 2012	190	137
October 2012	201	151
November 2012	247	160
December 2012	266	158
January 2013	432	220

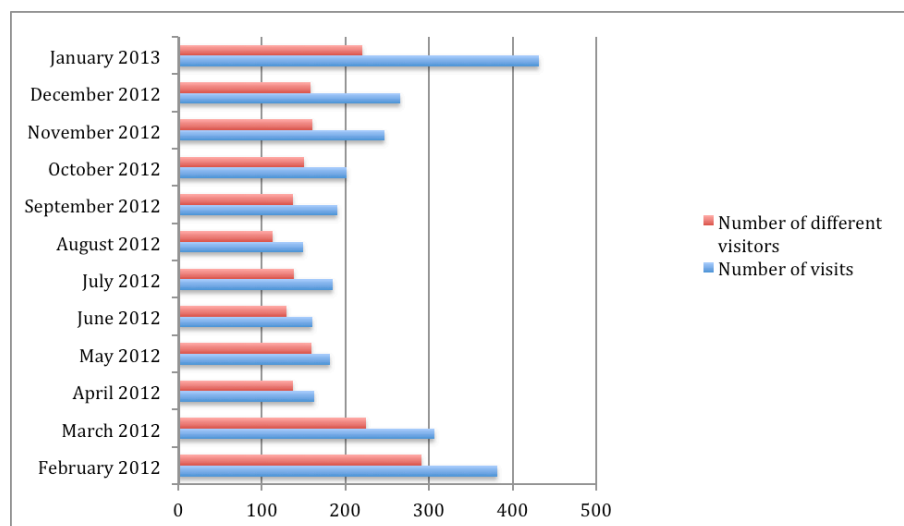


Figure 2: Statistics of the NERIS Website

2.2 Identification of needs for further development

Reminder

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 Secretariat together with SCK.CEN on September 2011 in Brussels. One objective of the RTD Workshop was to use the outcomes of the meeting as a starting point for identifying the key topics of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of the NERIS Platform.

Activities in 2012

The first draft of the SRA was prepared after this workshop and circulated for consultations with the NERIS members and other stakeholders. The second draft was presented at the third General Assembly of NERIS in May 2012. The process of the SRA development is schematically described in Figure 3.

The SRA does not contain specific projects but broader areas where further research and development are needed. Logical Framework Matrix (LFM) is used to describe various R&D areas. Subtopics of the broader R&D areas are given as activities needed in implementation of the topics. The LFM contains also indicators, which are the factors against which the progress and the achievement goal, purpose, results and activities are assessed, and also sources where indicators will be available.

The Key Topics are grouped in the three research areas as follow:

New challenges in atmospheric & aquatic modeling – Needs for improvement

1. Key Topic 1: Atmospheric dispersion modeling
2. Key Topic 2: Aquatic dispersion modeling

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

- 3. Key Topic 3: Improvement of existing Decision Support Systems
- 4. Key Topic 4: Data mining, information gathering and exchange including providing information to stakeholders and mass media
- 5. Key Topic 5: Usage of the existing tools in the best possible way

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

- 6. Key Topic 6: Stakeholder engagement and dialogue
- 7. Key Topic 7: Social media/networking technology

The Strategic Research Agenda also define how to build the NERIS Platform as a sustainable entity in the Long Term.

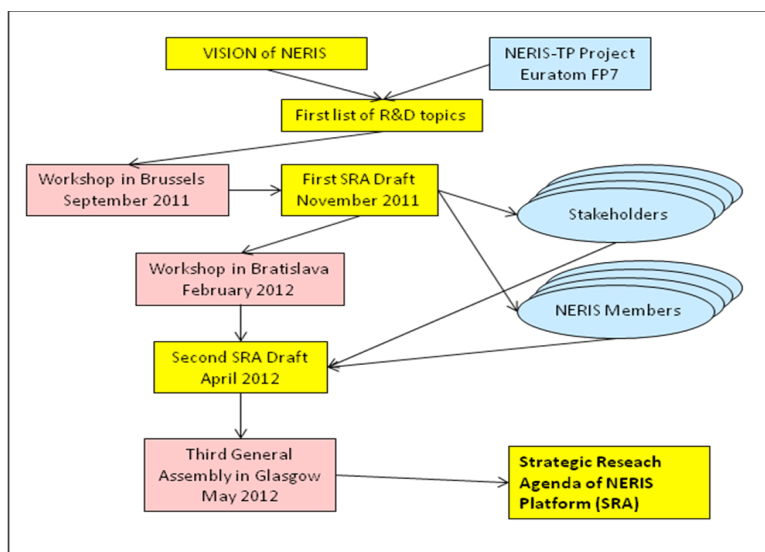


Figure 3: Development of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for the NERIS Platform.

The NERIS R&D Committee met for the first time on 23-24 October 2012 in Brussels, Belgium. During this meeting, the Strategic Research Agenda of NERIS has been presented and discussed with the participants. The Logic Framework Matrix approach was confirmed. To make the SRA a more living document suitable for daily management, it was decided to prepare a deployment plan.

A meeting has been organised with HERCA and Radiological Alliance in Paris on the 2nd July 2012. As a main outcome, some common points of interest were identified, notably for exchanging regularly the activities with HERCA and for better addressing uncertainty in radioecological issues in cooperation with Alliance and better understanding how radiation effects combine in a broader ecological context at higher levels of biological

organisation (population dynamics, trophic interactions, indirect effects at the community level, and consequences for ecosystem functioning). Cooperation could be envisaged through the COMETS project.

In addition, contacts with Ted Lazo from NEA-CRPPH and Miroslav Pinak from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were established to present the NERIS activities and invitations to participate to NERIS meetings were managed.

In order to set up a common reflection and share issues on lessons to be learnt from the Fukushima accident, Japanese organisations have been invited to the First NERIS Workshop in February 2012, to the WP3 meeting in Madrid on March 2012 and to the WG2 meeting organised in Oslo on November 2012.

A collaboration has been initiated between NERIS Working Group on Local Preparedness and FAIRDO Project (Fukushima Action Research on effective Decontamination Operation). The FAIRDO Project is led by the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) and funded by the Ministry of Environment of Japan. On July 2012, members of NERIS Management Board have participated to meetings organised in Japan within the FAIRDO Project. A cooperation agreement NERIS – IGES will be envisaged in 2013.

2.3 Training courses

The NERIS Platform also supports the organisation of 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 2012).

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) continue its operation in the frame of the NERIS Platform. The RODOS Users Group met during 2012 and a meeting was scheduled on the 6th and 7th of February 2013, in Karlsruhe.

2.5 Working Groups

At the beginning of the NERIS-TP Project two working groups have been created:

- 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».

Following the Fukushima accident and as discussed during the RTD Workshop, a new Working Group on the Contaminated Goods has been created during the third General Assembly in Glasgow on 15 May 2012. The first meeting of this Working Group was held on the 25th and 26th of October 2012 in Paris.

During the second year, 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, a meeting of the Working Group on « processes and tools for emergency and rehabilitation preparedness at community level » has been organised on Emergency Preparedness and Stakeholder Participation on the 26th and 27th of November 2012 in Oslo, Norway. The meeting was attended by 29 participants and divided into three main sessions: the first on European national stakeholder processes, including presentations of experience from activities in Belarus, Spain, Norway, France and Slovakia; and the second on Fukushima experience, including presentations on the FAIRDO project, local stakeholder participation processes, ICRP co-expertise dialogues on “rehabilitation of living conditions after Fukushima accident”, and the effectiveness of decontamination processes. Both presentations and the following discussions highlighted the complexity of the situation, and that radiation issues were only one part of a much broader challenge. The final part of the meeting was dedicated to creating a knowledge database of stakeholder participation and involvement processes. After presentations to introduce the rationale of such a database and possible content, the participants further discussed the structure and criteria: specifically: i) Why and how to preserve the knowledge base of stakeholder engagement; ii) What elements need to be shared? What is meaningful? What is useful? iii) What is the goal; and iv) Who is the audience? There was a consensus on the need to get started, and to provide a template and examples. The final product should be available for presentation at the dissemination workshop of the NERIS-TP project, which will be organized between the 22nd and 23rd of January 2014 in Oslo, Norway.

2.6 Workshops

The first NERIS Platform Workshop on «Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery: Implementation of ICRP Recommendations» was organised between the 6th and 8th of February 2012, in Bratislava 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 international, European and national standards and guidelines for emergency management and recovery.

The NERIS management board decided to support the organisation of a topical workshop at the initiative of the NERIS Working Group on Contaminated Goods, focussing on international experiences in the management of contaminated foodstuff and other goods after Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents in May 2013.

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. At the occasion of the Third General Assembly on the 15th of May 2012 in Glasgow, the participants unanimously adopted the new statutes of the NERIS

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Platform towards a legal NGO. In addition, the participants confirmed the election of the Management Board members and R&D Committee President. As a consequence, the NERIS Association has been registered on the 28th of August 2012 as legal European Association under the French Law. On January 2013, a letter has been sent all members in order to propose them to support the NERIS Platform and to become a supporting organization.

Now, the organisations willing to become the supporting organizations of the NERIS Platform association have the opportunity to sign the statutes. Then, the organisations will be divided in two categories:

- The organizations **Members of the NERIS Platform**, signing the Terms of Reference.
- The **supporting organizations of the NERIS Platform association**, signing the Terms of reference and the association statutes. These organisations will have the possibility to vote during the General Assembly and would have the opportunity to be elected to the Management Board. In addition, in the future, these organisations would have reduced fees for the Workshops.

In addition, the management board made the following statement on October 8, 2012, concerning the future of European research activities in radiation protection:

The NERIS Management Board (MB) reviewed the draft OPERRA proposal during its 6th meeting on October 8, 2012. Based on the available information on OPERRA, the members of the NERIS MB make the following statement:

- *NERIS MB acknowledges the objective to have only one platform to administrate R&T programs for radiation research in the Horizon 2020, this platform being an umbrella with at least 3 autonomous pillars: MELODI, ALLIANCE and NERIS.*
- *NERIS MB considers it important that research in management of nuclear and radiological emergencies remains as a key part of the European research agenda also in the future.*
- *NERIS MB welcomes the proposal to involve NERIS as such in the Management Board of the OPERRA project, and is ready to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with MELODI and ALLIANCE in this perspective.*
- *NERIS MB recognised that the proposed structure for OPERRA gives the opportunity to investigate the different issues at stake in the perspective of establishing a common platform for R&T programs. Two requirements are expressed to ensure an efficient involvement of NERIS in these investigation activities:*
 - *NERIS MB recommends that the work-packages give more visibility to emergency and post-accidental issues in the topics to be addressed, notably concerning risk governance issues. Informal discussions have already occurred with work-package leaders but it is useful to have an official agreement with them on the final description of the work-packages.*
 - *The proposed investigation activities will require the involvement of NERIS representatives first of all in the Management Board meetings of the OPERRA*

project as well as in different meetings to cope with the issues of the different work-packages. NERIS MB recognised that this would require a commitment of resources and that NERIS MB would have to identify specific funds for performing these activities. NERIS MB intends to ask for funding from the EC in this perspective, giving the opportunity to NERIS MB to cooperate efficiently with the different pillars for establishing of the future platform for R&T programs. For this purpose, NERIS could be funded also directly through its legal entity.

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