

NERIS forthcoming events:
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27 June 2014: Fifth NERIS General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland

16-19 September 2014: PREPARE (WP7) Training Course on "Late Phase Nuclear Accident Preparedness and Management" in Gomel, Belarus Republic



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

Issue 7 | March 2014

EDITORIAL ■

Sustainability of the NERIS Platform is now a reality! With the end of the NERIS TP project, the Platform is relying on the NERIS Supporting Organisations to ensure its well functioning. In addition, the results of the NERIS TP research project and the current developments within the PREPARE research project show the merits of the NERIS Platform. This needs to be reinforced and the results have now to be shared and discussed with a broader community.

Beyond the research activities and the associated meetings referred to in this Newsletter, the key challenge for this year is the organisation of the common road map on radiation research in Europe with our colleagues from MELODI, ALLIANCE and EURADOS in the perspective of European research programme Horizon 2020.

A new version of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) is now available thanks to the work of the NERIS R&D Committee. In order to reach the expectations of the NERIS memberships, a consultation process will be organised in the following weeks. Due to the first lessons from the Fukushima accident and its management, as well as the evolution of international and national organisations' emergency and recovery strategies, it is essential to review and agree on the key priorities for further researches.

I invite all of you to come to discuss these issues during the next NERIS General Assembly to be held at the end of June in Geneva.

Thierry Schneider

President of the NERIS Platform

FEEDBACK FROM RECENT NERIS EVENTS

■ ■ Workshop "Review of post-accident preparedness initiatives at the territorial level" (Bordeaux, 12th-13th September 2013)

A workshop on the theme of "Review of post-accident preparedness initiatives at the territorial level – European and French return of experience, elements of international return of experience in the post-Fukushima context" was organised on 12th and 13th September in Bordeaux by the ANCCLI (National Association of Local Information Commissions and Committees), the CLIN (Nuclear Local Information Commission) of Blayais within the NERIS-TP research project.

The workshop was attended by 54 participants: members of different CLIs (including members of the permanent working group "territories and post-nuclear accident" of the ANCCLI), local stakeholders (local elected representatives and municipal staff, local divisions of State administration, Regional health agency, NGOs...), the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN), the Institute of Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN), the National Direction for Civil Security and Crisis Management (DGSCGC), members of the NERIS-TP research team and a Japanese expert (member of the International Commission on Radiological Protection I(CRP)).

The workshop reviewed the existing initiatives in the field of emergency and post-accident preparedness or management engaging territorial actors in France, Europe and in Japan.

The presentations of the workshop are available on the ANCCLI Website: <http://www.anccli.fr/Post-Accident/Bordeaux-CLIN-du-Blayais-12-13-septembre-2013-Atelier-NERIS-Post-Accident>. ■

■ ■ NERIS-TP Dissemination Workshop, 22-24 January 2014, Oslo

The final Dissemination Workshop "Strengthening the preparedness at national and territorial level using new tools and methods – stakeholders experiences", was conducted in Oslo from 22 to 24 January 2014. The workshop was organized by NRPA, Norway, in close cooperation with all NERIS-TP partners and the NERIS Platform. International organisations such as HERCA, EC DG Research, IAEA, OECD/NEA/WPNEM, NTW (Nuclear Transparency Watch), GMF (Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities), a representative of the OPERRA research project and Japanese experts involved in the post-accident management of the Fukushima accident were contacted and confirmed their active participation in the workshop and particular panels. The workshop focused on the following topics:

- Stakeholder engagement in Europe and Japan
- Improved Tools, Demonstration exercise
- Way forward for building national resilience

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FEEDBACK FROM RECENT NERIS EVENTS

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82 experts and stakeholders participated in the workshop, representing twenty countries. Some were representing international organisations (HERCA, EC DG Research, IAEA, OECD/NEA), NGOs (NTW -Nuclear Transparency Watch, GMF -Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities) and other research projects (OPERRA). The first day of the workshop focused on the local-national cooperation in emergency preparedness and the evaluation of local-national fora presented by Spanish, French, Norwegian, Slovakian, Belarusian and Japanese participants. The second day was dedicated to the presentation and demonstration of the new methodologies and tools. A series of demonstrations and presentations focused in particular on the linking with the early notification system of the IAEA (USIE), the world-wide applicability of JRodos, the ICRP Publication 103 Screening tool and the two late phase models for inhabited areas and agricultural production systems, ERMIN and AgriCP, respectively. Local stakeholders, including those from Japan, reported about their experience in using some of these tools at the local level. The third day started with the feedback from discussion groups and was followed by a panel discussion in which representatives of HERCA, EC DG, IAEA, NEA, NTW, GMF and OPERRA presented their views on the way forward for building resilience in emergency management and rehabilitation preparedness. This was completed by presentations of the NERIS Platform, the NERIS Strategic Research Agenda and the European research project PREPARE.

The workshop presentations will be issued in a special issue of Radioprotection in 2014.

The program of the workshop and presentations are available on NERIS website <http://www.eu-neris.net/index.php/activities/workshops/75-neris-tp-dissemination-workshop-22-24-january-2014-oslo-norway-presentations.html> ■

Astrid Liland - NRPA, Wolfgang Raskob - KIT, Thierry Schneider - CEPN

New emergency planning zones for nuclear power plants in Germany

Based on the information obtained in connection with the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, the German Commission on Radiological Protection (SSK) has reviewed the technical basis for emergency protection in Germany and the related rules and regulations. The rationale of the review was more oriented to the potential impact to the public than to the calculated probability of occurrence of nuclear accidents.

Comprehensive dose assessments have been performed for three sites in Germany by applying a potential source term similar to the one from the Fukushima incident and using weather data from one representative year. More than 4000 different calculations have been evaluated with respect to deterministic and stochastic health effects. Taking into account the dose criteria for deterministic effects and the German intervention criteria of 10 mSv for sheltering, 100 mSv for evacuation, 50 mSv for iodine thyroid blocking for children and pregnant women and 250 mSv

for iodine thyroid blocking for adults (younger than 45 years), the following recommendations were issued

- Within 5 km, plans should be prepared for the evacuation of the population within 6 hours, for iodine thyroid blocking and for sheltering.
- Within 20 km, plans should be prepared for the evacuation of the population within 24 hours, focusing first on the sectors in which the release may transport the radioactive material. Additionally, iodine thyroid blocking and sheltering have to be pre-planned.
- Within 100 km, monitoring strategies should be developed to initiate further countermeasures such as iodine thyroid blocking and sheltering.
- For whole Germany, detailed monitoring programs and the distribution of iodine tablets to children (< 18 years) and pregnant women is foreseen.

These recommendations will be discussed with the German Länder, responsible for emergency management and it is expected that implementation will start in 2015. ■

Florian Gering - BfS, Wolfgang Raskob - -KIT

RODOS user group meeting in Brugg, Switzerland

54 members of the international RODOS user group (RUG) from 18 countries participated in the yearly meeting of the group on February 27-28, 2014 in the premises of the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate ENSI in Brugg, Switzerland. The meeting was chaired by Cyrill von Arx (ENSI) and the RUG chairman Florian Gering (BfS, Germany). The RUG was founded 10 years ago to facilitate the exchange of information between users of the computer system RODOS and to discuss priorities for future improvements of the system. The RODOS system is designed to quickly assess the consequences of accidents leading to releases of radionuclides into the environment. All participants agreed that the meeting was very productive and that the hospitality of the Swiss hosts was remarkable. ■



Florian Gering - BfS, Wolfgang Raskob - -KIT

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FEEDBACK FROM RECENT NERIS EVENTS

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Presentation of PREPARE during a European hearing on “off-site crisis communication with the public in case of nuclear and radiological emergency” (European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels, 12th February 2014)

This hearing was organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) jointly with the European Commission. It took place in the context of the work of the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) on Transparency. This event took place in the framework of the preparation of a Communication of the European Commission on «Nuclear off-site emergency preparedness and response and nuclear third party liability» to be proposed in 2014. The hearing included 2 parts respectively focusing on the identification of gaps and problems and on possible solutions. The PREPARE European research project was presented by Wolfgang Raskob (KIT), Coordinator of the project and Stéphane Baudé (Mutadis) during the 2nd part of the hearing. This presentation included a general presentation of the project and a focus on the 6th work package of PREPARE dedicated to information and participation of the public.

All information about this hearing, including presentations by the speakers and a short report of the key findings are available on the EESC website: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-crisis-communication> ■

Stéphane Baudé - MUTADIS, Wolfgang Raskob - -KIT

Feedback on the Training Course held in Trnava, October 21-25, 2013 and the dissemination of the research results

The training course “Preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery: Usage of the new products for supporting the management team”, was held in Trnava, Slovak Republic on 21 - 25 October 2013 with 22 participants from Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, India, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic. One participant represented the IAEA.

The course aimed to widespread the usage of the new tools developed and integrated to the Decision Support Systems, such as RODOS and ARGOS, using JRodos as an example. This course focused on practical exercises and demonstration of practical applicability of the new tools using the common scenario. The “Exercise guidance implemented to the Mochove NPP hypothetical accident scenario” has been developed and used. A particular attention was given to “stakeholder involvement” approaches to enhance off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response arrangements and to enhance the recovery preparedness process.

Active participation in technical national exercises and the use of the end products in the community was announced during the training course. In this way, the participants had the opportunity to become familiar with new tools and establish some knowledge and skills for the preparation and conduction of exercises in their countries.

Technical and dissemination exercises as well as national workshops have been conducted in the Netherlands, Slovak Republic, Poland and Finland from November 2013 up to January 2014. Other countries expressed their willingness to perform exercises which will be carried out beyond NERIS-TP Project. The results of the exercise performance in Spain, Slovak Republic and Japan have been presented during the NERIS-TP dissemination workshop, held on January 22-24, 2014 in Oslo, Norway. ■



Tatiana Duranova - -VUJE

Main outputs of the PREPARE - WP6 workshop in Lisbon

“Managing Complexity in Nuclear Accidental Situations - Experts Interacting with Experts and Society”

The existing plurality of stakeholders, as experienced during the Fukushima crisis, raises questions, amongst other, on the way the society endows itself with the means to decide, on an enlightened basis. Which experts society wants to listen to, on which subjects, by which means, at what moment and for what purpose?

This also raises a key question for experts as regards the nature of their contribution to the quality of emergency and post-emergency response: do experts have a role in managing their interactions (among themselves and with the media and the society) in such situations to allow the society to access trustworthy information and to grasp the complexity, and under which conditions?

Those issues were at the core of the discussions held in Lisbon, during the workshop “Managing Complexity in Nuclear Accidental Situations - Experts Interacting with Experts and

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Society”, organised by Work Package 6 of the PREPARE project, in november 2013. The workshop gathered around 40 participants, from Japan and Europe, representing a variety of experience, expertise and perspectives linked to different positions (institutional and non institutional experts, authorities, etc.).

Beyond the broad range of information and experience provided through the presentations from their Japanese colleagues, European participants also realised that in Japan, experts and stakeholders are still focused on the follow-up of the Fukushima catastrophe (on safety and radiological protection issues) and are not yet in a position to draw their own return of experience. However their testimony is unique and mostly needed to develop experts preparedness in Europe. They also provided an invaluable input for our working sessions.

The interaction situations that experts encounter in the case of a nuclear emergency are very diverse (in content and nature) and complex. Discussions confirmed that a «mapping» can help clarifying, for themselves and the society, what roles and issues can be relevantly expected to be covered regarding experts' position and competence.

Program, background documents, and most presentations are available at:

<http://www.enerwebwatch.eu/prepare-p22.html> ■

Julie Hazemann - EnerWebWatch: julie.hazemann@enerwebwatch.eu, Yves Marignac - WISE-Paris: yves.marignac@wise-paris.org, Gilles Hériard-Dubreuil - MUTADIS

The Memorandum Of Understanding for an integrative approach to European Radiation Protection research

On 5 December 2013 MELODI, the European Radioecology Alliance (ALLIANCE), NERIS and EURADOS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to confirm their joint commitment towards the consolidation and implementation of a strategic vision of radiation protection research in Europe. This ceremony took place at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, in presence of Bruno Schmitz, Head of Unit K4 "Fission" at the Directorate General for Research and Innovation.

The Memorandum of Understanding is available on the NERIS Website: www.eu-neris.net ■

2 new NERIS Supporting Organisations

University of Warwick (UK) and the Instituto Superior Técnico – IST (Portugal) have signed the NERIS Association statutes and are now NERIS supporting organisations.

Currently, 21 members among the 49 organisations members of the NERIS Platform are supporting organisations.

If you are interested in becoming a supporting organisation, please visit the NERIS Website: www.eu-neris.net or contact the NERIS Secretariat: sec@eu-neris.net ■

Thierry Schneider - President of the NERIS Platform, NERIS Secretariat - CEPN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fifth General Assembly NERIS 27 June 2014, Geneva Switzerland

The Fifth General Assembly of the NERIS Platform will take place on Friday, June 27, 2014 from 2.00 to 5.00 pm at the occasion of the Fourth European IRPA Congress in Geneva. The meeting will be held at the International Center of Conference Geneva (CICG), 17 Rue de Varembe - Geneva, Switzerland. ■

For further information on the Fourth European IRPA Congress, please visit the NERIS Website: www.eu-neris.net

Training Course on "Late Phase Nuclear Accident Preparedness and Management" 16-19 September 2014 Gomel, Belarus

This training course is organised by the Nuclear Protection Evaluation Center (CEPN - France) and the Institute of Radiology (RIR - Belarus), in the framework of the EC FP7 "PREPARE" Project in cooperation with the NERIS Platform. It will take place from September 16-19, 2014 in Gomel, Belarus and is limited to 24 participants.

The main objective of the course for late phase nuclear accident preparedness and management is to provide principles and practical guidance for the key players involved in the preparedness for rehabilitation of living conditions in contaminated areas in the aftermath of a nuclear/radiological accident. The course will offer a comprehensive overview of the various dimensions and challenges of rehabilitation. It will include also practical elements for the implementation of countermeasures for managing long-term contaminated rural and urban environments, notably through the organization of a direct dialogue with local stakeholders living in the areas affected by the Chernobyl accident.

The course relies on the practical experience of Belarussian organisations in the management of the Chernobyl consequences as well as on the first lessons from the management of the consequences of the Fukushima accident. ■

For further information, please visit the NERIS Website: www.eu-neris.net or contact Sandra Biguenet, CEPN - sandra.biguenet@cepn.asso.fr