

European Radiation Protection Authorities Network (ERPAN)

Looking back on two years of life

Stephen Fennell

Where/How did it begin?

8th EAN Workshop (Uppsala, September 2004)

- Occupational Radiological Control through Inspection and Self-Assessment

"National Authorities should promote communication between different National Regulatory Authorities"

- Exchange of Information on licensing, inspection
- Joint inspections
- Network of contacts

Knowledge Networking

- Networks, by definition, connect everyone to everyone. Hierarchies by definition, do not; rather they create formal channels of communication and authority. Networks operate informally with few rules, they depend on trust - *Gilbert Probst (2006)*
- Knowledge networking is not a top-down formal organization as a task force or project team would be. There is no one person "in charge" of the community, although there may be founding members - *wikipedia (2008)*

The Birth

- December 2005 - Nicolas and Stephen approached by Christian Lefaure
- December 2006 - preliminary meeting (Gareth's input)
- Aim: to **promote communication** between national regulatory authorities including the **exchange of information, requirements and experiences on the process of authorisation and inspection methods** employed in European countries in order to **promote the ALARA principal**
- Scope: all radiation protection topics relevant to European radiation protection authorities relating mainly to **non-nuclear users** of ionising radiation such as research, education, medical and industrial application as well as NORM.

Participants

18 individuals from regulatory authorities in:

Belgium

Czech Republic

France

Germany

Greece

Ireland

Luxemburg

Netherlands

Norway

Romania

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

United Kingdom

Romania

Meetings

June 2006 - first meeting

Joint Inspections
HASS Directive
Methodology of inspections
Novel approaches
Recent incidents

June 2007 - second meeting

Training of inspectors
Web based authorisations
EUTERP
Inspection methodology
Stakeholder engagement
Accreditation
Novel approaches
Recent incidents



Requests for Information

- Use of Cyberknife - experiences?
- Guidance on nuclear medicine source deliveries
- Dentist - requirements for TLD and lead aprons
- Regulation of chiropractors (BSS & MED)
- Disposal of waste from nuclear medicine departments
- Implementation of HASS Directive
- Wipe testing requirements for Co-57 flood sources
- Use of hand held dental X-ray equipment (NOMAD)
- Kr-85 and tritium sources
- QA requirement/programmes in medical radiology departments
- Mobile electron radiotherapy units -experiences?
- Inspection of radiotherapy facilities
- Medical Physics support in dental radiology

Joint Ventures

- Ireland/UK - PET/CT training course for inspectors
- Belgium/Germany - inspection of Co-60 irradiator in Bavaria
- Greece/Ireland - "How to Inspect" training course
- Greece/Ireland - inspection of nuclear medicine department
- Ireland/Luxemburg - visit to regulatory authority
- Netherlands/Belgium - regulatory authorities meeting
- Netherlands/Belgium - RPA meeting
- Switzerland/France - inspection of radiology department
- France/Switzerland - inspection of radio-oncology department
- UK/Germany - possible future joint inspection
- Ireland/UK - arranging future joint inspection



Comments Received

- Questions can be asked in an unofficial & simple way
- Personal contact - similar interests
- Confidence/reassurance - other countries have similar radiation protection issues and problems
- Support available
- Effective and speedy tool to canvas/survey positions across Europe
- A good impulse to work together on European level
- Good experience to be encouraged (subject to budgets!)

External Interest

- 10th EAN Workshop, Prague (September 2006)
- 3rd RECAN Workshop, Brasov (October 2007)
- Meeting of Heads of Regulatory Authorities (M. Lacoste's network)?