



European ALARA Network

EAN SEMINAR

1st to 3rd June 2014 – Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly, France

Meeting Minutes

Final version

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STRITT Nicolas	SFOPH	Switzerland, Treasurer
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Apologies for absence:

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Diffusion:

Members of the EAN Steering Group, IAEA and observers, RECAN, ARAN, ALARA NORM Network, EFNDT, EFOMP, and EFRS contact persons.

The documents distributed during the meeting are available in the private area of the EAN website (see list in Annex A). Please use the following information to log-on:

login: lastname **password:** ean-lastname

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1. INTRODUCTION

In its Terms and Conditions, the European ALARA Network, was initially created for a period of five years (2005-2010), and extended at the occasion of the 1st EAN brainstorming Seminar (Vaux-de-Cernay, 2009) to July 2015.

As the second term is coming to an end, Members initiated a new EAN Seminar to discuss the feedback of the last five years and prepare the future of the Network. The seminar took place at the Château de Montvillargenne in Chantilly, near Paris.

The seminar aimed at reviewing and assessing the implementation and results of the EAN Strategic Agenda 2010 – 2015 (Strategic Objectives and work programme). The assessment of how the Network is working was also discussed.

This assessment intended to find ways to improve the future work of EAN and make progress in its recognition as an expert organization in ALARA issues and sharing of its work.

A new Strategic Agenda for the 2015 - 2020 period was drafted.

2. DISCUSSION ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Information on the final accounts for 2013 and the provisional budget for 2014 can be found in the minutes of the Administrative Board meeting (CRR/EAN/AB/20) available online.

The budget for EAN is reduced, as ASN (France) and NRG (the Netherlands) will not pay fees for 2014 (that is to say a reduction of 14,000 € in the budget). Several ways are investigated to compensate this reduction in the EAN budget:

1. In December 2013, letters have been sent to the EAN contact organizations of countries that are not paying fees (namely GR in Iceland, ISS in Italy, ITN in Portugal, SIS in Denmark and SRPA in Slovenia – action endorsed according to EAN/SG/36 minutes). But only answers from SRPA and ITN have been received yet. SRPA indicates that due to the economic context, it is not able to provide any EAN fees.

Action: A. Schmitt-Hannig is to contact GR in Iceland again, by outlining the involvement of GR in the HERCA project.

Action: M. Novakovic is to contact Poland and Hungarian and former members of the RECAN (Lithuania, ...) to see if they are interested to participate to EAN.

Action: B. Ekström is to contact Finland (STUK) to see if they are interested to be an EAN AB Member.

2. Other possibilities may be investigated; operators (through ISOE network), small companies (industrial radiography, ...), research and training centres, RPEs and RPOs, national societies of radiation protection (through IRPA) etc. The cooperation with these organizations could take different shape (benchmarking activities for example). A letter presenting EAN achievements, and asking to these stakeholders what they should expect in return from EAN will be prepared.

Action: P. Croûail and F. Vermeersch are to continue contacting French CEA-INSTN and Dutch competent authorities.

3. In between workshops, other finances should be sought. For instance, the participation of EAN Members to projects, within a EAN consortium, as a single entity, (as it was done within the EC-FP7 Transusafe project), must be envisaged and encouraged.

It must be clarified what is the interest for EAN Members (i.e. rights and duties) which is brought by paying fees.

For now, a reduction of costs (reduction of the CEPN workload and increase of the CEPN in-kind contribution) is planned for the 2014/2015 period.

The possibility of planning one two-days meeting per year to reduce travel cost has also been evoked by AB Members. A more formal and individual invitation of the contact persons should be sent to EAN Members.

3. RENEWAL OF THE 'BUREAU'

The Bureau remains unchanged:

Chair: F. Vermeersch, SCK•CEN (re-elected);

Vice-chair: P. Croûail, CEPN (re-elected);

Secretary: P. Shaw, PHE (re-elected);

Treasurer: N. Stritt, OFSP (re-elected).

At the occasion of this vote, it has been noted that a reminder should be send to the Members several weeks before the AB meeting. It was also said that a more frequent rotation of the Bureau would be desirable (every 2 years?).

4. DIAGNOSTIC OF THE SITUATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PARTNERSHIP

4.1. Assessment of the EAN 2010 – 2015 strategic agenda

The presentation made by P. Croûail can be found online. The presentation reminds the general objectives of EAN and evaluates the completeness of the work programme and strategic objectives stated in the EAN Strategic Agenda 2005 – 2010.

In summary, the EAN workshops have been very successful but the work programme has not been entirely fulfilled, notably regarding the dissemination and publication activities. Further collaboration in the nuclear, non-nuclear industries and medical field are also an area requiring further progress.

4.2. Dissemination of the EAN Newsletter.

Each participant has been invited to present the diffusion of the EAN Newsletter in its country.

Country	Diffusion to ...
Belgium	- Belgian Society of Radiation Protection (around 200 persons)
Germany	- German Society of Radiation Protection - Relevant contacts in BfS
Ireland	- Staff of RPII - Society of Medical Physicists
Czech Republic	- Staff of SUJB - National Radiation Protection Institute - Society of Medical Physicists
Switzerland	- Societies of Radiation Protection (2) - Societies involved in the medical field - A presentation of EAN was made recently at the annual regulatory body meeting
Croatia	- Staff of EKOTEH

	- Contact persons of EKOTEH - A presentation of EAN was made to the authority – members of the authority also participates to the 15th EAN Workshop in Rovinj (Croatia)
Sweden	- Staff of SSM - Radiation Protection Experts of the country
Italy	- Staff of ISS - A presentation of EAN was made at the national congress of radiation protection in Venice in October 2012
Norway	- Staff of NRPA - Presentation of EAN was made during annual meetings of actors working in the medical field
Austria	- Austrian Society of Radiation Protection
United Kingdom	- Relevant staff in Public Health England (50 persons) - Society for Radiological Protection (1100 members) - Association of University Radiation Protection Officers (200 members) - Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (approx. 1000 members with an interest in radiation protection)
France (CEPN)	- Contact persons of CEPN (around 500 persons)

4.3. Partnership with other organizations

The collaborations of EAN with other organizations and how to improve them have been discussed deeply. In general, it was decided to organise bilateral meeting between EAN and representatives of each of these organizations or network to discuss and agree on possible partnerships and common works.

Organization	Discussion
HERCA	It is noted that EAN (whose works focus on practical ALARA implementation and radiological protection culture dissemination) and HERCA (regulator network at the senior management level, whose works focus on regulatory issues and harmonization at the European level) are quite complementary and should not be seen as competitors externally. The position of EAN as a possible partner should be made clear to HERCA. - A presentation could be made to HERCA, this presentation will present the EAN Strategic draft Agenda 2015 – 2020 and the strengths of EAN (ICRP Special Liaison Organization, workshops, surveys, publication of the ALARA Book, etc.). - Collaboration within HERCA working groups (notably the WG2 on Non-Medical Sources and Practices) should be investigated in a proactive manner by EAN Members. - EAN could provide to HERCA feedback from the practical application of the legislation (for example through the network contacts and the EAN sub-network ERPAN).

ICRP	According to a letter send by D. Cool (ICRP Committee 4 Chair) to Special Liaison Organizations, ICRP intends to develop a new line of documents focused on the implementation of ICRP recommendations. In the ICRP Symposium (Abu Dhabi, October 2013), EAN expressed the wish that ICRP develop specific advice on industrial radiography. This is an example of a topic for which ICRP Committee 4 might consider developing a specific document. F. Vermeersch sent back a letter by to Mr Cool presenting the recommendations on NDT from the 5th EAN workshop in Rome and reminding that the next EAN workshop on industrial radiography and non-destructive testing will be held in Bern (Switzerland) in March 2016. - An ICRP C4 representative could be invited in the programme committee of the EAN Workshop. In the same way, an EAN representative could be invited to participate to the ICRP mirror-group on NDT (action: F. Vermeersch : letter to D. Cool). - At the occasion of the next SLO meeting (November 2014), EAN representatives shall present the drafts of the EAN Strategic Agenda 2015 – 2020 and the ALARA Book. - EAN could participate in the ICRP's current topics of interest notably in the ethics of radiation protection (participation to the Task Group), the tolerability of risk or ALARA at the design stage. - EAN can present the ALARA Book to ICRP – ICRP can review it and write its editorial. - Further collaboration may be sought with ICRP, notably when it comes to collecting feedback on the implementation of the ICRP recommendations (recent recommendation on radon exposure and in the medical field for example - input could come from ISEMIR, EMAN etc.).
EC	- It is difficult for EAN to act directly in the OPERRA and European Joint Program structures, as EAN is not a research organization. However EAN can offer to comment on the results obtained in OPERRA and evaluate their possible practical implementation. - The EAN Members will be invited to answer the OPERRA e-Survey that will be launched at the end of the year for assessing the ALLIANCE, EURADOS, MELODI, and NERIS strategic research agendas. - EAN can also propose to perform surveys on the implementation of a selection of the new BSS (December 2013). The survey should then be supported by EC and EAN can use its contact (ERPAN) and take the opportunity to develop others (medical field; EMAN, EFOMP etc. and industry; EFNDT, ISOE).
ERPAN	ERPAN (sub-network of EAN) involves several European authorities. - ERPAN can act as a platform by gathering feedback from organizations/contacts and send it to HERCA (implementation of the regulation), ICRP (implementation of the recommendations) and EC (implementation of the new BSS). - ERPAN should be invited to send a paper for publication in the Newsletter.
EFNDT	- The next workshop on NDT is a good opportunity to begin a formal contact. - ALARA Book: EFNDT could be invited to provide examples in the ALARA Book and review and endorse it. - EFNDT could be invited to topical meeting in connection with EAN Steering Group meeting. - EFNDT will co-sign the recommendations from the 16th EAN workshop on ALARA in industrial radiography.
In the medical field; EMAN ,	The Strategic Agenda 2015 – 2020 could be the opportunity to re-examine the ALARA approach in the medical field. - This could be the occasion to reactivate contacts made during the 13th EAN

EFOMP, EFRS and ESR	workshop in Oscarborg (Norway) and renew partnerships in the medical field. - ALARA Book: EMAN and other organizations could be invited to provide additional examples in the ALARA Book and review and endorse it. - EMAN, EFOMP, EFRS and ESR could be invited to topical meeting in connection with EAN Steering Group meeting.
In the nuclear industry; ISOE	The Strategic Agenda 2015 – 2020 could be the opportunity to re-examine the ALARA approach in the nuclear industry. - Contact will be taken with the ISOE (International System of Operating Exposure) to explore how both networks could better co-operate.
EUTERP	- The 15th EAN workshop was jointly organised with EUTERP and the link must be maintained; EUTERP could be invited to topical meeting in connection with EAN Steering Group meeting.
EURADOS	- EURADOS could be invited to topical meeting in connection with EAN Steering Group meeting.
RELIR OTHEA	The ownership of the RELIR/OTHEA website should be made clearer on the website. The priority is to enlarge the database of incidents: it has been noted that the website requires new incident reports every year to keep it fresh. - A first step toward a wider promotion of the website could be the decision to translate OTHEA incident sheets into German language.

5. EAN “STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES”

Each participant has been invited to present its point of view on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (“SWOT”) of EAN.

The participants agreed that EAN is a dynamic network with strong contacts in numerous European countries. However several countries are not yet represented in the EAN SC (and AB) and a very small participation to EAN workshops is observed from Hungary, Poland, Baltic countries, Bulgaria, etc. (i.e. from all countries that belonged to the former IAEA RECAN network).

Discussions between contact persons and between workshop participants are free and of great interest. It was also outlined EAN’s strengths and realizations: the quality of the EAN Newsletter, which is widely distributed, and the EAN website which gather a lot of useful data on various topics, were both pointed out.

The Workshops showed always a good attendance (60 to 80 people) and excellent quality participation from everywhere in Europe (and recently, it has to be noted that participants registered from United Arab Emirates, Australia, South Korea and Africa). Each time, they have generated a real enthusiasm from all participants. The last three EAN workshops were very good opportunities to cement the collaboration of EAN with EMAN (“ALARA in the medical sector”), ICRP (“ALARA in existing exposure situations”), and EUTERP (“Education and training in radiation protection: improving ALARA culture through education and training”).

However it has been noted that the follow-up of Workshops should be improved, as the contacts made with participants are generally lost afterwards (for example after the 13th EAN workshop on ‘ALARA in the medical field’).

EAN was the “first-of-its-kind”, a pioneer network and many networks are inspired by its structure (for example IAEA networks and HERCA) and mode of sustainable operating. EAN is well known and recognized by international organisations such as NEA-OECD, WHO, UNSCEAR, IRPA, etc. In 2013, EAN also became a Special Liaison Organization of the ICRP. This is a sign of the recognition of EAN as an important stakeholder in the radiation protection field.

But since, the number of networks in the nuclear field has increased significantly and also because of the European economic context, financial supports are more difficult to find.

The 2015 – 2020 EAN Strategic Plan will be an opportunity to revisit the network model, the position of EAN and to above all, to increase its visibility, worldwide. The participants have noted that a lot of opportunities can be taken: notably working with ICRP (the letter of D. Cool is seen as “an open door”).

Participants agreed that the next Strategic Agenda should make clear that the stakeholder involvement should be increased as well as the involvement of younger generations.

The specificity of EAN (work on practical implementation of ALARA and its dissemination) must be highlighted. However, even if the specificity of EAN is to advertise good ALARA practices in all exposure situations and domains of activity, the diffusion of more conceptual aspects of the ALARA principle must not be neglected. It will certainly be done with the issuing of the EAN ‘ALARA Book’ by the end of 2014. Position papers could also be envisaged in the future (e.g. on the role and status of the reference levels in the new BSS, the tolerability of risk, the concept of reasonableness, etc.).

6. DRAFTING THE STRATEGIC 2015 – 2020 AGENDA

The EAN three General Objectives were slightly modified to emphasize the engagement of stakeholders – the draft new version is currently:

- *Promote the implementation of the ALARA principle for the protection of workers, public and patients in all exposure situations.*
- *Engage stakeholders in ALARA and provide a focus and a mechanism for the exchange and dissemination of information, knowledge and practical experience*
- *Identify and investigate topical issues of common interest to further improve the development of ALARA culture.*

6.1. EAN Model

The structure of the membership could be expanded to include the possibility of having individual members, but this possibility has to be explored, notably if it is compliant with the Terms and Conditions. The current format of the Administrative Board and Steering Group meetings should also be examined in the Strategic Agenda.

When it comes to the involvement of younger generations to the EAN, several ways have already been identified:

- Mentoring by the current members
- Encouragement to participate, as speakers or member of the programme committee, to the workshops (special attention must be paid for the next ones)
- Encouragement to publish papers in the EAN Newsletter;
- As a first step, assistance can be provided to the steering group members;
- Encouragement to participation in the survey and working groups.

In parallel, stakeholder involvement should be strongly outlined in the future Agenda:

- Targeted invitation to the workshop and activities of the network;
- Promotion of EAN through the use of electronic tools and social media: the EAN Website first but it may be also done through also Linked'In, Facebook, Twitter – this could also favour the involvement of younger generations;
- More communication is needed: participants to future workshops should provide a paper to be published in the EAN Newsletter and members should publish articles related to EAN in radiation protection journals.

6.2. Elements of the network

The elements constituting the EAN Network have been drafted as follows:

1. **Search tool.** A lot of information is available on the EAN Website. Their organisation and their visibility could be improved (e.g. Google referencing).
2. **Alerting Mechanism.** Alerts have been given in the past (⁶⁰Co sources) but it is no longer the EAN task today. Efforts should instead be put on the lessons-learned from incidents (OTHEA).
3. **Information provider.** The workshops, surveys, newsletter, etc. are made available on the EAN Website – their diffusion may be improved. A brief presentation of the EAN contact persons and their field of activity could be put on the website (the function of 'EAN correspondents' could be created to offer a pool of contact persons in specific fields of activity)
4. **Forum for discussion and problem solving.** EAN Steering Groups and Workshops are recognized places for free discussions. The opportunities for further partnership are listed in the table of part 2.3 and will be particularly stressed in the Strategic Agenda. The feasibility to create and maintain of an e-Forum (or a Facebook page) must be investigated.
5. **Screening mechanism.** Surveys on various issues have already been performed and broadcast. Further surveys will be launched, (for instance, a survey on the implementation of the new BSS could be prepared together with the EC (a letter will be sent to the Commission – DG Research and DG TREN – to suggest this); the structure and content of the EAN 'ALARA Book' could be a basis for exploring new topics).

6. **Feedback mechanism.** The emphasis should be put on the current tools: the EAN Newsletter, the ALARA News and OTHEA website.
7. **“Think-tank” or originator.** Original thinking come from the Steering Group and the workshops: these could be made available more formally to other stakeholders (EC, HERCA, ICRP, UNSCEAR, ILO, WHO, IAEA, etc.).

The draft of the EAN Strategic Agenda will be send to all EAN members; comments and possible additional actions are expected to be received by the end of July. The Bureau will elaborate of the Strategic Agenda; the objective is to adopt the document during the Steering Group meeting of December 2014.

7. IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS

The evolution of radiological protection worldwide was discussed after an introduction made by Jacques Lochard (ICRP vice-chair). It allowed the identification of priority areas of work for EAN. The topics to be chosen for the next EAN workshops, working groups and position papers should be chosen from this list:

- Industrial radiography (this is already the topic chosen for the 16th EAN workshop, the letter of ICRP confirms the interest for disseminating ALARA in that sector; EAN should offer its participation to a specific ICRP Task Group, if one will be created).
- Radon and NORMs (the management of existing exposure situations will be one of the most important radiation protection stakes in the forthcoming years; here, EAN should play a crucial role in the practical implementation of ALARA).
- Emergency and post-accident situations (the feedback from the Fukushima accident has shown that the reduction of dose ALARA is not straightforward in such situations; a link with NERIS platform should be established to identify what this means, how to do it, as well as to examine how the ALARA culture could be disseminated in the society in such a context).
- Medical field (EAN has to keep an eye on it; the boundaries between the protection of the patients, public and workers will be revisited by ICRP soon; it will probably lead to practical implications in the application of ALARA in the medical field).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Administrative Board and Steering Group meeting is to be planned in December 2014. The exact date and location are to be decided. The EAN members will take the opportunity of the IAEA Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection (1 – 5 December, Vienna) to meet. The meeting could for example take place from 13h00 to 17h00 the 5th of December (to be confirmed).

It shall be noted that the first Program Committee meeting of the 16th EAN Workshop on Industrial Radiography and Non-Destructive testing took place on Wednesday June 25th 2014 (from 13h00 – 17h00) in Geneva, during the IRPA Regional Congress.

ANNEX A. LIST OF DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED DURING THE SEMINAR

- Seminar Flyer, Sylvain Andresz
- Letter of invitation, F. Vermeersch.
- EAN Feedback Assessment (Powerpoint presentation), P. Croüail, P. Shaw.
- Letter to Donald Cool, Chair of ICRP Committee 4, F. Vermeersch.
- EAN Feedback Discussion, (Powerpoint presentation), F. Vermeersch.