



European ALARA Network

STEERING GROUP MEETING

June 9th, 2014 – CEPN, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France

**Meeting Minutes
(CRR/EAN/SG/39)**

Final version

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June 2015

Participants:

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HEFNER Alfred	Seibersdorf Laboratories	Austria
KROPACEK Jan	SUJB	Czech Republic
MULAS-PEREZ Arturo	CSN	Spain
NOVAKOVIC Mladen	EKOTEH	Croatia
NUCCETELLI Cristina	ISS	Italy
SAXBOL Gunnar	NRPA	Norway
SHAW Peter	PHE	UK, EAN secretary
STRITT Nicolas	SFOPH	Switzerland, EAN treasurer
SYNNOTT Hugh	EPA	Ireland
VERMEERSCH Fernand	SCK•CEN	Belgium, EAN chair
ZONTAR Dejan	SRPA	Slovenia
ALLISY-ROBERTS Penelope	EFOMP	<i>Observer</i>

Apologies for absence:

LARSSON Camilla	SSM	Sweden
SCHMITT-HANNIG Annemarie	BfS	Germany
LIVOLSI Paul	CEA/INSTN	France
MA Jinzeng	IAEA	<i>Observer</i>
PUSCHKE Mathias	EFNDT	<i>Observer</i>

In the absence of:

BREDDAM Kresten	NIRP	Denmark
CARVALHO Fernando	ITN	Portugal
EINARSSON Gudlaugur	GR	Iceland
LEHTINEN Maaret	STUK	Finland

Diffusion:

Members of the EAN Steering Group, IAEA and observers, RECAN, ARAN, ALARA NORM Network, EFNDT, EFOMP, EUTERP 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. DISCUSSION ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Information on the final accounts for 2014 and the budget for 2015 can be found in the minutes of the Administrative Board meeting (CRR/EAN/AB/22).

Renew of the Bureau: The composition of 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)

F. Vermeersch invited other EAN contact persons of EAN Members to apply as candidates at the end of this mandate, next year.

2. ROUND TABLE ON THE MAIN EVENTS DEALING WITH ALARA IN EACH COUNTRY

The main information send prior to the meeting, is included in a separate document (ALARA/NEWS/EAN/09JUNE15) available on the EAN website.

It is still possible to add News in the document. The information must be sent to Sylvain Andresz (sylvain.andresz@cepn.asso.fr).

3. EAN STRATEGIC AGENDA FOR THE 2015 – 2020 PERIOD

3.1. Interaction with European Projects/Organizations in radiation protection

In September 2014, a new project, called OPERRA (Open Project for European Radiation Research Area), has been set up with the involvement of MELODI, NERIS, EURADOS, and ALLIANCE platforms gathering 70 organizations and institutions from 23 countries. .

The OPERRA project aims to identify and address radiation protection research areas and development priority needs for the coming years; the research priorities identified by OPERRA are used to design calls for European projects in radiation protection research. Within the OPERRA project, it is proposed that the MELODI Association takes the lead in establishing the structures able to manage the long-term European research programmes in radiation protection (the French IRSN is the coordinator of this mission). OPERRA is funded by the European Commission (70 %) and by the Member countries (30 %). The second call based on OPERRA ended up in March 2015. The Steering Group stresses the importance of having Members that are in contact with within OPERRA organizations (“gate-keeper”). These Members could provide short report on the to the Steering Group about the progress and activities of OPERRA, and more specifically in the framework of CONCERT European Joint Programme that aims at structuring and organising future radiation protection research in Europe (<http://www.melodi-online.eu/CONCERT.html>).

3.2. EAN Workshop 16th, Bern, Switzerland

Nicolas Stritt presented the main information resulting from the Programme Committee meeting that took place the day before at CEPN.

The next EAN workshop will be devoted to “*ALARA in Industrial Radiography – How can it be improved?*”. The Workshop will take place from 14th to 16th March 2016 in Bern (Switzerland), probably at the Kursaal, in Hotel Allegro. A technical visit will be organized at SWAN ISOTOPEN company, which produced radio-isotopes using a cyclotron. City sightseeing and conference dinner are also planned.

The targeted audience for the workshop is regulators, radiography companies, radiographers, clients and operators, equipment suppliers and manufacturers, as well as training providers. 80 participants at most are expected.

The possibility of having room/space for manufacturers to present their products has been raised. **Action:** *Nicolas Stritt will find out if space is available at the hotel and Pascal Croüail will contact French SFRP to have an estimation of the typical cost that are payed for a stand.*

Flyers have been distributed among the Members that are in charge of advertising the Workshop **Action:** *All Members*. Information related to the Workshop – and notably worksop’s website link: www.ean-workshop-16.ch – have been put on EAN website.

The programme is not finished but is in progress of completion. If required, the Programme Committee will meet in Paris the 14th December 2015.

3.3. Relation with ICRP

The next meeting between ICRP and Special Liaison Organizations is planned to be in conjunction with the 2nd ICRP Symposium, in October 2015 in Seoul, South Korea. An invitation letter has been sent by ICPR to Fernand Vermeersch. Fernand Vermeersch is not sure whether he may participate to the ICRP meeting; if not, anyone else could replace him to represent EAN.

In any case, Fernand Vermeersch intends to draft a presentation about EAN activities. This presentation will be distributed in advance among the Members for comments.

3.4. How EAN is working today?

A round table regarding the way EAN is working has been made. The Members expressed their feeling that the number of interactions between EAN members has slowly decreased: for instance, there is little activity between the meetings and workshops, no survey or specific publication has been launched or issued for a long time, and the ALARA Newsletter and OTHEA incident database are running out of articles and cases, etc. The Members recognized that EAN was a “first-of-its-kind” network (1992) and its organizations inspired many other networks which are now competing with EAN.

Several ways of improvement have been discussed:

- **Launching surveys** as it is easy to draft and answer and provide a useful “snapshot” on a topic. Some Members noted however that surveys could sometimes be very detailed, and require time for a proper analysis. It is answered that there could be two levels of survey: quick and simple survey (3-4 questions, launched as often as needed) and more elaborated survey (1-2 per year) that could also provide article for the Newsletter. Results of survey could provide useful material for Workshop and may be transmitted to other networks (HERCA, ...)
- It has been pointed out that Members have different backgrounds and are involved in various fields. It is answered that this is not a difficulty as Members are the contact person of the network and not the network itself. **Small working groups of Members**, working in the same field, could be created if needed. These working groups could interact by e-mail to launch surveys and draft articles for the Newsletter.
- The **Steering Group meeting organization needs some “refreshment”**. It has been decided that the ALARA News session will be replaced by a presentation of a member on a given topic. A discussion will follow the presentation (this is inspired by ERPAN meetings organization).
- Members declared that EAN is time consuming and recognized that it is important to **involve “young” assistant** in EAN. These assistants can bear part of the work, publish their first article in EAN Newsletter etc.
- **Expand EAN Membership** (see 3.6)
- Increase the visibility of EAN by notably **using social media** (see 3.5)

3.5. EAN and social media

Sylvain Andresz has prepared a presentation on the implication of EAN in social media. Two possibilities have been discussed: registering EAN on Facebook and/or on LinkedIn. The Members decided that EAN should be registered as an organization on LinkedIn, as it provides the same functionalities of Facebook and have a good feedback from some Members.

The profile of EAN will be drafted (**Action: Sylvain Andresz**) and send to Members for comments (**Action: All Members**). EAN will then be registered on LinkedIn.

3.6. Extension of membership

Peter Shaw has prepared a list of countries that may join EAN. The way of getting in touch with the countries has been discussed:

- Finland: STUK will be contacted through NERIS (**Action: Pascal Croûail**)
- Portugal: ITN will be contacted by letter; the objective is to have a new contact person (**Action: Pascal Croûail will draft the letter and Fernand Vermeersch will send it**).
- Iceland: GR will be contacted (**Action: Gunnar Saxebol**).
- Netherland: NRG will be contacted by letter (**Action: Fernand Vermeersch**) and, in parallel; the national authority will be contacted (**Action: Nicolas Stritt**).
- Estonia: will be contacted (**Action: Cristina Nuccetelli**).
- Lithuania and Bulgaria could be contacted through the RECAN network.

It is also pointed out that national society of radioprotection can be contacted – the coordinate of each secretary is available on the IRPA website (<http://www.irpa.net/page.asp?id=178>). Members are invited to find additional contact persons and keep the Steering Group aware of their progress (**Action: All Members**). For the sake of example, a letter sent by Fernand Vermeersch in December 2013 is presented in the annexe of these minutes.

3.7. EAN Newsletter

There is currently only one article for the EAN 37^h issue (to be published in September 2015). Facing the possibility of postponing this issue, the Members have proposed several articles:

- Application of the ALARA principle in a research centre. (**Action: Fernand Vermeersch**).
- Application of the ALARA principle at the Austrian Hadron Therapy Centre. (**Action: Alfred Hefner**).
- An article related to the new approach in the management of NORM/building material in Italy. (**Action: Cristina Nuccetelli**)
- A description of the portal installed for monitoring the radioactivity of trucks at the Swiss border. (**Action: Nicolas Stritt**)
- A description of the radium action plan in Switzerland. (**Action: Nicolas Stritt**).

- An article describing an overexposure accident involving a non-destructing device. **Action: Dejan Zontar**.
- An article on the optimization of the volume of waste of the Zagreb waste facility. **Action: Mladen Novakovic**.
- As it is a first-of-its-kind, EPA can provide a description of its radon national plan **Action: Hugh Synnott**.
- The announcement of a forthcoming workshop in Athens on the use of decision aiding tool in the emergency response following a nuclear accident **Action: Sotiris Economides**.

These articles should be sent as soon as possible to the Editorial Board.

Peter Shaw stressed that OTHEA (<http://www.othea.net/>) is also running out of articles (i.e. incident case studies). Furthermore, at the moment, most of the articles come from France or UK.

He requires all Members to provide article of accident **Action: All Members – except France/England** and reminds that reports have to be short, easy to write and follow the following structure and rules:

- The description of the incident (how it has occurred, how it has been revealed)
- The assessment of (real or potential) radiological consequences
- The Lessons to be learned from the incident (the most important section)
- Confidentiality must be respected (no precise location, no name, no brand)

4. EAN SUBNETWORKS AND WORKING GROUPS: ERPAN

The European Radiation Protection Authorities Network (ERPAN) is working well and the contacts between regulatory bodies are well established. There are some countries that raise questions to the network and start surveys more often than others, but the network is well used. Usually the members of the network answer the questions quite rapidly.

In the last couple of months some questions were raised among the network and a lot of answers were obtained on different radiation protection issues like:

- The use and composition of lead aprons.
- Waste management issue in nuclear medicine (new therapy with radium-223, actinium-227).
- New therapy in nuclear medicine with β -emitter lutetium (Lu-177).
- Interventional radiology.

The Network meets once a year during a day for exchanging information in form of presentations and discussion. This meeting is very useful to keep in touch with the members and to keep the network alive. The network has active and continuous discussions on several topics related to the regulatory bodies, ALARA and radiation protection. The discussions focus on incidents, inspection methodologies, application of regulations, etc.

The next meeting is planned on the 10th of June 2015 at ASN premises in Montrouge, with the expected presence of 12 persons. Please note that the presentation of this meeting have

been put on line on the private area of EAN website (Main Menu/Sub-networks/ERPAN/Presentation).

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The ALARA Book is in progress of completion but need updates since the publication of the EU BSS. A presentation of the current draft of the book will be made to the Steering Group at the next meeting Action: Cristina Nuccetelli.

As Caroline Schieber expressed the possibility of working on the ALARA Book, Fernand Vermeersch will contact her on this topic Action: Fernand Vermeersch. A “pdf” version of the book will then be distributed between the Steering Group to gather comments.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Steering Group meetings will take place on **December 15th 2015** at CEPN premises at Fontenay-aux-Roses.

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ANNEX A. LIST OF DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED DURING THE STEERING GROUP MEETING

1. Meeting agenda.
2. ALARA News
3. EAN and social media
4. EAN Members list
5. Letter to EAN Members whose countries are not paying fees (F. Vermeersch, 2013) – see below.



Paris, 2013-12-20

To the attention of EAN member whose countries are not paying annual fees:

GIR - Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority, Iceland
ISS - Italian Institute of Health, Italy
ITN - Nuclear and Technological Institute, Portugal
NIS - National Institute for Radiation Protection, Denmark
SRPA - Slovenian Radiation Protection Administration, Slovenia

Dear Sir or Madam,

The European ALARA Network (EAN) was originally created in 1996 by the European Commission to further European research on optimization of radiation protection (ALARA), and to facilitate the dissemination of good ALARA practices between Member States.

Since 2005, EAN has been a self-supporting network (registered as an independent legal entity under French law) with an international reputation for promoting the practical implementation of ALARA in all sectors where ionising radiation is applied. CEPN (Centre d'étude sur l'évaluation de la Protection dans le domaine Nucléaire, France) took on the role of the Network Coordinator, with PHIE, UK (formerly HPA, and NRPB before that) acting as assistant co-ordinator.

The objectives of EAN are to:

- Promote a wider and more uniform implementation of the ALARA principle for the protection of workers, patients and the public in all radiation exposures situations.
- Provide a focus and a mechanism for the exchange and dissemination of information from practical ALARA experiences.
- Identify and investigate topical issues of common interest to further improve the implementation of ALARA and the protection of persons.

EAN regularly organizes Workshops on specific topics related to the optimisation of radiological protection. The presentations, conclusions and recommendations of each Workshop can be found on the EAN website (www.eu-alara.net). The European ALARA Newsletter is published every 6 months, which includes ALARA-related articles (evolution of regulations, results of research, feedback from ALARA operations, lessons learned from incidents, etc.) as well as experts' viewpoints and other ALARA information and news.

The activities of EAN have been supported for many years by its member organisations making available their experts and also contributing by hosting ALARA workshops. In

addition, 75 % of these organisations provide an **annual coordination fee**, which is typically 7000 EUR (or sometimes less). A founding principle of EAN is that such fees are not mandatory – membership is open to all. However, without these contributions, EAN would not be able to operate. You have been a member of EAN for many years, and we would like you to consider sponsoring EAN through providing an annual coordination fee. In doing so, you would automatically become a member of the EAN Administrative Bureau, and help ensure the continued success of EAN.

Please do not hesitate to ask for further information.

EAN Chair
Fernand VERMEERSCH