



European ALARA Network

STEERING GROUP MEETING

December 15th, 2015 – CEPN, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France

**Meeting Minutes
(CRR/EAN/SG/41)**

Final version

Written by: Sylvain Andresz, Pascal Croüail, CEPN, France

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Participants:

ANDRESZ Sylvain	CEPN	France
CROÛAIL Pascal	CEPN	France, EAN vice-chairman
ECONOMIDES Sotirios	EEAE	Greece
PEREZ-MULAS Arturo	CSN	Spain
STRITT Nicolas	SFOPH	Switzerland, EAN treasurer
SYNNOTT Hugh	EPA	Ireland
VERMEERSCH Fernand	SCK•CEN	Belgium, EAN chairman
SCHMITT-HANNIG Annemarie	BfS	Germany
SAXEBOL Gunnar	NRPA	Norway
ALLISY Penelope	EFOMP (<i>observer</i>)	

Apologies for absence:

SHAW Peter	Public Health England	United Kingdom
HEFNER Alfred	Seibersdorf Laboratories	Austria
KROPACEK Jan	SUJB	Czech Republic
LIVOLSI Paul	CEA/INSTN	France
ZONTAR Dejan	SRPA	Slovenia

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:

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1. DISCUSSION ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Information on the final accounts 2015 and the budget 2016 can be found in the minutes of the Administrative Board meeting (CRR/EAN/AB/24).

2. HOW DOES GREECE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW BSS IN ITS REGULATORY CONTEXT WHEN IT COMES TO THE GRADED APPROACH?

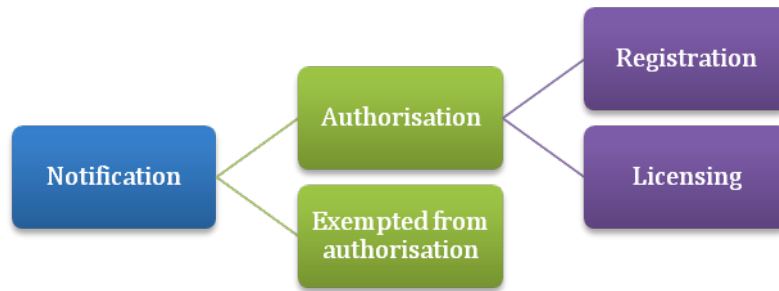
S. Economides kindly presented the Greek activities on the implementation of the Directive 2013/59/Euratom in the regulatory context when it comes to the ‘graded approach’ (see ANNEXE A). The terms ‘graded approach’ appears in (36) and article 24 of the Directive and broadly state that as the risks associated with an activity increase, the regulatory process should be more stringent.

Greece is a no nuclear country with mainly medical (1178 radiology facilities, 178 nuclear medicine facilities, etc.), industrial (324 facilities) and research (200 facilities) applications of ionising radiation. Currently, a licensing approach is followed for the authorisation of ionising radiation facilities, i.e. all ionizing radiation facilities must be licensed and the duration of the license is 3 or 5 years, depending on the type of the facility. Additionally, on-site inspections are performed by EEAE as part of the licensing procedure (first license and license renewal).

According to Law 4310 (Government Gazette Folio No. 258/A/08.12.2014):“Research, Technological Development and Innovation and other provisions”, EEAE is explicitly designated as regulatory authority for the control, the regulation and the supervision of the sector of nuclear energy, nuclear technology, radiological and nuclear safety and radiation protection. Moreover, EEAE is henceforth the licensing administrative authority for ionizing radiation facilities and inspection procedures as well as inspectors role are reinforced significantly.

EEAE is currently working on the transposition of the Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom in the national legislation. In this framework, the provisions concerning the graded approach should be implemented in the regulatory context and reflected in the authorisation procedure for ionising radiation practices as well as in the relative requirements. For this to be accomplished, several parameters will be taken in to account, such as: the type of the practices and the associated risks (risk ranked ‘low’, ‘medium’ or ‘high’), safety and security issues, the “history” of the facility, data from

National Radiation Protection Data Base (NRPD), the experience from EEAE's on-site inspections, etc. Based on the above, a first approach (under consideration) to the authorisation procedure is presented in the following figure:



The validity period of an authorization will also be graded (e.g. no need for renewal for registered facilities and max 3 or 5 years for licensed facilities, depending on the risk related to the applied practices). The on-site inspections will not be connected to the authorisation procedure and their content, depth and frequency will be directly related to the risks associated with the practices to be inspected. Some first results of a pilot implementation of the graded approach in the licensing procedure, concerning mainly medical facilities, were presented.

Finally, S. Economides concluded that the main challenge for the implementation of the graded in the regulatory context is to establish an authorization system which will be realistic (neither underestimate nor overestimate risks), sustainable, effective, taking advantage of the available human resources & infrastructure, adaptable to country needs and conditions and not bureaucratic.

Members have discussed the Greek approach and its first results. Ireland and Norway have initiated a similar process. It is also the case in Spain and Switzerland but the graded approach is mostly based on the potential exposure related with the activity. The results of the categorization are somewhat different depending on the countries and it has been reminded that HERCA considers there is potential for harmonization.

It has been noted that Switzerland has engaged a process to involve stakeholders in the regulatory changes. The first draft of the legislation has been submitted to a public consultation and numerous comments have been received. This is considered as very helpful but requires huge amount of time.

3. RENEWAL OF THE EAN BUREAU

The Bureau has been elected and remains unchanged:

Chair: Mr. Fernand VERMEERSCH (SCK•CEN)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Pascal CROÛAIL (CEPN)

Treasurer: Mr. Nicolas STRITT (SFOPH)

Secretary: Mr. SHAW (PHE)

It has been decided that a change in the chairmanship will be introduced for the next mandate. It should be noted that the Chair also holds is the representative of EAN, but EAN does not have the budget to pay for the expenses of the chairperson in this task, which should, then be covered by the organization to which the chairperson belongs.

4. EAN STRATEGIC AGENDA 2015 – 2020

4.1. Interaction with European Projects/Organizations in radiation protection – ENERTRAP III results and CONCERT developments

A. Schmitt-Hannig has presented the different work packages of **ENERTRAP III**. Work package 7 aiming at “*writing of guidance to support the implementation of E&T requirements for RPE and RPO as defined in the Euratom BSS*” has been finalized in December 2015. The guidance documents have been presented to the European Commission (EC) and accepted. A. Schmitt-Hannig presented to EAN an overview of this guidance (see ANNEXE A).

Last comments from the Group of Experts on Article 31 are expected by the end of June 2016. The guidance will then be published in the radiation protection series of the EC.

The Members have raised the question of the implementation of this guidance, given the various national contexts. In every case, it is recognized that the guidance will be very useful for countries that currently do not have requirements or poor ones. A survey on the implementation of the guidance can be initiated. The current draft of the guidance will be circulated among the Members.

A. Schmitt-Hannig also presented the **CONCERT** programme aiming at promoting the radiation protection research in Europe through co-funding (70 % comes from EURATOM and 30% min. should be provided by national funding), joint programming, open calls and integrative activities. The work packages and structure of CONCERT has been presented (see ANNEXE A). 28 national programmes managers and owners, representing 22 Members States are involved in CONCERT, as well as 4 radiation protection research platforms and 20 so called Linked Third Parties, organisations legally linked to a programme manager or to a research platform.

The first Open RTD Call was finally made in June 2016 and advertised to the Members. The two main priority areas of research covered by this call are:

- Improvement of health risk assessment associated with low dose/dose rate radiation.
- Reducing uncertainties in human and ecosystems, radiological risk assessment and management in nuclear emergencies and existing exposure situations

4.2. EAN Workshop 16th, Bern, Switzerland

N. Stritt presented the results and feedback of the 16th EAN Workshop (see ANNEXE A). 65 participants from 15 countries attended the workshop. The workshop generated a positive result that will be transferred to EAN account.

The written feedbacks from participants received by email are very positive and show that the workshop was useful and constructive. Suggestions have also been received and will be analysed when organizing next workshops.

The conclusions and recommendations drafted by P. Shaw has been circulated among the members. Comments from EFNDT will also be gathered and the final version will then be published in the ALARA Newsletter **Action: S. Andresz** and in radiation protection journals, after translation if necessary **Action: P. Schaw, P. Croûail, N. Stritt.**

4.3. EAN Workshop 17th, Lisbon, Portugal

The next Workshop is planned from 15 to 17th May 2017 in Lisbon Portugal and will deal with the application of the ALARA principle during emergency and post-accident situations. This workshop will be planned in cooperation with the NERIS platform and post-accident. After the EAN SG meeting, it has been decided that the exact location of the workshop will be Instituto Superior Tecnico premises at a 10km distance from the Lisbon city centre. A small Programme Committee meeting took place 14th June evening. A preliminary programme has been drafted and shared with all the Programme Committee. The next Programme Committee will take place on 20 September 2016, during the “Radiation Protection Week”, in Oxford (United Kingdom).

4.4. Feedback from international organizations and events

ICRP. – There is no update since the last EAN meeting. Contact with Mr. Cho, from ICRP Committee 4 will be made regarding the implication of EAN in a Task Group dealing with Non-Destructive Testing **Action: F. Vermeersch** (On July 6th, the draft of the Terms of Reference of the ICRP Task Group on ‘Application of the Commission’s Recommendations to activities involving mobile high activity sources’ have been received by P. Crouail and transmitted to F. Vermeersch and P. Shaw, see Annexe A).

The next meeting of ICRP with Special Liaison Organizations is planned at Vienna in November 2016. F. Vermeersch will represent EAN at this meeting.

EFNDT. – A Cooperation agreement between EAN and EFNDT has been signed by both parties (see ANNEXE A). The two organizations agree to exchange information of interest and cooperate in an European NDT ALARA Network.

RICOMET. - Penelope Allisy reported that the recently held RICOMET conference (Risk Perception, Communication and Ethics of Exposures to Ionising Radiation), in Bucharest, Romania was deemed to be a success. There were 99 registrants from 26 countries, 21 from the EU, the others from Japan, China, Canada, Israel and Turkey. There were representatives from the EC, IAEA, OECD, IRMM, EURADOS, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, and some companies were also represented. The written and oral contributions came from 19 different countries (18 EU plus Japan) to produce a wide ranging and very interesting programme. The book of abstracts is available to view and download from ricomet2016.sckcen.be and the presentations are also available on this website. This conference was a follow-on from the successful RICOMET conference in 2015, see ricomet2015.sckcen.be that was held in Slovenia in June 2015. Some of the presentations from this earlier conference were written up and submitted to the Journal of Radiological Protection (JRP). Those that were finally accepted for publication in the June issue are now available “free to read” and download until the end of 2016 on the journal’s website at iopscience.iop.org/issue/0952-4746/36/2, see the special section where the papers have been grouped together. One of the Japanese presentations in 2015, on the ‘D-shuttle’ project of high school student doses, was actually published in the March 2016 issue of JRP as the authors were keen for this to be made public as soon as possible and is an open-access paper that has already had more than 64 000 downloads.

IRPA. – IRPA meeting 14 took place at Cap Town (South Africa) in April 2016. F. Vermeersch has been pointed out that a modification of the dose conversion factors for radon has been discussed and a potential multiplication of risk by a factor 3 is considered. Discussion between UNSCEAR and ICRP are on going.

ERPAN. – N. Stritt presented an update of the activities of the European radiation protection authority network ERPAN.

Questions were raised during the last year about several aspect of ALARA or radiation protection. This is made to see how the regulatory bodies are dealing with radiation protection or ALARA issues such as:

- Waste issues in the nuclear medicine field.
- Limit on the dose rate and instantaneous dose rate (IDR) for the design of new therapy facility.
- Interventional radiology.

The next meeting is planned 16th June 2016 at ASN premises in Paris. 12 persons are expected to take part. Some presentations and discussion about the following topics are foreseen:

- Estimation of the exposure of the Greek population to ionizing radiation.
- New incidents revision panel in Spain. Incidents report may be added to the OTHEA database (**Action: A. Mulas-Perez towards P. Shaw**)
- New online licensing and inspection system in Ireland.
- Implementation of the BSS in United Kingdom.
- SAFRON enhancement for risk assessment in Spain.
- Audit about cyclotrons used for the production of radiopharmaceuticals in Switzerland.
- Events related to patient radiotherapy in France: experience feedback from ASN toward professionals.

4.5. Extension of membership

An update on the extension of EAN membership has been made:

- Greece is not ready to come back as AB Member.
- The Netherlands: no answer has been received yet and contact with the national authority is to be sought (**Action: F. Vermeersch, N. Stritt**).

4.6. Next Newsletter (Autumn 2016)

There are currently enough papers received after EAN 16th Workshop to draft a Newsletter. It has been reminded that Members already proposed articles (see EAN SG minutes 39 and 40¹).

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- ¹ Application of the ALARA principle in a research centre (**Action: F. Vermeersch**)
 - An article related to the new approach in the management of NORM/building material in Italy. (**Action: C. Nuccetelli**)
 - A description of the Radium Action Plan in Switzerland (former clock industry using luminescent painting). (**Action: N. Stritt**)
 - An article on the optimization of the Zagreb waste facility dedicated to radioactive sources. (**Action: M. Novakovic**). Parts of the subject are confidential but the article can be focused on the application of the optimization principle in this situation and the actions engaged.
 - As it is a first-of-its-kind, EPA can provide a description of its Radon National Plan (**Action: H. Synnott**)
 - The Spanish recommendations on the management of pregnant workers at hospital are under review and the results can be later published in the EAN Newsletter (**Action: A. Mulas-Perez**)
 - An article describing an over-exposure accident involving a non-destructing device. (**Action: D. Zontar**)
 - Application of the ALARA principle at the Austrian Hadron Therapy Centre. (**Action: A. Hefner**)

Furthermore NERIS members could be invited to publish articles in EAN Newsletter (notably to enhance collaboration in line with the joint-workshop EAN-NERIS): feedback experience from Fukushima, position of NERIS on ALARA in post-accident, etc. **Action: P.**
Croüail.

It has been decided that the “E-Newsletter” will not be drafted anymore. An update of the diffusion of the Newsletter is expected as soon as possible **Action: All Members.**

The drafting of a new logo for EAN has also been discussed. Propositions for a new logo will be gathered and discussed. This action is associated with a global up-dating of the EAN website.

5. OTHER BUSINESS – ALARA BOOK

The ALARA Book is in the process of finalization by F. Vermeersch. A new version will be circulated among the Members by the end of the summer.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Administrative Board and Steering Group meetings will take place on **November 30th 2016** at CEPN premise at Fontenay-aux-Roses.

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

1. Meeting agenda.
2. *How does Greece plan to implement the new BSS when it comes to the graded approach*, S. Economides
3. *ENERTRAP III – Guidance to support the implementation of E&T requirements for RPO and RPE*, A. Schmitt-Hannig.
4. *European Joint Programme for the Intergration of Radiation Protection Research CONCERT*, A. Schmitt-Hannig
5. *Results and feedback of EAN 16th Workshop*, Bern, N. Stritt.
6. Cooperation Agreement between EAN and EFNDT.
7. *ICRP TG ToR - draft v1 (Application of the Commission’s Recommendations to activities involving mobile high activity sources)*
8. *Terms and Reference of ICRP Task Group on High Activity Source*