



STEERING GROUP MEETING
November 17 and 19, 2020 – web-conference meeting

Meeting Minutes
(CRR/EAN/SG/46)

Final version as 10/01/2021

Participants:

ANDRESZ Sylvain	CEPN	France
ALLISY Penelope	EFOMP (<i>observer</i>)	United Kingdom
CROÜAIL Pascal	CEPN	France, EAN Vice-chairman
ECONOMIDES Sotirios	EEAE	Greece
FIJULJANIN Selma	SRPA	Slovenia
KABRT Franz	AGES	Austria
KULKA Ulrike	BfS	Germany
LIVOLSI Paul	CEA/INSTN	France
MORGAN Julie	PHE	United Kingdom, EAN Secretary
NUCCETELLI Cristina	ISS	Italy
STRITT Nicolas	SFOPH	Switzerland, EAN Treasurer
SYNNOTT Hugh	EPA	Ireland
VERMEERSCH Fernand	SCK•CEN	Belgium, EAN Chairman
ZONTAR Dejan	SRPA	Slovenia

Apologies for absence:

FOLKERT Draaisma	NRG	The Netherlands
HANSSON Petra	SSM	Sweden
HEFNER Alfred	Seibersdorf Laboratories	Austria
KROPACEK Jan	SUJB	Czech Republic
MULAS-PEREZ Arturo	CSN	Spain

Distribution:

- Members of the EAN Steering Group,
- IAEA and observers,
- EFOMP and EUTERP contact persons.

The documents distributed and discussed during the meeting (see list in Annex A) are available in the private area of the EAN website

< www.eu-alara.net >

Activities / EAN Documents and Publication / Steering Group meeting

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Agenda

The Agenda of the meeting [[Document 1](#)] was send to the Members before the meeting.

Discussion on financial aspects and membership

The minutes of Administrative Board meeting (CRR/EAN/AB/33) and the presentation prepared by Nicolas Stritt [[Document 2](#)] provides information about the 2020 and 2021 budgets.

Membership to EAN. Actions linked with Membership have been discussed by Administrative Board Members. Widening the network is a key issue and **all Members** are asked to investigate the following for potential membership:

- Organizations in their countries;
- National Radiation Protection association

A “kit” is available on the website (private area¹) to the Members to help for their active search:

- Generic presentation: *EAN, Experience with Networking to Support Optimisation of Radiation Protection in Practice*. **Action:** The **Bureau** will review and update this presentation
- Formal letter from the Chairperson
- The EAN Terms and Conditions (2019 version).

New member

Dejan Zontar informed the Members that he will leave the EAN and introduced Mrs. Selma Fijuljanin as the new contact person from Slovenian Radiation Protection Administration (SRPA). Selma Fijuljanin is working as a Nuclear Inspector in SRPA. A letter from Mr. Skrk,

¹ https://www.eu-alara.net/images/stories/EANdocuments/SGmeetings/2019June/2_EuropeanALARANetwork_in2018.pdf

Director of SRPA sent to the Bureau has formally nominated Mrs. Selma Fijuljanin as the new contact person [Document 3].

The Members have welcomed Selma and thanks Dejan for its involvement and participation in the EAN thorough the years.

EAN Strategic Agenda 2021-2026

The Members have formulated several comments on the EAN Strategic Agenda before and also during the 17 November meeting. These comments have been incorporated by Sylvain Andresz and a new version of the Strategic Agenda has been put in circulation 18 November.

No additional comments have been received since and the content of the Strategic Agenda is considered approved. After a last correction check and improvement of the format, the EAN Strategic Agenda will be uploaded on the website.

The Agenda is divided in four topics which will drive the activities of the EAN for the 2021-2026 term:

- Focusing on key ALARA themes (these are the "KAT" actions);
- Collaboration and partnership ("CP");
- Communication and visibility ("CV");
- Running the network ("RN").

Working group on the Recommendation and Conclusion of EAN Workshops

At the previous Steering Group (n°45), it was decided to establish a working group to undertake an analysis of the dissemination of EAN workshop's recommendations and their impacts. Franz Kabrt has elaborated an Evaluation Sheet to assess the impacts of each workshop and has circulated the Sheet among the Members.

- **The Members** are asked to take position on which Workshops they would like to evaluate;
- In addition, **the Members** can forward the Evaluation Sheet (to colleagues etc.) in order to gather more views.

Next workshop: Topic

The Members discussed the topics and the organization of future workshops. Following an initial suggestion from Arturo Perez-Mulas, the topic of the next workshop will be focused on medical and more precisely on radiology. Collaboration with national and European medical organizations and associations will be necessary to build the programme:

- EFOMP (key contact: Penelope Allissy-Robert).
- It has also been reported that EURAMED is running two research projects on radiology: Harmonic and MEDIRAD² with Euratom Horizon2020 funding.
- The point of views of practitioners and manufacturers should also be brought to the workshop.
- As well as ethical questions (N.B. a ICRP Working Group run by François Bochud is working on this topic).

² <https://www.isglobal.org/en/-/radiacion>

Next workshop: Planning and format

The context is very peculiar and potential (re)confinements, sanitary requirements, closed borders and the development of remote congress shall be taken into account. The organisation of the next EAN workshops will be different from the previous ones. In all cases, the Members have decided that the next workshop will better take place in the 1st semester of 2022.

A hybrid format can be adopted: with on-site meeting and the possibility for participants/speakers to attend also on-line.

- *Pros.* This might increase the attendance to the workshop and give the possibility to other network/organizations to join.
- *Cons.* Networking in distance is recognized as less efficient, especially for individuals not familiar with EAN activities and network. The informatic infrastructure needs to be solid.

In case the sanitary situation has not improved and hybrid format cannot be adopted, Franz Kabrt informed that AGES has experience in virtual workshops and can “host” a full-virtual EAN workshop.

Most remote conference systems (Zoom, BlueJean, Klaxoon ...) allow small groups to work efficiently during breakout sessions, and the results are then presented in plenary sessions. Some Members have experience with this system and this feedback can be incorporated when planning future workshops.

EAN at EUTERP meeting with Liaison Organizations

Pascal Croüail represented the EAN at the EUTERP meeting with Liaison Organizations (10/11) and presented EAN activities on the topic of Education and Training. Penelope Allisy also participated to this meeting (as Secretary of EUTERP) and provided additional remarks.

EUTERP has announced the organization of ETRAP2021 conference in March 2021 on *Education and Training in a Virtual Setting*. The call for abstracts has been published³ and been send by Sylvain Andresz to the Members for further circulation. The deadline for abstract submission is 18 December. The ETRAP21 will also be announced in EAN Newsletter 44 (**Action:** Penelope Allisy, Sylvain Andresz).

Further cooperation between EAN and EUTERP should be sought during the following years. N.B. Penelope Allisy is the contact point between the two networks.

IRPA consultation on Reasonableness

The IRPA has developed a draft set of *Guiding Principles on Reasonableness in Optimisation of Radiation Protection* [Document 4]. The document is currently under consultation and EAN have been invited to send its views and comments by an official letter from IRPA Chair [Document 4bis]. Fernand Vermeersch has synthetized the draft in a few slides and presented it to the Members [Document 4ter].

This presentation raised some questions:

³ <https://www.etrapp.net>

- There is a strong emphasis on the *de minimis* approach, which is put in opposition with over conservatism in ALARA (other approaches are possible).
- The economic aspects are very much present in some fields, especially to support the *de minimis* approach and almost absent in other fields (medical) where their importance is not negligible.
- More practical guidance about effective communication of radiation protection risk to workers and professionals, and also to the general public.
- ALARA is by definition a process with objectives (procedural approach) and this should be more explicit in the document.

Members are asked to send their comments to Sylvain Andresz, copied to Fernand Vermeersch and Pascal Croüail by mid-January (the consultation closes 31 January).

Other collaborations and partnerships.

As cf. the Strategic Agenda 2021-2026, EAN is aiming to strengthen existing collaborations and develop new relationships. The concept of a "Gatekeeper" (= Member responsible for establishing the link between EAN and another organization and maintaining the link active) has been introduced.

The following items have been discussed:

- Ulrike Kulka could be the contact person with European Radiation Protection Research platforms (MEENAS) Presidents;
- C. Nuccetelli has informed that the European NORM Association (ENA) is planning workshops in Utrecht in 2022 and in Rome in 2024. These workshops are opportunities for EAN to establish relation with ENA, e.g. ENA can be invited to participate to EAN meeting under the status of Observer, to publish articles and communication in the Newsletter etc
- Sotirios Economides has provided the contact person of the African ALARA Network (AFAN, established in 2018 under IAEA auspices). The **Bureau** will renew contact with AFAN to investigate about collaboration.
- **Sylvain Andresz** will contact Ma Jizeng and Okyar Burçin at IAEA to have information about the status of Asian ALARA Network.

Newsletters and articles

Issue 44. Fernand Vermeersch has presented the content of the Newsletter 44 prepared by the Editorial Board.

The content is:

- *New regulation for the protection against radon at work in France*, a synthesis and translation of a practical guidebook by Sylvain Andresz
- *Optimization, rethinking the art of reasonable*, from E. Lazo and following the NEA workshop in January 2020.
- *Presentation of the joint roadmap for radiation protection research - State of the Art* (from N. Impens, SCK•CEN);
- *Guidance on using shielding on patients for diagnosis radiology applications* (coming from the British BIR);
- Events in ALARA

It has been proposed to include a poster "*Key principles in radiation protection can also apply to protection from Covid*" available at the Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) website. The poster is an adaptation of an original document from the Spanish Society for Radiation Protection. **Action.** **Julie Morgan** will contact SRP to see if it is possible to reproduce the poster in the Newsletter.

Next issues. The content of the next issues has been discussed :

- The Swiss action plan on radiological safety and security of high radioactive sealed sources (**Nicolas Stritt**);
- The implementation of the NORM regulation in Italy (**Cristina Nuccetelli**);
- The changes in radiation protection regulation and the holistic approach in Belgium (**Fernand Vermeersch**);
- Evolution in dental imagery and guidance in the United Kingdom (**Julie Morgan**);
- Management of radon at the workplace in Ireland (**Hugh Synnott**) ?
- Management of radon at the workplace in Italy (**Cristina Nuccetelli**) ?

Deadline: articles should be sent to Sylvain Andresz by April 2021.

In parallel; Fernand Vermeersch has been invited by the recently founded Belgian magazine in Radiation Protection to send an article presenting the EAN, its activities and achievement. The **Editorial Board** will support Fernand Vermeersch in this action.

Survey

Ulrike Kulka proposed to use the survey format of the STORE database⁴ for next surveys. STORE^{DB} is a platform for the archiving and sharing of data in research on low-dose radiation.

The topic of the management of radon at the workplace has raised interest from the Members. It has been decided that EAN will conduct a survey to obtain a view on the requirements in Europe.

Actions. **Sylvain Andresz** will draft a questionnaire (1st quarter 2021).

- **Nicolas Stritt**, **Hugh Synnott** and **Julie Morgan** are interested to collaborate in a working group;
- **Ulrike Kulka** and **Cristina Nuccetelli** are interested to follow the activities of the working group;
- **Paul Livolsi** has informed that it will be fruitful to involve a student of the Radiation Protection Master to help e.g. in documentary analysis of regulations or the analysis of the survey;
- **Members** who are interested to participate should send a message to Sylvain Andresz.

Next meetings: topical presentation

Topical presentations during Steering Group meetings from EAN Members or an invited speaker have good feedback and should be reiterated (even in remote format). Ulrike Kulka

⁴ https://www.storedb.org/store_v3/

has proposed a presentation (topic to be decided). Nonetheless, other speakers are looked for; especially if they represent the 'next' generation.

Next meetings: dates and places

The next Administrative Board and Steering Group meetings will be organized on-line in mid 2021. Proposal for (other) tools to organize the web-conference are welcomed.

The second Administrative Board (end of 2021) might take place in a 'real' setting. If in a real setting, the meeting might take place in an alternative venue as Pascal Croüail informed the Members that CEPN premises have recently suffered damages (flooding) and that work is needed.
