



**STEERING GROUP MEETING
June 14, 2022– on-line meeting**

**Meeting Minutes
(CRR/EAN/SG/51)**

Final version as 15 July 2022

Participants:

ALLISY Penelope	EFOMP (<i>observer</i>)	United Kingdom
ANDRESZ Sylvain	CEPN	France
CROÜAIL Pascal	CEPN	France, EAN Vice-chairman
DOWDALL Alison	EPA	Ireland
ECONOMIDES Sotirios	EEAE	Greece
FIJULJANIN Selma	SRPA	Slovenia
FOLKERT Draaisma	NRG	The Netherlands
HANSSON Petra	SSM	Sweden
KABRT Franz	AGES	Austria
LIVOLSI Paul	CEA/INSTN	France
MORGAN Julie	UKHSA	United Kingdom, EAN Secretary
MULAS-PEREZ Arturo	CSN	Spain
ROESLER Stefan	CERN	Switzerland
STRITT Nicolas	SFOPH	Switzerland, EAN Treasurer
SYNNOTT Hugh	EPA	Ireland
VENOSO Gennaro	ISS	Italy
VERMEERSCH Fernand	SCK•CEN	Belgium, EAN Chairman

Apologies for absence:

KULKA Ulrike	BfS	Germany
MALGORZATA Sneve	NRPA	Norway
NUCCETELLI Cristina	ISS	Italy

Distribution:

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

The [Documents XX] discussed during the meeting are available in the private area of the EAN website < www.eu-alara.net >: Activities / EAN Documents and Publication / Steering Group meeting. Member shall use the following information to log-on:

login: lastname

password: ean-lastname

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Agenda

The Agenda [[Document 0](#)] was sent to the Members before the meeting.

Discussion on financial aspects

The minutes of the Administrative Board meeting (CRR/EAN/AB/36) and the Powerpoint presentation prepared by Nicolas Stritt [[Document 1](#)] provides information about the final 2021 budget validated by Renaissance Audit and the provisional 2022 budget.

Renewal of the Bureau

The EAN Bureau remains unchanged: Chair: Mr. Fernand Vermeersch, Vice Chair: Mr. Pascal Croüail, Treasurer: Mr. Nicolas Stritt and Secretary: Mrs. Julie Morgan.

EAN Webinar

The topic of the webinar is “Challenges in applying the radiation protection system for the management of NORM and radon”. The webinar will be held on-line (possibly with the AGES video-conference system) for 2-3 hours and will take place at the end of the year, yet not at the same time as the EAN AB-SG meetings to avoid interference when Members travels to Paris.

Actions:

- (1) **Sylvain Andresz** to draft a page presenting the objective of the webinar, insisting on the link with the optimisation principle and the proposed speakers.
- (2) To find/contact the speakers: the programme committee: **Ulrike Kulka** (ex. speakers from RadoNorm), **Cristina Nuccetelli** (from ENA), **Fernand Vermeersch**, **Sylvain Andresz**.
- (3) **Any other members** who want to join

EAN Workshop

The topic of the next workshop is: “Development of ALARA in interventional radiology and in the use of novel radio-pharmaceuticals”. The workshop will be held in AGES premises, Vienna, in April-May

2023 under the traditional EAN format with face-to-face plenary and workshops sessions is planned (noting that some speakers might give live or pre-recorded presentation). A technical visit associated with the topic of the workshop could be planned.

Actions: (1) **Arturo Perez-Mulas** will draft the Context and Objectives of the workshop by the end of June. In addition, Arturo will investigate how to involve the ISEMIR network in the planning of the workshop.
(2) **Sylvain Andresz** will organize the first meeting of the programme committee: **Fernand Vermeersch, Franz Kabrt, Nicolas Stritt, Julie Morgan, Sotirios Economides, Penelope Allisy Robert, Sylvain Andresz** and **any other Members** who want to join.

Next next workshop. Fernand Vermeersch indicated that while the safety and security of the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) is gaining a lot of attention, the associated radiation protection matters are emerging and might be the topic of a next workshop. The Members agreed it is a relevant topic.

Working group on the review of the implementation and dissemination of recommendations and conclusions of EAN Workshops

Franz Kabrt presented the results of the analysis of the survey about the impacts of former EAN workshops. The work and the results have been uploaded on the EAN website: Activities/Sub-networks and working groups/Workshop's impacts¹.

Working group on ALARA for Radon At Work (A-RAW)

The wrap-up meeting took place on 18 May 2022 and a slideshow was presented at the IRPA Budapest conference in June. All the documents produced by the working group, the feedbacks from Belgium, France, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, Swiss and the United Kingdom and the slideshow have been uploaded on the EAN website: Activities/Sub-networks and working groups/A-RAW².

The working groups has written a synthesis of the work and will submit it for publication to the *Journal of Radiological Protection* by the end of June (action: **Sylvain Andresz**).

Radiation protection in the veterinary sector

Julie Morgan presented a slideshow about radiation protection in the veterinary sector [Document 2] and detailed the specificities of this exposure situation. The medical practices and devices are not fundamentally different for animals than those for humans (often equipment designed for human can be used for animals, however the opposite is not authorized). Julie exposed the elements affecting the exposure situations: the factors affecting the dose, the panel of people exposed and the engineering and procedural controls to restrict the exposure. Once again, this exposure situation compares well with medical exposure situation, but brought specificities: large and possibly nervous animals (manual restraint or sedation could be necessary), operation performed outside, ex. in open barns, portable equipment, presence of aids, waste – notably liquid – containment and management. She concluded by listing the key challenges for ALARA, dealing chiefly education and training of the personnel, equipment aging, consideration of the justification of individual procedures and dose to the animal patient.

Pascal Croüail informed that three incidents in the veterinary sector have been added in the RELIR database during the last years and these can be translated from French to English (the mechanism need to be decided) Julie said that would be relevant.

¹ <https://www.eu-alara.net/index.php/activities/sub-networks-and-working-groups/workshops-impact.html>

² <https://www.eu-alara.net/index.php/activities/sub-networks-and-working-groups/a-raw.html>

New radon map in Ireland

Hugh Synnott invited Alison Dowdall (from EPA Ireland) to present the new radon map for Ireland and the factors that justified a change [Document 3]. The former map was based on radon measurements performed in dwellings 20 years ago and the data were expressed in percentage of buildings where radon is expected to be above the reference level. A 10 km² grid and a 5-colors scale were used to display the data.

In 2014, the government identified the need for an improved map given the changes that occurred in the regulation (new building code and radon strategy), demographics evolutions and change in building usage (energy efficiency).

From 2012 to 2018, a new map based on geological data (uranium airborne data, rock type, presence of water, etc.) crossed with radon measurements data was developed. The validation of the new map by EPA peer-review took 2 years. The design of the map was decided after a series of trials involving panels of citizens were performed. The final map is using a 3-colors scale for each 1 km² pixel of the grid and a 2-colors (binary) map is proposed for workplaces and new build (where regulatory requirements apply).

In the end, the estimated numbers of households potentially above the reference level has increased (+ 34%) and dedicated information will be provided for the regions concerned by the changes.

More awareness and outreach materials are available at the dedicated EPA website: www.radon.ie.

Collaboration and partnership. International conferences

1. Fernand Vermeersch participated to the Regional Workshop on Workplace Monitoring Techniques co-organised by IAEA and EAN at Cyprus, 6-10 June 2022 which was attended by a large number of representatives from the former RECAN. F. Vermeersch displayed a specific slideshow presenting the EAN [Document 4] and stressed that EAN is an open network. The representatives from Slovakia and Baltic States were interested. Fernand Vermeersch will continue to be in contact with these representatives and support them if they want to join the EAN.

In parallel, Pascal Croüail contacted Julius Ziliukas (Lithuania) former Member of RECAN who indicated that most of the former Members of RECAN were not interested to start the networking activities again, but it might be possible under IAEA support and/or in relation with the EAN.

2. Pascal Croüail informed the members that the Institute for Safety Problems of Nuclear Power Plants in Ukraine (ISP, which is Members of NERIS) and the Chornobyl Radiation-Ecological Biosphere Reserve (CREBR) are looking for collaboration with European organisations. In particular, these organizations are facing challenges in radiation protection education and training of the on-site civil servants - among other peculiar issues - and would like to exchange with EAN on these³ issues.

Action: **Pascal Croüail** will invite the representatives from ISP to attend the next SG meeting to present their present RP concerns at the Chornobyl site.

3. It has been proposed to establish contact with the IAEA Network of Environmental Management and Remediation (ENVIRO-NET). Action: **Cristina Nuccetelli**.
4. ICRP has now opened 5 Task Groups (TG) to candidates. The topics of most of these TG are related to the epidemiological/medical subject. Action: **Cristina Nuccetelli** to consider whether she is a suitable candidate for ICRP TG 124 on the application of the principle of justification.

European NORM Association. Gennaro Venoso was invited by Cristina Nuccetelli to present the role and impact of EAN at the NORM-X conference (Utrecht, May 2022) [Document 4] where about a

³ <https://www.icrp.org/page.asp?id=584>

quarter of all presentations were dedicated to ENA with topics varying from regulation, dose modelling or waste management and recycling. Gennaro Venoso highlighted some presentation:

- The estimation of the mass of NORM that can be disposed in a landfill and the discussion about the level of conservatism used in dose modelling;
- The development of drone and miniaturized CZT module for surveying compared the benefits and drawbacks of these techniques;
- The re-use of NORM in a circular economy realm could question the radiation protection of the public, workers and the environment that can be better answered by applying a graded approach and looking for an agreement involving all concerned parties.

Next international meetings include:

1. The 3rd edition of the IAEA international conference on occupational radiation protection (Geneva, September), where **Fernand Vermeersch** will chair a round table 'Optimization, a regional perspective' and will represent the EAN.
2. European Radiation Protection Week (Portugal, October) yet there is no specific stand for EAN to participate.
3. ICPR2021+1 symposium will take place in November 2022 in Vancouver. **Fernand Vermeersch** will contact ICRP to see if a Special Liaison Organization meeting is planned at this occasion.
4. ETRAP2023 conference is planned by EUTERP at Groningen University in June 2023.

Newsletters

The last newsletter was published in April 2022 and received several positive feedbacks. It was open 1,400 times, in the upper-average of the newsletter opening rates.

The publication of the next issue is planned in Autumn 2022 and the proposed articles are

- The radiation protection challenges in veterinary practices in the UK ("pet and vet") (**Julie Morgan**);
- The new radon map in Ireland (**Allison Dowdall**);
- SHAMISEN-SINGS (paper sent by **Pascal Croûail** after the meeting);
- ENA activities (**Gennaro Venoso, Cristina Nuccetelli**);
- Announcements of the EAN workshop and webinar (**Sylvain Andresz**);
- Tritium management in Belgium (which could be also presented at the next EAN meeting) (**Fernand Vermeersch**);
- Radiation protection challenges at CERN (**Stefan Roesler**);
- Offer to AFAN to publish (**Sotirios Economides**);
- Offer to EUTERP to publish (ex. feedback from ETRAP workshop) (**Fernand Vermeersch** will ask Michèle Coeck).

Deadline: articles should be sent to Sylvain Andresz before 1st October 2022.

Next meetings: date and place

The next Administrative Board and Steering Group meetings are planned for 6 December 2022 in-person at CEPN. The meeting arrangements will be adapted according to the circumstances.
