



**European
ALARA
Network**

EUROPEAN ALARA NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2015

**Final Version
July 2010**

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1 PRESENTATION OF THE NETWORK

1.1 History of EAN

The European ALARA Network was created in 1996 following a joint CEPN (Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre, France)/NRPB (National Radiological Protection Board, UK) initiative. It was partly funded by the EC DG Research in its 4th (1996-1999) and 5th (2001-2004) European Framework Programmes for research and technological development (FPRD). In the meantime (2000), EC DG Environment also provided funding during a 1-year interim period. Since 1996, CEPN took on the role of EAN coordinator together with NRPB. A Steering Committee Group composed of national contact points was also constituted to run the network and to follow-up and disseminate in their respective countries the work performed within the project. From 8 representatives in 1996, the Steering Committee Group grew up to 11 representatives in 2000 and to 18 in 2004.

In 2004, at the end of the 9 years spent within the scope of the programmes of the European Commission, all partners of EAN committed themselves to continue to work within EAN in a self-sustainable manner. In July 2005, a legal entity for managing the EAN coordination and financing the network was set-up as a non-profitmaking association under the French Law for an initial period of 5 years. Up to now, the running of the EAN is ensured by a Coordination Team composed of representatives from CEPN and HPA (Health Protection Agency, UK, into which NRPB was transferred on April 2005). Between 2005 and 2010, two other national organisations joined the network.

1.2 Objectives of EAN

The following objectives of the network are defined in the EAN “Terms and Conditions”, which were formally signed by all the Members represented in the EAN Steering Group:

- Promote a wider and more uniform implementation of the ALARA principle for the management of worker, public and patient exposures in all 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.

1.3 EAN Membership

The main resources of EAN come from the fees paid by 15 of the 21 EAN Members, which compose the Administrative Board. These resources are mainly used to finance the work of the Coordination Team. As of 1st January 2010, the following organizations are Members of EAN:

EAN Steering Group Members, participating to the Administrative Board

ASN - Nuclear Safety Authority, France

BfS - Federal Office for Radiation Protection, Germany (EAN Chairmanship 2008-2010)

CEPN - Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre, France (EAN Chairmanship 2005-2007)

CSN - Nuclear Safety Council, Spain

EKOTEH Dosimetry Co., Croatia

GAEC - Greek Atomic Energy Commission, Greece

HPA - Health Protection Agency, UK

NRG - Nuclear Research and consultancy Group, The Netherlands

NRPA - Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, Norway

RPII - Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, Ireland

SCK-CEN - Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, Belgium¹ (EAN Chairmanship 2010-XX)

Seibersdorf Labor GmbH, Austria

SFOPH - Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland

SSM - Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, Sweden

STUK - Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, Finland

SUJB - State Office for Nuclear Safety, Czech Republic

Other EAN Steering Group Members

GR - Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority, Iceland

ISS - Italian Institute of Health, Italy

ITN - Nuclear and Technological Institute, Portugal

SIS - National Institute for Radiation Protection, Denmark

SRPA - Slovenian Radiation Protection Administration, Slovenia

The EC (DG Energy) and the IAEA are regularly following and encouraging EAN activities, as observers.

¹ SCK-CEN Mol represents in the EAN Steering Group several Belgian organisations which support together EAN: FANC, Belgoprocess, Belgian Association for Radiation Protection, IRE and Belgonucleaire in 2009.

2 THE WORK OF EAN

EAN regularly organizes Workshops on specific topics related to the optimisation of radiological protection. The subject is selected to cover areas where the Steering Group believed that significant improvements in terms of ALARA implementation could be found. During those Workshops, contributions from EAN Members and others are invited, and discussions in small working groups of stakeholders are arranged with the aim of identifying recommendations to improve the practical implementation of ALARA at the European level. Since 1996, 12 Workshops have been organized by the network. The presentations and the 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 experience from ALARA operations, lessons learned from incidents, etc.) as well as experts' viewpoints and ALARA information. Between 1996 and 2009, 25 issues of the Newsletter have been published and distributed to thousands of stakeholders through the Coordination Team and national contact persons.

From 1997, information related to the network and its activities is published on the EAN website (www.eu-alara.net) visited by several hundreds of people every month.

EAN also supports the setting-up of sub-networks on specific topics. For instance, in 2006, following a recommendation of the 8th EAN Workshop, the European Radiation Protection Authorities Network (ERPAN) was created as a EAN sub-network by EAN members. The purpose of this network is to promote better communication between national regulatory authorities, particularly in relation to issues on an operational level specifically in the non-nuclear sector.

3 EAN MEMBERS SHARED INTERESTS

PROMOTION OF A PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ALARA

The need for, and significance of, applying the ALARA principle are stated in ICRP recommendations, as well as in European/International Basic Safety Standards, and in national regulations. It is the role of the radiation protection community to convert the ALARA principle into individual and collective acts and behaviours. There is still room for improving the practical implementation of ALARA and for reaching a better harmonisation in radiation protection policies and practices, at the European level.

DISSEMINATION OF ALARA CULTURE

EAN must contribute to the definition, contextualisation, evolution and dissemination of ALARA culture by promoting the practical implementation of the ALARA principle in every sector of activity that imply a radiological risk for the workers or the public, in all exposure situations.

SHARING EXPERIENCE

EAN is a non-institutional platform of radiation protection specialists, who do consider the feedback exchange through networking and co-operation as one of the most effective and efficient ways of improving the practical implementation of ALARA, in all sectors of activity.

4 NEW CHALLENGES FOR ALARA

In 2007, ICRP published its new general recommendations (ICRP 103) in which the optimization principle is now clearly emphasized for all types of exposure situations, below source-related dose constraints or reference levels. This evolution is very important, especially for emergency and existing exposure situations (e.g. radon and Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials). Moreover, as the development of national policies for the management of existing exposures situations is increasing in many countries, there is a challenge during the forthcoming years for facilitating the practical implementation of ALARA in such situations.

In the medical sector, even if improvements have been noticed in recent years, there is still a need for the development of ALARA practices, in particular due to the development of new technologies and the constant increase of both patient and worker exposures, and because of a number of serious radiological incidents and accidents. This requires the diffusion of radiation protection and ALARA cultures within the medical community.

Developments in the medical sector, as well as the increased interest in the use of non-medical exposures (for example for security reasons) also raise the issue of the justification of exposures, which often cannot be disconnected from the optimisation process.

In the nuclear sector, the ageing of existing installations, and a large-scale retirement of nuclear workers - including radiation protection specialists - requires a new focus on maintaining and expanding skills, through RP and ALARA education and training. In parallel, new nuclear installations (nuclear power plants, nuclear waste disposal, research reactors, etc.) will be built in the near future. The designers then need advices from the radiation protection community on the way to implement the ALARA principle at the design stage.

5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF EAN FOR 2010-2015

5.1 Focus the work on challenging issues

- Organization of topical Workshops
- Undertaking specific surveys
- Production of EAN feedback documents and position papers
- Establishment of working groups on challenging issues following initiatives from EAN Members or requests from external organizations.

5.2 Promote the recognition of EAN as an expert organisation on ALARA issues on the international RP scene

- Dissemination of EAN documents at the international and national levels
- Promotion of EAN through participation and presentations of the network to national/international seminars
- Cooperation agreements with international and professional organizations and networks
- Participation of EAN to international projects.

5.3 Encourage the participation of key stakeholders to EAN

- Encourage the participation of various stakeholders to EAN activities (workshops, working groups, mailing-list, etc.).
- Enlarge the EAN Membership.

6 EAN 2010-2015 WORK PROGRAMME

To achieve the above-mentioned strategic objectives, the EAN will develop the following work programme, during the next 5 years (2010-2015).

6.1 General work activities

Short-term initiatives

- Publish articles on the practical ALARA aspects of the challenging issues in the Newsletter.
- Make oral presentations/posters on EAN activities in radiation protection conferences at the international and national levels.
- Initiate collaboration between ERPAN and HERCA (Heads of European Radiation Control Authorities).

Medium-term initiative

- Favour the participation to EAN of Central and Eastern Europe countries.

6.2 Nuclear and non-nuclear industry

Short-term initiatives

- Advertise good examples of “ALARA in practice” (through the ALARA Newsletter and the website).
- Support the ALARA Course for RP specialists in the nuclear sector at the Barsebäck Training Center (2011).

Medium-term initiative

- Sign/renew agreements with industrial professional societies, organisations or networks and organize practical collaborative actions (e.g. with EFNDT, EURADOS, RECAN, ARAN).

6.3 Medical field

Short-term initiatives

- Organize the 13th workshop on “ALARA in the Medical sector” (Norway, June 2011),
- Publication of a Newsletter dedicated to the medical sector after the 13th EAN Workshop.

Medium-term initiative

- Cooperation with EMAN and promotion of EMAN activities (2010-2012).

Long-term initiative

- Sign/renew agreements with medical professional societies, organisations or networks (e.g. EFOMP, EFRS, ESR, EMAN) and organized practical collaborative actions.

6.4 Existing exposure situations

Short-term initiative

- Communicate to ICRP the EAN survey on radon management and EAN feedback on ICRP radon statement.
- Follow activities of the ICRP-C4 WG on radon exposure management.

Medium-term initiative

- If needed, launch a specific EAN WG on radon issues.

Long-term initiatives

- Organise the 15th EAN Workshop on “ALARA in existing exposure situations” (Spring 2014).
- Integrate EAN_{NORM} activities in EAN.

6.5 ALARA culture

Short-term initiatives

- Diffuse the conclusions of the EAN WG on “ALARA culture”, as a contribution to the IRPA WG on “RP Culture”.
- Design ALARA courses and syllabi for non-RP specialists, in particular through the participation of EAN to the TRASNUSAFE project.

Medium-term initiatives

- Organise the 14th EAN Workshop on “ALARA culture” (Autumn 2012).
- Promote international initiatives to help disseminate feedback and lessons learned from incidents (e.g. by giving support to the RELIR/OTHEA website)
- Collaborate with European networks whose objectives aim at improving and developing radiation protection E&T (e.g. ENETRAP, EUTERP).