

## **6<sup>th</sup> EAN<sub>NORM</sub> WORKSHOP on “Alternatives in NORM waste management” with EAN<sub>NORM</sub> Topical Day "NORM in new BSS and Radon in NORM"**

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From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, the 6<sup>th</sup> EAN<sub>NORM</sub> workshop was held in the Ciemat's headquarter in Madrid (Spain). It was devoted to the “Alternatives in NORM wastes management” and followed on December 5<sup>th</sup> by a topical day: "NORM in new BSS and Radon in NORM".

Around 90 participants attended these EAN<sub>NORM</sub> events from European countries (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) and non-European countries as well (Angola, Israel, Japan, Mexico and South Korea).



The scientific program reflected the issues of interest within the NORM community in respect of the topics of the events. More than 40 presentations were performed together with 4 round table discussions. Although the following aspects can be highlighted:

- the reutilization of NORM in building materials or in agricultural practices including both, the discussion on the different management options applied in each country as well as the respective exemption and clearance criteria,
- the management of NORM waste and existing disposal options for NORM waste in conventional landfills,
- the discussion of the results of monitoring programs in different industries, emphasising on improvements of the models applied in the studied cases,
- the application of the Spanish protocol for the radiological monitoring of scraps with special focus on NORM.

The Basic Safety Standards (BSS), recently published by both the EU and the IAEA, were presented by the respective representatives at the topical day. Since especially the European BSS will be implemented in the national legislations, the main focus of the discussion was on the challenges arising from the BSS, e.g. on aspects related to the protection against radon when reusing NORM residues and the various difficulties connected with the execution of authoritative measurements.

Some discussions addressed the problem of establishing adequate and not overregulated radiation protection of workers in the NORM industry to retain Europe as a location for these industries.

Two closely related networks were presented during the workshop: First, the European Joint

Research Project MetroNORM, pursuing the standardization of measurement techniques regarding NORM, designing measurement protocols and discussing the composition of standard materials. Second, the COST Action NORM4BUILDING, intends to be a platform for the exchange of multidisciplinary knowledge and experiences to stimulate the reuse of NORM residues in new tailor-made sustainable building materials in the construction sector while considering the impact on both external gamma exposure of building occupants and indoor air quality.

Within EAN<sub>NORM</sub> the nature of networking now is internalized: For the second time the EAN<sub>NORM</sub> workshop was organised and hosted by members of the network and not by the managing company. Continuing this, the seventh Workshop will be held in the Netherlands (hosted by COVRA) at the end of 2014 while the eighth is already programmed to be in Dresden, organized by the IAF in 2015. Further information's are available at [www.ean-norm.net](http://www.ean-norm.net).

But, despite the enormous success made within the last years the fate of the EAN<sub>NORM</sub> network depends heavily on whether financial support is achieved or not.