

RP Culture in the field of Emergency Preparedness and Response

Synthesis

ENGAGE WP3 Workshop

Athens, Greece, 13-15 February, 2019

- France: Elaboration of “Policy elements for post-accident management of nuclear accident” in the framework of CODIRPA
- Italy: Preparedness to nuclear emergency management at the level of hospitals
- Slovak Republic: Improving and strengthening the emergency and post-accident preparedness and recovery management at all levels: national, regional and local
- Belarus: Radiation protection knowledge and culture in education and in Public Information / mass media, after the Chernobyl accident

In preparedness phase of emergency and post-accident management (1)

- **Stakeholders involved in the various processes** (elaboration of guidelines or handbook, exercises, workshops, ...):
 - **Professionals that would be involved in the emergency phase:** public authorities, civil security, firemen, health professionals, ...
 - **Professionals that would be involved in post-accident management, due to their function and responsibilities:** public authorities (national and local level), health professionals, teachers, economic actors, ...
 - **Representatives of populations**

In preparedness phase of emergency and post-accident management (2)

- **Aim of RP culture for these stakeholders:**
 - To allow stakeholders to make their mind on what is at stake in case of a nuclear accident for the daily life
 - To identify their role during emergency and/or post-accident situations and the consequences of their actions/decisions
 - To build capacities to participate and to interact in the process of elaboration of EP&R plans and exercises, and to identify needs for policy framework, tools, guidelines,...

In the emergency or post-accident phase (1)

- **For the local communities, general population affected by an accident, the aims of RP culture are:**
 - To understand their environment (characterization of the radiological situation, interpretation of measurements) and to get a grasp on the potential health effects
 - To be able to act (individually or with the support of local authorities or professionals) in their day-to-day life
 - To take informed decision, participate to decision-making processes
 - To better discern the consequences of exposures and the other consequences, other disturbances in their daily life

In the emergency or post-accident phase (2)

- **For the professionals involved in the emergency or post-accident management, due to their function and responsibilities, the aims of RP culture are:**
 - To identify which role they have to play for the management of the situation
 - To consider the consequences of their actions/decisions from the RP point of view
 - To act as relay in disseminating RP culture in order to favour the involvement/empowerment of affected population in the decision-making processes

For the stakeholders involved in the preparedness phase of emergency and post-accident management

- Understanding the complexity of a nuclear accident:
- Understanding the characterization of a radiological situation
- Identifying protective actions (collectives and individuals), their effectiveness and consequences
- Identifying what would be the concerns/questions raised by the population
- Capability to provide elements of answers

For the local communities, general population affected by an accident, and the professionals involved in the management of the situations

- Understanding environmental contamination: where can radioactivity be found, how much,...
- Identifying sources of individual exposure in contaminated areas
- Ability to evaluate / understand the efficiency of collective decisions on protective actions
- Ability to implement self-help actions
- Capability to empower stakeholders in the joint assessment and management of the situation

For the stakeholders involved in the preparedness phase of emergency and post-accident management

- Working groups, seminars, training sessions, nuclear emergency exercises, ...
- Some key elements from these processes:
 - Practical issues rather than theoretical knowledge.
 - Practical experimentation or real-situation based exercises: testimonies, feedback from past accident situations, use of models and simulation tools...
 - Put the radiological risk into perspective
 - Key role of the European projects in EP&R (EVATECH, EURANOS, NERIS-TP, PREPARE, CONFIDENCE, TERRITORIES, ...)
 - Key role of INEX
 - Use of network to identify stakeholders (eg: ANCCLI, GMF)

For the local communities, general population affected by an accident, and the professionals involved in the management of the situations

- Not fully addressed in the case studies, except in guidelines for the population, and in the Belarus case study
- Need to train experts that would be in charge of answering questions from the various stakeholders
- Experts to be mobilised in processes of co-operation with local stakeholders to share local knowledge and scientific expertise
- Co-expertise process contributing to the empowerment of the local population and to the development of the radiological protection culture

For the local communities, general population affected by an accident, and the professionals involved in the management of the situations

- To be done during the nuclear emergency exercises or within the working group, where people are sharing the evaluation and characterisation of the situations
- Observation of real competence building in understanding of RP issues in the context of accident / post-accident situations
- Key role of social network based on sharing information for the self-assessment of the understanding and level of RP culture (eg. Safecast, Open Radiation)

- Capacity to involve and motivate the stakeholders for addressing the preparation of guidelines, policy framework, tools...
 - To provide them ability to cope with the complexity of the post-accident management without direct experience
- Needs for setting up involvement processes and preparedness objectives where RP culture can be mobilized and shared among various categories of stakeholders.
 - Usefulness of networks of stakeholders, such as national association of local liaison committees, or education professionals, health professionals...
- Multi-disciplinary approach combining RP culture with other dimensions to cope with the complexity of the situation

- Contribution from the RP experts and stakeholders to favour the development of skill, knowledge and practical measures combining science, expertise and practical experience
- Considerations on radiation-induced health effects and more broadly on disturbances of daily life
- Contribution to informed decision-making processes both for individual decision related to self-help protective action as well as for collective protective actions
- Addressing properly the risk associated with low doses and introducing ethical issues for the experts and authorities involved in these processes