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International Atomic Energy Agency
Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
Международное агентство по атомной энергии
Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

National Liaison Officer

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In reply please refer to: C1-RER/9/137/9002/01
Dial directly to extension: (+43 1) 2600-26540

2016-07-27

Subject: Invitation to a Regional Workshop on Distribution of Radionuclides in Agricultural Facilities and Setting-up Mitigation Measures for the Animal Production Systems, Vienna, Austria, 17-21 October 2016

Dear National Liaison Officer,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the above-mentioned workshop under the framework of TC Project RER/9/137 – Enhancing National Capabilities for Response to Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies. The purpose of the workshop and related information are outlined in the attached Prospectus.

For candidates who are selected by the IAEA, the IAEA will cover the cost of return international travel from the home country to Vienna, Austria and provide Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the workshop in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Mr Zhang, Jing (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail Official.Mail@iaea.org), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **22 August 2016**.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Krause
Director
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Prospectus

International Atomic Energy Agency

Regional Workshop on Distribution of Radionuclides in Agricultural Facilities and Setting-up Mitigation Measures for the Animal Production Systems.

PROSPECTUS

Project Number & Title: RER/9/137-Enhancing National Capabilities for Response to Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies

Place (City, Country): Vienna, Austria
Dates: 17-21 October 2016

Deadline for Nominations: **22 August, 2016**

Organizers: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with the Government of Austria

Host Country Organizer: Mr Ivancho Naletoski
International Atomic Energy Agency - IAEA
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications
Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
Animal Production and Health Section
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Language: English

Purpose: The project RER/9/137 (component on the “Re-enforcing Veterinary Authorities to Respond to Nuclear Emergencies”) aims to generate standardized guidelines for responses to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the animal production systems, compatible with the existing standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and to integrate the requirements of these standards in the overall disaster management plans of international organizations, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food And Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nation Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

The scope of the project covers the establishment and/or upgrade of an emergency response structure, at management (*head veterinary offices*) and

technical (*laboratories and field services*) levels, critical to enable efficient coordination and implementation of the required remediation measures.

The purpose of the workshop will be:

- a. To review and understand the complexity of migration of radionuclides in the environment after nuclear and radiological emergencies, especially how do they affect agricultural production;
- b. To review and understand how nuclear and radiological emergencies are affecting the animal production systems;
- c. To review the existing response protocols (remediation and mitigation strategies) applicable for the animal production systems;
- d. To review the existing monitoring plans for the animal production systems (sampling protocols for animals, animal facilities, animal products);
- e. To review the criteria for enforcement of legal measures (restrictions for production, distribution etc.);

To integrate scientifically justified measures and procedures into the emergency preparedness and response plans of the veterinary authorities

**Expected
Output(s):**

The expected outputs of the workshop are:

- To understand the impact of nuclear and radiological emergencies on the animal production systems and their potential consequences for the food chain as a whole;
- To understand the most updated response procedures and improve the preparedness, remediation and mitigation measures in the animal production systems;
- To understand the criteria for imposing legal measures;
- To update the existing emergency preparedness and response plans of the veterinary authorities.

**Scope and
Nature:**

The workshop will consist of two parts:

1. Participation at the FAO/IAEA-NARO Technical Workshop on Remediation of Radioactive Contamination in Agriculture, 17 - 18 October 2016, Vienna, Austria; Conference Code: IAEA-DX-TM-53560.

The workshop will be aimed on the most up-to-date remediation strategies for Remediation of Radioactive Contamination in Agriculture, integrating the long term experiences from Chernobyl and Fukushima disasters and will be comprised of 4 technical sessions, as follows:

- a. Agricultural Land and Water;
- b. Plant and Crop Products;
- c. Animals and Animal Feeds;
- d. Food and Commodities (Post-Harvest);

Invited experts will present plenary presentations on each of the technical sessions.

Details of the workshop available at following link:

<http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/news/2016-FAO-IAEA-NARO.html>

2. Specialized workshop dealing with management and remediation strategies in the animal production systems (19-21 October 2016).

This workshop will be organized in a form of presentations and discussions on the topic, supported by invited international experts in the field.

**Background
Information:**

Veterinary authorities, as a key stakeholder for management of animal production systems, already have a well-defined international structure (www.oie.int) and standards established to monitor the production processes on daily basis and ensure food security and safety of the products of animal origin, aimed for human consumption. Moreover, the principles and regulations developed and accepted by OIE are transferred through other relevant international organizations (FAO, EU) into the national legislations and consequently implemented at the national level.

These standards and legislative acts specify the technical roles of all officially designated institutions in Member States (MS), such as maintaining registers of farming animals, and usually address the roles of the competent authority (head veterinary offices), designated laboratories and the designated field veterinary services. Although there are clear standards for food safety and security in the European region (EU legislation, EU regulation EC 882/2004, Codex Alimentarius by FAO and WHO), there are still no strong linkages between the IAEA radiation safety standards and the EU legislation in the field of animal production systems. At the national level, MSs of the IAEA European region would need significant facilitation of the linkages between the national nuclear safety and veterinary authorities, definition of clear roles of the individual designees of the veterinary systems (starting from preventive monitoring or routine uptake of the existing official monitoring data, through the early detection of contamination threats and response to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the animal production systems).

Additionally, there is a need to clearly map the stakeholders and their roles (actions needed) in a nuclear or radiological emergency, such as farms (structure and farming system), designated officials (nuclear safety authorities) and the executive entities (veterinary authorities through their official designees).

At international level, strengthening of the regional communication between the officially designated nuclear safety and veterinary authorities is needed; upgrade or establishment of sustainable communication linkages between the national as well as the regional authorities and the existing active platforms of the IAEA (Nuclear Safety and Security's Incident and Emergency Center-IEC) is needed. The whole complex of above mentioned mechanisms will contribute to the prevention or early detection and the management of radiological contamination(s) in the animal production systems, as well as the prevention of the entry of contaminated product of animal origin in the food supply chain for people.

To support the upgrade of the above mentioned needs, the project RER9137 will deliver the following packages to the project participants (veterinary

authorities, designated veterinary laboratories and designated veterinary field services):

1. Workshop to review international emergency preparedness and response safety standards, and examine veterinary authority participation in the national coordination mechanisms;
2. Workshop on the spatial and temporal distribution of radionuclides upon release in the environment and setting-up mitigation measures in veterinary production systems;
3. Workshop on the management of contamination in the animal production systems: a) management of animal products contaminated with radionuclides; b) implementation of international standards limits at national/regional level;
4. Training courses in:
 - a. the application, the use and the maintenance of field survey instruments;
 - b. advanced methods for differentiation of radionuclides (spectrometry and scintillation counting);
5. To develop practical guidelines for veterinary authorities for the response to nuclear and radiological emergencies;
6. To organize simulation exercise and synchronize the developed guidelines (textual and multi-media / video based).

Participation: The workshop is open to 35 participants from IAEA Member States in the Europe Region.

The target countries are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

Participants' Qualifications: The workshop is open to one participant from the competent veterinary authorities, designated veterinary laboratories or field services, as well as entities covering veterinary education (veterinary universities or equivalent) in MSs.

Nomination Procedure: Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Mr Zhang, Jing (J.Zhang@iaea.org) (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail Official.Mail@iaea.org), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **22 August 2016**.

Administrative Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the

**and Financial
Arrangements:**

candidates who have been selected and will, at that time, be given full details of the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Vienna, Austria, and a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) at the prevailing UN Rate. Shipment of accumulated workshop materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the workshop do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the workshop, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.