



Regional Coordination Meeting

Hosted by

The Government of Slovakia

through the

Public Health Authority of Slovakia

Bratislava, Slovakia

15 to 17 November 2023

Ref. No.: ME-RER9155-2302355

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to review and report on the progress made, achievements reached, identify and discuss follow-up activities.

Furthermore, it aims to review the status of national arrangements on protection of workers in existing exposure situations based on element 12 of the IAEA's Radiation Safety Information Management System (RASIMS) Thematic Safety Area 2 profiles of participating Member States, and discuss the project essentials of the new regional project (RER2022009) which will be initiated with the new project cycle 2024-2025, which will be presented to the Board of Governors (BoG) for approval in November 2023.

Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **4 October 2023** will not be considered.

Project Background

Naturally occurring radiative material (NORM) is radioactive material containing no significant amounts of radionuclides other than naturally occurring radionuclides. The most important factor for the purposes of radiation protection are the radionuclides in the Uranium-238 (U-238) and Thorium-232 (Th-232) decay series. For most human activities involving minerals and raw materials, the levels of exposure to these radionuclides are not significantly greater than normal background levels and are not of concern for radiation protection. However, certain work activities can give rise to significantly enhanced exposures that may need to be controlled by robust regulation. The International Basic Safety Standards (GSR Part 3) sets the radiation protection requirements for regulatory bodies, technical service providers, industry operators and workers. These requirements are applicable to different industrial activities involving NORM under planned and existing exposure situations emphasizing that consideration needs to be given to the radiation protection of the workers, the public and the environment for which guidance is provided in GSG-7. The main focus area of the regional project is the coherent application of GSR Part 3 to natural radiation sources, in particular to workplaces and to industrial processes involving NORM.

Scope and Nature

The regional workshop will be conducted with a series of presentations, and interactive group discussions. Moreover, participating countries will be requested to present the impact of project activities into the national framework for the safe management of NORM and development strategies for national guidance on dose assessment for workers in NORM workplaces and industrial processes. Member States will discuss the new project as a follow-up planning.

Participation

The final meeting is open for up to 35 participants from countries that participate in the project, subject to the availability of funds.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The workshop is intended for individuals who are official participants of RER/9/155. The participants have to be fluent in English language.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
 - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2302355) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the [IAEA website](#).

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event 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 course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Note for female participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

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