



# **Regional Training Course on Prevention and Mitigation Methods for Protection against Radon Exposure in Buildings**

**Hosted by**

The Government of Portugal

**through the**

Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra

**Coimbra, Portugal**

**22 to 26 January 2024**

**Ref. No.: TN-RER9159-2305843**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the event is to train the participants on methods of radon prevention and mitigation in buildings as well as indoor radon monitoring and risk communication, in the framework of the IAEA Safety Standards related to the protection against radon exposure.

### **Working Language**

The working language of the event will be English.

### **Deadline for Nominations**

Nominations received after **24 November 2023** will not be considered.

## **Project Background**

Members of the public are directly exposed to radiation at home, in workplaces, during travelling, in the course of medical procedures, etc. People can only avoid radiation exposure to these sources if we, as a society, no longer allow their use, which is not feasible. While eliminating radiation would not be very sensible, some measures can be taken to ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between risks posed and benefits for individuals and society from the use of radiation. Natural sources of radiation are present throughout the environment. While they are difficult to control, cost effective measures can be taken to reduce exposure in cases like radon in buildings. The project's objective is to assist the Member States in understanding and applying concepts of radiation protection to control public exposure to radioactive sources such as consumer products, non-medical human imaging, inspection devices, and commodities.

## **Scope and Nature**

This training course will focus on IAEA Safety Standards, technical documents, and practical expertise related protection of the public against exposure due to indoor radon, and implementation of preventive measures and corrective actions buildings. Main topics to be covered include introduction to indoor radon exposure; measurement protocols and quality assurance; exposure due to radionuclides in building materials and the influence of building design on indoor radon concentrations; radon prevention and mitigation techniques; and risk communication and public involvement.

## **Participation**

The target Member States are those actively involved in the regional TC project RER9159, engaged in activities related to the protection of the public against exposure due to indoor radon and to the implementation of preventive measures and corrective actions buildings. The event is open to 40 participants with qualification/experience corresponding to the requirements described under “Participants’ Qualifications and Experience”. We encourage the nomination of 1-2 candidates that fulfil such Qualifications and Experience – subject to selection and approval.

## **Participants’ Qualifications and Experience**

Participants should be: i) regulators actively involved in scientific or regulatory activities related to public exposure to indoor radon; OR ii) professionals associated with the construction industry (building industry providers, installers, ventilation experts or retrofitting professionals); OR iii) civil engineers, architects and designers who need expertise to design buildings with preventive solutions for existing and new buildings. Participants should have sufficient proficiency to follow discussions in English and should be able to share the knowledge acquired in the training course.

## 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 (EVT2305843) 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](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the training course 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.

## **IAEA Contacts**

Programme Management Officer (responsible for substantive matters):

Ms Maria del Pilar Murillo Fuentes  
Division for Europe  
Department of Technical Cooperation  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna International Centre  
PO Box 100  
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA  
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26038  
Email: [M.d.P.Murillo-Fuentes@iaea.org](mailto:M.d.P.Murillo-Fuentes@iaea.org)

Administrative Contact (responsible for administrative matters):

Ms Gulnur Erni-Toyalieva  
Division for Europe  
Department of Technical Cooperation  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna International Centre  
PO Box 100  
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA  
Tel.: +43 1 2600 22394  
Email: [G.Erni-Toyalieva@iaea.org](mailto:G.Erni-Toyalieva@iaea.org)