

Training Workshop of the IAEA's Network of Analytical Laboratories for the Measurement of Environmental Radioactivity (ALMERA) on Environmental Sampling for Radionuclide Analyses

Purpose:

The purpose of the event is to train participants in theoretical and practical aspects of sampling water and soil for radionuclide analyses, aiming to improve the overall environmental radioactivity analysis, monitoring and assessment performance of ALMERA member laboratories.

Dates: 3-7 June 2024

Location: Schwarzenburg, Switzerland

Introduction/Background:

ALMERA (Analytical Laboratories for the Measurement of Environmental Radioactivity) is a world-wide network of analytical laboratories, established by the IAEA. Through methodological and data quality support received from the IAEA and collaborative method development and validation, ALMERA member laboratories are able to provide internationally acceptable radioanalytical data in normal situations as well as in case of accidental or intentional releases of radioactivity, as requested by their nominating authorities.

This training workshop aims to enhance the participants' ability to plan and implement fit-for-purpose processes and techniques for collecting representative samples for site characterization in emergency as well as in routine monitoring conditions. The workshop will support methodological harmonisation between ALMERA member laboratories.

Objectives:

The workshop will take place over a one-week period, providing lectures, practical sessions and field work. The key objectives of the training workshop are:

- To instruct participants in the fundamental principles of environmental sampling (soil and water), aligning with the ISO 17025 standard
- To provide an overview of sampling strategies, processes, and data quality objectives
- To present techniques and tools used during sampling campaigns, including their field demonstration, and the field-laboratory work link, including sub-sampling techniques
- To provide practical sessions on planning and hands-on sampling, data processing and interpretation regarding sampling quality
- To discuss implementation of standards and norms in everyday work
- To carry out a field trip to the Spiez Laboratory and site visit to the Mühleberg NPP, currently in the process of dismantlement

Target participants:

This workshop is open to scientific and technical staff of ALMERA network member laboratories who possess 3-5 years demonstrated experience in environmental sampling and/or radioanalytical techniques and wish to develop their skills further.

Candidates are encouraged to provide the requested information through the registration survey to describe their professional competencies in the areas mentioned above. As hands-on sampling will be carried out outdoors, the participants should prepare themselves to work in the field in any weather conditions.

Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Participation and Registration:

All persons applying to participate in the event must be staff of designated member laboratories of the ALMERA Network. 30 places are available for the training workshop. Participants who are interested in applying are requested to submit an application through the [Application Form](#) by March 15, 2024.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Expenditures and Grants:

No registration fee is charged to participants. Accommodation is provided free of charge to all participants by the generous contribution of the Swiss Government. Participants are responsible for their own transportation expenses to and from their home country to the training workshop site, as well as for on-site meals. A daily estimated allocation of 50 CHF for meals at the training location is advised.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of a limited number of participants from developing countries.

The application for financial support should also be made through the [Application Form](#) by March 15, 2024.

Visas

Selected participants who require a visa to enter Switzerland should submit the necessary application as soon as possible to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Switzerland.