



Virtual Regional Workshop on Effective Communication with the Public in the Event of a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency

11-12 June 2024

Ref. No.: EVT2304716

Information Sheet

Introduction

Effective communication with the public is essential in ensuring the effectiveness of protective actions to mitigate adverse consequences of an emergency for human life, health, property and the environment. Effective communication with the public that is timely, clear and accurate is also important for maintaining trust on the part of the public. Communicating with the public in a nuclear or radiological emergency is both important and challenging. Emergencies can have local, national, regional and international consequences and lead to increased public concern. The virtual training will cover communicating the basics of radiation and radiation risks, risk perception, using social media, relations with the media, the role of a spokesperson, and planning for emergency public communications.

This virtual workshop, building on a comprehensive e-learning course comprising eight modules on public communication, aims to delve deeper into the practical aspects of arrangements for effective communication with the public in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency. Through the e-learning course, participants will have already engaged with topics including the basics of radiation and radiation risks, risk perception, social media utilization, media relations, spokesperson roles, and planning for emergency public communications. The workshop focuses on discussing participants' final assignments from the e-learning course and a practical scenario to cement their learning and readiness.

The training is based on IAEA safety standards related to public communication, including GSG-14, General Safety Guide on Arrangements for Public Communication in Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (2020), as well as the EPR publication on Communication with the Public in a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (in revision).

Objectives

The objective of this virtual two-day workshop is to provide guidance on the principles and techniques that can be used by Public Information Officers to build arrangements for communicating with the public in preparedness for, and in response to, a nuclear or radiological emergency. The goal is to improve expertise and knowledge to strengthen the preparedness to respond to nuclear or radiological emergencies.

Target Audience

This advanced workshop is tailored for staff from governmental organizations responsible for public communication in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency and who are involved in EPR activities. Participants are expected to have a foundational understanding of public information development and delivery, along with a grasp of EPR principles, to derive maximum benefit from the workshop.

Completion of the e-learning course will be considered in the selection process as a key indicator of the candidate's readiness.

Working Language

English

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

Designations should be submitted to the IAEA via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) through the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) not later than 30 April 2024.

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

Additional Requirements

To participate in the workshop, completion of the prior e-learning course is mandatory/strongly encouraged. This prerequisite ensures that all participants share a common foundation of knowledge to participate in the sessions.

To ensure sufficient interaction in the online 'break out' sessions, the training group will not exceed 20 participants. For that reason, Member States are encouraged to submit nominations as early as possible.

Venue

The event will be held virtually via WebEx. The logistics and other details on how to join the event will be shared in due course.

IAEA Contacts

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.