



RER/9/163: Improving the Protection of Workers Exposed to Radiation at
Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material Sites

Regional First Coordination Meeting

Hosted by

The Government of Portugal

through the

Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra

Coimbra, Portugal

24 to 26 June 2024

Ref. No.: ME-RER9163-2401686

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to review the progress made and achievements reached, share experiences on lessons learned and best practices under the technical cooperation project RER9155 “Enhancing Regulatory and Methodological Infrastructures Needed to Ensure Radiation Safety in Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials Industry”, discuss and make arrangements for the implementation of activities under the succeeding TC regional project RER9163.

Working Language(s)

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

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **10 May 2024** will not be considered.

Project Background

International interest in NORM issues, including environmental research, the development of guidance materials, and the exchange of information, has grown steadily over the past decade, with no single approach to controlling exposure to NORM being appropriate for all identified industrial processes. In the European region, many countries operate workplaces underground or in facilities that use, generate or store NORM where workers could be exposed to natural sources of ionising radiation. Under specific circumstances, those facilities must be notified/registered/authorized by the radiation protection regulatory body, and appropriate measures should be taken to ensure the protection of workers from the radiation. All these activities require establishing clear requirements by the regulator, including workplace or individual monitoring, the assessment of doses and their recording, and development of the relevant radiation protection programme. The majority of Member States (MSs) adopted the list of industrial processes involving NORM as a result of the implementation of the IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 3. Strengthening the capacity of MSs to control, monitor, and record occupational exposure in workplaces involving NORM is essential for national arrangement in occupational radiation protection. The RER9163 has been formulated to support MSs to develop and/or enhance their regulatory frameworks as a continuation of RER9155 project.

Scope and Nature

The coordination meeting will be conducted with a series of interactive round table discussions. with the goal to:

- Review the achievements of the TC regional project RER9155, collect feedback from the project counterparts on lessons learned and best practices
- Discuss the work plan of the new TC regional project RER9163 during the implementation period.
- Discuss occupational exposure in workplaces involving NORM and how to enhance regulatory frameworks.

Participation

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

Note: Only countries that appointed a counterpart for the regional project can participate. In case the country did not nominate a counterpart, it can be done prior to the meeting nomination deadline.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The coordination meeting is intended for individuals who are official participants of RER/9/163.

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 (EVT2401686) 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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