

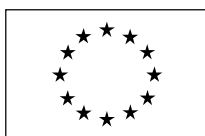


European Information System on Electromagnetic Fields Exposure and Health Impacts

On behalf of DG Health and Consumer Protection

Executive Summary

February, 2005



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Institute for Health and Consumer Protection
Physical and Chemical Exposure Unit

<http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int/eis-emf>

Executive summary

JRC developed during 2003-2004 the EIS-EMF project on behalf of DG SANCO with the overall objective of promoting cooperation among policy makers on public health and EMF risk communication issues in the EU.

The continuing and increasing public concern over EMF related issues highlights the need to take a fresh look at approaches to risk communication with a view to identifying effective new initiatives. JRC through EIS-EMF provides scientific and technical support to EU policies in the area of EMF and health, on behalf of DG SANCO and other DG (RES, ENTR, ENV, EMPL, etc).

The key achievements of the project include the development and demonstration of a prototype concept comprising:

- A network of EU policy makers on EMF issues
- An operational science/policy interface
- Communication tools

This prototype EIS-EMF concept develops and provides a common information basis to decision makers and the public across the EU, which is reliable, relevant, balanced, user-friendly, up-to-date and timely. To this end, the members of the a network of policy makers, which acts as the EIS-EMF Advisory Board, and the European Commission carry out a systematic information exchange. The JRC coordinates this information exchange in the frame of thematic activities and technical working groups. These undertakings constitute the work programme of the EIS-EMF. Advisory Board members make proposals and advise the JRC in the planning of the work programme, and contribute to its execution.

The establishment of an operational science/policy interface was achieved in co-operation with EMF-NET, a FP6 co-ordination action that networks key scientists with the main task to analyse and interpret the scientific evidence on the possible health impacts of exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Communication tools developed and demonstrated by the EIS-EMF include:

- The “EU Country Reports on EMF and Health Issues” presenting a concise and thorough review of national approaches, regulatory measures, and actions in the area of EMF, and potential health risks.
- The “EU Database on EMF exposure measurements and assessments”. The feasibility of such a database was investigated and its further development is proposed to play an “observatory” function of EMF exposure in the EU, to promote common standards, and to become a reference for comparability for compliance with standards across the EU.
- A web-based gateway to all relevant information on EMF exposure and public health protection, and risk communication issues across the EU.

In collaboration with EMF-NET, JRC organised in July 2004 a workshop on EMF risk perception and risk communication, and a preparatory meeting for the “Stakeholder dialogue”, both with broad stakeholder and expert participation. During these events and further contacts, EIS-EMF has established an intensive co-operation with WHO, ICNIRP, COST 281 and EMF-NET resulting in a coordinated agenda for activities for the year 2005. One tangible result of this international collaboration is the “EMF Coordination Meeting” at DG SANCO, in Luxembourg the 31st January 2005. In this meeting the organisation of two high-level workshops (see below) was discussed.

The Advisory Board members met twice in 2004 (the 12th July and 28th October) and established a detailed agreement on the terms of reference for the future operation of the EIS-EMF, its work programme and objectives. Main elements of this work-program are:

- The country reports/gateway
- The EU database on EMF measurements
- The organisation of workshops on key themes

On this basis, and through the continuing operation and upgrading of the information system, EIS-EMF future activities will fully implement the systematic information exchange between the EC and EU national administrations, the expert community, and representative stakeholders.

Regarding the 2005 work-program, the Advisory Board specified two workshops to be organised by the EIS-EMF in co-operation with WHO, ICNIRP, COST 281 and EMF-NET:

- a) “Analysis and interpretation of ‘scientific evidence’ on EMF exposure and health effects for EU policy-making”
- b) “EMF Risk communication in the EU – Case studies”

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