

RENEB DEMONSTRATION

Brussels, 26 November 2015

Feedback from the discussion group on emergency preparedness and response issues.

A group of 18 participants from different areas, laboratories, authorities and others participated on the group. The discussions were focussed on five main topics:

1. The designation of laboratories at national level.
2. Resources of laboratories number of samples.
3. The triage of individual exposed by biological dosimetry.
4. The activation of the RENEB network.
5. The added value of the network.

Regarding the official designation of laboratories and/or arrangements in the national plan for radiation emergencies, there are important differences between the RENEB's members and mainly four situations could be identified as follows:

Official designation of laboratory(ies)	Formal arrangements in the national plan	Comments	Example
Yes	Yes	In this case both conditions were matched.	France, Germany, Portugal and Spain
Yes	No	In some countries there is an official designation but the participation during the emergency will be determined by a committee (Italy)	Italy, Poland and Ukraine.
No	Yes	No designation but there are international arrangements to support the response	Norway
No	No	None of the condition is meet.	Netherland

Concerning the triage of individuals using biological dosimetry methods, it is a matter of fact that the first triage use the conventional medical criteria any kind of radiation emergency. Therefore, the term "triage" from dosimetrical point of view,

makes reference to the classification of individuals exposed by biodosimetric methods previously evaluated by medical criteria.

The discussion focussed on the number of individuals and samples that can be analysed by each laboratory. It was agreed that the number of samples will be proportional to the availability of resources, as well as, the capabilities and trained personnel from the laboratory. The participants mentioned a range amongst 20 to 200 samples per week that could be analysed, depending on the laboratory. It was pointed out that from the technical perspective the preparation of the cell culture is a critical step due to the time required for the analysis in mass casualties.

About the RENEb's activation process by the national authorities, there was a common understanding that there is a need to establish a legal framework for RENEb actions. It was recognized that RENEb is a useful and important network especially for preparedness to radiation emergencies. However, to respond to radiation emergencies exist official mechanism that includes national and international arrangements, as well as, the participation of other organizations as IAEA or WHO.

The participants expressed their willingness to encourage their laboratories to join the RENEb.

The following conclusions were extracted from the discussions of the emergency group:

1. The official designation of laboratories as reference laboratories for biodosimetry and its integration to national plans, to respond to radiation emergencies, could provide a legal framework for the involvement of these laboratories in preparedness and response activities related. Consequently, it could improve the interaction with other stakeholders; it could facilitate their participation in preparedness activities in radiation emergencies, such as trainings, intercomparisons and quality assurance process. In addition, it could eventually facilitate the maintenance of their capabilities and the assignment of resource.
2. The role of RENEb in the preparedness to radiation emergencies has been essential to improve capabilities at national and regional level in Europe. Some examples include: the development of new techniques in some countries; the work developed for the harmonization of process in biodosimetric techniques; the support provided by the network in trainings and exchange of knowledge; the intercomparison exercise, providing a regional idea about the regional techniques and the accuracy of the results; the improvements in the quality standards. Additionally, the continuous efforts to enhance and strength the integration amongst different biodosimetry laboratories at regional and international level in Latin-America and Asia.

3. The RENE B could play a key role for the response to radiation emergencies. two main situations has been analysed the eventual support to countries that has not established biodosimetry laboratories and mass casualty events. However, a legal framework of action would be necessary.

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