



PRESENTING RADIOLOGICAL RISKS TO THE PUBLIC, SCHOOLS AND VISITORS: THE EXPERIENCE AT THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE IN ISPRA

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Communication of radiation risks to workers and mainly to visitors and to the surrounding population is an important task for the **Nuclear Decommissioning Unit** at the Joint Research Centre of Ispra.

The Centre is one of the research Sites belonging to the European Commission, Directorate General JRC: it was created in the late '50s, in order to steer European research on nuclear industry. During the years, its mission extended to a variety of other research subjects, more strategic for the European Union.

The Centre still hosts a number of nuclear facilities, some of which are maintained in operation, while others were shutdown in past years or are currently being decommissioned.



The JRC-ISPRA **Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management Programme**, spanning over more than 20 years, greatly benefits from understanding and acceptance also of the **local communities' public opinion**, in order to fully develop its mission and objectives. Regular public meetings and speeches are organized with the participation of surrounding municipalities.



Throughout the years, the **Radiation Protection Sector** of the Nuclear Decommissioning Unit, has gained a significant experience in communication of radiological risks, and has put in place a network of public presentations and hands-on demonstrations, in order to effectively explain radiation and radiation risks to audiences of very different backgrounds.

School presentations (either for primary, secondary and high schools), JRC-ISPRA site nuclear related laboratories guided tours and interactive training courses have been specifically developed and are currently proposed to everyone visiting the Centre.

During the **JRC-ISPRA Open Day** (once every two years, the whole Site is opening its access to thousands of visitors, including families) demonstrations and information points on radioactivity are made available: Radiation Protection Technicians show the basics of radioactivity, nuclear physics, interaction and shielding and effects of radiations to the audience, using everyday objects like watches, rocks, camping gas mantles, ceramics, etc.



Moreover, **technical training** of different levels is regularly proposed by the Radiation Protection Sector JRC-ISPRA workers. This includes specific trainings on external and internal dosimetry, PPEs' donning and doffing, nuclear transports, nuclear accountancy, radiometric instrumentation, etc.



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