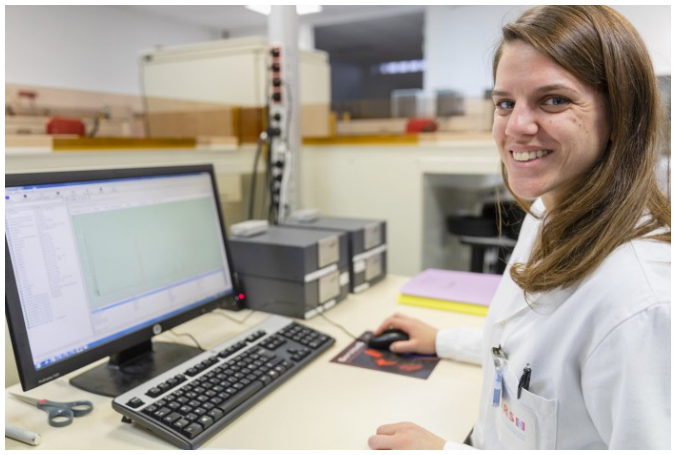
The portrait of a generation

Laura FABBIANO France	

Your job

Who do you work for and could you describe your job?

I work for the IRSN, an institute devoted in research in radiation protection and nuclear safety working notably for the French Nuclear Safety Authority and also performing research on its own. I'm a lab technician. My job is to measure the nuclear activity of environmental samples (water, soil and plants) using different techniques in order to monitor the radioactivity in the environment.

How did you get into radiation protection?

I chose a Radiation Protection degree hoping to do the job I do today! My first motivation was to monitor pollution in the environment. I turned to radiation protection after meeting students in nuclear maintenance, a sector that I didn't know at the time.
The world of radioactivity was very new to me and I found it fascinating! So much to learn!

What do you enjoy most at work?

Handling radioactivity is pretty cool, not everyone does that! And mastering a subject that scares most people makes me look smart and interesting!

The portrait of a generation

A professional meeting you still remember today?

In my previous job, I met a radiologist who trivialized the radiological risk so much that he took no precautions and exposed his health!

Any message you would like to pass to the younger generation about working in RP?

It doesn't matter if you are pro or against nuclear. Radiation protection of humans and the environment are professions of the future! As long as there is a nuclear industry in a country, radiation protection professionals will always have an essential role!

Radiation Protection Associate Society

How are you involved in your AS?

My AS has five sections, three committees and two clubs. I have been an active member of one of these clubs since 2019. I help to promote my club and organise event.

How many members in your AS?

Around 1300 people.

Are the young professionals connected (Club)?
Are you performing activities together?

The club which I am a member welcomes young RP professionals under 35 years old. It gives the opportunity to these young people to meet and build a professional network. It organizes events such as seminars and afterworks-debate.

Your best memory with your AS?

I met the members of the club during an after-work on the theme "ethics in RP". It was nice to meet young people who work in my field and to be able to discuss our professional experiences. We had a really good time!

How do you see the future of radiation protection in your country? Is it specific to your country or applicable to other?

In my opinion, radiation protection is a hot topic that finds its place in several major industries and sectors: medicine, energy production, construction etc. regardless of the

country concerned. It is fundamental to ensure the safety of the people, workers, patients and the environment. And if one day the country decide to quit the use of nuclear fiemd, there will still be decades of work for the dismantling and the management of waste!

About you

Hobbies and pets?

Netflix, cinema and my hedgehog plush.

3 things you will bring on a desert island?

A boat, a pair of oars and a bottle of drinking water.

Favourite dish?

Junk food.

Favourite drink?

The water from my Radium fountain.

Best travel destination recommendation? (including the period of the year)

Italy anytime. Best country ever! (I'm half Italian and not very objective).

The portrait of a generation

Word to word

What/who would you be if you were … (and please explain!)

One element from the Periodic Table?
^{3}H. Four years that I have been looking for it in the water of the environment, I am beginning to have an affinity with it.

One ionizing radiation (particle included)?
Gamma rays. Easy to detect but harder to tame!

One famous scientist?
Easy one. Marie Curie. How not to be impressed??

One radiation protection instrument (laboratory measurement included)?
The lead apron with thyroid cover used in nuclear medicine. Because I don't understand how it is possible to work with it and the idea makes me laugh.

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