

# **Key points for session 3**

Radon national action plan workshop  
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# Report from Session 3

Actions to reduce radon exposure in work places  
and buildings with public access

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# Session 3 – summary

- EU 2013/59 Directive

requires that all Member states establish a national action plan addressing long-term risks from radon exposures in workplaces and buildings with public access for any source of radon (soil, water, building materials).

- Presentations from Sweden, Spain, Switzerland and France.

# Session 3 – summary

## Key points:

- Graded approach for derivation the regulatory limits, taking into the account difference in possible exposure levels, exposure periods and specificity in some working places and buildings into the consideration:

# Session 3 – summary

- Current limits tend to be higher than 300 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>, especially in underground workplaces. However, in Sweden, the limit for above ground working places is 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - Sweden – underground workplaces: limit of 1300 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>; other underground work: limit of 400 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> and other above the ground workplaces: limit of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - Spain – workplaces except schools and kindergartens: limit of 600 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>
  - Switzerland – workplaces: limit of 3000 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>; new plan 1000 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

# Session 3 – summary

- Workplaces and buildings with public access (mines and other underground working places, rock shelters, schools, kindergartens, radon prone areas) where radon measurements are required should be identified and monitored.

# Challenges:

- Employers are not aware that they have to conduct the measurement and risk assessment of radon;
- Implementation of new proposed EU BSS limit in mines – costs may be high
- Estimation of doses and non-stationary workers
- Follow-up/inspection/control on radon levels and remediation
- information to building owners

# Points made during the discussion

- Communication of new requirements (BSS) to employers is crucial.
- Allow time to achieve compliance, the approach should be pragmatic. Develop simple and cheap solutions – reach out.
- Protection from radon at work based on public health considerations or radiation protection system for workers?

# Discussion points cont.

- Radon exposure of workers (collectively) are lower than in dwellings
- Mitigation may still be cost effective.
- Some workers receive relatively high doses from radon, must be regulated for coherence, liability issues etc.
- Regulating radon in public buildings, i.e. schools and kindergardens is a good idea, and could also influence willingness to measure and mitigate radon in dwellings.

# Strategy of measurements and remediation in public building and workplaces

*France, Switzerland* : Regulatory approach Versus Voluntary approach, encouragement or regulation

## Regulation and Control

*Spain, Czeck Republic, Switzerland* : Control of compliance of regulation (strategy and instrument, inspection and breaches, periodicity of measurements (10 y ?))

*Czeck Republic* : determination of workplaces (areas and other criteria, commercial impact)

*Russia* : radon dose coefficients (possible complication for radon regulation in workplaces)

*Sweden* : non-stationary workers (difficult to monitor)

## ***Norway :***

- **Importance of regulation in schools and kindergartens with legally binding limit values**
- **Responsibility of radon management in working places**

## **Mining**

***Sweden :*** Radon in mines (the limit values are not impossible», reduction to 300 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> put a heavy economical burden)

## **Research**

***Switzerland :*** need for research on radon dosimetry, on protocol to exclude unacceptable situation (short period of measurements)