

Involve, Engage, or Participate? Shaping “Engagement” with Stakeholders and Wider Publics in Radiation Protection

Chairpersons:

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Increasingly, radiation protection actors (scientists, science policy makers, oversight bodies, citizens) underline the importance of stakeholder engagement and ongoing dialogue between scientific experts, civil society organizations, and publics in the face of sociotechnical challenges (e.g. increasing use of ionizing radiation in medical applications; ongoing issues related to nuclear accidents). Yet, engagement takes on multiple forms, is enacted differently in formal and informal venues, and is continuously reshaped depending on situation and context. With these observations in mind, this session invites contributions from researchers and practitioners that reflect on the manifold meanings of “engagement,” “participation,” “stakeholder” and related notions, the needs and rationales for engagement/participation in radiation protection, the types of involvement at play, and the practical experiences and the lessons learned from participatory practice. The session particularly welcomes presentations that focus on engagement in medical exposures to ionizing radiation, nuclear emergency preparedness, response and recovery, and exposures to indoor radon. It will be concluded with an invitation to dialogue, taking the form of a panel.

The session is hosted by the European research project ENGAGE, integrated in the H2020 project CONCERT, and aims at enhancing stakeholder participation in the governance of radiological risks.