CONDITIONS FOR AND MEANS OF DEVELOPMENT OF A PRACTICAL RADIATION PROTECTION CULTURE WITHIN THE POPULATION IN A POST-ACCIDENT SITUATION

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Practical radiation protection culture for the long term of the post-accidental phase

- **Definition :**

"A practical radiation protection culture can be defined as all the knowledge, experience and know-how enabling the general public to make valid choices and adopt legitimate behaviours in situations involving potential or actual exposure to ionising radiation."

- **This requires that, at local level, people can:**
  - find out how the risks associated with the radioactivity in their environment may affect them
  - understand the usefulness of the protective action
  - through radiological measurement, assess the contamination level of environment and of foodstuffs produced locally
  - implement means of keeping their own exposure as low as reasonably achievable

How is a practical radiation protection culture developed ?

- **In normal times**
  - Favor a speech based on understandable indicators and practical implementation of knowledge
  - Consider radiation protection globally in relation with the local context and the issues faced by people everyday (radon, medical...)
  - Provide some understanding of current scientific debates (low doses…)
  - Diversify the sources of information for the sake of pluralism
- **In a post-accident situation**
  - Directly involve the population
  - Give to individuals direct access to means of radiological measurement

The role of teachers and those involved in promoting scientific culture

- Integrate the concepts and methods of radiation protection within the knowledge base and the projects of scientific culture
- Assist students in achieving practical projects, including on their local environment
- Relay 'good practice' of personal hygiene, nutrition and lifestyle
- Mobilize people to adopt an attitude of vigilance for exposures received in their everyday life (radon, medical, environmental...)

The role of health professionals

- Facilitate the expression of health concerns expressed by the population
- Address the need for information on radioactivity in a personalized way, adapted to each particular situation
- Provide guidance for the interpretation of measurement results
- Participate in the identification of protective actions appropriate to each particular situation
- Collect information on the health situation, its evolution and possibly organize the alert, if needed

The role of NGO's and local information commissions for nuclear facilities

- Organize events to disseminate information on radiation and debate local issues
- Facilitate understanding by elected officials and citizens of the information provided by different actors
- Facilitate the organization of networks of informed citizens and actors of "radiological vigilance“
- Assist people in medical and compensation procedures

How to improve radiation protection culture?

- Develop an understanding/training appropriate to the role that actors have to play in post-accident situation and integrate it with current practices
- Get support of experts from different disciplines
- Structure networks of stakeholders involved in radiation proection culture development
- Develop opportunities for dialogue and sharing