

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
EUROPEAN RADIOECOLOGY ALLIANCE
AND
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RADIOECOLOGY
CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF
RADIOECOLOGY**

European Radioecology Alliance is a joint initiative dedicated to integrate radioecological research in Europe, that is currently carried by 14 European R&D institutions. The ERA Association is registered as an Association under French legislation, its headquarters being established in the head office of the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN), 31 Avenue de la Division Leclerc, BP 17, 92262 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex, France.

The International Union of Radioecology (hereinafter IUR) is an independent, non-political and non-profit professional society registered under Belgian legislation at Grees n° 44, 2490, Balen, Belgium, with its executive Secretariat located at Centre d'Etudes de Cadarache, Bât 229, BP 3, 13115 Saint-Paul-lez-Durance, France.

IUR and Radioecology Alliance may individually be referred to as "Participant", or collectively as "Participants".

Objectives

There is a mutual interest in promoting cooperation between the European Radioecology Alliance , and the International Union of Radioecology (IUR). The Radioecology Alliance is operating at regional level as an R&D actor in radioecology especially committed to harmonizing efforts and joint programming at European level. European joint programming is specifically addressed through the development of a Strategic Research Agenda and its associated roadmaps where priorities are to be identified and translated into research programmes. IUR promotes strategic reflection by networking, brain storming, coordination and linkage at international level such as to consolidate the scientific advancement, to harmonize the various regional scientific efforts and to strengthen the recognition of radioecology worldwide, as a robust scientific discipline dealing with nuclear risks. Hence, both organisations share essentially the same scientific interests concerned with reaching a better description of environmental radioactivity, and a better understanding of its potential deleterious interaction with humans and ecological systems, irrespective of its actual source (natural or linked to human activities).



As a consequence, both organisations are dealing essentially with similar scientific issues, even though these are differentiated by the respective geographical focus and overall goals, as above-mentioned. The Participants therefore recognize that there is a high reciprocal value to construct a stronger linkage between the two organisations, in a way that would also acknowledge their respective personal identities.

In view of these common interests and objectives, the Participants desire to foster scientific and technical collaboration in areas of mutual interest by:

- Promoting the creation of a common strategy and implementation plans for research paying especial attention to the development and sustainment of expertise across all scientific disciplines relevant to problems associated with radioactivity in the environment.
- Conducting joint activities and participating in joint task groups, duly acknowledged, or by any means or tool felt desirable (workshop, meeting, scientific mission, ...)
- Promoting the conduct of sound research into all aspects of environmental radioactivity and radioecology, and promoting its publication in the open scientific literature.
- Promoting the exchange of scientific information, whether through their respective web sites, their respective publications (e.g. reports, newsletters,...) or the scientific workshops and conferences that they may support, organize or promote.
- Authoring joint publications and presentations.

As these efforts develop and grow, the formation of dedicated agreements, between the Participants and their affiliated institutions, will be evaluated to more broadly support important initiatives in the principal focus areas mentioned above. The Participants will negotiate separate written agreements containing mutually agreeable terms and conditions when collaborative opportunities are identified which will address, among others items, the specific object of cooperation, funding, and protection and allocation of any intellectual property shared or developed.

Areas of cooperation

Collaboration is encouraged on technical tasks that can assist IUR and ERA in carrying out their respective missions. Initial efforts are planned to center on specific initiatives, which may include, but are not restricted to :

- Radiation ecology (including atmospheric, earth and ocean sciences)
- Radiation biology (environmental biology, molecular biology, biodiversity)
- Environmental modeling (including atmospheric, earth and ocean sciences)



- Radioecological aspects of emergency and post-emergency preparedness
- Ecological risk assessment
- Ecotoxicology
- Urban radioecology
- Environmental health physics
- Tracer studies (to support understanding of biogeochemical cycles)
- Microbiology and biotechnology

The Participants intend to notify each other of projects on which they can collaborate and provide each other with necessary information and support reasonably requested by the other Participant to facilitate fulfillment of the objective of this Memorandum of Understanding.

General Provisions

1. This Memorandum does not create any legally binding obligations between the Participants.
2. The identity of the respective organization, here Radioecology Alliance and IUR, is not to be impaired by this agreement. Each organization retains the right to decide, through its own General Assembly or governing body or any other pertinent mean, its own strategy, directions and actions, and especially to identify what could be developed in collaboration due to recognized reciprocal interest.
3. Responsibility for all activities in relation to IUR will remain with IUR.
4. Responsibility for all activities in relation to Radioecology Alliance will remain with Radioecology Alliance.
5. The conduct of the activities contemplated by this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the availability of appropriated funds, personnel, and other resources.
6. Each Participant should conduct the activities contemplated by this Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with applicable laws and regulations to which it is subject, including export control laws.
7. Any exchange of proprietary information in furtherance of the activities contemplated by this Memorandum of Understanding is to be the subject of a written non-disclosure agreement specific to the subject matter concerned.



8. Each Participant is responsible for all costs it may incur arising out of its participation in cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding.
9. The Participants intend to consult prior to any news releases, public announcements, advertisements or publicity to be released by either Participant concerning the cooperative activities conducted under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Commencement, Duration, Revision and Discontinuation

10. Cooperation under this Memorandum may commence upon signature by both participants, continue for an initial period of 5 years, and may be automatically extended for additional periods of 5 years by mutual consent, unless disagreement expressed in writing by one of the participants.
11. This Memorandum may be revised in writing at any time by the joint determination of both Participants.
12. The Participants may discontinue this Memorandum at any time by mutual consent in writing. A Participant that desires to discontinue its participation in this Memorandum should endeavor to provide at least 90 days written notice to the other Participant. All ongoing joint activities, projects and experiments not completed at the expiration or discontinuation of this Memorandum may be continued until their completion under the terms of this Memorandum.

Key implementing officials

International Union of Radioecology

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President

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Signed in duplicate.

FOR EUROPEAN RADIOECOLOGY
ALLIANCE:

Dr Frank HARDEMAN
President of European Radioecology
Alliance



Date: 18 November 2013

FOR INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RADIOECOLOGY:

Dr. François BRECHIGNAC
President, International Union
of Radioecology



Date: 13 November 2013

