

STRATEGIC APPROACH OF RADIATION PROTECTION COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUPILS, STUDENTS AND PUBLIC

*Ms IEVA GATELYTE
Radiation Protection Centre
LITHUANIA
ieva.gatelyte@rsc.lt*

ETRAP2017
6th International Conference on Education and Training in Radiological Protection
30 May - 2 June 2017
Valencia, SPAIN



Radiacinės saugos centras

CONTENT

- ✓ Why is it important to communicate?
- ✓ Challenges
- ✓ National legislation
- ✓ Pupils
- ✓ Students
- ✓ Public
- ✓ IAEA National TC project LIT/9/016
 - “Establishing an E-learning System for Training in Radiation Protection”
- ✓ Conclusions

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE?

- ✓ Very often there is a **lack of understanding**, that radioactivity is the **part of our environment**, and the use of ionizing radiation is very various and wide – not only for atomic energy, but also in X-ray diagnostics, nuclear medicine, brachytherapy, industry, science etc.
- ✓ Communication in a right time and in a right way could help for the people to be aware of the potential **dangers** of ionizing radiation, and also to understand that it can be used **safely**.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Radiation – **specific topic** for communication with the public.
- ✓ How to present this topic in **easy understanding** way for everyone?
- ✓ The **presenter** – on his/her preparedness, experience, personal characteristics depends how well the public will understand the radiation topics.
- ✓ **Methodological recommendations** for communication with the public in emergency situations – what about the methodological communication with the public of “**daily radiation topics**”?

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

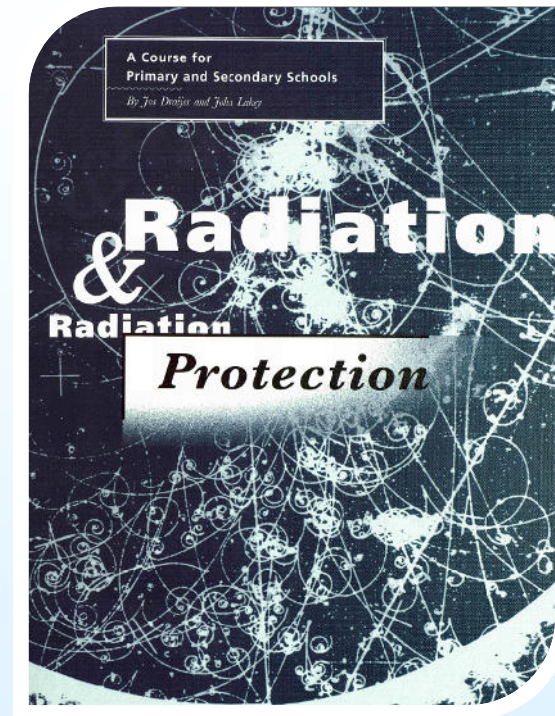
- ✓ There is not approved a separate legal act as an official strategy of radiation protection communication with the public in Lithuania, but the **strategic statements** of communication are clearly determined in different legislations.
- ✓ "In order to provide the necessary knowledge on radiation protection, should be the **events** organized for various public groups – **pupils, students, journalists, students** <...> – in a way of the seminars, lectures and conferences. Information regarding the radiation protection and the latest developments in the field of radiation protection is also published on the **official website** of Radiation Protection Centre and regularly disseminating through national media channels."

*Radiation Protection Training Development Programme (Strategy);
approved by the Radiation Protection Center Director's 2008 April 18th Order No. 21.*



PUPILS (1)

- ✓ For the purpose that pupils would gain the knowledge of the **safe use of ionizing radiation**, by the initiative of **European Commission**, it was prepared the methodological publication **“Radiation and Radiation Protection”** (*a course for Primary and Secondary Schools, where the radiation protection topics are included in adequate educational programs (like civil protection etc.)*).
- ✓ **Jos Draijer** – specialist in teachers’ training,
- ✓ **John Lakey** – expert in protection protection.



*“Radiation and Radiation Protection”
Jos Draijer, John Lakey*

PUPILS (2)

- ✓ Radiation Protection Centre **translated** this methodological publication into Lithuanian language and **adapted** it for the high schools in Lithuania.
- ✓ The **Ministry of Education and Science** of the Republic of Lithuania had approved this methodological publication as a suitable informative publication for teaching the different age pupils of radiation protection topics.
- ✓ The success of the methodological publication depends crucially on the use that **teachers** make of it.

PUPILS (3)

✓ In 2016 in cooperation with “**Education Centre of Utena**” it was organized the meeting with Utena district teachers, teaching the pupils the human safety subject.



✓ In 2017 in cooperation with the “**Centre of Support for the Teacher and Pupil of Taurage**” it was organized the meeting with Taurage district teachers, teaching the pupils the human safety, chemistry and physics.

STUDENTS (1)

- ✓ The students from the various universities and high schools, who are **not directly related** to radiation protection (*physics, public health, kinesitherapy, ergotherapy students*), also students from foreign countries who are studying in Lithuania by the ERASMUS program, are familiarized with the functions of Radiation Protection Centre.



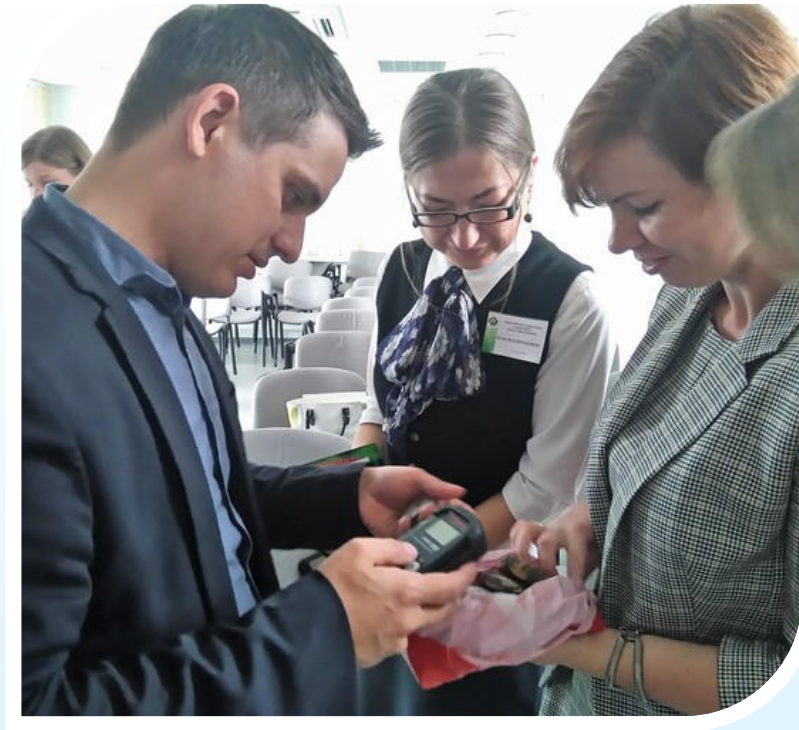
STUDENTS (1)

- ✓ Some of the students according to the **bilateral cooperation contracts** between Radiation Protection Centre and universities or high schools have possibilities to make a **practice** in different fields, related to the public exposure (*such as threat of radon gasses to public health, measurements of building materials etc.*).



PUBLIC (1)

- ✓ In order to actively and successfully spread the knowledge of radiation protection and to promote development of radiation protection culture in Lithuania, the specialists of Radiation Protection Centre collaborate with specialists from the **Public Health Bureaus** and organize **meetings with the public**.
- ✓ The people' communities of different regions of Lithuania are attending the meetings where presentations on **popular topics** in radiation protection are discussed (*radon, medical exposure, consumer products etc.*).



PUBLIC (2)

The cooperation between Radiation Protection Centre and the **Public Health Bureaus** is strengthening by the annual radiation protection informative **workshops for bureaus specialists**, who are as the main players in dissemination of knowledge for public in the field of dangerous factors to the human health and healthy life style.



IAEA National TC project LIT/9/016

“Establishing an E-learning System for Training in Radiation Protection”

- ✓ Beside the main part of the project (*e-learning system for **training** in radiation protection*) it is also planned to create the **e-learning module for the public**, which would include the basics of radiation and other useful topics for the public related to radiation (*how to act in emergency situations etc.*).
- ✓ The most important aim – easy understandable, available for everyone and any time with no any fee or special registration, the topics related to the daily environment as much as possible, as the obvious prove – radiation is always around us.

CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ This strategic approach of communication between **regulatory authority** and **public** helps to improve the better understanding that every member of the public (*pupils, students, communities etc.*) is able to take the responsibility of communities' radiation protection.
- ✓ For the successful communication – an important role for **cooperation** with various institutions (*public health bureaus, education centres etc.*).
- ✓ **E-learning module for the public** – easier and more flexible way for communication with the public, but **will never replace** the live eyes to eyes communication between the specialist and public member.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

