The ICRP Vancouver Call for Action

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• Announced at the 6th ICRP Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection, Vancouver, Canada 2022
Vancouver call for action to strengthen expertise in radiological protection worldwide

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- Radiological protection
- Radiation research
- Education and training
- Competence
Vancouver call for action to strengthen expertise in radiological protection worldwide

W. Rühm¹ · K. Cho² · C.-M. Larsson³ · A. Wojcik⁴,⁵ · C. Clement⁶ · K. Applegate⁷ · F. Bochud⁸ · S. Bouffler⁹ · D. Cool⁶ · G. Hirth³ · M. Kai¹⁰ · D. Laurier¹¹ · S. Liu¹² · S. Romanov¹³ · T. Schneider¹⁴

- Radiological protection
- Radiation research
- Education and training
- Competence

- Open Access
- View of the current ICRP Main Commission
Motivation – analysed literature


- **Vassileva J et al. (2021)** Strengthening radiation protection education and training of health professionals: conclusions from an IAEA meeting. J Radiol Prot 42 011504


- **SSK (2022)** German Radiation Protection Commission: Langfristige Sicherung der Kompetenz auf dem Gebiet der Strahlenforschung und -anwendung in Deutschland; Long-term assurance of competence in radiation research and application in Germany – Most important scientific disciplines and major scientific actors (in German) involved.

Motivation – analysed literature


- SSK (2022) German Radiation Protection Commission: Langfristige Sicherung der Kompetenz auf dem Gebiet der Strahlenforschung und -anwendung in Deutschland; **Long-term assurance of competence** in radiation research and application in Germany – Most important scientific disciplines and major scientific actors (in German) involved.

Motivation – comments

“Need for a holistic approach which includes partnership of national governments, civil society, international agencies, researchers, educators, institutions and professional associations …” (IAEA-WHO (2012))

“... looming shortage of radiation professionals represents a serious threat to the United States: ...” (NCRP (2015))

“... investment in education and training is essential” (Salomaa et al. (2017))

Many states “have lost key competences ... with implications for effectively fulfilling operational and policy needs and obligations” (Ottolenghi et al. 2019)

“... better understanding of the biological consequences of radiation exposure is becoming more important with increasing public concerns on radiation risks ...” (Cho et al. 2019)

German research would greatly benefit if scientific competence in those research areas ... be rebuilt, kept, and strengthened (SSK (2022))

Call for “radiation science and protection education for all undergraduates in health sciences (Vassileva et al. 2021; Linet et al. 2022)

Evaluation of the status and needs for increased resources for restarting the federal low-dose radiation research program in the United States (National Academies of Sciences 2022)
ICRP calls for action to strengthen expertise in radiological protection worldwide through

1. National governments and funding agencies strengthening resources for radiological protection research allocated by governments and international organisations

2. National research laboratories and other institutions launching and sustaining long-term research programmes.

3. Universities developing undergraduate and graduate university programmes and making students aware of job opportunities in radiation-related fields.

4. Using plain language when interacting with the public and decision makers about radiological protection

5. Fostering general awareness of proper uses of radiation and radiological protection through education and training of information multipliers.
UN Sustainable Development Goals: Establishment of an electronic ‘collection’ of papers published in Radiation and Environmental Biophysics

Blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

Development of Sustainable Goals

- urgent call for action by all countries
- developed and developing - in a global partnership.
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2015 Adoption of a resolution on transforming our world:

17 “Sustainable Development Goals”, e.g.

- SDG #3: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- SDG #4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG #7: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

https://sdgs.un.org/goals
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2030 Agenda for sustainable Development
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Resolution has 17 “Sustainable Development Goals”, e.g.
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This also applies to Radiation Protection

The Call supports several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

“Good Health and Well-being”  “Quality Education”  “Reduced Inequalities”  “Life Below Water”  “Life on Land”
New initiative by Radiation and Environmental Biophysics

https://doi.org/10.1007/s00411-023-01028-1

EDITORIAL

UN Sustainable Development Goals: establishment of an electronic ‘collection’ of papers published in Radiation and Environmental Biophysics

Werner Rühm · Anna A. Friedl · Andrzej Wojcik
From DoReMi to Pianoforte - Development of a research and training program for sustainable radiation protection in Europe addressing also E&T and infrastructure
Situation in Germany


- **2022 Long-term safeguarding of competence** in the field of radiation research and application in Germany. Identification of the most important scientific disciplines and key players in research. Adopted at the 312th meeting of the SSK (Radiation Protection Commission) 2021. Announcement in 2022.

- **2023 currently SSK Working Group is developing Recommendations**
  Long-term safeguarding and expansion of competence in the field of radiation research and application in Germany
In 2023 Establishment of Staff Unit on the Future of Radiation Protection at BfS

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Thank you for your attention