

ICRP Committee 4 Meeting

November 3-5, 2021 – Videoconference

Due to the COVID-19 related situation worldwide, the C4 annual meeting was held via videoconference on three consecutive days. The agenda was adapted to cover the entire programme of work, based on the preparation made by all C4 members by providing room documents. Discussion focused on essential items, thanks also to the findings of the C4 introductory meeting held virtually on 2 September 2021.

Reflecting on the priorities in the revision of the system

All C4 members discussed the potential priorities for C4 Programme of Work in connection to the revision of the ICRP general recommendations.

Six major topics were identified, the first two are to be launched as Working Parties by the end of 2021: (1) Going further with **protection of the environment** by exploring the values of **ecosystem services** and addressing the application of the **UN sustainable development goals**; (2) modernizing the concept and practical application of **justification**; considering the role of **ethical values**, addressing the concept of **well-being**; (3) revisiting the **exposure situations and the transition** from one situation to another by clarifying their definitions and implication for the application of the system; revisiting also the **categories of exposure** (including non-human categories); (4) refining **optimisation in practice** with **tools for implementing an holistic approach**, possibly integrating the lessons from COVID-19; (5) better integrating the social sciences and cross-cutting issues in **stakeholder involvement, risk communication and risk perception**, associated with further reflection on the development of the **ethical framework and its application in different exposure situations**; (6) Assisting the ICRP main Commission, in cooperation with Specific Liaison Organisations (SLOs) with education and training, and further developments on **radiological protection culture**. The importance of public/stakeholders engagement in the revision process was highlighted by all, with the possibility of inviting other important stakeholders such as NGOs, or using approaches such as citizen's panels.

Task Groups

TG97 on “Surface and near-surface waste disposal” will consolidate its report through a short pre-consultation phase with some SLOs which should be opened before the end of 2021.

Regarding **TG110 on “Radiological protection for occupational and public exposure in veterinary practice”**, the 3-month public consultation could start soon if agreed by the Main Commission.

TG98 on “Application of the Commission’s recommendations to exposures resulting from contaminated sites from past industrial, military and nuclear activities” will revise its draft report by integrating comments received from C4 critical reviewers and members over the next couple of months.

TG99 on “Reference Animals and Plants (RAPs) Monographs” proposed to the Main Commission a revision of its terms of reference in agreement with C1 and C4, with the aim to focus on the update of effects data and their meta-analysis to derive benchmarks per taxonomic class (e.g., DCRLs for mammals, fish).

TG105 on “Considering the environment when applying the System of Radiological Protection” revised its initial plan, to align with TG99, and with TG97 and TG98 regarding common case studies, as well as with the ongoing reflection of **TG114 on “Application of tolerability and reasonableness in the System of Radiological Protection”**. Besides protection of the environment, C4 members agreed that TG114 organizes a workshop on the application of the two concepts (tolerability and reasonableness) in the medical sector at the beginning of 2022.

TG109 on “Ethics in Radiological Protection for Medical Diagnosis and Treatment”, a joint C3-C4 task group, discussed on the way its draft report will be finalized at the beginning of 2022.

TG106 on “Application of the Commission’s Recommendations to Activities involving mobile high activity sources” and **TG120 on “Radiological Protection for Radiation Emergencies and Malicious Events”** just started their work, highlighted the need to stimulate external feedback at various points in the development of their programme of work, e.g. through topical webinars and task-oriented deliverables.

The next C4 meetings are scheduled to take place around spring 2022 for a virtual mid-year meeting, and in person on 6 and 11-13 November 2022, back-to-back with the ICRP Symposium in Vancouver, Canada.