



THE EUROPEAN ALARA NETWORK

European ALARA Network

Strategic Agenda 2021 – 2026

EUROPEAN ALARA NETWORK OBJECTIVES ---

1. Promote the implementation of the ALARA principle for the management of worker, public and patient exposures in all situations.
2. Engage stakeholders in ALARA and provide a focus and a mechanism for the exchange and dissemination of information, knowledge and practical experience.
3. Identify and investigate topical issues of common interest to further improve the implementation of ALARA.

FOREWORD ---

Following more than 20 successful years of operation, the European ALARA Network (EAN) has proven to be a sustainable and valuable organization contributing to the promotion and the implementation of the optimisation principle (or As Low As Reasonably Achievable, ALARA principle) for radiation protection in the various exposure situations.

The EAN Bureau and the EAN Members have worked to develop a Strategic Agenda that contains the vision, objectives and proposed activities of the EAN from the period of 2021 - 2026. The Strategic Agenda is aligned with the EAN's Objectives and the challenges affecting radiation protection and optimisation. The Strategic Agenda succeeds and replaces the former Strategic Agenda 2015-2020.

As of 2021, the EAN Membership represents a range of organizations across Europe including radiation protection authorities, Health Ministers's radiation protection department, research institutes, manufacturers, utilities etc. Members all share an interest in the promotion of the practical implementation of ALARA and the exchange and dissemination of ALARA Culture.

Changes to legislation and technological developments in recent years must also be reflected in the Strategic Agenda, for example:

1. The process to implement the Euratom Directive 2013/59 in national legislation is now achieved: it will provide numerous examples of the practical implementation of ALARA. There is scope to work towards harmonization of practices in some areas and this will be achieved by promoting the sharing of experience.
2. More and more attention is now paid to the management of existing exposure situations (e.g. NORM).
3. In the medical sector, the number of exposed individuals and the magnitude of the doses received indicate that there is much more scope for ALARA, notably to keep

pace with recent developments in the use of new imaging techniques and radiopharmaceuticals.

EAN considers these areas to be **key ALARA themes** that will be addressed during the next 5 years, notably with the organization of topical workshops.

Indeed, **EAN has considerable experience with organising Workshops**: 19 events in total, with 4 in the last 5 years. All workshops have culminated in the production of “conclusions and recommendations” (i.e. synthesis) that have been disseminated. It is now **worthwhile to review the diffusion of EAN workshops’ conclusions and recommendations**, evaluate their impacts with respect to evolutions pre and post diffusion and determine remaining issues. This work will form the basis of a new EAN Working Group. Other Working Groups can be established on topics of particular interest. Note that EAN Working Groups are also open to “non-EAN Members” to gain external insight and expertise.

Relationships with other organizations (EUTERP, EFNDT, NERIS, ISOE, PODIUM consortium (part of CONCERT Project) have hopefully arisen from partnering on workshops and assisting with surveys. EAN will continue to maintain links with partner organizations because **relationship and partnership are the fuel of networks**. Formal cooperation agreements will be (re)newed and links with organizations strengthened through the designation of **key contact persons** (the “*Gatekeepers*”); in most case these persons are members of both organizations.

It is also important to continue as a **Special Liaison Organisation** to assist ICRP in the practical implementation of its recommendations and to monitor the development of the new general recommendations expected in 2028.

EAN also aims to **develop new relations** with organizations having concerns in radiation protection and ALARA. New relations with medical organizations, **European Radiation Protection Associations** and **IRPA** shall be considered.

Offering collaboration as a “stakeholder” can help **connect EAN with the Consortium of European Radiation Protection Research platforms “MEENAS”** (MELODI, EURADOS, EURAMED, NERIS, ALLIANCE, SHARE).

EAN believes it is the role of the radiation protection community **to promote the ALARA principle and the dissemination of ALARA culture**. The publication of *ALARA: A Practical Guidebook* last year was a big milestone and will hopefully give more visibility to the network.

Our traditional vehicles for communication are the website (www.eu-alara.net) and the ALARA Newsletter. The ALARA Newsletter is a priority for EAN and will continue to be published once to twice a year to disseminate practical cases of implementation of ALARA, examples of good practices, lessons-learned, workshop conclusions and recommendations and ALARA news. The possibility to include other content on the website and the Newsletter will be investigated during the term of the Agenda.

Running the EAN is also a rolling (and very practical) topic. **The representation and the succession of the Members shall be strengthened** to ensure the continuity and the sustainability of the network. Other Members for the Steering Group and Administrative Board shall be sought and this is the responsibility of all the Members.

A particular focus is the inclusion of the **next generation**: Initiatives will be implemented to encourage the participation of the next generation in EAN activities. This inclusion is essential for the sustainability of the EAN and supporting its vision to promote the implementation of ALARA in the future.

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

The EAN Strategic Agenda 2021-2026 lists the proposed initiatives necessary to support the EAN activities in line with the general objectives and areas outlined in the foreword.

The Strategic Agenda is laid out in 4 chapters:

1. **Focusing on key ALARA themes (the "KAT" initiatives),**
2. **Collaboration and partnership ("CP" initiatives),**
3. **Communication and visibility ("CV" initiatives),**
4. **Running the network ("RN" initiatives).**

In each chapter, the strategic objectives are given and combined with proposed activities, to be completed in the calendar years 2021 -2026. To enable better follow-up, the activities are identified by a reference number (KAT1, KAT2, CP1, CP2, etc.) depending on the topics.

The Strategic Agenda is a living document, and activities can be amended or added during the years.

The EAN Bureau in 2021. –



Mr. Fernand Vermeersch,
Chairperson



Mr. Pascal Croüail,
Vicechair



Mrs. Julie Morgan
Secretary



Mr. Nicolas Stritt
Treasurer

Chapter 1 – Focusing on key ALARA themes (KAT)

Objectives and activities		Connection
PLANNING TOPICAL WORKSHOPS		
KAT1	Investigate a workshop (or several) on medical-based topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventional radiology New imaging techniques Production and use of (new) radio-pharmaceuticals 	Medical associations (EFRS, EFOMP, EURAMED, Manufacturers COCIR)
KAT2	Investigate a workshop on the management of alpha exposure in different sectors	
KAT3	Investigate a workshop on NORM exposure, in connection with ENA-NORM.	ENA-NORM
KAT4	Other potential topics that can be investigated include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the Euratom Directive 2013/59 (specific areas) The graded approach for radiation protection purposes Radiation protection culture and ethics ALARA in the use of security equipment ALARA approaches in research and development 	
KAT5	Consider workshop topic polls to find new topics and engage stakeholders	SHARE
TOPICAL WORKING GROUPS		
KAT6	Set up a Working Group on “Review of the Implementation and Dissemination of Recommendations and Conclusions from EAN Workshops”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an analysis of the dissemination of EAN workshop’s recommendations and their impacts with respect to current working practices Consolidate and discuss the findings in an overview document 	
KAT7	Establish other Working Groups on challenging issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be initiated by EAN Members or other organizations Working groups are open to non-EAN Members who provide relevant expertise 	

	Objectives and activities	Connection
KAT8	<p>Taking into account the feedback of Covid19 pandemic, EAN should reconsider the way it works, the member interactions and the form of the next workshop and be innovating.</p> <p>Consider webinars, that make also increase EAN Visibility (see CV9)</p>	

Chapter 2 – Collaboration and partnership (CP) _____

Objectives and activities		Connection
STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION		
CP1	<p>Make a review of the relationships and partnerships of the EAN to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess what already exists Identify what is worthwhile to develop and in which directions 	
CP2	<p>Take the necessary steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify EAN Members (the “Gatekeepers”) who are members of identified organizations (see CP1) and will act as a liaison; The Gatekeepers take the responsibility for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keeping the link active between the two organizations (exchange of information) scanning for current issues related to both organizations 	
DEVELOP TOPICAL INTERACTIONS WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS		
CP3	<p>Continue the collaboration with ERPAN by identifying common topics and planning joint meetings when relevant</p>	ERPAN
CP4	<p>(Re)new a formal cooperation agreement with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EUTERP EFNDT EFOMP EFRS <p>Discuss potential activities and mutual support: identify Gatekeepers, participation in meetings, involvement in workshop’s committee programme etc.</p>	EUTERP, EFNDT, EFOMP, EFRS
CP5	<p>Continue to work as ICRP Special Liaison Organization (SLO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain EAN presence at SLO meetings Give feedback on the impacts of ICRP recommendations in the RP community (“the end-users”) Monitor any developments in the formulation or application of ALARA, as recommended by ICRP, particularly in relation to the next planned general recommendations 	ICRP
CP6	<p>Identify potential means of collaboration with IAEA, EU Commission and the other ALARA Networks</p>	IAEA, EU Representative, African ALARA Network, former RECAN countries

Objectives and activities	Connection
DEVELOPING NEW RELATIONSHIPS	
<p>CP7</p> <p>Since the medical field is identified as a key ALARA theme, explore collaboration with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associations of medical, scientific and technical professionals in the medical field, • Research: EURAMED, EFOMP • Manufacturers/suppliers of medical equipment (e.g. X-Ray manufacturers, COCIR) • Associations of patients and/or public 	<p>Medical field professionals and other stakeholders in this field</p>
<p>CP8</p> <p>Consider approaching HERCA and ERPAN to develop collaboration in common topics of interest</p>	<p>HERCA</p>
<p>CP9</p> <p>Consider approaching the European Radiation Protection Research platforms (MEENAS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the European Joint Programme Roadmap, with a closer look at “Radiation Protection Culture” and “Education & Training” items • Contact the platform Presidents and make EAN identified as “Member of the Stakeholders Group” • Identify EAN Members who will act as Gatekeepers for the platforms 	<p>MEENAS (MELODI, ALLIANCE, NERIS, EURADOS, EURAMED, SHARE)</p>
<p>CP9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAN Members should work pro-actively to stimulate contact with their national Radiation Protection Association; • Consider collaboration with IRPA; • Consider the participation of EAN in the next IRPA European meeting (2022) 	<p>National Radiation Protection Associations, IRPA, IRPA Young Generation Network etc.</p>
<p>CP10</p> <p>EAN Members should act pro-actively to contact other organisations with an interest in ALARA that might wish to collaborate with EAN (this action is linked with the chapter Running the Network and especially the activities RN4 and RN6)</p>	

Chapter 3 –

Communication and visibility (CV) _____

Objectives and activities		Connection
EXPLOITING EXISTING MEDIA		
CV1	Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider rebranding the EAN statement on the website Consider updating/renewing other contents on the website (link with CV9) Collect metrics and data on website consultation and report to the Network 	
CV2	ALARA: A Practical Guidebook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the publication of the Book (link with CV8) Consider updating the Book over time If so, encourage the collection of new case studies for inclusion in the Book 	
CV3	Newsletter content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Editorial Board to target EAN workshop’s participants and speakers to provide articles EAN Members to target speakers at national and international events to provide articles Consider also action RN10 Consider including new material in the Newsletter e.g. interview, testimonies from workshop, etc. 	
CV4	Newsletter diffusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to publish 1 to 2 issues per year The Editorial Board to collect metrics and data on the dissemination of the newsletter and report to the Network EAN Members act to disseminate the Newsletter and report progress to the Network 	
CV5	Surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch surveys, on the initiatives of EAN Members or other organizations Consider using different format for collecting information (questionnaire, online questionnaire etc.). Consider using the STORE^{DB} format for survey and sharing Provide a feedback to the participants 	

Objectives and activities		Connection
CV6	<p>OTHEA/RELIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to maintain and update the database Consider the promotion of the database 	PHE, IAEA
<p>IMPROVING VISIBILITY</p>		
CV7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAN Members should act pro-actively in ensuring the presence and representation of EAN at national and international events (link with CP2, CP5, CP10) The Members report to the Network on their efforts 	National radiation protection congresses, IRPA events, Radiation Protection Week etc.
CV8	Update a generic presentation of the EAN, its achievements and the benefits to join the Network to help the Members in this effort (CV7)	
CV9	<p>Using EAN Workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider setting up a chat system where participants can interact, and send questions by chat Explore the possibility to film and broadcast (live or recorded) the workshops. Consider organizing webinars The filming can be used for further promotion: video clips for EAN website to promote workshop and engage potential participants Introduce an award system for the best ALARA presentation 	
CV10	<p>Workshop conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau aims to publish the workshops' conclusion in English in a radiation protection journal The Members aim to translate the workshops' conclusion for larger diffusion in their country Consider making a presentation of (all the) conclusions for larger diffusion and presentation at conference 	
CV11	Consider establishing forum(s) on EAN website or blogs to generate on-line discussions or webinars	

Chapter 4 – Running the network

Objectives and activities		Connection
EAN WORKFLOW		
RN1	<p>Explore options for improving attendance at Steering Group and Admin Board meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Member organisations of EAN can designate 2 representatives (so that someone can deputise to attend). Give the option to attend EAN meetings with a video-conference system 	
RN2	<p>Set up reactive Visio conferences when needed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EAN Bureau, the EAN Editorial Board, the Working Group are particularly concerned 	
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NETWORK		
RN3	<p>Succession:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAN Members shall make arrangements in their organisation for succession planning to ensure continuity of representation of their organisation in EAN The Members shall report to the Network on their efforts 	
RN4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAN Members shall pro-actively contact other organisations with an interest in ALARA that might join as Administrative Board Member The Members shall report to the Network on their efforts 	
RN5	<p>Explore different options to diversify network incomes and ensure financial sustainability, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual membership to EAN Hosting or sponsorship of workshop by interested companies (stand, logo display, exhibition stand) Providing paid services, advertisement etc. 	
FOCUS ON THE NEXT GENERATION		
RN6	<p>EAN Members shall look for opportunities to present the objectives and activities of the EAN to the next generation (at the occasion of radiation protection lectures, training courses, European Master in Radiation Protection etc.)</p>	
RN7	<p>Give specific responsibilities to the next generation who join the EAN (e.g. managing a survey etc.)</p>	

Objectives and activities		Connection
RN8	<p>Liaise with other organizations which have an interest on the theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUTERP Administrative Board • IRPA Young Generation Network <p>and discuss this issue.</p>	EUTERP, IRPA Young Generation Network
RN9	<p>Explore the following possibilities at EAN workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A poster section or a session dedicated to the next generation (PhD and professionals) to present their work on issues related to radiation protection / ALARA • A next generation's lecture or training course (e.g. on ALARA principle) 	EUTERP (lecture and training course)
RN10	<p>Facilitate the publication of articles coming from young scientists and professionals in the EAN Newsletter, e.g. thesis from European Master in Radiation Protection</p>	European Master in Radiation Protection

INCREASING EXTERNAL PARTICIPATION IN EAN ACTIVITIES

RN11	<p>When a Working Group is set up, explore the possibility to involve “non-EAN Members”, to gain insight and expertise on a particular topic.</p>	
RN12	<p>Open the floor of Steering Group Meeting to “non-EAN Members” for topical presentation, discussion etc.</p>	



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<http://www.eu-alara.net>