

# **European Radiation Protection Authorities Network**

## **9th Annual Meeting Paris**

# European ALARA Network (EAN)

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## 8<sup>th</sup> EAN Workshop (Uppsala, Sweden 2004)

- Occupational Radiological Control through Inspection and Self-Assessment

*“National Authorities should promote communication between different National Regulatory Authorities”*

- Exchange Information on licensing & inspection
- Joint inspections
- Network of contacts



# European Radiation Protection Authorities Network (ERPAN)

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- Established in December **2005**
- First meeting June **2006**
- **Terms of Reference** adopted
- Representatives from **17** Regulatory Organisations

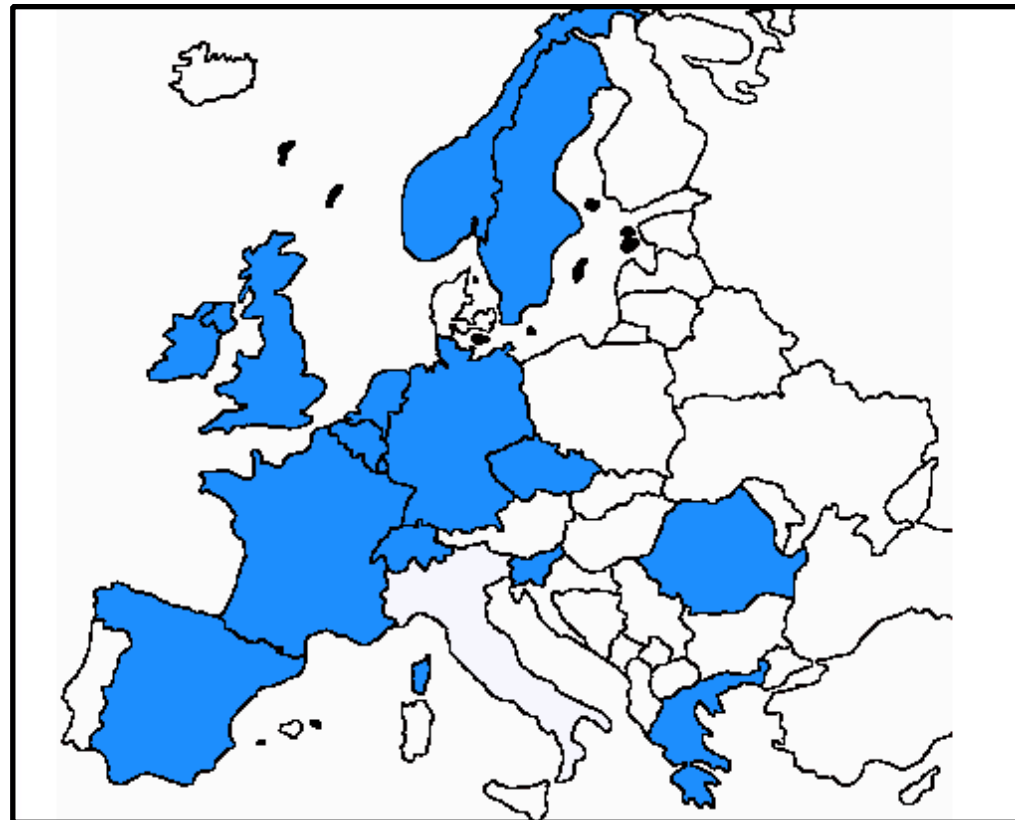


# ERPAN members

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15 countries members of the ERPAN network

<b>Belgium</b>	<b><u>Ireland</u></b>	<b>Slovenia</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Spain</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b><u>Switzerland</u></b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>



# Purpose of ERPAN

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- **Promote communication** between national regulatory authorities, including the exchange of
  - information
  - requirements and
  - experiences
- on the **process of authorisation** and **inspection/audits** methods employed in European countries in order to promote the **ALARA** principal
- **Improve the operational efficiency** of radiation control across Europe while recognising the different regulatory systems within the various countries

# Scope of ERPAN

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All radiation protection topics relevant to European radiation protection authorities relating mainly to **non-nuclear** users of ionising radiation such as

- **Research, education**
- **Medical** application
- **Industrial** application
- as well as **NORM**



Examples of topics discussed:

- Inspection and investigation practices
- Licensing requirements
- Training of inspectors
- Authorisation processes
- Reporting systems
- Regulatory communication



# Operation of ERPAN

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- Meets annually in Paris
  - presentations, discussions, exchange (Networking)
- Persons involved are managers of inspection/licensing functions
  - Discussion on technical, practical issues
  - No direct strategic discussion
  - No harmonisation purpose, but focuses on optimisation of practice
- Open/informal discussion and exchange
- Promotes:
  - joint/witnessed inspections
  - sharing problems/experiences/solutions
- Discussion, survey through email outside meeting
- No external financial support (ASN hosting)



# Meetings of ERPAN

## June 2006 ERPAN meeting

- Terms of reference
- Inspection methodology
- Joint inspections
- HASS Directive
- Incident and lesson learned

## June 2007 ERPAN meeting

- Training of inspectors
- Web-based authorisation
- EUTERP
- Stakeholder engagement
- ISO accreditation for inspection body
- Novel approaches
- Incident and lesson learned

Inaugural Meeting of the European Radiation Protection Authorities Network (ERPAN)

**INSPECTIONS**


**TYPES OF INSPECTIONS**

**INDUSTRIAL LABORATORIES**

- There are 500 industrial radiography applications
- Prior to notification inspections, on a two-year basis
- Parameters checked: radiation protection, safe use, operation, handling, transport, storage and record keeping of radiation sources.

**LABORATORIES OF RESEARCH & EDUCATION**


Prior to notification inspections, on a two-year basis in 180 labs


 GAEC  
GREEK ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

[www.eeae.gr](http://www.eeae.gr)

**ISO Accreditation for an Inspection Body**

Stephen Fennell

 Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland  
An Institiúid Eireannach um Chosaint Raidheolaíoch





# Meetings of ERPAN

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## June 2008 ERPAN meeting

- Nuclear medicine extremity doses
- ICSD warehouse fire
- accidental tritium release
- over-exposure during NDT
- enforcement & prosecution



## May 2009 ERPAN meeting

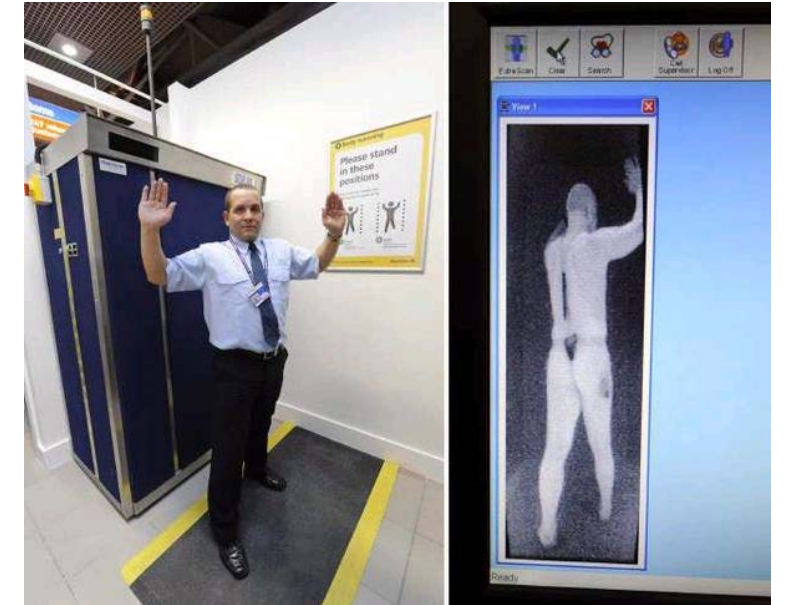
- Inspector training
- handheld dental X-ray units
- mobile PET-CT
- BSS & ICRP
- joint inspections
- Incident and lesson learned



# Meetings of ERPAN

## June 2010 ERPAN meeting

- HERCA presentation
- RECAST
- NORM new guidance
- Dose constraints
- Kr-85 lamps
- Security screening
- Iodine therapy, waste, radioprotection



## May 2011 ERPAN meeting

- Involvement of medical physicists in imaging dep.
- Dose to extremities in nuclear medicine
- Result of ERPAN survey
- Merge of regulatory bodies SKI
- ICRP statement on effects of radiation on the eye
- Inspection philosophy, unannounced inspections

Health and Safety Executive 

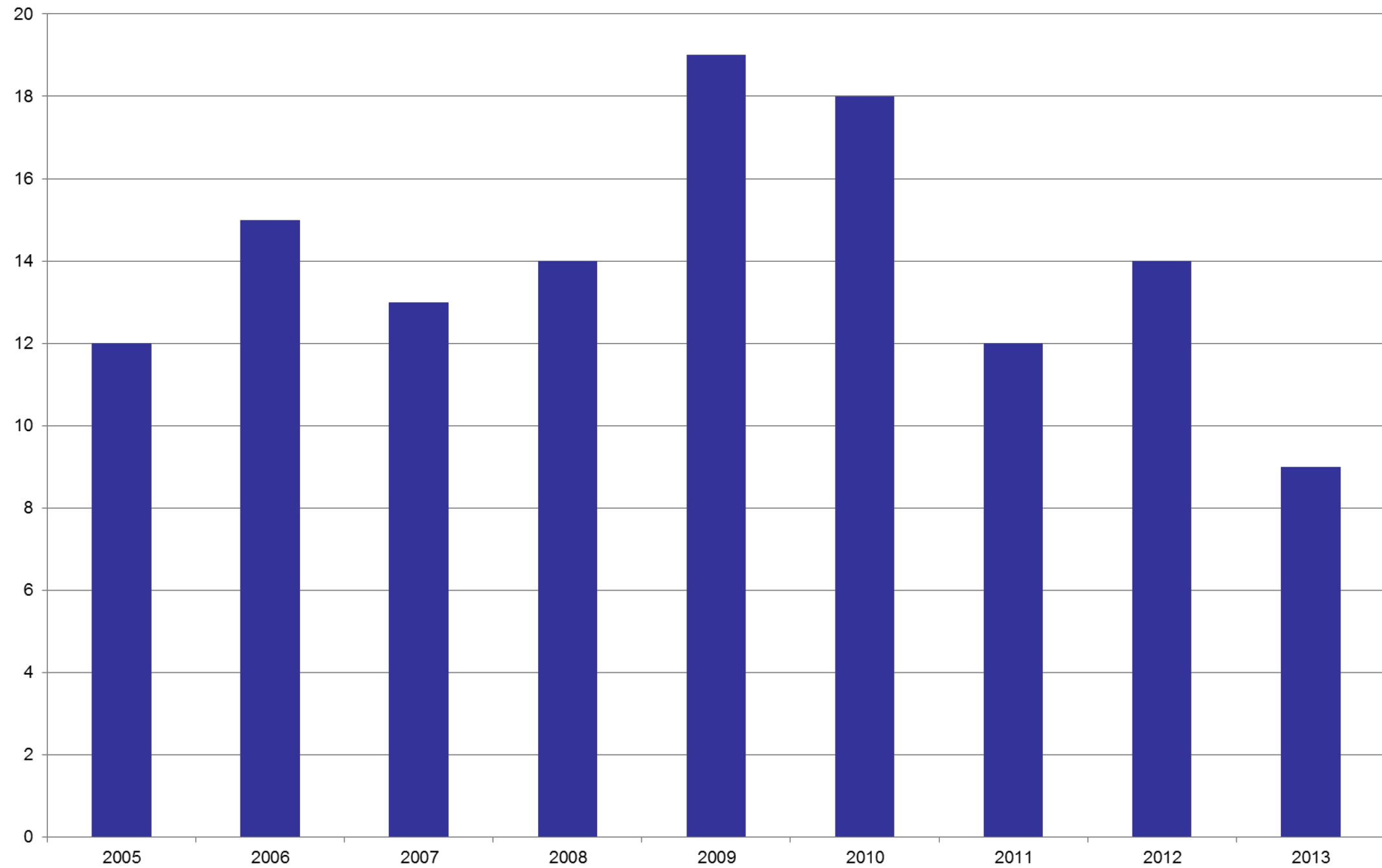
**ERPAN Meeting**  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011, CEPN Paris

 **ICRP Statement on Tissue Reactions April 2011**  
**new dose limits**  
(personal views for discussion)

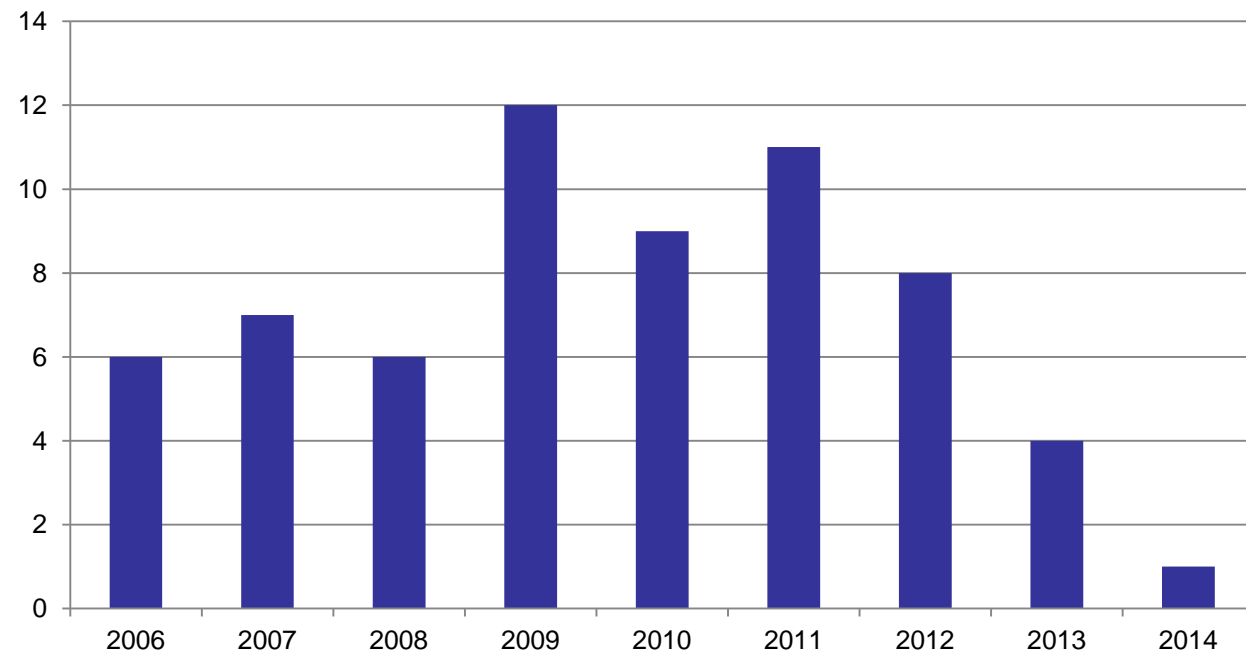
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# EPRAN Meetings (participation)

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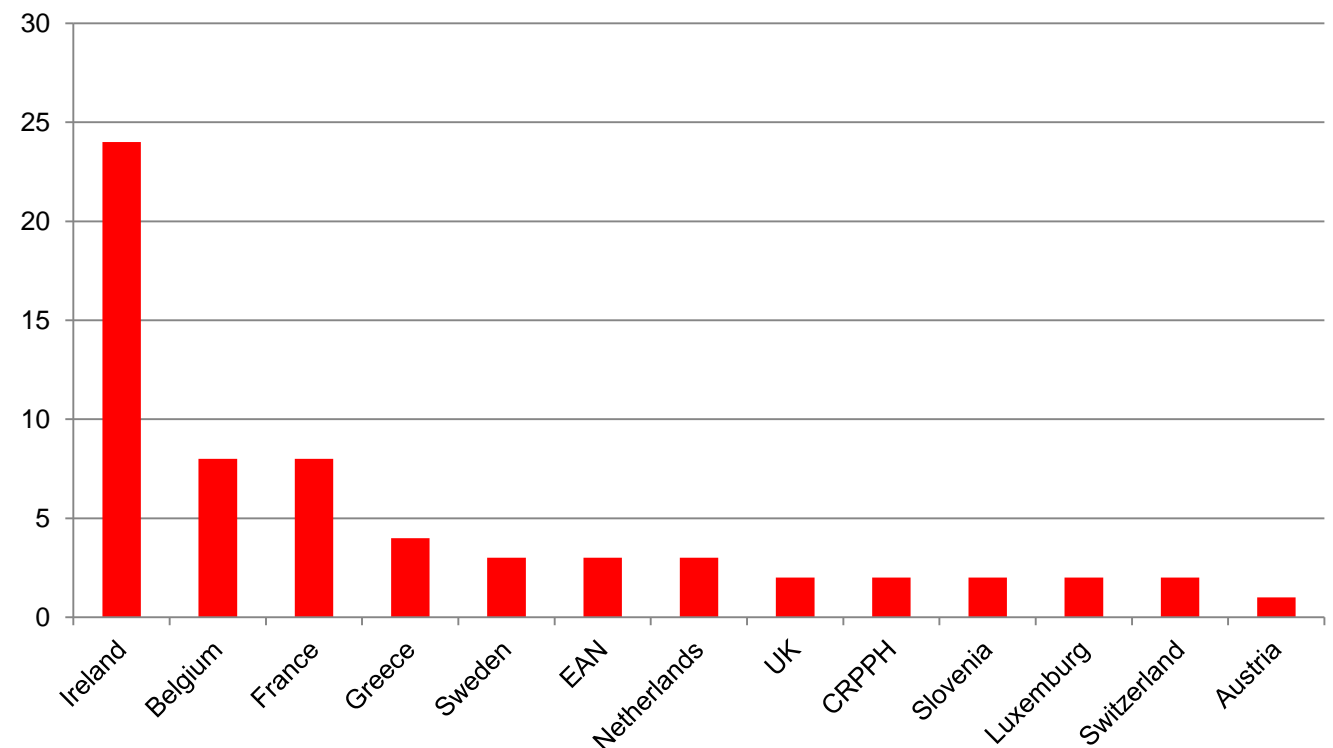


# Email survey and discussions



Email surveys/year

Email surveys/country



# Email survey and discussions

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- Use of Cyberknife in Europe
- Reporting compliance on inspection reports
- Guidance on nuclear medicine source deliveries
- PPE requirements for classified workers
- Use of lead aprons in dental radiology
- Handheld NDT and dental X-ray units
- Disposal of waste from nuclear medicine departments

# Email survey and discussions

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- Implementation of HASS Directive
- Fluorine-18 biomedical trials
- Kr-85 and tritium sources
- QA requirement/programmes in medical radiology departments
- Mobile electron radiotherapy units
- Inspection of radiotherapy facilities
- Medical physics expert (MPE) requirements
- Dose constraints – survey of their application across Europe

# Why does it work ?

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- involves the right people
- focuses on practical, operational issues
- face to face meeting every year – personal links
- meeting facilities / lunches provided (ASN, France)
- supported (indirectly) by regulatory authorities
- questions can be asked in a simple / unofficial manner
- allows surveys to be carried out quickly
- enthusiastic and committed participants



# Difference between ERPAN/HERCA

	ERPAN	HERCA
Scope	Radiation Protection	Radiation Protection
Network type	Sub-network of EAN	Stand alone network
Members	Managers of authorisation and inspection programmes	Heads of regulatory authorities
Level	Practical, operational level	Strategic level
Terms of Reference	Yes	Yes
Purpose	Sharing of practical experiences	Harmonisation across Europe, influencing policy
Members	17	46
EC participation	No	Yes
Confidentiality	Discussions restricted to members	Open discussions
Working methods	Email surveys. Very fast answers, quick response, informal discussions	Working groups. More formal processes
Output	Summary of survey findings circulated to members. Simple / unofficial manner	Recommendation & press releases. Official statements on website
Website	<a href="http://www.eu-alara.net">www.eu-alara.net</a> (restricted)	<a href="http://www.herca.org">www.herca.org</a>
Meeting frequency	Annually (Paris)	Bi-annually (various locations)