

**IUR International Workshop  
Worldwide harmonization of radioecology networks**

19-20 June 2014  
La Baume, Aix en Provence - France



# LAUNCHING THE « FORUM »

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BIOPROTA





# IUR STRATEGY OF NETWORKING initiated 10 years ago...

- Worldwide international research network in Radioecology launched in 2003 based on 2 TG work
  - “Protection of the environment” & “Radioecology and non-radioactive contaminants”
  - Identification of research teams, facilities, priorities in research
- Same basis used later for the construction of STAR (European Network of Excellence in Radioecology, EURATOM)
- Federating around IUR neighbour international scientific associations/networks ... **largely developed now, to be continued...**
- Fostering the creation of an International Observatory in charge of centralised data registry to support environmental radiological assessment ... **still to be done ...**
- Fostering international harmonisation of Radioecology networks ... **the issue tackled here ...**



# WHY A NEED FOR HARMONISATION?

- A large variety of networks currently active
  - dealing with radioecology (exclusively or partly)
  - dealing with environmental radioactivity (exclusively or partly)
  - dealing with environmental issues of relevance (including non-radioactive)
  - governmental – non-governmental
  - international – regional – national
  - global – topical (problem-oriented)
- IUR : > 36 years old, large international membership now spread within 68 countries...
- ... has identified the need to achieve a **Worldwide effort of networking** ... in order to promote and maintain a harmonized and coordinated development process for Radioecology



# IUR initiative to hold a workshop on worldwide harmonisation of radioecology

- Held on 19-20 June 2014 in La Baume, Aix en Provence, France
- 15 global/regional/topical networks and international organisations participating
- Sharing views on activities and priorities for R&D and expertise
- Aim to construct a collective view and an operational approach to harmonization of Radioecology





# WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Share across all networks on-going activities of relevance, perspectives and orientations, priorities for research and expertise
- Initiate the development of an international framework instrument for worldwide harmonization of networks in radioecology, and for efficient global coordination
- Initial ideas:
  - optimize selection of priority research, avoid duplications
  - optimize exploitation of existing infrastructures and resources
  - support harmonized and coherent regulatory developments
  - help the development of well informed, balanced, and adapted consensus ...  
... whilst meeting the specificities of problem-oriented or regional objectives



# FOUNDING NETWORKS REPRESENTED

## Regional networks:

SPERA	South Pacific Environmental Radioactivity Association
COMET	Coordination and implementation of a paneuropean instrument for radioecology (EC)
ALLIANCE	European Radioecology Alliance
NCoRE	US National Center for Radioecology
Fukushima Univ.	IER + international collaboration
Asian Network	Japan, Korea, and neighbour countries
Arctic Council	Arctic countries and regions
STAR	European network of excellence in radioecology (EC)





# FOUNDING NETWORKS REPRESENTED

## Networks led by international organizations :

<i>UNSCEAR</i>	<i>United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation</i>
IUR	International Union of Radioecology
ICRP	International Commission on Radiological Protection
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
SETAC	Society for Environmental Toxicity And Chemistry
OSPAR	Oslo-Paris Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic

## Problem-oriented Networks :

BIOPROTA	International collaboration on biosphere research for radioactive waste disposal
Ring of Five	Low-level atmospheric contamination watch and surveillance



# THE NETWORKS' LEADERS ATTENDING



K. Nanba - K. E. Frogg - A. Bollhoefer - T. Yankovich - S. Yoshida - K. Smith - G. Smith - L. Kapustka  
W. Kuhne - P. Strand - O. Masson - K. Higley - K. Leonard - H. Vandenhove - F. Brechignac - T. Hinton



# WORKSHOP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Presentation of the 15 networks activities
  - Goals and objectives, organization (countries represented, legal status, executive operation...), on-going R&D activities of relevance, perspectives and orientations for the future
- Presentation of their on-going efforts of prioritization in research and expertise
- General discussion on global harmonization and competence sharing
  - Constructing global priorities for worldwide research and expertise in Radiocology, application of resources to develop a framework instrument for efficient global coordination of research and expertise, and for a worldwide harmonization of networks (roles and functions, processes to achieve roles, identification of functional links and interfaces,...)
- Conclusions and drafting communication at ICRER



# WORKSHOP DISCUSSION





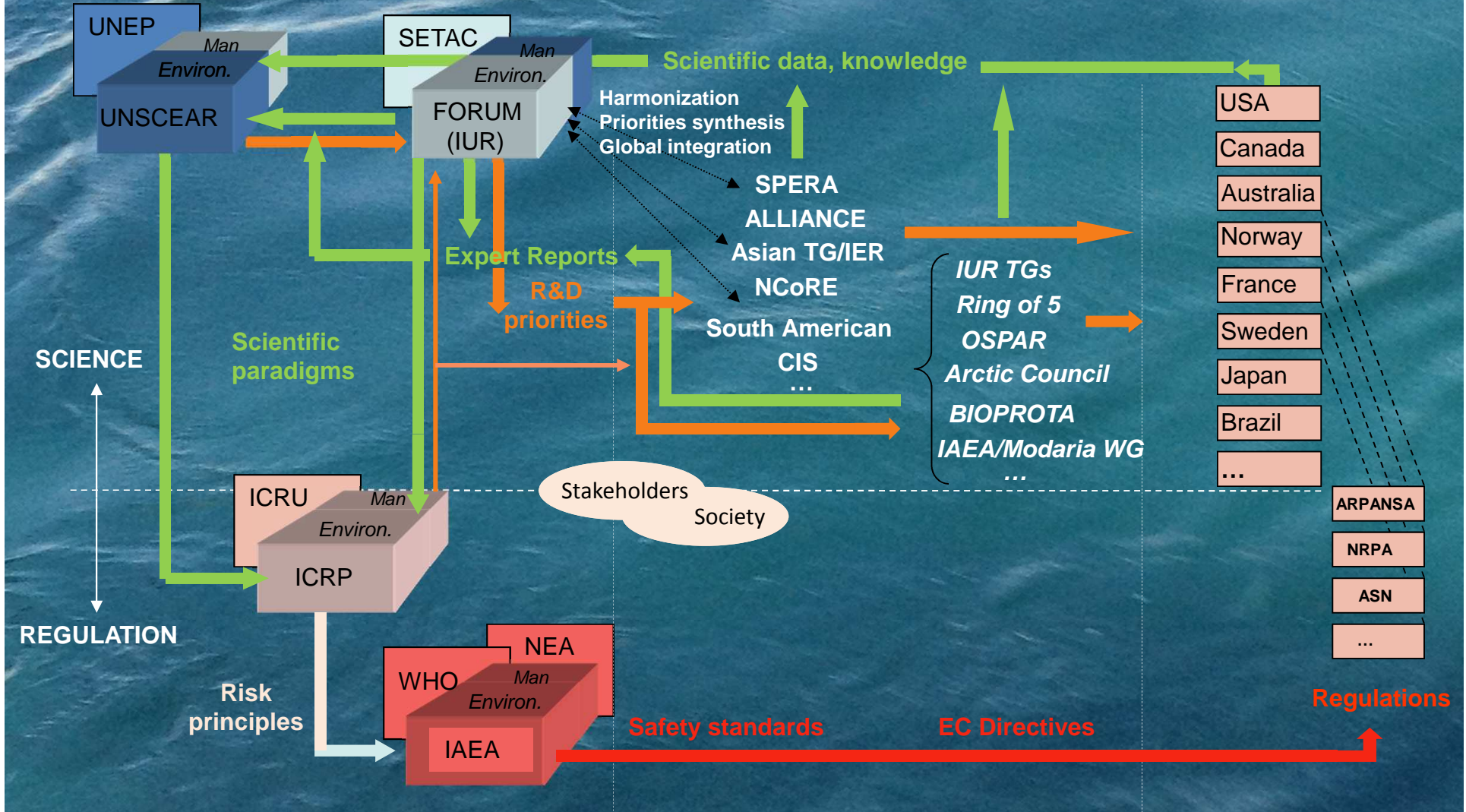
# COLLECTIVE DECISION TO LAUNCH THE « FORUM »

## Discussion outcomes:

- Roles and functions of various networks within radioecology R&D  
Explain how the whole integrated system works (is organized)  
Explain focus for R&D (improve reliability and confidence in risk assessments, eliminate unnecessary pessimism/over-cautious assumptions, support optimization of managing risk)
- Interface with international regulatory bodies, with operators needs, with stakeholders and society



# Synergy of science and expertise in radioecology





# COLLECTIVE DECISION TO LAUNCH THE « FORUM »

## Discussion outcomes:

- Need to develop strategies to reach consensus on assessment and communication of risk
- Need to achieve a holistic view, system understanding  
Integration of ecological transfers, effects, dosimetry, ecology, risk...  
Cross-cutting issues (climate change, concomitant impact from other toxicants,...)



# COLLECTIVE DECISION TO LAUNCH THE « FORUM »

## Discussion outcomes:

- Need to work out better justification of the value of radioecology R&D to decision makers (demonstrating the value)
  - Key accomplishments, key projects
  - Success stories
- Need to improve communication (demonstrating the value)
  - Across radioecology networks and other networks
  - Towards decision makers, regulators
  - Link R&D to reducing risk and costs associated to risk



# COLLECTIVE DECISION TO LAUNCH THE « FORUM »

Consensus agreement on the role of IUR to operate the FORUM

FORUM assigned overall objectives:

- Global integration and construction of consensus
- Communication
- Maintenance of expertise



# IUR TO OPERATE THE « FORUM »

## What is next ?

- Enlarge the FORUM network partners (NEA, UNEP, UNSCEAR, CERAD, CIS countries, South America, Africa...)
- Develop a framework instrument for efficient worldwide harmonization of networks
  - Roles and functions, processes to achieve roles, identification of functional links and interfaces,...)
- Establish a working plan for the next years
- Hold a second international workshop in 2015 to achieve the above



**Warm thanks to the 15 networks involved in founding the  
FORUM**

**All further new partners of the FORUM much welcome  
(please, contact IUR)**

**Good luck to the FORUM in strengthening radioecology**

