

19th international Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting 4-5 June 2014 – Geneva Switzerland

National Activities Austria

1. General research activities related to EMF health

- Participation in the international project MobiKids about brain tumors in children, adolescents and young adults (funded by the EU and national funds)
- ATHEM-2 project about athermal effects of EMF (in vitro and in vivo genotoxicity studies funded by the AUVA)
- High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electric power transmission system (Leitgeb N (2014): Limiting DC electric fields of HVDC overhead power lines. Radiation & Environmental Biophysics. Doi 10.1007/s00411-014-0520-2);
- electronic article surveillance (EAS) systems (Leitgeb N, Niedermayr F, Loos G (2013): Electromagnetic compatibility of electronic article surveillance (EAS) systems with active electronic implants. JEMAA, 5:67-73);
- MRI (z.B. auf metallische Implantate: Tilp, A., Leitgeb N (2014): MRI safety assessment of deep brain stimulators at 3 Tesla. Proc. Biomedizinische Technik. Forwarded for publication; Leitgeb N, Loos G, Ebner F (2013): MRI-induced tissue heating at metallic cerclages. Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Clinical Diagnosis. JEMAA, 5:354-358.doi:10.4236/jemaa.2013.59056);
- ELF- MF auf Kinderleukämie (Leitgeb N (2014): Synoptic analysis clarifies ELF-MF childhood leukemia link. Radiat. Prot. Dosim. Forwarded for publication);
- Electric shock – cardiac fibrillation (Leitgeb N (2014): Cardiac fibrillation risk of Taser weapons. Health Physics. in press)
- EMES – Project of the AUVA (Computerprogram for estimation of electromagnetic field strength at a workplace <http://www.eval.at/emes/emesstart.aspx>)

2. New policies and legislations regarding EMF exposure

- Update of the general precautionary advice of the Highest Health Council of the Ministry of Health
- Continuous evaluation of possible Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields via the Ministry of Health (Working Group EMF - Horizon Scanning)
- Yearly Evaluation of Studies on Health Effects of EMF by the WBF (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat Funk) (<http://www.wbf.or.at/>) Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Technology (BMVIT)
- Council Recommendation 1999/519/EG (Standards ÖNORM S 1119 and pre standard ÖVE/ÖNORM E 8850 as state of the art)
- Directive 2013/35/EU has to be transposed

- Using of the limits of the EMF-Directive on a voluntary basis by the employer for the risk evaluation according to §4 of the “ArbeitnehmerInnenschutzgesetz”
- Decree on the BMASK Homepage
(http://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at/NR/rdonlyres/92852400-7E30-472C-B47E-8BFBA6B3635/0/Erlass_elektromagnetische_Felder_BMASK_461309_0005_VII_A_2_2013.pdf)

3. Areas of *public concern* and national responses

- Exposure to mobile phone basestations, WiFi on public places, mobile phones and cordless phones, power lines, smartmeter, transponder
- Contribution of national experts to SCENIHR for the Opinion on „Potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF)“ (public consultation finalized in march, final opinion in preparation)

4. New public *information* activities

- General Information on Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields at the Homepage of the Federal Ministry of Health (www.bmg.gv.at)
http://bmg.gv.at/home/Schwerpunkte/Praevention/Strahlenschutz/Publikationen/Broschueren_zum_Thema_Elektromagnetische_Felder
- Update of the general precautionary advice of the Highest Health Council of the Ministry of Health
http://bmg.gv.at/cms/home/attachments/1/9/2/CH1238/CMS1202111739767/mobilfunk_osr_empfehlungen.pdf
- Wissenschaftlicher Beirat Funk (WBF) and Austrian Medical Chamber recommend „to use the technology carefully“
- Public information via the WBF after expert conference end of May
- Update of the “Handyfolder” of the BMG
http://bmg.gv.at/cms/home/attachments/1/9/2/CH1238/CMS1202111739767/handyfolder_webversion_mai_2014.pdf
- Updates planned for information of the general public about telecommunication and other EMF related technologies (Bluetooth, DVB-T, DVB-H, WIMAX, WLAN) at the homepage of the Ministry of Health
- A new information brochure „[electrosmog in everyday life](#)“ has been published in September 2013 by the [Public Health Authority of Salzburg](#) in cooperation with [Diagnose Funk](#). The brochure can be accessed free for download at <http://www.salzburg.gv.at/infoblaetter.htm>