

20th international Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting 4-5 May 2015 – Geneva Switzerland

National Activities Austria (June 2014 – May 2015)

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)
- Leitgeb, N.: Synoptic Analysis of Epidemiologic Evidence of Brain Cancer Risks from Mobile Communication. Journal of Electromagnetic Analysis and Applications, 6: 413-424 (2014) (PDF-File)
- Leitgeb, N.: Cardiac fibrillation risk of Taser weapons. Health Physics, 106(6): 652-659 (2014) (Abstract)
- Leitgeb, N.: Childhood Leukemia Not Linked with ELF Magnetic Fields. Journal of Electromagnetic Analysis and Applications, 6: 174-183 (2014) (PDF-File)
- Leitgeb, N.: Limiting electric fields of HVDC overhead power lines. Radiation Environmental Biophysics, 53: 461-468 (2014) (Abstract)
- Dorn H, Schmid G, Eggert T, Sauter C, Bolz T, Danker-Hopfe H. 2014. Experimental investigation of possible warmth perception from a head exposure system for human provocation studies with TETRA handset-like signals. Bioelectromagnetics, Vol. 35, pp 452-458, 2014
- Schmid G, Kuster N. The discrepancy between maximum in vitro exposure levels and realistic conservative exposure levels of mobile phones operating at 900/1800 MHz. Bioelectromagnetics Vol. 36, pp 133-148, 2015
- Sauter C, Eggert T, Dorn H, Schmid G, Bolz T, Marasanov A, Hansen M-L, Peter A, Danker-Hopfe H. 2015. Do signals of a hand-held TETRA transmitter affect cognitive performance, well-being, mood or somatic complaints in healthy young men? Results of a randomized double-blind cross-over provocation study. Environmental Research, Vol. 140, pp 85-94, 2015
- 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)

- Transposition of Directive 2013/35/EU (occupational exposure to EMF) into national law is in preparation.
- 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)“ (final opinion from Jan 2015)

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“
- 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
- Information sheet for EMF immission on working places in office areas will be published on www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at