

Denmark

Report on EMF Activities

16th International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF

May 2011

Research

The Institute of Cancer Epidemiology is currently involved in finalizing the Interphone study, which includes research groups from 15 countries all over the world. The Danish group was first to publish national data but today several collaborative papers have been published and in the future Danish data will not be used in separate analysis and publications.

At the Institute some researchers are engaged in COSMOS, which is an international prospective cohort study among mobile phone users. One guest researchers works in the area of CNS diseases associated with distance from power lines. In addition the Danish nationwide cohort study has been updated with further years of follow-up and a paper has been submitted. The Danish group is also taking the lead in a collaborative paper investigating the association between residence near power lines and survival among childhood cancer cases. This activity is probably finalized in 2011. One paper has been submitted investigating the association between exposure to electric shocks and risk for both neurological diseases in the central and periphery nervous system. An update of the Danish childhood study (the association between residence near power lines and risk for cancer) and the Danish utility worker cohort with regard to CNS diseases are under way. However, final results are not expected before 2012. All of these research activities are coordinated with IARC in Lyon.

Biological research is not going on in Denmark at the moment and no other groups are involved in more comprehensive research activities within the area of EMF.

Policies and legislation

All regulations of exposure to EMF for the general population and during work are using the ICNIRP Guidelines and it is not the intention of the Danish authorities including the National Board of Health to establish national policies or legislations.

Public concern

Public concern is still most in the area of placing mobile telephone antennas, whereas the debate about power lines, transformers and underground cables is only a minor issue. The debate about electromagnetic fields is also focusing on wireless installations (WiFi) and on the risk for diseases associated with the fields in the environment of all public buildings as well as in the area of schools, kindergartens and nursery homes caused by these wireless installations. However, several measurements conducted by independent institutions has partly addressed this concern as actual levels are far from exceeding ICNIRP guidelines.

Information

Information activities include initiatives directed by the Danish National Board of Health and the Ministry for Telecommunication, that have established websites giving answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) as well as information brochures, publications and a number of consumer organizations have taken the steps in their activities in the same direction.

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