

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Report on EMF activities
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New legislations and policies

- Two ministerial decrees have been recently published concerning the *National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields* (established by law in 2012), which is a network of fixed, semi-fixed and mobile measurement stations in order to continuously monitor the EMF levels from antenna stations all over Greece. The first decree, defines the technical details for the organisation, the deployment, the operation, the expansion and the maintenance of this measuring network as well as quality control procedures and tests for the acquired results. The second decree, which is a technical regulation, defines the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders (e.g. the municipal authorities) that are going to be involved in the installation and the operation of this network, the criteria for choosing the sites for the fixed monitoring stations, the criteria for the interconnection with the existing monitoring systems in Greece (projects: HERMES-www.hermes-program.gr, PEDION24-www.pedion24.gr and FASMA-www.fasmaprogram.gr) and details concerning the presentation of results and the provision of services to the involved stakeholders and the public. The results of this national monitoring network which will be operated and controlled by the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), are going to be presented through a geographical information system in a very comprehensive and user friendly web portal in order to be assessed by every citizen.

- In view of the harmonization of the national legislation with the Directive 2013/35/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields), (OJEC L 179/1, 26 June 2013), the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Welfare in cooperation with the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), are carrying out a measurement campaign and a risk assessment programme, in order to identify the existing situation concerning occupational exposure to electromagnetic fields in various working environments in Greece (e.g. power plants and MRI facilities).

Public concern and national responses – New public information activities

- A major event on electromagnetic fields and related health effects has being jointly co-organized on 27 & 28 March 2014, in Athens, by the DG Health & Consumers of the European Commission and the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), under the auspices of the EU Council Greek Presidency. This event entitled “Workshop on electromagnetic fields and health effects: from science to policy and public awareness - Conciliating scientific findings and uncertainties in policy making” was attended by more than 250 delegates from european and other countries and

succeeded in establishing a constructive dialogue among the various parties involved (EC, WHO, public authorities, industry, operators, environmental and consumer associations and academia).

The first day was dedicated to the public hearing on the preliminary opinion of SCENIHR on "Potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF)". The second day focused on specific topics of interest: the current scientific knowledge on EMF health effects and remaining knowledge gaps, the legislative framework in EU and at national level as well as risk perception and risk communication aspects and effective public information activities. The programme and all presentations have been uploaded in DG SANCO's website: http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/events/ev_20140328_en.htm and to GAEC's website (which also includes extra material but mostly in greek): http://www.eeae.gr/gr/index.php?menu=2&fvar=html/files/_emf_workshop_March2014.

- In the framework of the national legislation that demands annual measurements in at least 20% of antenna stations installed in urban areas, the results of all measurements performed in the vicinity of antenna stations, are uploaded to GAEC's web site (http://www.eeae.gr/gr/index.php?pvar=php/ni/newmaps_query). Until June 2014, the results of in situ measurements in the vicinity of more than 5400 base stations, are uploaded to this webpage.

- For the development of the above mentioned national monitoring network, a project titled also *National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields* is been implemented by Information Society S.A. on behalf of Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and GAEC. The bidder of this project has signed a contract in April 2014 with a total budget of 4,8 M€ and started the procurement and deployment of 500 fixed (broadband and frequency selective) and 13 mobile (vehicle mounted) monitoring stations throughout Greece, as well as the development of the data processing center and other necessary systems for the operation of the whole network. At the end of 2015, the National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields will be in full operation.

Some new publications from greek researchers

- Reactive oxygen species elevation and recovery in *Drosophila* bodies and ovaries following short-term and long-term exposure to DECT base EMF. Manta AK, Stravopodis DJ, Papassideri IS, Margaritis LH, *Electromagn Biol Med.*, 2014, 33(2):118-31
- ELF Alternating Magnetic Field Decreases Reproduction by DNA Damage Induction. Panagopoulos DJ, Karabarbounis A, Lioliousis C., *Cell Biochem Biophys.*, 2013, 67 (2): 703 – 716
- SAR Exposure From UHF RFID Reader in Adult, Child, Pregnant Woman, and Fetus Anatomical Models. Fiocchi S, Markakis IA, Ravazzani P, Samaras T, *Bioelectromagnetics*, 2013, 34 (6): 443 - 452
- Uncertainty evaluation in the measurement of power frequency electric and magnetic fields from AC overhead power lines. Ztoupis IN, Gonos IF, Stathopulos IA, *Radiat Prot Dosimetry*, 2013, 157 (1): 11 - 21