

# Slovenia

## Report on EMF Activities

### 9<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF

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#### 1. General research activities in Slovenia related to EMF and health

The general activities are related to EMF measurements in living and working environments including dosimetry. A joint project on RF dosimetry between Institute of Non-Ionizing Radiation and US Airforce Research Laboratory was completed and is ready for publication. The goal of this project was to develop a numerical technique for the computation of localized SAR averaged over certain mass interval and identify the possible target organs which might be more sensitive to EMFs.

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering is managing some research project in the field of electrochemotherapy and electrogenetherapy including cell electroporabilization and its biomedical and biotechnological applications. In addition, theoretical work is related also to the microdosimetry of EMF.

#### 2. Areas of public concern and national responses

- Measurements at various sites have shown that in publicly accessible areas exposure limits are never exceeded or even approached. Despite that, an increasing number of people is attributing a variety of complains – headaches, sleeplessness, even general pains to the radiation from the antennas.
- The mobile technologies are still of primary interest of the public and media. Disturbing messages in the media on alleged adverse health effects and lack of information (based on scientific data) of the inhabitants of surrounding areas where antennas are being installed, have lead to an continuously increasing wave of concerns.
- This has led to serious attention of the three responsible ministries (Environment, Health, Information Society) to EMF associated problems. With the strong initiative from the scientists and research institutions in cooperation with industry, operators, representatives of local and regional authorities, non-governmental organizations and above mentioned three responsible ministries, a special **project “FORUM EMS”** was launched in September 2003 to promote science based knowledge on possible effects of EMF and provide information on all aspects of the EMF in our society.
- Since then, various activities have been organized including publishing various brochures, public hearings, internet page (<http://www.forum-ems.si>), open telephone, educational workshops, media articles and interviews, etc.
- Within the project special initiative was proposed towards the implementation of the voluntary code of practice for companies that would like to build a new EMF source in the living and natural environment.

### 3. New policies and legislations regarding EMF exposure

The **Ministry of Environment** is preparing the revision of the *Decree on EMF in living and natural environment* from 1996. The new revision will be harmonized with the Council Recommendation (1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999) on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz) and will implement also some precautionary measures. At the same time, the Ministry of Environment is preparing the open database on all EMF sources that are operating in the environment in Slovenia and exceed the certain threshold in terms of radiated power. Such a database will offer a good background for completing the mapping of the field strengths around EMF sources in real 3-D environments.

### 4. New public information activities

We are very happy to announce that the *International Conference on EMF: From Bioeffects - To Legislation*, will be held in Ljubljana, **Slovenia** in November, 8-9 2004. The seminar will be organized by the Institute of Non-Ionizing Radiation in collaboration with some key international organizations (WHO, ICNIRP) and active European projects (EMF NET, COST 281). A special emphasis will be dedicated to the different models for EMF standards in new EU member states and their possible harmonization including review of the current research activities in those countries (<http://www.albatros-bled/emf-ljubljana>).