

National Report Switzerland - 2008

International EMF Project 13th International Advisory Committee Meeting

Contact person **Mirjana Moser**

Federal Office of Public Health, Radiation Protection Division, CH-3003 Bern

Email: mirjana.moser@bag.admin.ch Tel. + 41 31 322 95 75 Fax. + 41 31 322 83 83

1. General Research Activities

National EMF research program (NRP57)

In 2007 the Swiss Federal Council launched a national research program NRP57 "Non-ionising radiation; Environment and Health". The program covers ELF and RF, is fully sponsored by the government and runs for approximately 4 years (until 2011) with a funding of 5 Mio. CHF. The main topics of research are: dosimetry and exposure assessment, laboratory studies, epidemiologic studies, cell biological studies, risk perception. The second workshop in the frame of NRP was held on 5 and 6 May 2008 in Zurich. Its title was: "Towards a mechanism-based framework in EMF research". Information is available at: <http://www.nfp57.ch>

The Swiss Research Foundation on Mobile Communication (FSM)

FSM is a non-profit foundation, founded in 2002, sponsored mainly by industry, but supported by government, NGO's and research organisations. The aim of the FSM is to promote innovative research projects in the mobile phone sector and distribute the resulting research findings to scientists and the public. Following research areas are covered: basic research, risk perception & communication and technology & applied research. The annual research budget amounts to 550'000 basically. Information on the FSM as well as on the research projects can be found at: www.mobile-research.ethz.ch

The Foundation for Research on Information Technologies in Society (It'Is)

It'Is is a non-profit research foundation that has been founded in 1999 with the aim to create a flexible and dynamic research institution capable of addressing the research needs of society in the explosively expanding field of information technologies. Information on the It'Is and on their research projects are available under: www.itis.ethz.ch

Research Activities supported by the Federal Office of Public health (FOPH)

Information on the research projects supported by the FOPH can be found at:

<http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/strahlung/00053/00921/00922/> Actually running projects are:

- **CEFALO: An international case-control study on brain tumours in children and adolescents**

The main goal of the study is to investigate whether use of mobile telephones increases the risk of

developing brain tumours for children or adolescents. In addition, the study will provide a comprehensive dataset to investigate other potential risk factors for childhood brain tumor.

- **Magnetic fields of neodymium magnets**

In recent years very strong neodymium magnets for toy and office use have become widely available. In this project the static magnetic field of these magnets and their potential influence on pace makers are investigated.

2. New Policies and Legislations

Revision of the Swiss “Ordinance relating to protection of the general population from non-ionizing radiation in the environment” (ONIR)

The ordinance, in force since 1999, is being revised in order to better specify the implementation of installation limits in the cases where several antennas are placed close to each other.

Report: "Need for Action considering RFID Technology"

In order to answer a question from the parliament a group of experts has reviewed different aspects of RFID technology and analysed a need for action considering health, privacy, environmental and consumer protection. After being accepted by the Federal Council the report will be published on the FOPH website in German, French and Italian (expected in June / July 2008). <http://www.bag.admin.ch/rfid-bericht>. This report is a third one dealing with risk management problems related to non-ionizing radiation and new technologies. Previous ones were: **"Risk Potential of Wireless Networks"** published 2007 at <http://www.bag.admin.ch/wlan-bericht> and more general report **"Health Protection in the Field of non ionizing Radiation"** published 2006 at <http://www.bag.admin.ch/nis-bericht>

3 New public information activities

FOPH: Internet fact-sheets on different devices as sources of EMF

On the FOPH internet page different devices are presented as source of EMF. For each device a separate fact-sheet is provided. The fact-sheet is split into two parts: The first part gives brief information on the radiation of the device, compared to the ICNIRP restrictions, and advices for a precautionary handling of the device. The second part of the fact-sheet gives more detailed information on technical aspects, exposure data, health effects and legal regulations. The fact-sheets are available in German, French, Italian and English. Published fact-sheets: DECT phone, Babyphone, Induction cooker, WLAN, Bluetooth, Microwave oven, Cars, Mobile phones. Planned fact-sheets: Heating appliances, Neodymium magnets, Household appliances, Solarium, Lamps.

<http://www.bag.admin.ch/emf-e>