

International EMF Project
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National Report Switzerland

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1. General Research Activities

The Swiss Research Foundation for Electricity and 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 under: <http://www.emf.ethz.ch/en/>

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

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)

The Swiss TPH is a public organisation of the Basel-City region. The Swiss TPH has become a world-renowned institution for teaching, research and services in the field of international health development.

Concerning EMF, the latest project of the Swiss TPH is a new cohort study which has the aim to prospectively investigate whether exposure to RF-EMF emitted by mobile phones and other wireless communication devices affects cognitive functions, and whether it causes behavioural problems or non-specific health disturbances in adolescents. This study is funded by Swiss National Science Foundation.

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

Information on the research projects supported by the FOPH can be found under:
<http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/strahlung/00053/00921/00922/>

Research Activities supported by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Validation and Mechanistic Investigation of Modulation-Specific Cellular Effects of Electromagnetic Fields

The study started end of 2013 and lasts until 2015.

The experiment is ongoing.

Internet questionnaire for farm animal owners in Switzerland

Owners of cattle and other farm animals attributing health problems of their animals to the influence of EMF could fill the questionnaire. The objective of the website was to collect complaints in order to get an overview on the frequency and nature of such problems. The data is being analysed and a report in preparation.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/elektrosmog/01095/13082/index.html?lang=de>

Experiment studying the influence of base station like GSM radiation on the activity of redox proteins in cows
 The study entitled “Influence of non ionizing radiation of base stations on the activity of redox proteins in bovines” has been published.
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/10/136>

Statistical Analysis of modeling exposure from base stations
 Report available in German (Statistische Analyse der Immissionsmodellierung von Sendeanlagen):
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/elektrosmog> > Publikationen und Studien > Immissionen

Assessment of the evidence for biological effects from low intensity high frequency radiation
 Report available in German (Beurteilung der Evidenz für biologische Effekte schwacher Hochfrequenzstrahlung):
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/elektrosmog> > Publikationen und Studien > Gesundheitsauswirkungen und Forschung

2. New Policies and Legislations

Mandate of the Swiss Council to elaborate a draft for a law which has the aim to protect general public from non-ionizing radiation and sound

The Federal Council has given a mandate to the Federal Department of Home Affairs to elaborate a draft law. This draft law has the aim to improve health protection from non-ionizing radiation (NIR) and sound. The future law shall for example regulate the use of sun beds, the use of cosmetic NIR-applications or the handling of laserpointers. The draft law was in open consultation from April to July 2014. The main concern in the consultation was if its really necessary to built a new law for solving the above mentioned issues. In February 2015, the Federal Council decided that it's necessary to built this new law and gave a mandate to the Federal Departement of Home Affairs to elaborate until the End of 2015 the message and the final law.

3. Areas of public concern and national responses

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4. New public information activities

FOEN - Swiss expert group on electromagnetic fields and non-ionising radiation (BERENIS)

The FOEN has nominated a consultative group of Swiss experts from various disciplines with scientific competence regarding electromagnetic fields and non-ionising radiation, which has commenced its work in July 2014. The group is called “BERENIS”, based on the acronym of the respective German term. The BERENIS experts regularly screen the scientific literature, and use defined criteria to assess the publications, which they consider as relevant for the protection of humans from potentially adverse effects. The evaluations are published in quarterly newsletters in English, German and French. The first newsletter is available online:

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/elektrosmog/15188/index.html?lang=en>
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/elektrosmog/index.html?lang=de>
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/elektrosmog/index.html?lang=fr>