

**International EMF Project**  
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**National Report Switzerland**

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## **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. A satellite NRP57 meeting has been held in on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in the frame of BEMS Conference in Davos. End workshop will be held towards the end of 2010 or in spring 2011. Information is available under: <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, but the funding organisations show intention to reduce or even cut off their financial support, what would be the end of this very valuable research organisation in Switzerland. Information on the FSM as well as on the research projects can be found under: [www.mobile-research.ethz.ch](http://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](http://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 under:

<http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/strahlung/00053/00921/00922/>

Actually running projects are:

**- Exposure to magnetic fields from energy-saving lamps**

The present project defines the methodology for measuring energy-saving lamps, measures the magnetic fields that they produce, and estimates the currents produced in the body. Report and results have been published and presented on the press conference on the 30.3.2010

**- Induced fields and currents in the body of people using induction hobs resulting from exposure to magnetic fields**

Induction hobs use magnetic fields to transfer heat to pots. Some of the magnetic fields penetrate the user's body, producing electric currents. This project will model the currents produced in people of different statures, in pregnant women and in fetuses, and compare them with the applicable limits.

**- Magnetic therapy mats**

In the first part of this project, the magnetic fields produced by magnetic therapy mats for personal

use are to be measured, and possible effects on cardiac pacemakers are to be investigated. In the second part of the project, the literature on the effects of magnetic therapy mats is to be reviewed, and the fields measured in the first part of the project are to be assessed on the basis of the literature.

### ***Other Research Activities***

- **Report on “Cancer and Low frequency Magnetic Fields” (in German and French), published by the Federal Office for the Environment on the 19.01.2010.**

This report updates the assessment of cancer risk associated with low-frequency magnetic fields, based on research findings published up to August 2008.

- **Activities of the Unit for Environmental Health Risk Assessment of the University Basel**

(head of the unit is Martin Rössli)

“QUALIFEX” –Study, publications:

Frei P et. All.. Temporal and spatial variability of personal exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields. Environ Res. 2009 Aug;109(6):779-85.

Mohler E, et al.. Persönliche Exposition durch hochfrequente elektromagnetische Felder in der Region Basel (Schweiz): Ein Überblick über die QUALIFEX-Studie. Umweltmed Forsch Prax. 2009;14(6) 329-38.

## **2. New Policies and Legislations**

### **Guide en matière de téléphonie mobile: une aide pour les communes à l'évaluation des antennes de téléphonie mobile (in French, German and Italian)**

Federal Office for the Environment published guidelines which should help communes to better evaluate basic stations antennas in respect to the Swiss “Ordinance relating to protection of the general population from non-ionizing radiation in the environment” (ONIR)

## **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:

- **Energy-saving lamps,**
- Induction hobs,
- Microwave oven,
- Waterbeds,
- Mobile phones,
- Cordless phone –
- DECT phone,
- Baby monitors,
- WLAN, Bluetooth, ,
- Cars, hybrid cars,
- Magnets,
- Electric floor heating systems,
- Electric water heaters,
- Electrical radiators,
- Individual heat storage units.

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