NORWAY
Report on Optical radiation activities June 2018 – April 2019

The Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) changed name from the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) from 1 January 2019.

General research activities in Norway related to optical radiation and health
Several research groups are active in the field of UV and skin cancer and optical radiation and health, e.g. universities, university hospitals, Cancer Registry of Norway, Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Nordic Institute of Dental Materials, as well as the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA). Projects include epidemiologic studies related to melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, UV and optical effect studies, cost-benefit analyses of melanoma, studies on sun-related behaviour, UV and optical radiation related to the climate (including snow cover and ozone), as well as monitoring visible light from dental lamps for risk assessment regarding eye injuries. Quality assured, historical data from the Norwegian UV monitoring network is made available for research purposes at github.com. Data are used in national and international studies.

New policies and legislations regarding optical radiation
Norway has not issued any new policies or legislations during this period.

Areas of public concern and national responses
DSA issued a [national UV- and skin cancer strategy](https://www.ks.cn.no) in March 2018, approved by the Norwegian Government, and with the aim to reduce incidence and mortality from skin cancer in Norway. The working group, led by DSA, has consisted of
leading authorities and institutions with means and instruments to support the work. Volunteer organizations and NGOs have also been engaged. The proposed measures covers preventive actions for all types of skin cancers and within three areas: 1) Prevention in management and administration, 2) Increased knowledge and awareness regarding prevention, and 3) Earlier detection of skin cancer. The strategy is valid from 2019 to 2023. Publication of the strategy resulted in positive response, but also debate and criticism, as the Government did not approve the proposed assessment of a total ban for sunbeds.

The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM) has prepared a draft protocol for a risk-benefit assessment of sunscreen for Norwegian conditions, published on the 12 November 2018. The aim is to compare any health benefits by using sunscreen, such as preventing skin cancer, with any health damage associated with sunscreen use, either substances in the sunscreen or because the sun protection is not effective. The decision is not made whether or not to proceed with the assessment.

New public information activities

DSA in collaboration with the Norwegian Cancer Society, Norwegian Meteorological Institute and Norwegian Institute for Air Research publish joint press releases regarding the expected UV situation and related sun protection advices every year prior to Easter holiday and schools’ summer vacation. Occasions and days with high UV intensities also initiates media contact. The exceptionally sunny summer of 2018 for the Southern part of Norway resulted in 25% higher UV dose and much media attention. The very late Easter Holiday in 2019, initiated extra focus on the need for sun protection. Prior to the holiday, DSA hosted a seminar for the Norwegian Meteorological Institute regarding the expected UV-situation and suitable sun protection advices. The meteorologist included protection advices in several weather forecasts, as the Easter holiday was remarkably sunny.

The Norwegian Cancer Society, the Norwegian Society of Dermatology and Venerology and the Norwegian Melanoma Association will, for the sixth time, carry out a skin cancer day on 22 May 2019. Adults is the primary target group, and the attention campaign aims to create awareness regarding signs of skin cancer and melanoma prevention. Focus this year is on a simple digital test and on a sunbed campaign in social media, primarily for young women.