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GREEK ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Exploring societal perception and safety culture of radiation in Greece

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Starting from scratch!

What are the dominant beliefs, attitudes, perceptions amongst the members of the public and amongst the interested parties?

Time for survey!

- a **quantitative nationwide survey of public attitudes and risk perception** about radiation

1.811 persons interviewed by telephone based on a structured questionnaire

- a **qualitative survey on safety culture among interested parties**

39 in-depth interviews: 14 decision-makers & 25 workers

Both conducted in summer 2018

Getting to know the “terra incognita”

- this is **the first time** that a public opinion survey is conducted in this field in Greece
- up to now, **available information is scarce** and found mainly in Eurobarometer

The method

Dates	18-29 June 2018
Area:	Nationwide
Sample:	1.811 persons, age 17+, men and women. Representative sample
Regions:	Based on the distribution of the population over 17 years in the 13 Regions of Greece (Hellenic Statistical Authority, 2011)
Method:	Segmented sampling, telephone interviews by means of CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing)
Max. error:	Max. statistical error ±2,3 %, confidence level 95 %
Weighting:	Based on the sex and the age of the respondents

The questionnaire

6 thematic areas

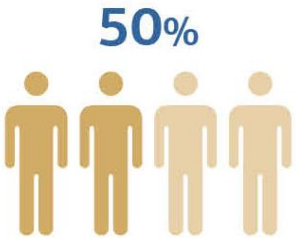
a. general knowledge about the radiation
b. medical exposure
c. exposure from the environment
d. electromagnetic fields
e. nuclear energy and waste management topics
f. aspects of trust, transparency and EEAE visibility

Total number of questions asked: 34

The findings

Exposure to radiation is a matter of concern

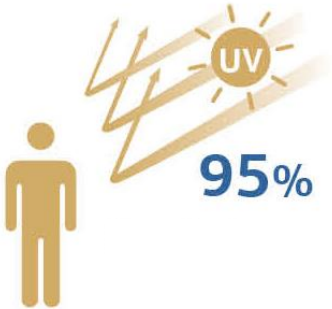
Radioactive waste, radon, solarium tanning beds and mobile phone antennas are considered as radiation sources of high risk



About half of the respondents say that they are "extremely concerned" or "moderately concerned" about the exposure to radiation sources for medical purposes

Mobile phone antennas (59%) and mobile phones (57%) are the two electromagnetic radiation sources that the public is concerned about the most.

The findings



The UV radiation (used in tanning beds) is acknowledged as cancer factor

About 40% of the respondents say they have heard about the natural radioactive gas radon. The mass media are being referred to as the key source of information related to radon

They say that they have never demanded a referral for medical examination using radiation.

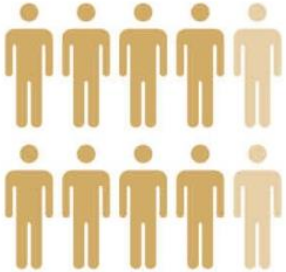
The findings

74%

They are against the use of nuclear energy for electricity production

8 out of 10

They are "extremely concerned" or "moderately concerned" about the possibility of a nuclear accident in the vicinity of Greece with radiological consequences in our country



They would oppose to the operation of an interim radioactive waste storage facility in the vicinity of their residence

www.eeae.gr

The findings

They say that they are not satisfied with the information provided about radiation-related topics

The 64% thinks that there is lack of transparency in the way that public authorities deal with radiation protection and nuclear safety

Safety culture among decision makers & professionals

- this is **the first time** that such a survey is conducted in Greece– the questionnaire was developed by EEAE based on the existing literature/IAEA guidance on safety culture
- up to now, EEAE had investigated safety culture only among its employees

The method

Dates	June – July 2018
Area	Athens & other major cities
Method	Qualitative survey, using in-depth personal interviews
Sampling context	Predefined list of interviewees of total n = 50
Sample	n = 39
Sample categories	Decision makers (14), Professionals/Practitioners (26)

The questionnaire

Decision makers

a. Safety importance
b. General policy and procedures of safety
c. Leadership
d. Resources
e. Training
f. Assessment of the procedures
g. Reporting of events
h. Motivation of staff

Professionals

a. Safety importance
b. General policy and procedures of safety
c. Leadership
d. Personal accountability
e. Motivation of staff
f. Assessment of the procedures

…the **main conclusion** is that

- a general safety culture philosophy and safety culture practices seem to have been incorporated into the organizations that deal with radiation
- some factors enhance, while others weaken the safety culture

…what about **the role of the regulatory authority?**

"top role of EEAE"

"undoubted trust"

"feelings of dependence"

"centralized responsibilities"

…what about **safety practices in workplaces?**

“thorough”

“well-established”

“strict”

“part of the typical daily routine”

…what is needed for **further improvement?**

Training!!!

Connecting the dots

Our goal is to use the findings of both surveys to:

- better understand the relevant parties' needs
- eliminate the deeply-rooted views on non-existing risks
- develop information campaigns aiming to actively inform the safety performance
- build-up on collaboration with the interested parties and support and encourage communication and consultation
- foster and sustain a strong safety culture

...initiate some cultural change?

Connecting the dots

The roadmap of future plans include:

- The development of a new, updated communication strategy - end of 2019
- The development of mobile apps – by 2020
- Pilot information campaigns in schools – by 2020
- Establishment of an annual forum for interaction with interested parties and especially the professional groups

…building radiation protection & safety culture

Thank you!

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