



Workshop “Models fit for purpose”

June 15-17, 2016 in Seville, Spain

Radioecological models are essential tools for use in assessing environmental impacts and risks from radionuclides in the environment, either directly or in developing underpinning process understanding. The COMET Workshop 3 will address whether radioecological models and available data can be described as “fit for purpose”, by organizing a dialogue and obtaining feedback from modellers, experimentalists and stakeholders. Because there is no universal ideal model, the broad range of purposes of radioecological models will be reviewed and specific requirements identified. For example, the role of research models to interpret data and enhance process understanding, and the role of assessment models to apply that understanding to practical situations, emphasising the connection between them, will be debated. Approaches to assessing the suitability of radioecological models for those purposes will be discussed. Leading experts will give overview talks on key areas requiring consideration, but there will also be ample opportunities for informal and round-table discussions.

Invited stakeholders and representatives of other radiation protection platforms will communicate their expectations and needs as to radioecological models. They will also help to identify the types of radioecological models that are still lacking for specific purposes or do not fully meet their requirements. The discussions will include the challenges related to the implementation of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards.

A key aspect of this workshop is to improve the interaction between modellers and experimentalists, since a closer cooperation is expected to create a better compatibility between model developments and experimental studies. Hypothesis-based models could guide the planning of laboratory and field work. Conversely, experimental investigations should be conducted in a way to obtain the maximum benefit for model development and improvement. The workshop will discuss the role of research models to interpret data and enhance process understanding, and the role of assessment models to apply that understanding to practical situations, emphasising the connection between them

In addition, the workshop will provide guidance on the development of radioecological models for specific purposes, including the desired degree of conservatism, the acceptable level of uncertainty and the optimization of model complexity. Developing strategies to minimize the overall predictive uncertainty of model output will be one of the challenges. The benefits and limitations of process-based approaches and extrapolation methodologies to fill data gaps will be addressed in this context. Approaches to the validation of radioecological models will be reviewed and evaluated.

The workshop is expected to initiate a dialogue that will improve the quality and robustness of radioecological models and make them more suitable for scientific applications and a broad range of assessment purposes, bridging to other radiation protection platforms and taking into account their specific needs.

The workshop is organised by the EU project: Coordination and implementation of a pan-European instrument for radioecology, COMET.



Information about the venue and location

Venue

The workshop will be hosted by one of the partners of the COMET project, the University of Seville, in the Spanish Accelerator Centre (CNA). In this institution a set of meeting rooms, and different facilities (a computer room, wifi connexion...) will be available. The Centre is located in an area of the town devoted in 1992 to the Seville World Exposition, and is well connected by public transport with the central and touristic part of the town (10-15 minutes).

The postal address of CNA is:

Spanish National Centre of Accelerators.
La Cartuja Island
Avenue Thomas Alba Edison
Seville, Spain

More information about CNA can be obtained at the webpage of the Centre <http://www.cna.us.es>. (please, take into consideration that there is an English version of the page).

Location

Seville is a historical and touristic town located in the south-west of Spain, and can be considered as the capital of Andalucia, the southern region in Spain. The town has 700 thousand inhabitants (one million adding the residential areas outside the town) and is characterized by a unique combination of remains associated with several dominant civilizations from the past (Romans Goths, Arabs). We recommend strongly the combination of attendance at the workshop plus a tourist visit to the town during the weekend.

The list of hotels in a touristic town like Seville is very ample. The hosting group is negotiating with some hotels to try to obtain special offers for the participants in the workshop. All the registered people in the conference will receive a list of selected hotels to perform personal booking that will be classified in two groups: ones located in the vicinity of CNA, and ones located in the central part of the town (although the distance between the two areas is short).

Registration

For registration for the workshop, please send e-mail to

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