IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting on Improving Communication to Support Radiation Protection in Medicine

IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

26 - 28 April 2027

Ref. No.: EVT2602202

Information Sheet

Introduction

Effective communication is essential to radiation protection in medicine, supporting informed decision-making, trust, and a strong radiation safety culture. However, communicating complex concepts, such as radiation risks and scientific uncertainties remains challenging. Other challenges include countering misinformation and tailoring communication to different stakeholders while ensuring that it is effective in addressing their needs and concerns. Strengthening communication competences, approaches, and practices is therefore essential to support effective radiation protection in medicine.

This Technical Meeting will bring together experts and stakeholders to exchange scientific knowledge and practical experience, identify challenges and good practices, and explore ways to strengthening communication competences, approaches, and practices involving patients, healthcare professionals, regulators, and the general public with a focus on patient-centred care and meaningful participation in shared decision-making.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this meeting are as follows:

- Review scientific evidence, challenges and good practices in communicating the benefits and risks of medical uses of ionizing radiation.
- Explore approaches to strengthening communication competences through education, training, patient-centred practices, interdisciplinary collaboration and the use of emerging tools.

- Discuss strategies to address misinformation, respond to public concerns, and strengthen trust.
- Examine the roles of institutions, regulators, and policymakers in supporting effective communication.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and identify practical recommendations to improve communication in radiation protection in medicine.

Target Audience

This Technical Meeting is intended for professionals and stakeholders involved in communication related to radiation protection in medicine. Participants may include referring physicians, medical practitioners, medical physicists, technologists, educators, communication specialists, regulators, policymakers, and representatives of patient associations and other stakeholders working on patient engagement, public information, and digital communication tools. Participants should have relevant professional experience and a strong interest in this field.

Working Language

English

Participation and Registration

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **17 January 2027**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org):
   - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
   - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register here.

2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
   - Complete or update their personal details under 'Complete Profile' and upload the relevant supporting documents;
   - Search for the relevant event under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
   - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled 'Designating Authority' (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
   - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);

- Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
- Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **17 January 2027**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the InTouch+ Help page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the Data Processing Notice concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, **17 January 2027**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page: https://www.iaea.org/events.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Organization

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.