



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development

**International Conference on the Development of
Preparedness for National and International
Emergency Response (EPR2021)**

IAEA Headquarters

Vienna, Austria

11 – 15 October 2021

Organized by the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Introduction

Diligent planning must always include preparedness for the possible occurrence of radiation-related emergencies. This consideration necessitates the implementation of an efficient nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness and response (EPR) system based on effective emergency preparedness, robust arrangements and trained responders.

While the responsibility for developing, maintaining and strengthening nuclear and radiological EPR arrangements rests with the national authorities in Member States, the IAEA, plays the central role in fostering the international EPR framework for nuclear and radiological emergencies. The IAEA develops guidance on EPR that provides Member States with a reference for developing robust EPR arrangements and for sustaining them. This guidance covers all areas of nuclear and radiological EPR. This includes support in understanding and implementing the latest concepts and principles, as outlined in the IAEA Safety Standards; assistance in the design, conduct and evaluation of emergency exercises; and technical support to national and regional capacity-building projects.

In 2005, the IAEA announced the establishment of the Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) to serve as a global focal point for preparedness and response to any nuclear and radiological incident and emergency independent whether it arises from an accident, natural disaster, negligence, nuclear security event or any other cause. The IAEA carries out this work based on the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (Early Notification Convention) and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (Assistance Convention). This work is also carried out for the alignment of its EPR activities and the EPR activities in Member States with the IAEA Safety Standards.

The process of learning from the response to emergencies and from exercises prompts significant efforts by Member States and international organizations to maintain the up-to-date international EPR framework and arrangements. This maintenance ensures a high level of operational effectiveness in response. However, there is always a need to continuously strengthen these arrangements and capabilities through the exchange of information, experience and good practices, as well as through the promotion of effective preparedness as a key to an efficient response. The IAEA works to define and promote common approaches in nuclear and radiological EPR so that the response does not differ between countries as this would cause confusion and public mistrust, interfere with recovery operations and possibly lead to severe socio-economic consequences.

B. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The purpose of the event is to foster the exchange of information and enhance global awareness on various EPR topics through the discussion of both the progress made at national and international levels and the challenges encountered, by sharing experiences, evaluating current trends, technologies and lessons in EPR and identifying key priorities in further improving readiness for nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies, regardless whether they arise from an accident, natural disaster, negligence, nuclear security event or any other cause.

The Key Messages for the Conference are:

- It is vital to maintain preparedness to respond;
- There is a strong International EPR Framework, which is a foundation for the further development of operational arrangements;
- The capability to provide a clear, easily understandable answer to the question “Am I safe?” is the centre of gravity for the protection strategy.

C. List of Topics

The conference will cover the entire spectrum of EPR for various types of nuclear and radiological emergencies, regardless whether these arise from an accident, natural disaster, negligence, nuclear security event or any other cause. The topics in focus include: emergency preparedness, emergency management, protection strategies, communication, public health and medical response, international cooperation and assistance, education and training, and past experiences.

Papers are invited on the following above-mentioned subject areas:

- **Emergency Preparedness:** IAEA safety standards, emergency plans and procedures, peer reviews of EPR, EPR for States embarking on a nuclear power programme, EPR and new generation of reactors;
- **Emergency Management:** ‘unified command and control system’, ‘all hazards and threats approach’, decision making processes, information management systems and databases, nuclear security–safety interfaces and integration in emergency response, individual exposure assessment (including biodosimetry);
- **Protection Strategies:** assessment and prognosis in an emergency, emergency radiation monitoring, modelling systems, protective actions and other response actions, generic and operational criteria, planning areas and distances, protection of emergency workers and helpers, protection of food and agricultural products, termination of a radiation emergency, transition phase and recovery;
- **Communication:** notification and information exchange processes at national and international levels, public/media communication (in preparedness, during an emergency and in the post-emergency phase), application of INES;
- **Public Health and Medical Response:** public health and ethical considerations of response, medical triage and management of mass casualty event, diagnosis and treatment of radiation injuries, practical aspects of thyroid blocking, psychological impact management, medical surveillance of overexposed individuals and long term follow-up of exposed populations; non-radiological consequences;
- **International Cooperation and Assistance:** cooperation among States, inter-agency cooperation, international emergency assistance, international harmonization;
- **Education and Training:** training strategies, programmes, exercises and simulation tools, use of virtual reality in training, e-learning; and
- **Past Experiences:** past incidents and emergencies, lessons, trends, impacts on EPR.

D. Target Audience

The conference is aimed at governmental officials with responsibilities in EPR, experts in EPR as well as in nuclear safety and nuclear security matters, representatives of response and operating organizations, emergency planners and emergency responders, public information officers and others involved in EPR for nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies regardless whether these arise from an accident, natural disaster, negligence, nuclear security event or any other cause.

E. Structure

The conference will consist of an opening session, plenary sessions with high-level invited speakers, technical sessions and poster sessions. If circumstances allow, side events, including round table discussions, refresher workshops, and technical visits to the IAEA's IEC operational area, as well as displays, exhibits and demonstrations of instruments, publications, educational tools and assessment methods and tools will be offered.

The closing session will include a summary of the main conclusions of the conference, delivered by the Conference President, and closing remarks from the IAEA.

F. Papers and Posters

All participants who wish to deliver presentations (orally or in the form of posters) at the conference must submit a synopsis on one of the topics listed under Section C. All submissions, apart from invited papers, must present original work and should not have been published elsewhere.

F.1. Submission of Synopses

Synopses (one or a maximum of two printed A4 pages, including figures and references) must be uploaded to the conference's file submission system ([IAEA-INDICO](#)), which will be available on the conference web page (see Section P) from **18 February** until **1 June 2021**. No other submission route will be accepted. Specifications for the layout will be available on INDICO.

In addition, authors must electronically submit the following two forms to their appropriate governmental authority using the InTouch+ Platform (see Section G) for transmission to the IAEA. These forms must be received by the IAEA no later than **1 June 2021**:

- Participation Form (Form A);
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B).

IMPORTANT: The Programme Committee will consider uploaded synopses only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section G).

F.2. Acceptance of Synopses

The Secretariat reserves the right to exclude synopses that do not comply with its technical or scientific quality standards and/or that do not apply to one of the topics in Section C above.

Authors who prefer to present their papers as posters are requested to indicate this preference on Form A and in INDICO, at the time of submitting their extended synopsis.

Authors will be notified by **30 July 2021** as to whether their submission has been accepted for presentation at the conference, either orally or as a poster.

G. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event must be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be a member of an organization that has been invited to attend. The list of IAEA Member States and invited organizations is available on the event web page (see Section P).

Registration through InTouch+:

1. Access the [InTouch+ web page](#):

- Participants with an existing NUCLEUS account can [sign in here](#) with their username and password;
- Participants without an existing NUCLEUS account can [register here](#).

2. Once signed in, participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:

- Complete or update their personal details under 'Basic Profile' (if no financial support is requested) or under 'Complete Profile' (if financial support is requested) and upload the relevant supporting documents;
- Search for the relevant event (EVT2001734) 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 Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
- If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
- If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information; (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
- Submit their application.

Once submitted through InTouch+, the application will be transmitted automatically to the required authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority). If approved the application will automatically be sent to the IAEA.

NOTE: Should participants wish to submit a paper or request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadlines (see section M).

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.

If it is not possible to submit your application through the InTouch+ platform, participants are requested to contact the IAEA's Conference Services Section via e-mail: Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

H. 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 conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover 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 conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit Grant Application Form (Form C), together with the Participation Form (Form A) and Form for Submission of Contributions (Form B), if applicable, to the IAEA using the InTouch+ platform through their competent national authority (see Section G) by **1 June 2021**.

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

I. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme will be made available on the conference webpage (see Section P) before the start of the conference. The final programme and all accepted synopses will be available upon on-site registration at the conference.

J. Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English. All communications must be sent to the IAEA in English.

K. Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for participants are listed on <https://www.iaea.org/events>. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying fees for cancellations, re-bookings and no-shows. For certain main sessions (plenary sessions) livestreaming will be organized. Should restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic not be resolved by October 2021, provisions will be put in place for participants to attend the conference virtually.

L. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as 3 months but not later than four weeks before their travel. 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.

For more information, please see the Austria Visa Information on <https://www.iaea.org/events>.

M. Key Deadlines and Dates

Opening of synopsis submission through the IAEA-INDICO	18 February 2021
Deadline for submission of synopses through IAEA-INDICO	1 June 2021
Deadline for submission of the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and the Participation Form (Form A) through the competent national authority using the InTouch+ platform	1 June 2021
Deadline for submission of the Grant Application Form (Form C), together with Form A, through the competent national authority using the InTouch+ platform	1 June 2021
Notification of acceptance of synopsis for oral or poster presentation	30 July 2021
Submission of Form A only (no paper submission, no grant request)	No deadline

N. Exhibits

Should circumstances allow, a limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretariat by sending an email to EPR2021@iaea.org before **31 May 2021**.

O. Conference Secretariat

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

P. Conference Web Page

Please visit the IAEA conference web page regularly for new information regarding this conference:

<https://www.iaea.org/events/EPR-2021>