



# ICNIRP 7th International NIR Workshop

Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 9-11 May 2012



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Emilie VAN DEVENTER

Team Leader, Radiation Programme

Department of Public Health and Environment

World Health Organization



# OUTLINE

## UN organizations

World Health Organization  
International Labour Organization  
International Telecommunications Union  
World Meteorological Organization  
United Nations Environmental Programme  
World Bank

## Other international organizations

ICNIRP  
ICOH  
Euroskin  
European Commission



## • UN Charter

### **The Purposes of the United Nations are:**

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.



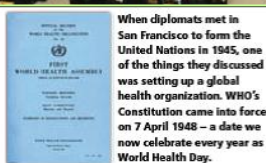
# ICNIRP 7th International NIR Workshop

## Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 9-11 May 2012



### PEOPLE

Last but not least, WHO is people. Over 8000 public health experts including doctors, epidemiologists, scientists, managers, administrators and other professionals from all over the world work for WHO in 147 country offices, six regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



When diplomats met in San Francisco to form the United Nations in 1945, one of the things they discussed was setting up a global health organization. WHO's Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day.

Delegates from 53 of WHO's 55 original member states came to the first World Health Assembly in June 1948. They decided that WHO's top priorities would be malaria, women's and children's health, tuberculosis, venereal disease, nutrition and environmental sanitation – many of which we are still working on today. WHO's work has since grown to also cover health problems that were not even known in 1948, including relatively new diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

### 1974 Onchocerciasis control programme



WHO worked for 30 years to eliminate onchocerciasis – or river blindness – from West Africa. 600 000 cases of blindness have been prevented and 18 million children spared from the disease. Thousands of farmers have been able to reclaim 25 million hectares of fertile river land that had been abandoned because of the risk of infection.



Mr. Ali Mealin (left), from Somalia, was the last person known to be infected with smallpox. He is standing with the doctor who treated him more than 25 years ago. Ali has since worked on polio eradication campaigns.

### 1979 Eradication of smallpox

The eradication of smallpox – a disease which had maimed and killed millions – in the late 1970s is one of WHO's proudest achievements. The campaign to eradicate the deadly disease throughout the world was coordinated by WHO between 1967 and 1979. It was the first and so far the only time that a major infectious disease has been eradicated.

1983 Institut Pasteur (France) identifies HIV.

### 2003 WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

21 May 2003 was a historic day for global public health. After nearly four years of intense negotiations, the World Health Assembly unanimously adopted WHO's first global public health treaty. The treaty is designed to reduce tobacco-related deaths and disease around the world.

2004 Adoption of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

### 1948 International Classification of Disease

WHO took over the responsibility for the International Classification of Disease (ICD), which dates back to the 1850s and was first known as the International List of Causes of Death. The ICD is used to classify diseases and other health problems and has become the international standard used for clinical and epidemiological purposes.

1952 Dr Jonas Salk (US) develops the first successful polio vaccine.



### 1952–1964 Global yaws control programme

One of the first diseases to claim WHO's attention was yaws, a crippling and disfiguring disease that afflicted some 50 million people in 1950. The global yaws control programme, fully operational between 1952–1964, used long-acting penicillin to treat yaws with one single injection. By 1965, the control programme had examined 300 million people in 46 countries and reduced global disease prevalence by more than 95%.

1967 South African surgeon Christiaan Barnard conducts the first heart transplant.

1974 The World Health Assembly adopts a resolution to create the Expanded Programme on Immunization to bring basic vaccines to all the world's children.

1977 The first Essential Medicines List appeared in 1977, two years after the World Health Assembly introduced the concepts of "essential drugs" and "national drug policy". 156 countries today have a national list of essential medicines.



1978 the International Conference on Primary Health Care, in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan sets the historic goal of "Health for All" – to which WHO continues to aspire.



1988 Global Polio Eradication Initiative established

Since its launch in 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has reduced the number of cases of polio by more than 99% – from more than 350 000 per year to 1966 in 2006. Spearheaded by national governments, WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, it has immunized more than two billion children thanks to the mobilization of more than 20 million volunteers and health workers. As a result, five million children are today walking, who would otherwise have been paralysed, and more than 1.5 million childhood deaths have been averted.

THE GOAL IS TO ERADICATE POLIO WORLDWIDE SO THAT NO CHILD WILL EVER AGAIN BE PARALYZED BY THIS DISEASE.

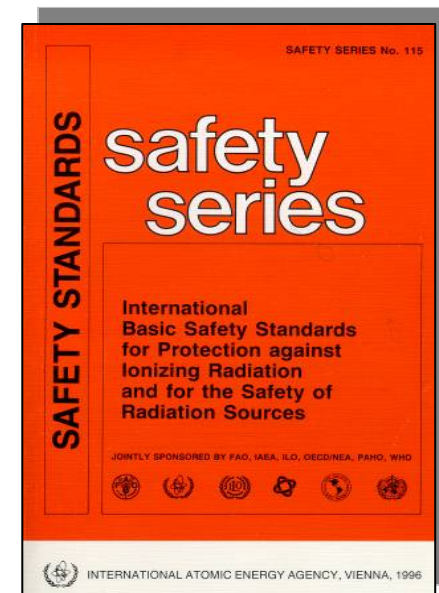
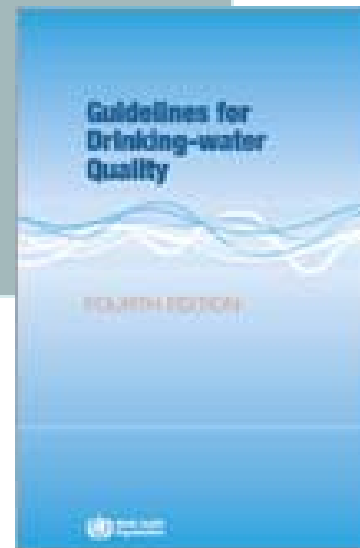
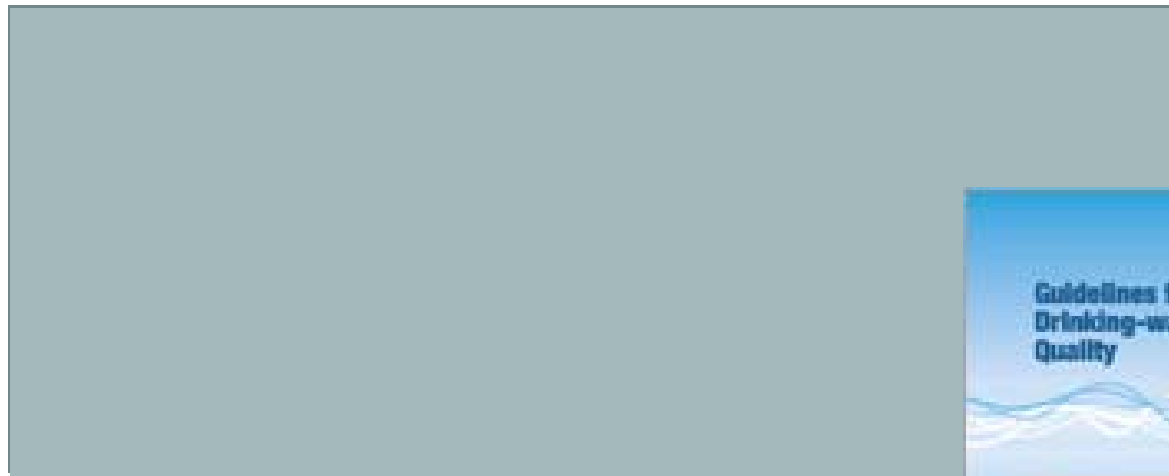
2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) first recognized and then controlled.

2005 World Health Assembly revises the International Health Regulations.



## WHO Core functions

1. Articulate ethical and evidence-based policy positions
2. Setting norms and standards, and promoting and monitoring their implementation





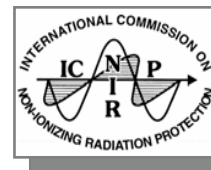
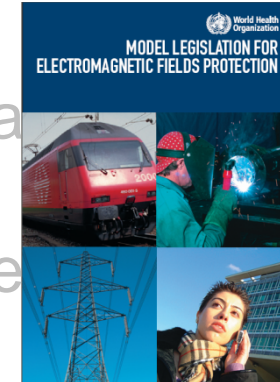
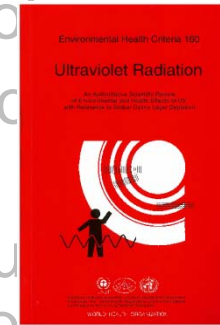
## WHO Core functions

1. Articulate ethical and evidence-based policy positions
2. Setting norms and standards, and promoting and monitoring their implementation
3. Shaping the research agenda, and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge
4. Providing technical support, catalysing change and developing sustainable institutional capacity
5. Monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends
6. Providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed



# WHO Core functions

1. Articulate ethical and evidence-based policies
2. Setting norms and standards, and promoting their implementation
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4. Defining the research agenda, and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge
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Non-ionizing radiation

POWER LINES



TRAINS

RADAR



0 Hz    10<sup>2</sup>    10<sup>4</sup>    10<sup>6</sup>    10<sup>8</sup>    10<sup>10</sup>    10<sup>12</sup>

FREQUENCY (Hz OR CYCLES PER SECOND)

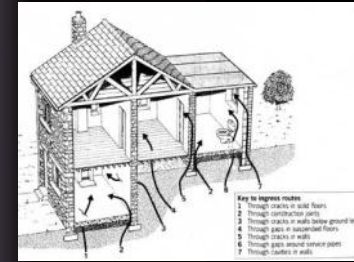


PERSONAL COMPUTER



CELL PHONE

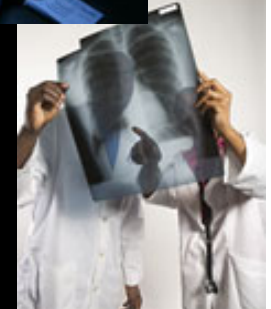
Ionizing radiation



X-RAY



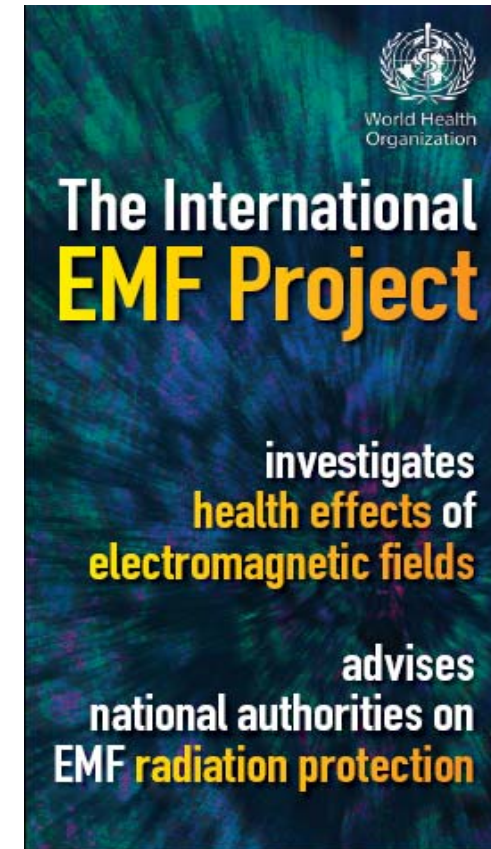
VISIBLE LIGHT





## WHO International EMF Project

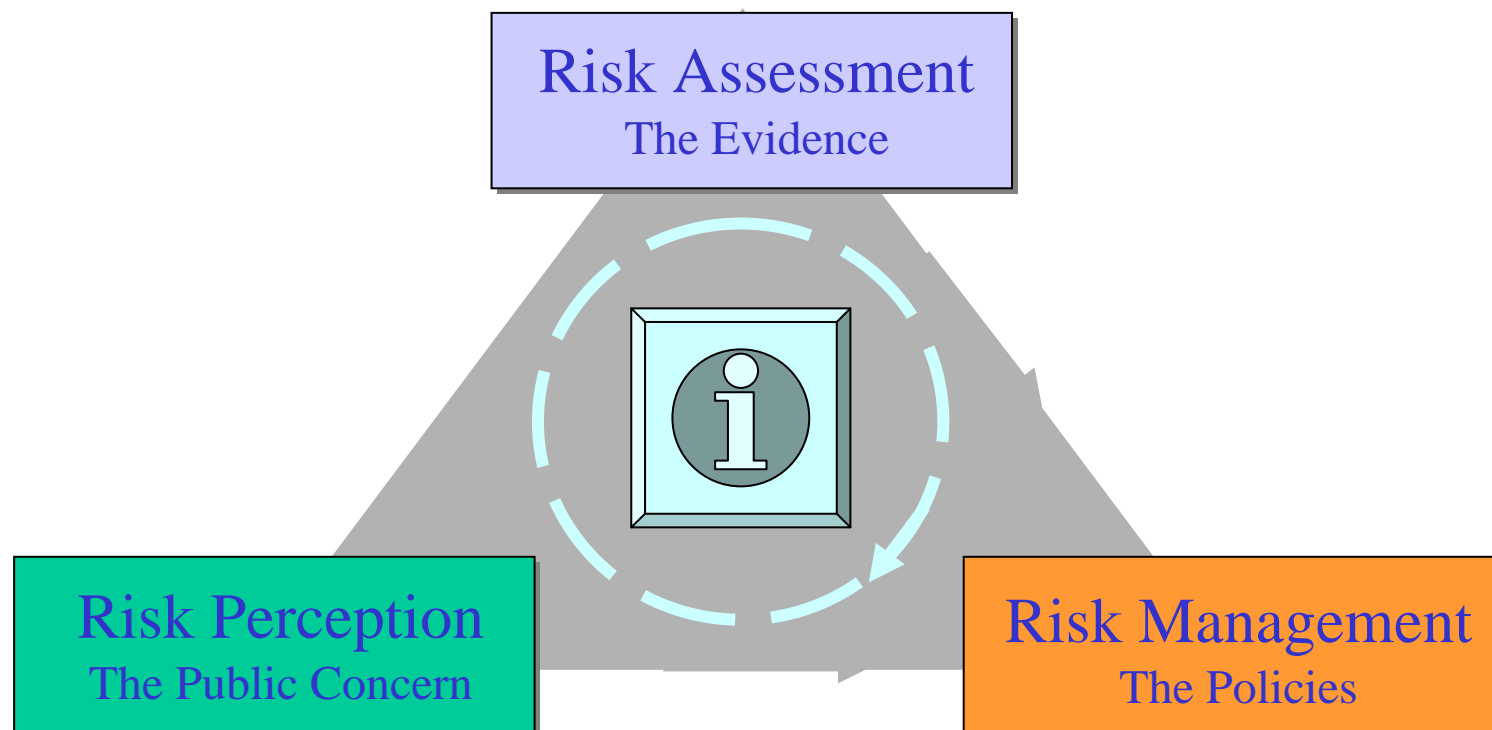
- Established in 1996
- Coordinated by WHO HQ
- A multinational, multidisciplinary effort to create and disseminate information on human health risk from EMF





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Risk Assessment  
The Evidence

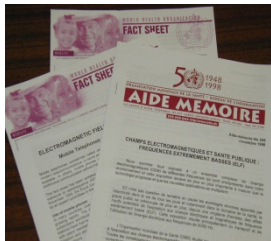


### World Health Organization

2006 WHO Research Agenda for Radio Frequency Fields

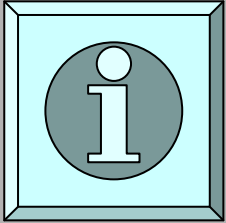
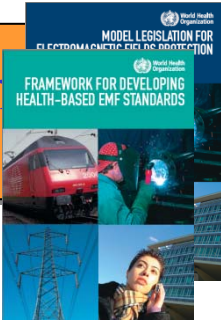
**Introduction**

In 1977, the WHO International EMF Project developed a Research Agenda in order to facilitate and coordinate research worldwide on the possible adverse health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF). In subsequent years, this agenda has undergone periodic review and refinement.



Risk Perception  
The Public Concern

Risk Management  
The Policies





## INTERSUN Programme

Through INTERSUN, WHO provides scientific information and practical advice on the health impact and environmental effects of exposure to UV radiation

### Objectives

- Promotes research
- Quantifies health risks of UV radiation
- Facilitates public and occupational programmes to reduce UV-related health risks
- Develops practical resources for sun protection in schools
- Promotes the UV Index



### **Sunshine and health**

How to enjoy  
the Sun  
safely





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World Meteorological Organization

Working together in weather, climate and water



International Agency for Research on Cancer

Centre International de Recherche sur le Cancer

## MISSION STATEMENT

"To reduce the global burden of disease resulting from exposure to UV radiation"

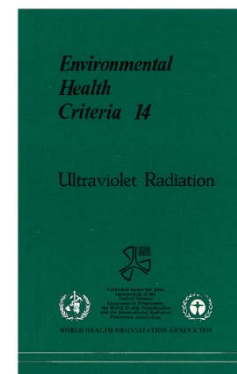


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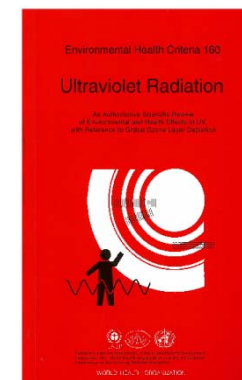
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Science  
Risk Assessment



1979



1994

Public Awareness  
Risk Perception  
Communication

Policy  
Risk Management

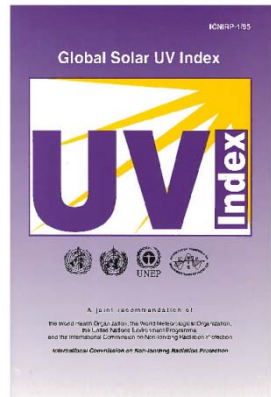


2006

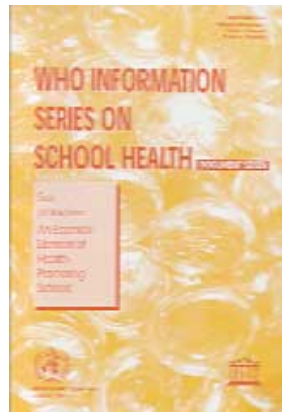


# ICNIRP 7th International NIR Workshop

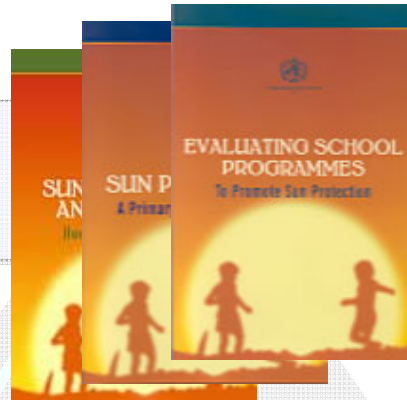
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1995



2002



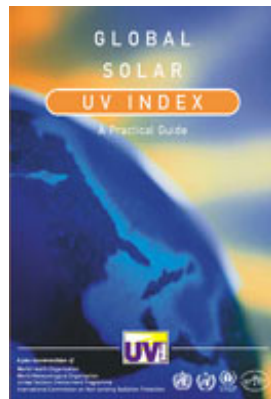
2003



2003



2006



2002

Policies  
Risk Management

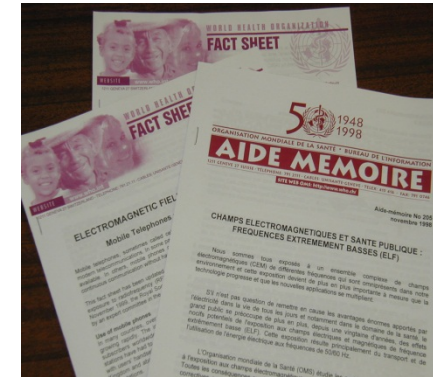


# ICNIRP 7th International NIR Workshop

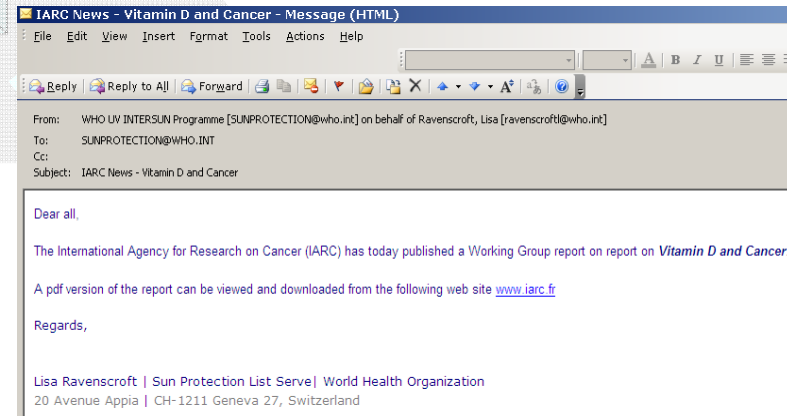
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<http://www.who.int/uv>



Public Awareness  
Risk Perception and  
communication





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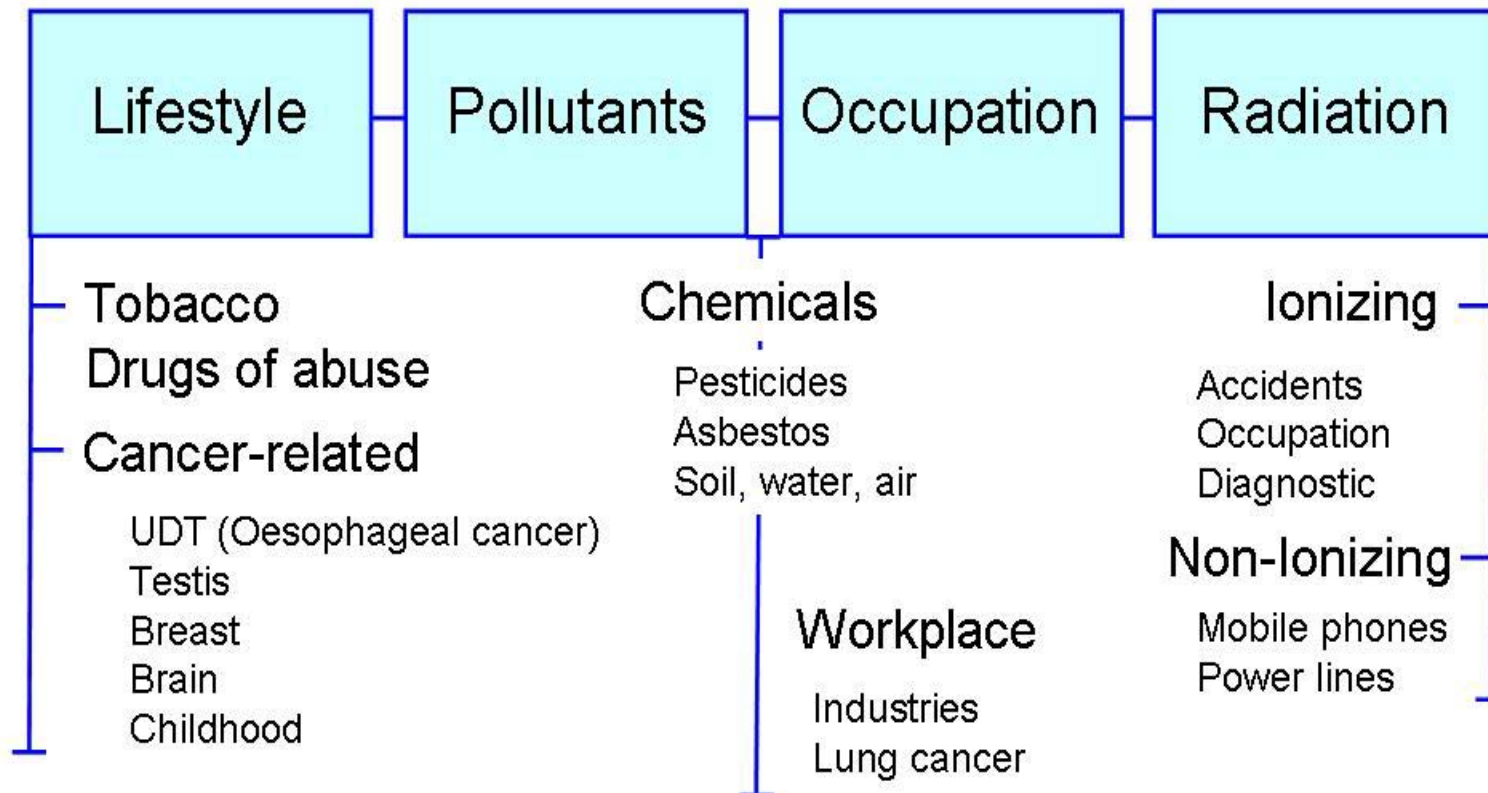
## The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

- IARC was established in 1965 by the 18<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, and has 22 Member States
- coordinates and conducts experimental and epidemiological research on the causes of cancer and the mechanisms involved in carcinogenesis; and
- develops evidence-based strategies for cancer prevention and control





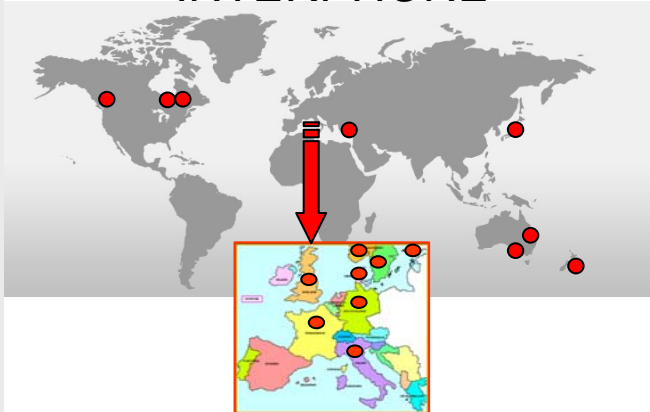
## Research Areas - ENV





# Research on Mobile Phone Use and the Risk of Cancer

INTERPHONE



- 16 centers from 13 countries with ~2800 glioma, ~2400 meningioma, ~1100 acoustic neuroma cases
- Comprehensive validation studies
- All mobile phone related papers are published & contracts closed

- Danish retrospective cohort study of subscription holders
- Cefalo study: Intracranial tumours in 7-19 year olds (multinational case-control study)
- Time trends in incidence rates and consistency check with analytical studies
- Feasibility study: French component of the Cosmos study (prospective cohort study)

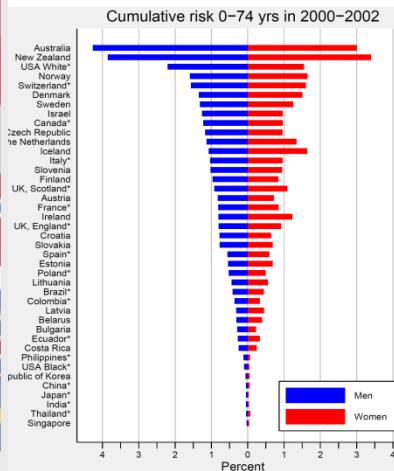




# Future research on NIR



- ELF magnetic fields and childhood leukaemia: Pooled analyses of survival of childhood leukaemia in relation to measured or calculated ELF magnetic field exposure



- ARIMMORA: Advanced Research on Interaction Mechanisms of electroMagnetic exposures with Organisms for Risk Assessment – Link to Epidemiology and Hazard Assessment

- Incidence rate time trends in malignant melanoma (published in Int J Cancer)



# IARC Monographs

1. **Vol. 80**: Non-Ionizing Radiation, Part 1: Static and Extremely Low-Frequency (ELF) Electric and Magnetic Fields (2002)
2. **Vol. 100** (Part D): Radiation (2012)
3. **Vol. 102**: Non-Ionizing Radiation, Part 2: Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields [includes mobile telephones] (upcoming)



# WHO Health Risk Assessment

Risk assessment  
of **all health outcomes**  
(*Environmental Health Criteria*)

*International*  
**EMF** Project



Hazard identification and classification of  
possible **carcinogens**  
(*Monographs*)

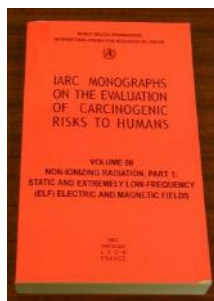
International Agency for  
Research on Cancer (IARC)

Centre International de  
Recherche sur le Cancer (CIRC)



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2002



2006

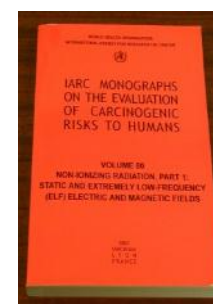


2007

Static and ELF fields



RF fields



TG 2011



Expected  
TG 2013



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**INTERPHONE** multinational  
epidemiologic study (**May 2010**)

**IARC** evaluation of **carcinogenic**  
risks to humans from RF (**May 2011**)

**WHO** assessment of all  
health risks to humans from RF  
(**now**)





# Environmental Health Criteria on Radiofrequency fields

## 1. Development of draft monograph

First draft, comments, second draft



## 2. Task Group Meeting



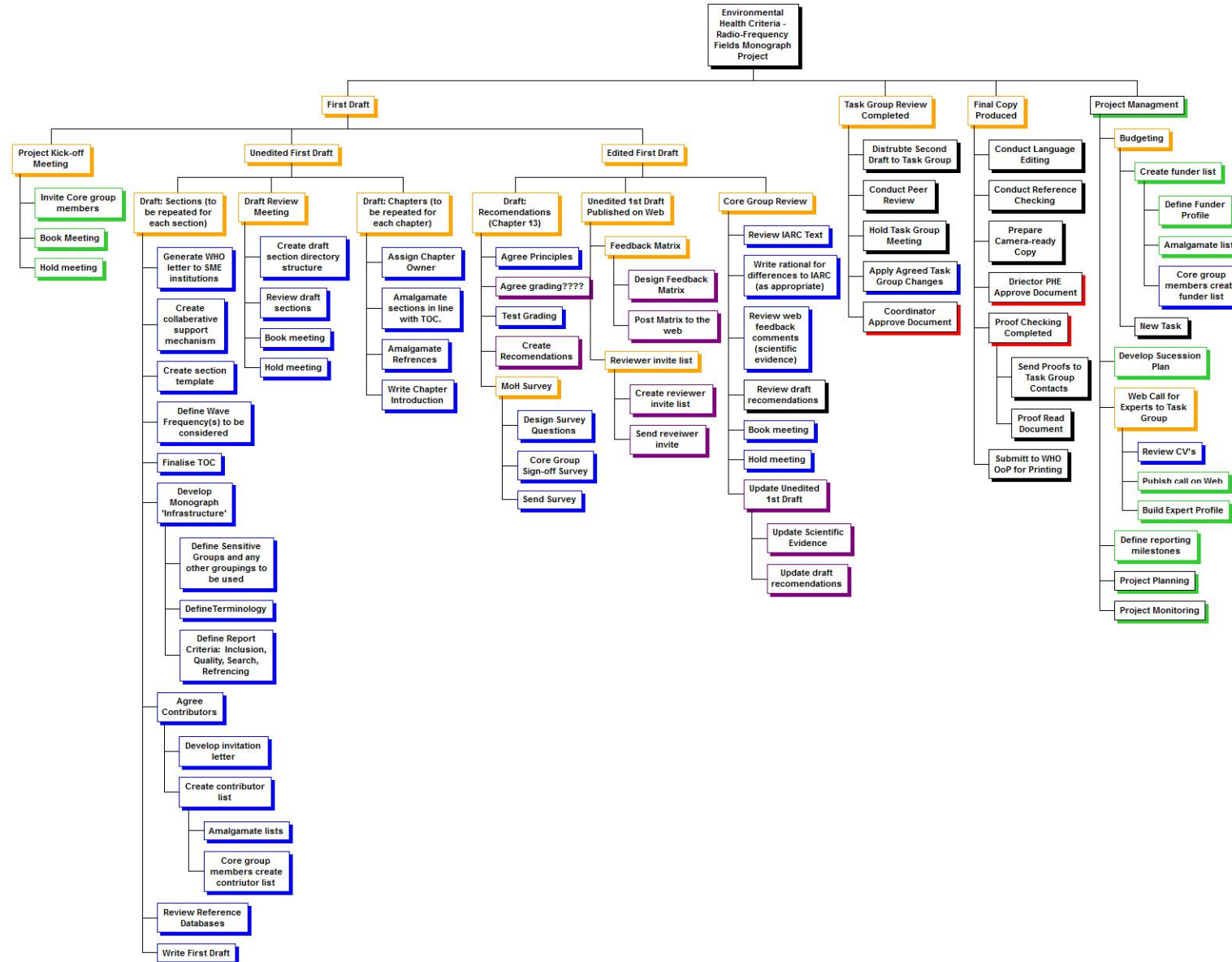
## 3. Monograph editing





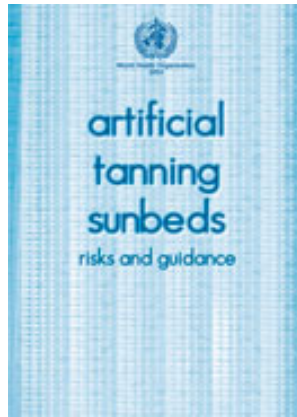
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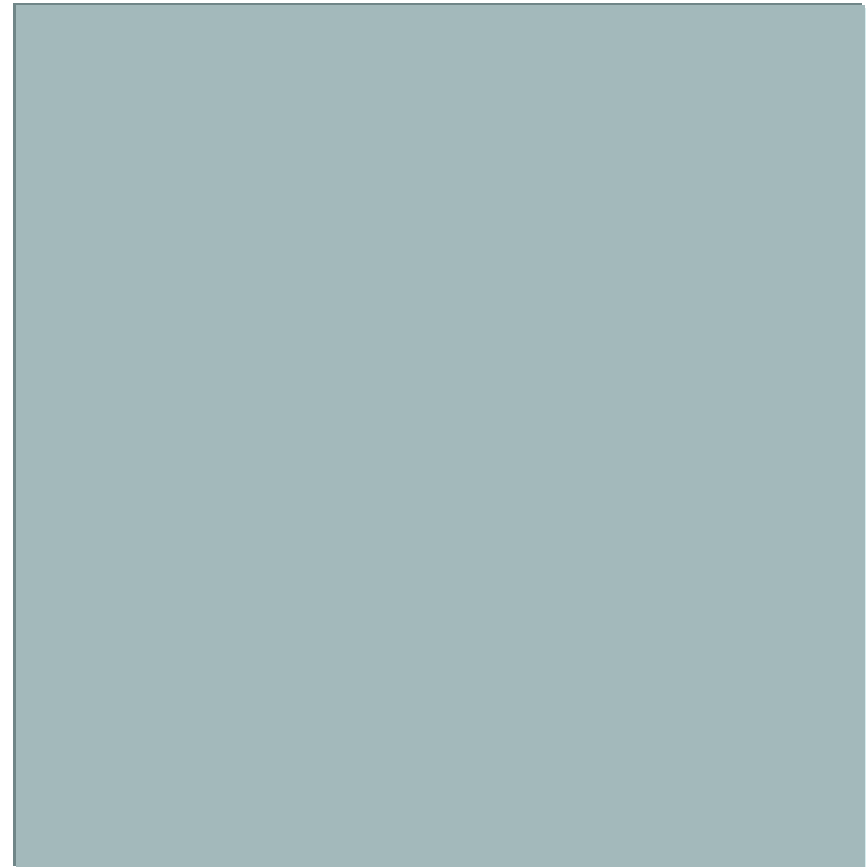
# Ultraviolet Radiation



2003



Expected  
2012





# OUTLINE

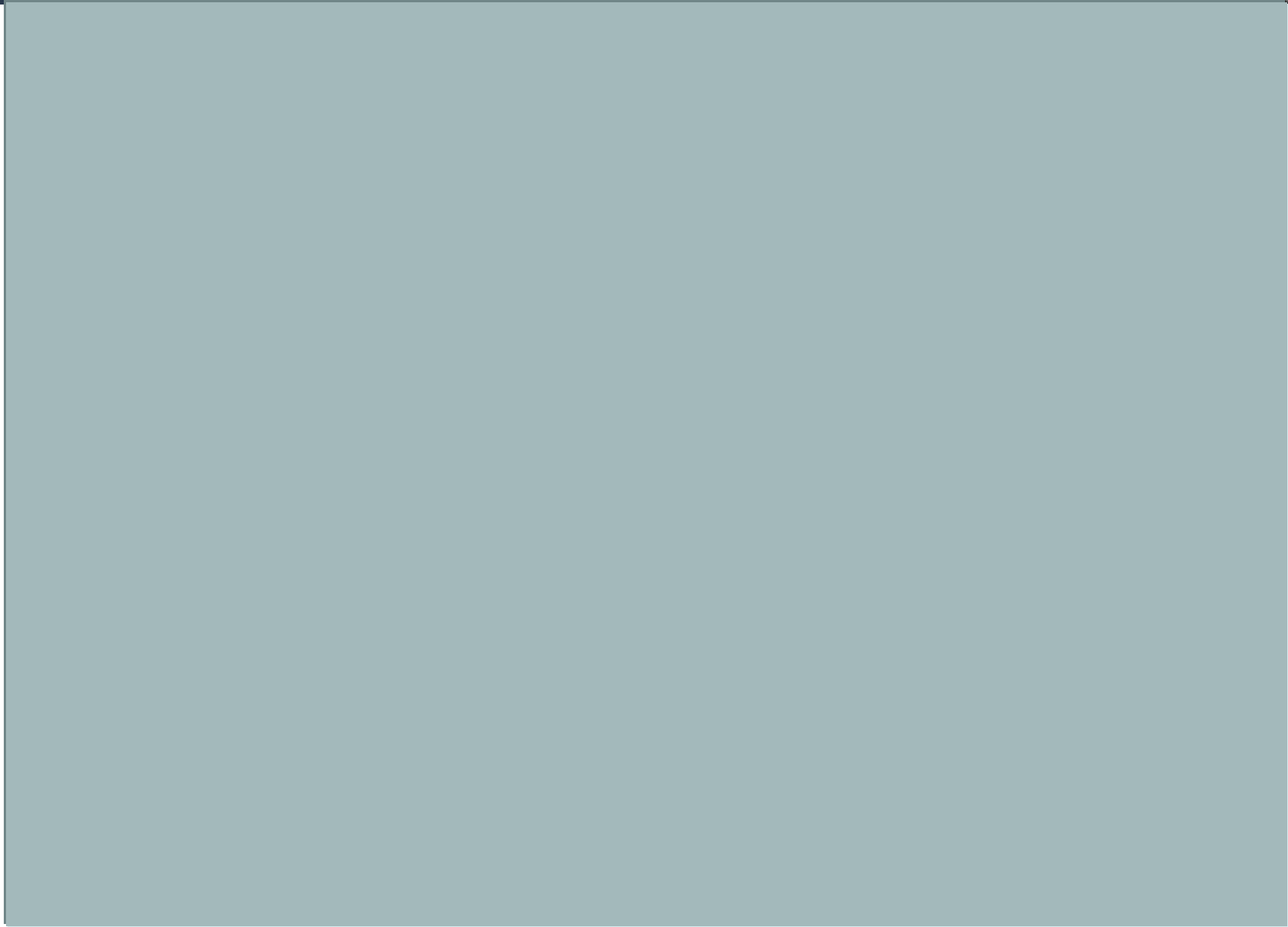
## UN organizations

World Health Organization  
International Labour Organization  
International Telecommunications Union  
World Meteorological Organization  
United Nations Environmental Programme  
World Bank



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- **United Nations**
  - **ILO:** International Labour Organization
  - **ITU:** International Telecommunications Union (ITUD, ITU-R, ITU-T)
  - **UNEP:** United Nations Environmental Programme
  
- **Other organizations**
  - **ICNIRP:** International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (*formal relations*)
  - **URSI:** Union Radioscience Internationale
  - **IEEE/ICES:** Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
  - **IEC:** International Electrotechnical Commission
  - **EuroSkin**
  - **EC**



# International Labour Organization



## About the ILO

- The ILO is dedicated to bringing decent work and livelihoods, job-related security and better living standards to the people of both poor and rich countries.
- Its main aims are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.

## Origins and history

- The ILO was founded in 1919 to pursue a vision based on the premise that universal, lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon decent treatment of working people.
- The ILO became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946.



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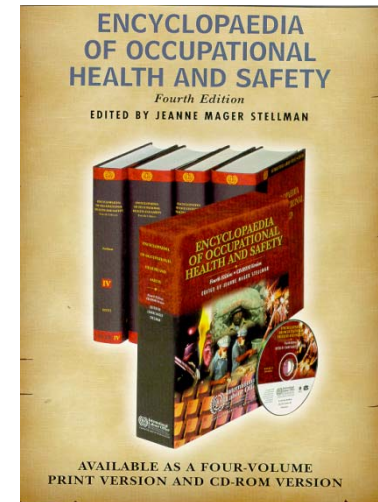
## ILO's publications relevant to optical radiation

- Occupational Safety and Health Series No. 53: Occupational Hazards from Non-Ionising Electromagnetic Radiation (Chapter III is about Ultraviolet, Visible and Infrared radiation)
- The use of lasers in the workplace
- Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety
- ILO Code of Practice on Ambient Factors in the Workplace

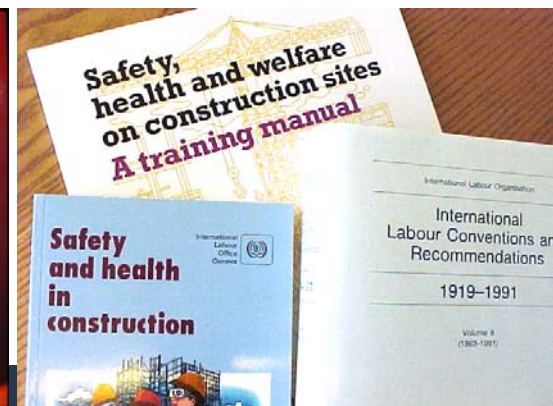
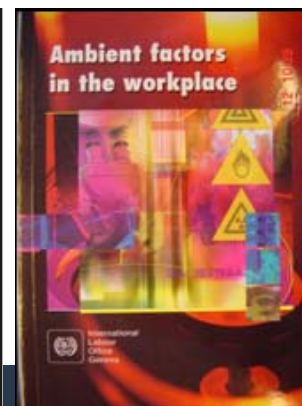
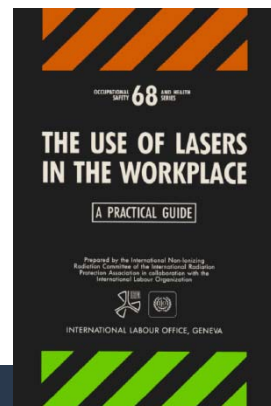


## ILO Conventions and Recommendations

- ILO OSH Conventions (i.e. Nos. 155, 161, 184) and Recommendations (i.e. Nos 161, 171, 192, 194)



Slide prepared by S. Niu, ILO





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# International Telecommunications Union



# International Telecommunications Union



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**ITU-T**

TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

**K.52**

(12/2004)

## **Guidance on complying with limits for human exposure to electromagnetic fields**

### ***EMF safety limits***

*In many cases, local or national regulatory agencies or standards bodies promulgate the EMF safety limits. If such limits do not exist, or if they do not cover the frequencies of interest, then **ICNIRP** limits (Appendix I) should be used.*



# World Bank



Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



WORLD BANK GROUP

## ***Electric and Magnetic Fields***

*Evaluating potential exposure to the public against the reference levels developed by the **International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)**. Average and peak exposure levels should remain below the ICNIRP recommendation for General Public Exposure;*



## **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

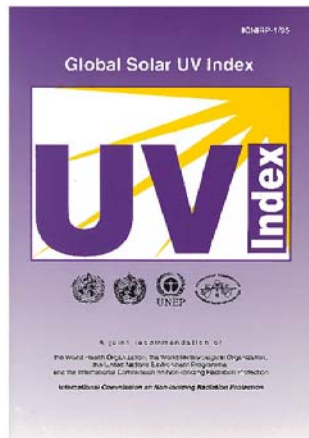
- It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.
- WMO has a membership of 188 Member States and Territories
- As weather, climate and the water cycle know no national boundaries, international cooperation at a global scale is essential for the development of meteorology and operational hydrology as well as to reap the benefits from their application. WMO provides the framework for such international cooperation.



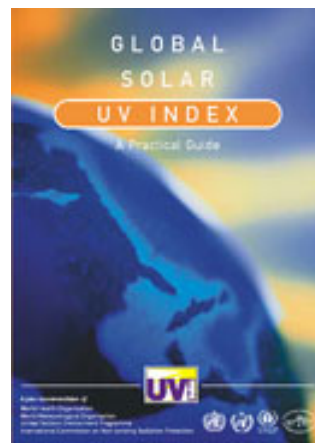
**World Meteorological Organization**  
Working together in weather, climate and water



# World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



1995



2002



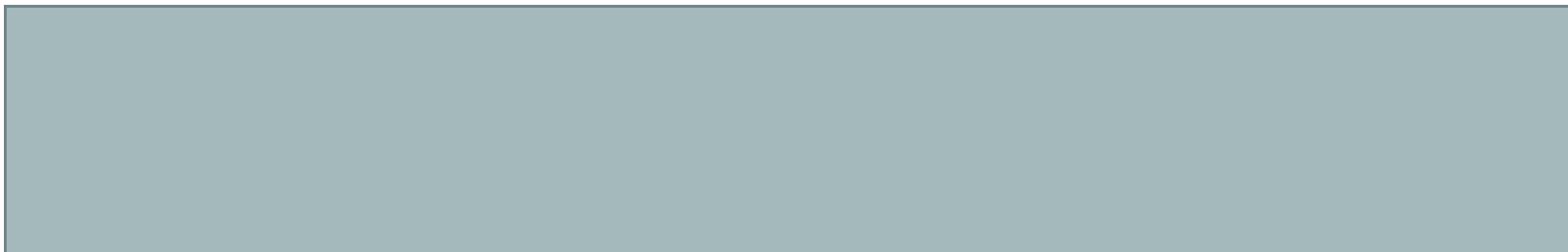


# United Nations Environment Programme

- To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

## The Montreal Protocol

- The objective of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS), which include CFCs, halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and HCFCs.
- 193 governments have joined this multilateral environmental agreement

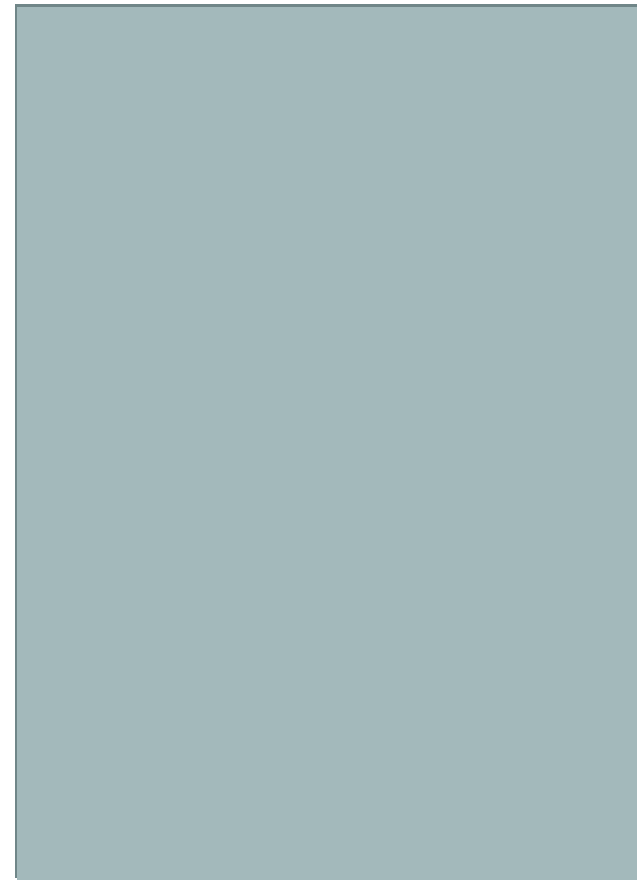




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# United Nations Environment Programme





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World Bank

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ICNIRP  
ICOH  
European Commission  
Euroskin  
.....



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World Health Organization

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Health topics
Publications
Data and statistics
Programmes and projects
<b>Civil Society Initiative</b>
WHO's relations with NGOs
NGOs and health
Information Resources
Initiative Documents

## Civil Society Initiative (CSI)

[WHO](#) > [Programmes and projects](#)

### The Civil Society Initiative

**Working to connect WHO with nongovernmental and civil society organizations**

The Civil Society Initiative (CSI) fosters relations between WHO and nongovernmental and civil society organizations and is responsible for the administration of formal relations as set out in the Principles governing relations between WHO and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Counterparts at each WHO Regional Office serve in the same capacity. WHO country offices may also work with NGOs at the national level.



The objectives of WHO's relations with NGOs are to promote the policies, strategies and activities of WHO and, where appropriate, to collaborate with NGOs in jointly agreed activities to implement them. WHO may also seek to harmonize intersectoral interests among various sectoral bodies concerned in a country, regional or global setting.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

[The Civil Society Initiative Full text](#)

[WHO Regional Contacts Full text](#)

#### THE UN AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY

[More information](#)



<http://www.who.int/civilsociety/en/>



# Principles Governing Relations with Nongovernmental Organizations

3.1 The main area of competence of the NGO shall fall within the purview of WHO. Its aims and activities shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Constitution of WHO, shall centre on development work in health or health-related fields, and shall be free from concerns which are primarily of a commercial or profit-making nature. ...

3.2 The NGO shall normally be international in its structure and/or scope, and shall represent a substantial proportion of the persons globally organized for the purpose of participating in the particular field of interest in which it operates.

3.3 The NGO shall have a constitution or similar basic document, an established headquarters, a directing or governing body, an administrative structure at various levels of action, and authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives. Its members shall exercise voting rights in relation to its policies or action.



# International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection



## About ICNIRP

- ICNIRP is a body of independent scientific experts consisting of a main Commission of 14 members, 4 Scientific Standing Committees covering Epidemiology, Biology, Dosimetry and Optical Radiation and a number of consulting experts.
- It addresses the important issues of possible adverse effects on human health of exposure to non-ionising radiation (NIR)

## ICNIRP's aims

- To disseminate information and advice on the potential health hazards of exposure to NIR
- Covers optical radiations (ultraviolet, visible and infrared - and lasers), static and time-varying electric and magnetic fields and radiofrequency (including microwave) radiation, and ultrasound.
- Publications in the form of scientific reviews and reports and the proceedings of scientific meetings. The results of these reviews combined with risk assessments carried out in collaboration with the World Health Organization, WHO, result in the publication by ICNIRP of Exposure Guidelines.



# International Commission on Occupational Health

## About ICOH

- An international non-governmental professional society whose aims are to foster the scientific progress, knowledge and development of occupational health and safety in all its aspects. It was founded in 1906 in Milan as the Permanent Commission on Occupational Health
- Today, ICOH is the world's leading international scientific society in the field of occupational health with a membership of 2,000 professionals from 93 countries. The ICOH is recognized by the United Nations as a NGO and has close working relationships with ILO, WHO, UNEP and ISSA

## ICOH Activities

- Triennial World Congresses on Occupational Health (2000 in Singapore, 2003 Brazil, 2006 Italy, 2009 South Africa, 2012 Mexico)
- ICOH has 33 Scientific Committees, that have regular symposia, scientific monographs and review the abstracts submitted to the International Congresses



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH  
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*





## **Scientific committee on Radiation and Work**

- To increase knowledge of occupational health personnel involved in electromagnetic fields and other radiation protection problems arising at work places globally





## European Commission

- Directive

L 114/38

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

27.4.2006

**DIRECTIVE 2006/25/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
of 5 April 2006

on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to risks arising from physical agents (artificial optical radiation) (19th individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)



# ICNIRP 7th International NIR Workshop

Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 9-11 May 2012



SCCP/0932/05

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment  
C7 - Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

**SCCP**

**Statement**

**on**

**Zinc oxide used in sunscreens**

Adopted by the SCCP during the 5<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
of 20 September 2005

SCCP/0949/05

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment  
C7 - Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

**SCCP**

**Opinion on**

**Biological effects of ultraviolet radiation relevant to  
health with particular reference to sunbeds for cosmetic purposes.**

Adopted by the SCCP  
during the 8<sup>th</sup> plenary of 20 June 2006

COST: Parties - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by WHO

http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=205&action\_number=726

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Google EC COST actions UV Go

COST: Parties

**cost**  
European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research

**Action 726: Long term changes and climatology of UV radiation over Europe**

Action overview

**Priority**

Since UV solar radiation plays an important role in many processes in the biosphere, including humans and may be very harmful if UV exposure exceeds "safe" limits, the knowledge of biologically effective UV radiation doses and their geographical distribution and climatology in Europe is crucial for Europe's population, which is the main end user of the Action.

The main objective of the Action is to advance the understanding of UV radiation distribution under various meteorological conditions in Europe in order to determine UV radiation climatology and assess UV changes over Europe.

Domain : Earth System Science and Environmental Management  
Action title : Long term changes and climatology of UV radiation over Europe

More information can be obtained through the website :  
<http://1139v.uv-vie.ac.at/uv/COST726/Cost726.htm>  
or by contacting the Chair of the Action :  
Dr. Zdenka LITVINSKA

Appointeur :  
Professor Michal MAREK

Science Officer :  
Carina PETT

Administrative Officer :  
Ma. Newton WLOD



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## EUROSKIN



Results Conference 2007

► [Printable Version](#)

### Conference 2007

"Reducing the Health Risks of Sunbed Use - Needs for Further European Harmonization Regulations"  
Hamburg October 2007

### News

News, views and current issues across the entire field of skin cancer prevention.

### Activities

Have a look at our past and coming conferences. Download programmes and recommendations.

### Solaria

Regulation of sunbeds and solarium has only been achieved in a few countries worldwide. However, there exist several recommendations (WHO, EUROSKIN, ...) which you can download here.

### Radiation Monitoring

Various agencies around

Secretariat  
Euroskin  
c/o Elbkliniken  
Am Krankenhaus 1  
21614 Buxtehude  
Germany

[www.euroskin.eu](http://www.euroskin.eu)  
email: [euroskin@t-online.de](mailto:euroskin@t-online.de)



## European Society of Skin Cancer Prevention

### Independent non-profit making scientific society

- Registered in Germany - Secretariat at Buxtehude
- Principal aim is to work towards reducing the incidence and mortality of skin cancer
- Promotion and co-ordination of collaborative actions between European professionals active in the fields of primary and/or secondary prevention.
- Multidisciplinary - dermatologists, epidemiologists, biologists, physicists etc.



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