

Local-national forum for emergency and recovery strategies

Inger Margrethe H. Eikermann and Astrid Liland

Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority

NFSF 2011 Conference, Reykjavik, Island, August 22nd-25th 2011

Background

- NRPA has extensive experience in post-Chernobyl management, and is also strongly involved in the continuous improvement of the emergency preparedness and response system.
- Through dedicated seminars and exercises, NRPA has a good contact with various actors and levels within the emergency and response organisation.
- Establishment of local-national forums is a national part of the EU NERIS-TP project work package 3
- The NERIS-TP is a follow-up of the EU EURANOS project "Involvement of people affected by the contamination of an area – a Norwegian pilot study"
- There is a need to involve stakeholders, such as operators, professional organisations, research institutes, universities, NGOs, consultants and all levels of the food production (farmers, processing industries and end sale)
- It is important to engage stakeholders on both national and local level

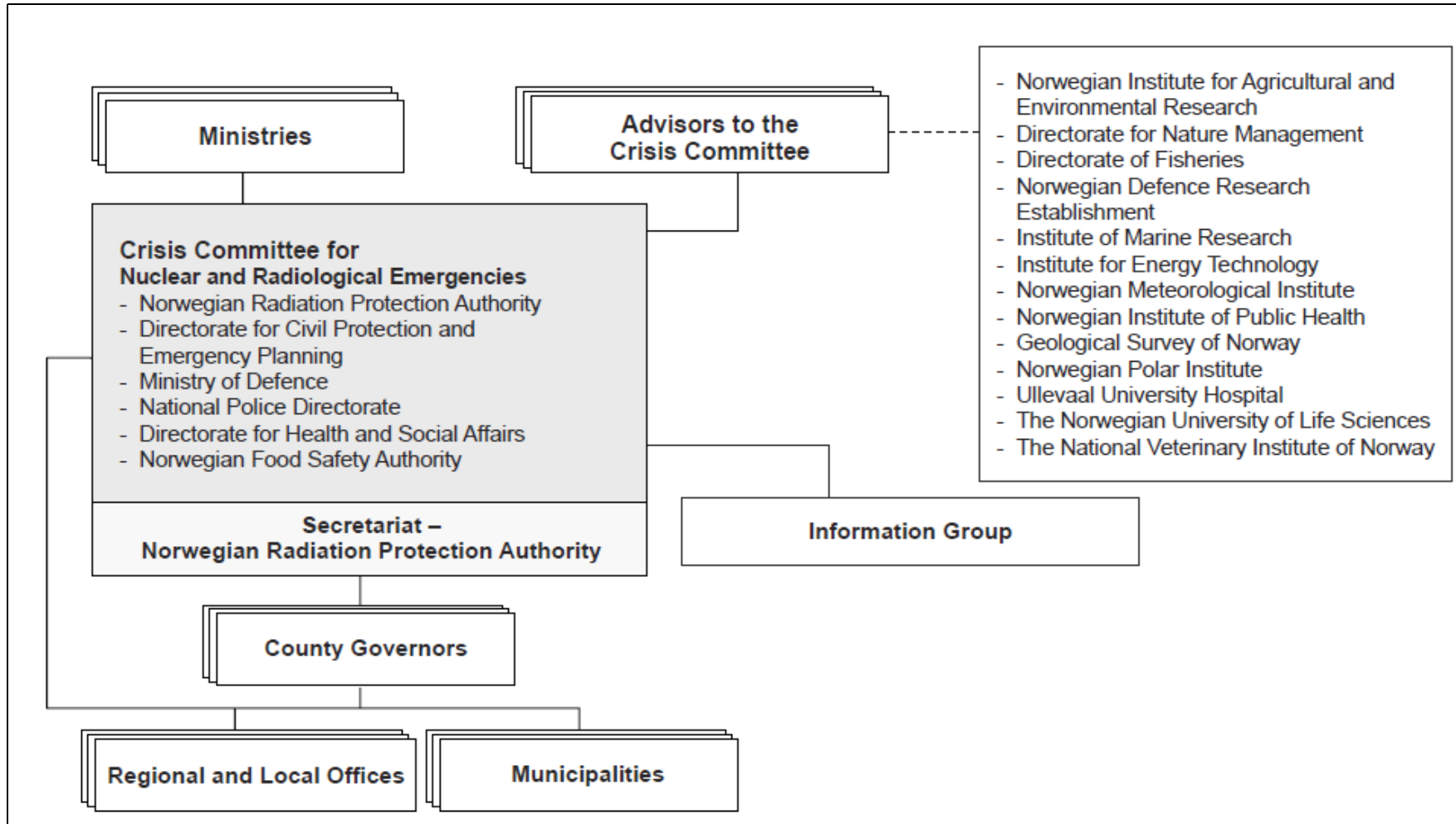


Norwegian organisation of nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness

- Norwegian preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergencies differs from most other national emergency preparedness systems, both in Norway and in other countries. In order to ensure an efficient, rapid and competent crisis management of the early phase of a nuclear event, a national Crisis Committee for Nuclear Preparedness has been appointed.
- The Committee is authorised to make decisions and order implementation of specific countermeasures in the early phase and ensures good coordination on a sub-strategic level (directorate level).
- The Crisis Committee may on its own initiative implement countermeasures in the early phase and acts as advisor for the government and ministries in later phases
- The Crisis Committee has advisors from several national authorities and organisations. These advisors can also be viewed as stakeholders.



Nuclear Preparedness – National and Regional Organisation in Norway



Overall EURANOS project questions

- How do we best prepare for the long-term effects of nuclear accidents?
- **Who may help to develop the best management practices and which methods should be used?**
- How do we get appropriate information so that the concerns of the affected people will be included in the management plans?



Recommendations from the EURANOS stakeholder group in Norway

- Local nuclear emergency preparedness should be strengthened by
 - Increasing the number of local measurement stations
 - Improve and exercise communal emergency plans
 - Involve the primary health services
- At the State level
 - Clarify the roles of the Food Safety Authority and the health sector
 - Sector-wise understanding of how to implement countermeasures at a regional and local level
- Information strategies are important means of alleviating psychosocial stress
 - Information must be based on local measurements
 - Information must be available in more languages than Norwegian and Sami
- Division of responsibilities between industry and authorities should be clarified to secure production of safe products and maintain image



How do we proceed forward from the EURANOS project? – Action

- Practice: Change the authorities mind set from ”making plan FOR” to ” making plans WITH”. This means that local- regional and national administrations and people representing other interests should cooperate when improving the emergency preparedness.
- This requires that we:
 - Increase the general knowledge about risk and possible countermeasures
 - Create arenas for cooperation for potential partners
 - Start cooperative planning processes before a contamination situation occurs



EU NERIS-TP Project – Work package 3

- WP3.1 Set up or continue local-national forums in Belarus, France, Norway, Slovakia, and Spain
- WP3.2 Develop robust and user friendly tools to assist the municipalities in preparing for the local cooperation (RODOS, ARGOS, MOIRA, Handbooks, Web-HIPRE, PREPARE)
- WP3.3 Develop mechanisms and tools necessary for the feedback from local to national level on implementation of mitigating actions in a response phase. Local-national emergency and recovery exercises. Action guide for the local preparedness
- WP3.4 Closer interaction with the European NERIS Platform. Local participants from the groups formed in task 3.1 will be invited to WP1/WP3 events in order to share their experience and learn from other participants



The WP3.1 subproject

A series of seminars are set up where authorities and stakeholders at all levels and sectors are involved. These seminars will address the following challenges:

- **I. Threat assessment** - what are possible scenarios that could cause radioactive contamination of our municipality/local territory??
- **II. Sensitivity analysis** - what part of the community would be most affected?
- **III. Evaluating mitigating actions** - what are the choices? Can they be implemented in our community?
- **IV. Engaging local actors** - who need/should be involved in the local cooperation to solve the challenges, at various phases of the emergency? What are the responsibilities and roles? How will the the engagement be done in practice?
- **V. National assistance** – (i.e. assistance between different national levels) what are the expectations and what is possible? How will the chain national → regional → municipality/local cooperation work in practice? Roles and responsibilities of each level.



Local-national forum for emergency and recovery strategies in Norway

- The aim of the project is to establish local-national fora for improvement of both local and national capabilities
- These fora will build strongly on already existing national and local initiatives. The fora will address the challenges met by municipalities/local communities when planning for nuclear and radiological emergency and recovery preparedness and response
- The first forum was established in a seminar in the county of Østfold. The initiative and planning of the seminar was done by the County Governor of Østfold, The Farmers Association, Norwegian Food Safety Authority and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority
- The County Governor wanted to bring together all involved parties to strengthen the late phase emergencies after a nuclear accident/incident in the county and the municipalities



The seminar for the local forum in Østfold

Østfold:

Most southeastern county in Norway with a variability of agriculture production, like potatoes, vegetables, different animal production, as well as recreation and hunting

The county also hosts Norway's largest research reactor, with associated storage and transportation of radiological and nuclear materials

Participants:

Regional and local food authorities, NRPA, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Farmer's association, the food industry, members of the regional forum for coordination of nuclear emergency preparedness, representatives from local municipalities, the local health sector, NGOs, and others



The seminar for the local forum in Østfold

Introductory sessions

- Presentation of radioecology
- The emergency preparedness organisation
- The responsibilities of different authorities
- Relevant countermeasures in nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness and recovery

Table-top exercise

- Presentation of a scenario with a dispersion map
- Participants were divided into groups where they discussed countermeasures and mitigation actions in different parts of the recovery phase
- Conclusions from the group discussions were presented and further discussed in a plenary session



Conclusions from the seminar

- Through the discussions, the participants realised their roles and responsibilities and the need to be better prepared for this kind of emergencies
- There are many practical challenges which need to be solved locally, and there need to be prepared emergency plans. It is important that these plans are made with stakeholders on all levels.
- There are need for different kinds of decision support tools and educational tools for the local and regional authorities. These tools need to be well-known in advance of an emergency
- Procedures and systems for communication between local, regional and national levels in the emergency response organisation need to be developed in order to have a successful implementation of countermeasures during an emergency and late phase recovery



Follow-up of the seminar in Østfold

- Future cooperation in the local-national forum in Østfold will continue
- A similar forum will be established in Nordland county in northern Norway, where there are different challenges
- There is a need to develop specific decision support tools on a local and regional level, in supplement to already existing decision support tools on national level
- There is a need to work further with communication tools to facilitate communication between the national Crisis Committee as decision makers and the local level where decisions are implemented, with emphasis also on systems to provide feedback to the Crisis Committee

