



*NEA Webinar
Stakeholder Dialogue: Experience and Lessons
for Young and Old Experts and Researchers
February – March 2016*

IRPA Guiding Principles for Radiation Protection Professionals on Stakeholder Engagement

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NEA Webinar
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Outline

- **Introduction to IRPA**
- **Why IRPA developed the Guiding Principles:
Purpose and target**
- **Overview of principles 1-10**
- **Principles in general terms and examples**
- **Goal of IRPA's activities**
- **IRPA's Vision**



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IRPA = International **R**adiation **P**rotection **A**ssociation

=

Non - governmental organization (NGO)

=

independent
of governments, industries, regulators



a high potential to be trusted as a source of information
and reliable knowledge





IRPA Values and Strength

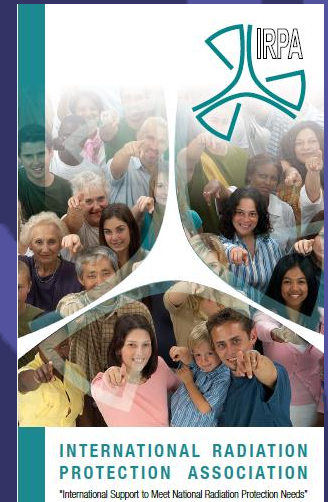


IRPA is an international association of individual RP practitioners joining through national or regional societies.

- 50 Associate Societies
- Almost 18,000 individual members
- Representing 65 countries

*Enormous resources of **practical knowledge and experience** in radiation protection :*

scientists, operators, regulators, medical practitioners, government advisers, ...



Radiation Protection in a changing society

Increasing globalization

Importance of economic cross linking

global transmission of new and complex technologies

Innovations e.g. in transport

Revolution in communication

Factors related to terrorism

.....



Maurizio Nannucci/It

- ✓ **Society is changing and this also poses new challenges for the implementation of an effective protection system.**
- ✓ **Clear understanding of radiation risks is an increasingly emerging concern – people today are more concerned on the same level of risk!**

Radiation Protection in a changing society

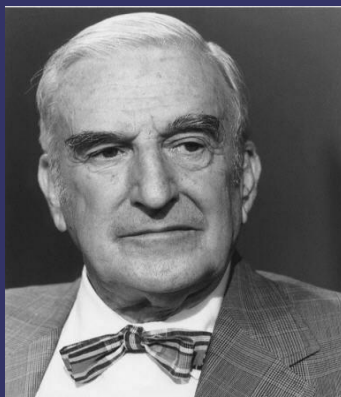
Social, Political and Ethical Issues

Practicability of RP system

scientific stringency

in accordance with accepted ethical value

political and social values



"Radiation protection is not only a matter for science. It is a problem of philosophy, and morality, and the utmost wisdom."

Lauriston S. Taylor (1902 – 2004)

The Philosophy Underlying Radiation Protection

Am. J. Roent. Vol. 77, N° 5,
914-919, 1957

From address on 7 Nov. 1956



IRPA Guiding Principles

*for radiation protection professionals
on stakeholder engagement*

PURPOSE

to aid members of IRPA Associate Societies in promoting the participation of all relevant parties in the process of reaching decisions involving radiological protection which may impact on the well being and quality of life of workers and members of the public, and on the environment.

TARGET

In promoting this approach, radiation protection professionals will aim to develop trust and credibility throughout the decision making process in order to improve the sustainability of any final decisions.



10 Guiding Principles

*for radiation protection professionals
on stakeholder engagement*

1. Identify opportunities for engagement and ensure the level of engagement is proportionate to the nature of the radiation protection issues and their context.
2. Initiate the process as early as possible, and develop a sustainable implementation plan.
3. Enable an open, inclusive and transparent stakeholder engagement process.
4. Seek out and involve relevant stakeholders and experts.
5. Ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all participants, and the rules for cooperation are clearly defined.



10 Guiding Principles

6. Collectively develop objectives for the stakeholder engagement process, based on a shared understanding of issues and boundaries.
7. Develop a culture which values a shared language and understanding, and favors collective learning.
8. Respect and value the expression of different perspectives.
9. Ensure a regular feedback mechanism is in place to inform and improve current and future stakeholder engagement processes.
10. Apply the IRPA Code of Ethics in their actions within these processes to the best of their knowledge.

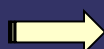


Principle 1

“Identify opportunities for engagement and ensure the level of engagement is proportionate to the nature of the radiation protection issues and their context.”

Primary purpose of engagement:

To contribute to decision making on radiation protection measures



Engagement will add real value to the decision-aiding process

but

Extent and nature need to be proportionate to the radiation protection issue and concerns at stake

- *Basic Safety Standards (BSS)*
- *Discussion of the System of Protection*
(after Fukushima accident)

The more complex the radiation protection issue and the more serious the risk, the greater the justifiable investment in engagement.

Important to be aware of changing societal expectations



Principle 2

“Initiate the process as early as possible, and develop a sustainable implementation plan.”

Involving stakeholders as early as possible

Facilitate better cooperation between all participants

Improve mutual understanding of the situation

Lead to more acceptable and robust decisions

Developing together a sustainable plan

Reasonable approach should be adopted

Proportionate to the reality of the situation



Principle 4

Seek out and involve relevant stakeholders and experts.

A key part of decision-aiding is **to be clear** on

- *What is the issue in question?*
- *What is the scope of the problem?*
- *What are the factors which may be relevant?*

Radiation Protection is by its nature an interdisciplinary science.

Bringing together all the diverse views may be an iterative process involving socio-economic factors

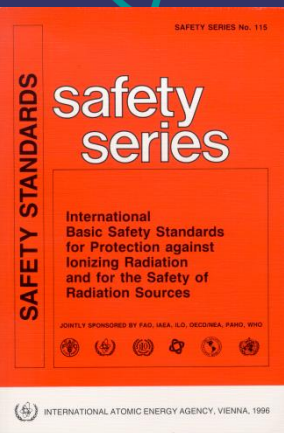
Stakeholders with significantly different points of views



Engagement with, rather than avoidance of, these groups



Example: Revision of the BSS



→ **review**
2005/6

→ **plan for revision**
Nov 2006

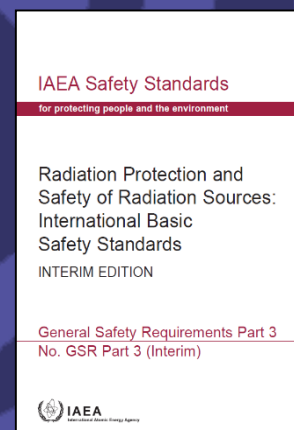
→ **revision**
2007-09

→ **approval**
2012

Committees &
the Commission
on Safety Standards
+
BSS Secretariat*

MEMBER STATES

*participants include:
**FAO, IAEA, ILO, OECD/NEA, PAHO, WHO
EC, UNEP, ICRP, IRPA**



Principle 3

Enable an open, inclusive and transparent stakeholder engagement process.

Openness – inclusiveness - transparency

=

basis for understanding and creating confidence in the process

Share information *(quick, concise, clear, honest,..)*

Transparency is a minimum requirement in an advanced knowledge based society



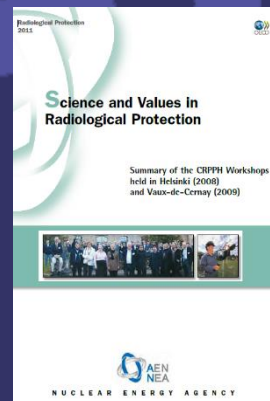
To build collective understanding of the problem
starting with risk communication

Examples:

Discussion of the System of Protection

1. NEA/CRPPH Workshop Series „Science and Values in Radiological Protection“

has long been aware of the need to develop a shared understanding of emerging challenges for radiation protection among scientific and regulatory communities and other concerned stakeholders eg practitioners



2. IRPA's Initiative in cooperation with the Associate Societies

to develop views of the practitioners on how best to improve the presentation of the system of protection so that it better meets the challenges of communication and understanding whilst remaining fit for purpose, ethically based and appropriately comprehensive

3. IRPA/ICRP Workshops on Ethics

Principle 5

Ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all participants, and the rules for cooperation are clearly defined.

Different categories
of participants

Important to preserve
their autonomy
concerning their
points of view

- *What is expected from each?*
- *Which extent of influence may they have?*
- *Clear understanding where responsibilities and accountabilities begin and end*
- *Potential conflict of interest should be declared*

Objective: To promote dialogue and mutual understanding and not necessarily to reach consensus

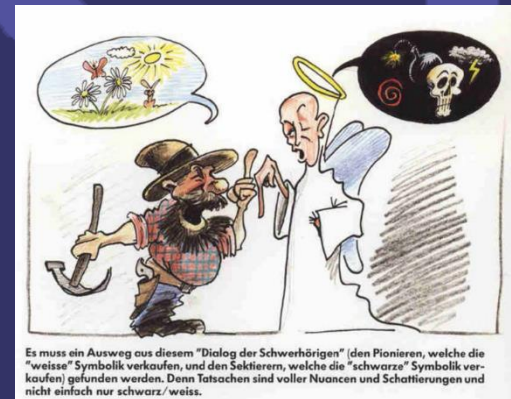
Principle 8

Respect and value the expression of different perspectives.

Experts should recognize the limits of their mandates:

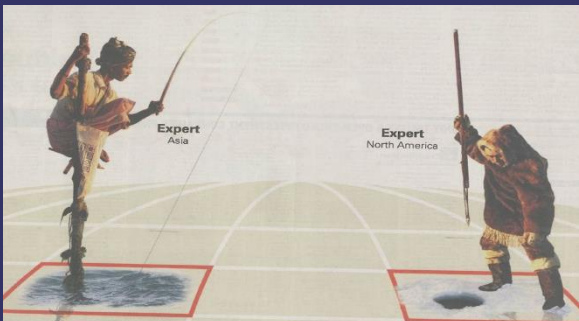
- *participants have different backgrounds and sensibilities*
- *participants may view issues from different perspectives*

Dialogue of hard of hearing persons



Ref.: StrahlenschutzPRAXIS Issue 4/2014 page 11

Facts are full of nuances and shadings and not only black and white.



Picture borrowed from Jim Malone

Principle 6

Collectively develop objectives for the stakeholder engagement process, based on a shared understanding of issues and boundaries.

Principle 2: development of a sustainable plan

Principle 4: identifying the responsibility of contributors and of scoping problems and factors

Principle 5: need to cooperate



Collective approach to developing process objectives



Harmonized working

Principle 7

Develop a culture which values a shared language and understanding, and favors collective learning.

Stakeholders must be able to understand what is being said !



Radiation Protection Professionals should be motivated to develop a „common language“:

- *Sufficiently precise*
- *Scientifically not to offend various experts*
- *Sufficiently rooted in common*
- *Every-day experience to be meaningful to all those involved.*

ICRP/IRPA Ethics Workshop:

“Use plain language and examples of practical application of values to ensure a broad common understanding”



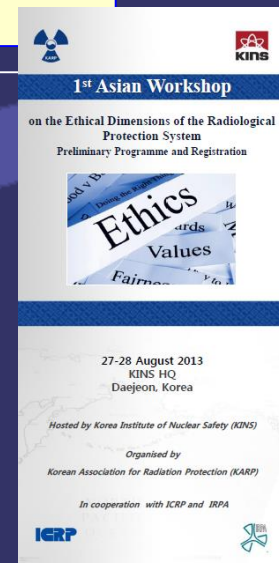
Example: IRPA Workshops on Ethics in cooperation with ICRP

Workshops in Asia and Europe

(Public) Communication:

- Complexity of the system of radiological protection
- Communicating radiological protection in simpler language
- Failure of patriarchal top-down approach to risk communication
 - *Need to address questions asked by the public*
- Public misunderstanding:
 - *Living in a “radiation free” world*
 - *Equating radiation with atomic bombs*

ICRP is charged with the development of the System of Radiation Protection, but it is essential to prepare the ethics publication cooperatively with the broader RP community.



Principle 9

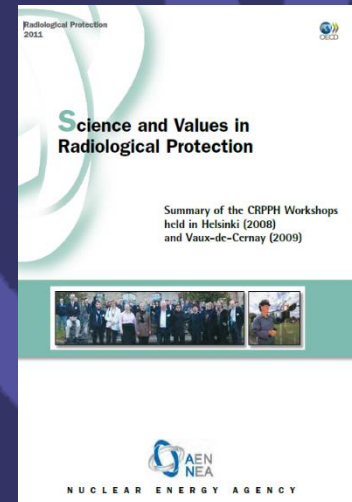
Ensure a regular feedback mechanism is in place to inform and improve current and future stakeholder engagement processes.

Essential to provide feedback on

- **approaches and tools used**
- **outcomes**

Types of criteria included in the evaluation:

- *Appropriateness of terms and timing of the engagement,*
- *Quality and appropriateness of information provided,*
- *Comprehensiveness of the issues that were addressed,*
- *Inclusivity in terms of the number and diversity of stakeholders involved and nature of the engagement,*
- *Practicability and feasibility of the eventual outcomes.*





Principle 10

**Apply the IRPA Code of Ethics in
their actions within these
processes to the best of their
knowledge.**



Goal of IRPA Activities

Ensuring that the system of protection is fit for purpose, credible and understood by, all those impacted by radiation

Establishing values and ethical norms which are accepted world-wide



IRPA's Key Challenge

IRPA Vision

IRPA is recognized by its members, stakeholders and the public as the *international voice of the radiation protection profession* in the enhancement of radiation protection culture and practice worldwide.

The Principal IRPA Challenge: **Making this Vision a reality**





IRPA and the International RP Community

IRPA invites you to work with us to address radiation protection challenges world wide.

IRPA provides a platform for wider discussion and enhancing awareness through our International and Regional Congresses:

**14th IRPA International Congress
Cape Town, 9 – 13 May 2016**

IRPA's 50th Anniversary!

