



Concert Task 2.6

Task 2.6 Creating a Strategic Research Agenda for
Social Sciences and Humanities in Radiation
Protection

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Three focus areas

2.6.1

- Ethics and justification: responsibility of science with respect to the justification of the radiation risk

2.6.2

- Perception and communication of radiation risks

2.6.3

- Safety culture

2.6.1 Why ethics, why social sciences and humanities?

Lead: SCK-CEN

There is a need to organise critical ethical (self-)reflection as part of radiation protection research

Recall: the ambition of future radiation protection research as envisioned by EURATOM is to reduce the scientific uncertainty with regard to health risks at low doses and low dose rates;

CONCERT is a project optimising research management, to better serve this ambition

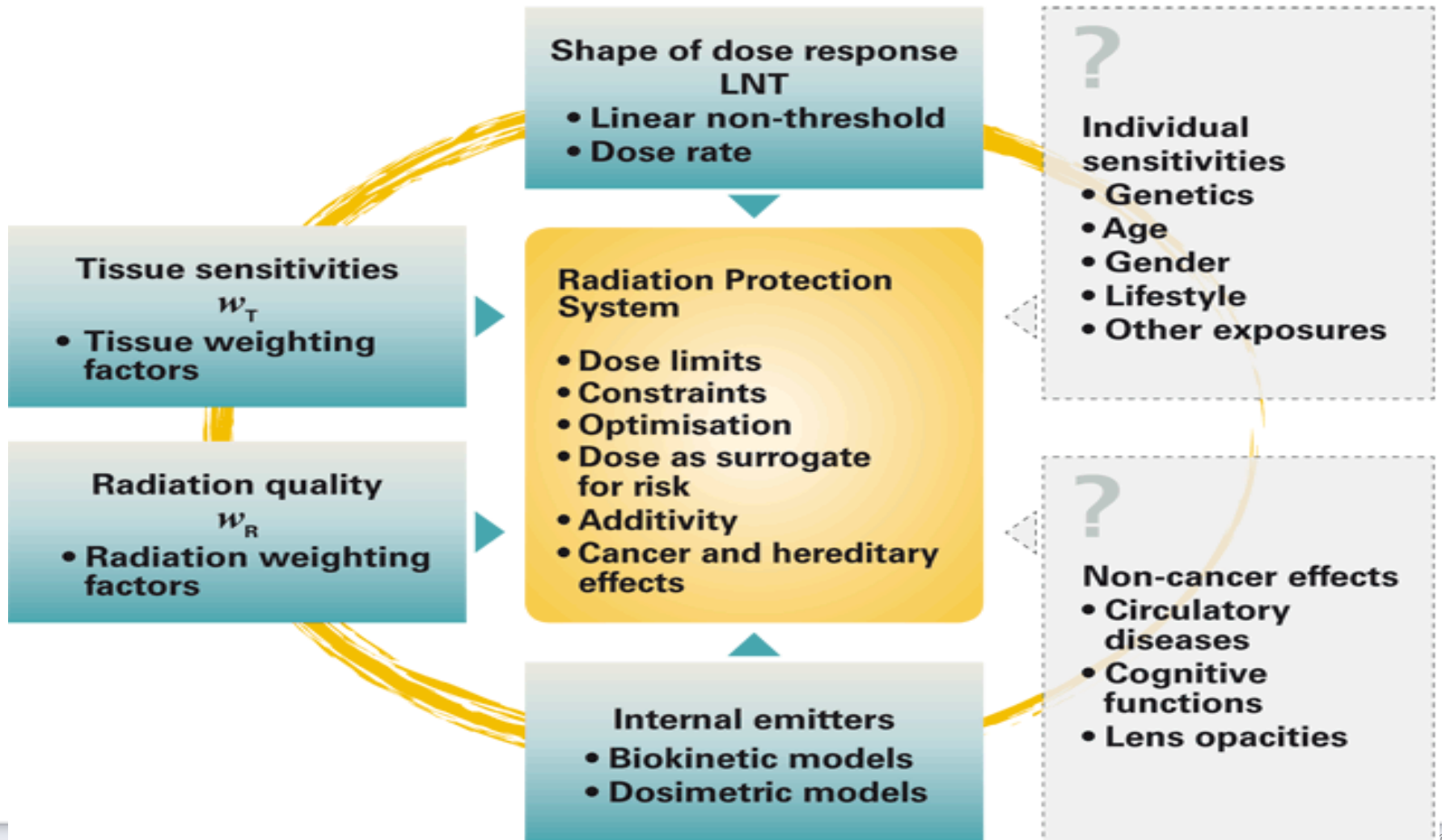
Radiation protection research should include critical ethical (self-)reflection

- on the motivation for radiation protection research itself and on the practical feasibility of its scientific ambition
- on the possible (mis)use of old and new scientific hypotheses in opinion making on risk in politics, lobbying and the media
- on the importance of the precautionary principle and of public participation in research and decision making, particularly based on insights in what can and cannot be done by science

Natural science and technology researchers cannot and should not do that critical ethical reflection alone. It should be done together with

- researchers from the social sciences and humanities
- stakeholders from informed civil society and the general public

The System of Protection is based on **science** AND **values** (-> ethics!)



2.6.2. Research needs and priorities in risk communication/risk perception

Lead: SCK-CEN

- Definition of research needs and priorities will draw on:
 - Information collected within the OPERRA project (survey and workshops)
 - Input from the RICOMET 2015 conference on “Risk perception, risk communication and ethics of exposures to ionising radiation risks”
 - First reflection group with 2.6 members (September, Belgium)

2.6.3 Safety culture

Lead: CEPN

- To identify new research needs in the field of safety culture, in particular radiation protection culture(*), and more generally safety governance.
- by engaging the radiation protection research networks, the ALARA network, the national and international radiation protection associations, the medical and nuclear industry and the academia, in order.
- The results of the process will help formulating research topics to be included in the strategic research agenda for social sciences and humanities.

(*). According to the IRPA guide on RP Culture, "Safety culture includes nuclear safety, radiation protection, occupational safety, security, health, environmental safety, patient safety ..."

Needs identified by OPERRA



- There is a high interest in this field from the radiation protection community.
- Rather seldom used trans-disciplinary approach.
- Research topics relevant to the radiation protection domain are not yet identified in a structured way.

Strategic Research **Activities** development

An interactive process will be developed with the research community and other stakeholders for defining strategic research activities dedicated to the **integration of social sciences and humanities in radiation protection research.**

Key activities in task 2.6

- Organising meetings with professional groups with expertise in social sciences and humanities and radiation protection
- Identifying joint research needs and priorities
- Preparing the first version of Strategic Research Agenda
- Consulting key stakeholders
- Providing input to Joint Programming (WP3)

- D2.2 – Joint research needs and priorities addressing radiation protection research relevant for medical use of radiation and communication/risk perception in radiation protection field
(M5 – October 2015)
- D2.6 – Joint research needs and priorities addressing radiation protection research relevant for medical use of radiation and social sciences and humanities in the radiation protection field (M17)
- D2.8 – Draft SRA on social science and humanities in RP (M24)
- D2.10 – Joint research needs and priorities addressing radiation protection research relevant for medical use of radiation and social sciences and humanities in the radiation protection field (M30)

Partners

Partner	PM/June 2015-2016
SCK-CEN	1.50
IRSN	0.3
CEPN/IRSN	1
MUTADIS/NE RIS	0.3
GAEC	0.3
ISS	0.3
NRPA	0.3
NMBU/NRPA	0.3
VUJE	0.3
IMROH	0.3
UMIL/NERIS	0.3
BfS	0.3
	5.50