



**university of
 groningen**



5th European IRPA Congress, 4 – 8 June 2018, The Hague

HIELKE FREERK BOERSMA¹

University of Groningen, Health, Safety and Environment / Radiation Protection Unit,
Visserstraat 47/49, NL-9712 CT Groningen, The Netherlands
Foundation The Hague 2018

BERT GERRITSEN, GERT JONKERS AND CAREL THIJSSSEN
Foundation The Hague 2018

LARS ROOBOL

National Institute for Public Health and The Environment, Bilthoven, The Netherlands

JAN KOPS

KOAD Consultancy, Arnhem, The Netherlands

ABSTRACT

Since 2002, Radiation Protection professionals from all over Europe and beyond have met every four years at regional European IRPA congresses. The Dutch Society for Radiation Protection (NVS) is pleased to host the next congress in this series. The 5th European IRPA Congress is scheduled to take place from 4th to 8th June, 2018 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

With the theme “Encouraging Sustainability in Radiation Protection”, the congress will focus on the various aspects needed to make sure that we have, and will continue to have, adequate equipment, staff and resources to protect human health and our environment against the adverse effects of ionising and non-ionising radiation. Consequently, activities for and by the younger generation of RP professionals are strongly supported and education and training will receive special attention.

In establishing solid sessions on education and training, the organizers will intensively collaborate with the European foundation for Training and Education in Radiation Protection (EUTERP). It is our firm belief that we thus contribute to a closer relationship between the IRPA- and EUTERP-communities. As a consequence we hope to bring the goal of this congress, formulated as its central theme, a little closer.

¹ Correspondence address: h.f.boersma@rug.nl

In this contribution relevant information concerning this congress and the involvement of EUTERP in this congress will be presented as far as available at the start of ETRAP 2017.

1. Introduction

From 4 to 8 June 2018 the Dutch Society for Radiation Protection (NVS) will be hosting the 5th European IRPA Congress in the World Forum, The Hague, the Netherlands [1].

Since mid-2015 the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) has met on average every three months to prepare the scientific programme for the congress. The programme format and the key themes have now been decided. In designing the programme, the SPC is working closely with the Local Organising Committee (LOC).

2. Scientific programme

The scientific programme has four components: the regular scientific presentations, refresher courses, poster sessions and the Young Professional Award session.

As usual, the scientific presentations will take place in plenary or parallel sessions. The five key themes include 'medical applications' and 'industrial applications'. The SPC intends to invite a number of prominent speakers for the plenary sessions.

3. Refresher courses

The refresher courses will be very different from what you are used to from previous IRPA congresses: a cluster of refresher courses on Monday morning 4 June and Wednesday 6 June will replace the preliminary hour very early in the day. And we are trying to provide at least two contributions on each topic: a basic lecture and a lecture covering either current developments with regard to a specific subject or a more in-depth examination. We are convinced that this approach will produce more coherent training sessions that meet our participants' needs more effectively. One series of refreshers – on Education & Training, on Wednesday afternoon – is organized in close collaboration with EUTERP.

4. Poster sessions

The traditional poster sessions will also be different. We want to use digital poster boards on which any of the posters can be called up throughout the congress. And via the congress app participants can arrange to meet the creator of the poster. During the breaks special elevator pitches will be held where a small number of poster creators will answer questions about their poster. So no more long queues for partially empty poster boards!

5. Young professionals

All the European associate societies will have the opportunity to nominate a candidate for the Young Professional Award (YPA). On Thursday afternoon, 7 June, all the candidates will

present their work. That afternoon as few as possible and preferably no regular scientific presentations will be held, so that everyone is able to see and listen to up-and-coming/young radiation protection experts. And in addition to the YPA, we have well advanced plans to create a public award for the best young professional.

The YPA is not the only activity for young radiation protection experts. We hope to dedicate one of the refresher courses on the Monday morning specifically to young radiation protection experts and the Young Generation chapters of the European IRPA Societies. And there will be a special lunch session for this group. In this way we hope to help stimulate the involvement of the younger generation.

6. Technical visits

As we said above, the Wednesday will be reserved for refresher courses. The SPC and LOC are busy organising a number of technical visits, some combined with a refresher course. Although the locations are not yet definitive, the options being considered are medical, waste and nuclear applications.

7. Conclusions

The congress organisers hope this overview of the programme has fired your enthusiasm and that we will see you at the congress in 2018. Registration has opened in March 2017 and we look forward to receiving your contributions from now on. You will find detailed information in our 2nd Announcement that can be downloaded from our website [2]. If you're not ready to register yet, you can always express your interest in the congress on our website.

We are looking forward to welcome you in The Hague in June 2018!

References

- [1] EUTERP Newsletter 13, March 2017
- [2] www.irpa2018europe.com