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European Health Risk Assessment Network On Electromagnetic Fields Exposure: The EC Project EFHRAN

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INTRODUCTION

EFHRAN (European Health Risk Assessment Network on Electromagnetic Fields Exposure) is a three-year project (2009-2012) of the European Commission in the framework of the Programme of Community Action in The Field of Health (2008-2013), Health 2008. EFHRAN is coordinated by Paolo Ravazzani and involves 7 additional partners (see the author list) from different European countries. More than 15 European research centers, universities and other stakeholders have already expressed their preliminary interest in the activities of this project.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of EFHRAN is to establish a network for performing health risk assessments of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF). This network will make use of the risk analysis of the completed project EMF-NET CA (EC FP6).

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE

Exposure to EMF diffusion is such that possible health consequences can generate a domino effect, that has consequences for all sections of society both directly and indirectly.. The establishment of the most appropriate health risk assessment process related to EMF, as proposed by EFHRAN, is not only desirable but essential at the European level. The effort is too great to be managed at the level of individual countries, where the full set of highly specialised experts or infrastructure are not available. Furthermore, only supranational authorities, such as the EC, can develop recommendations needed by Member States.

MAIN METHODS AND MEAN

EFHRAN will implement the following tasks: i) Risk analysis and hazard identification, that will consist in complementing the existing EMF-NET risk analysis; ii) Exposure assessment estimation, i.e. how much and how long people in Europe are exposed to EMF; iii) Dose-response assessments, to estimate the amount of EMF exposure that is likely to result in a particular health effect; iv) Risk characterization, to characterize the risk for the population; v) Give input to risk management and communication, by identifying priority areas where intervention/communication is needed.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

EFHRAN will provide the EC and the EU with a health risk assessment on exposure to EMF that will allow these bodies to react to the concerns in full understanding of the scientific issues. EFHRAN is also expected to provide input for future risk management steps. The established network is an added value for the EC, being an infrastructure capable of providing updated assessments in the future .

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