

**Targeted Call for Contributions to Special Sessions on Risk Perception, Communication and Governance** in the Conference '**Multiple Stressors – Novel Methods for Integrated Risk Assessment**' on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> in Aarhus

Dear colleagues,

as part of the Conference of the EU's R&D project NoMiracle on Novel Methods for Integrated Risk Assessment of Cumulative Stressors in Europe, <http://nomiracle.jrc.ec.europa.eu/default.aspx>, to be held in Aarhus, Denmark, on September 28-30<sup>th</sup> 2009, we're putting together special sessions on risk perception, communication and governance under the title "**Breaking through: Evolving Concepts, Issues and Policies in Risk Integration**".

These sessions will take place on Tue 29<sup>th</sup> with oral presentations and discussions followed by poster sessions (poster corners). On Wed 30<sup>th</sup> there will additionally be plenary keynote sessions on 'Dealing with uncertainty and ambiguity in risk management' and 'New strategies for testing and risk assessment' including discussion (see the links below).

*To the Tue sessions we welcome theoretical and conceptual papers and posters, empirical studies, case reports (including cases of regulatory/public controversy), evaluations of and hypotheses and proposals for R&D, demonstrations of issues and approaches, etc. We also solicit opinions, reflections and supportive materials and illustrations to dialogues, and inputs to the other sessions. Well-founded criticisms, controversial arguments and views deviating from mainstreams are especially welcome. We encourage you to say things you've wanted to say about risks, risk research, assessment and management and integration that didn't fit in the categories of thought and expression – to break out and through. Specifically, we wish to relate chemical risks to risks in other areas.*

We think Aarhus, famous for the UN Convention on right-to-know, participation and access to environmental justice, is the most suitable place for open scientific and policy debate on timely (and timeless) risk issues. We're looking for lively interaction between disciplinary areas, applied sectors, geographical areas, research traditions and world-views.

*While we welcome a variety of topics and angles, we're especially soliciting contributions in the following areas:*

- **Concepts of risk integration:** *What are its meanings; what is the significance of risks and their multiplicity in overall integrated assessment and governance; how can assessment and management interact and be integrated*
- **Communication** *of multiple, multi-dimensional, uncertain risks: How do (and do not) epistemic communities and actor groups frame and address them; how are risks up- and downplayed, juxtaposed and used tactically*
- **Political contents of risks, and implications for integration:** *Why are integrated risk assessment and governance contentious, what values and choices are involved; how are controversies around them resolved; what psychological and socio-political processes are at play*
- **Limits of integration and innovation** *in risk assessment and governance: Obstacles and opportunities for broad multi-actor involvement; relations of innovation and risks, innovation and permanence, innovation and precaution*
- **Methodological and philosophical aspects:** *Evolving interactions between approaches in social and natural sciences, between areas of research (e.g., risk, safety, behavioral, communication, governance, environmental and health studies), and between science and policy; epistemology of cumulative multi-stressor risks; needs and opportunities to take inquiry, reflection and deliberation forward, including method integration.*

**The deadline for submitting the abstract forms at the above address of the conference is July 1<sup>st</sup>.** The abstracts will be evaluated for scientific originality and content and relevance for session themes. On the basis of the presentations and exchanges, the possibilities to produce a special issue or working paper in a suitable journal will be explored.

To download the **abstract form** click on the following link:

[http://nomiracle.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/46/FIRST%20CALL%20FOR%20PAPERS\\_FORM\\_final.doc](http://nomiracle.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/46/FIRST%20CALL%20FOR%20PAPERS_FORM_final.doc)

To download the **programme and updated other information on the event** click on the following link:

[http://nomiracle.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/46/NM\\_conference\\_callforpaper.pdf](http://nomiracle.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/46/NM_conference_callforpaper.pdf)

**We invite you to join us and contribute to this event, and also to spread this message.** We cannot cover travel costs, but offer inexpensive participation and interesting discussions. For practical matters, see the meeting page above.

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