



Project No. 018385
INTARESE
Integrated Assessment of Health Risks of Environmental Stressors in Europe

Integrated Project
Thematic Priority

D30.1 1st Uncertainty Training Workshop

Due date of deliverable: October 2007
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Start Date of Project: 1 November 2005

Duration: 60 Months

Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable: WHO

Final

Project co-funded by the European Commission with the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

INTARESE training on uncertainty & quality

At the onset of 1999, the Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) was faced with a major credibility crisis when one of its employees went to the press to denounce the uncertainty associated with RIVM assessments. The claim was that while the projections made in MNP assessments had an important influence on policy making, they were produced through model simulations based on weak assumptions and uncertain data. These claims generated a lot of media attention and triggered extensive public and political debate on the credibility, reliability and quality of environmental statistics and model-based environmental foresight, as well as on the role of science in policy-making. At RIVM, this credibility crisis provided the impetus for developing a system of guidance for assisting its employees in their daily practice of performing research to advise policy-makers and the public on the state and outlook of the environment, placing special focus on the assessment and communication of uncertainties.

The INTARESE training on uncertainty management will draw on the experiences of the RIVM. The training will be given by Arthur Petersen, Jeroen van der Sluijs and Martin Kraye von Krauss. Arthur is the Director of the Methodology and Modelling Programme, MNP (formerly RIVM). Jeroen is Assistant Professor at the University of Utrecht where his research focuses on uncertainty at the science/policy interface. Arthur and Jeroen were central actors in the development of the RIVM guidance system for uncertainty management. Martin wrote his PhD thesis on uncertainty in policy relevant sciences and now works with uncertainty management at the World Health Organization and the European Environmental Agency. Throughout the training, much emphasis will be put on discussion amongst participants and hands on applications.

The training will be held at the European Environmental Agency in Copenhagen on October 17th and 18th.

INTARESE, Integrated Assessment of Health Risks of Environmental Stressors in Europe, is an EU research project that brings together a team of leading European scientists and research institutes in the areas of epidemiology, environmental science and biosciences to collaborate on developing and applying new, integrated approaches to assessing environmental health risks and consequences.

For registration and more information, contact:

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DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: JUNE 30th.

Preliminary outline of training

Day 1

09.30-10.00 Welcome and Introductions

10.00-11.00 Session 1: Introduction: Uncertainty & Quality assessment in practice

- Presentations (30 minutes):
 - The RIVM credibility debacle of 1999 (AP)
 - An overview of the MNP/RIVM approach (AP)
 - Assessors impressions of the MNP/RIVM approach (Jeannette Beck, Program Leader on Air Quality, MNP)
 - Policy makers impressions of the MNP/RIVM approach (Jan Wijmenga, Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment)
- Discussion (30 minutes): Uncertainty and Quality management needs of the EEA
- Coffee break (10 minutes)

11.00-12.00 Session 2: Uncertainty and Quality in Science for Policy

- Lecture (30 minutes)
 - Different paradigms of science in the policy process (JvdS)
 - Complexity (JvdS)
 - Reflexivity and the Reflexive Practitioner (AP)
 - A typology of uncertainty (MKvK)
- Discussion (30 minutes)

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-16.30 Session 3: A practical exercise

- Presentation (10 minutes) (JvdS/AP)
 - Intro to case study
 - Intro to assignment
- Facilitated group work (2 hours)
- Coffee break: (15 minutes)
- Presentation & discussion of results (50 minutes)
- Presentation of assignment for interim period (15 minutes)

18.00 Course dinner

Day 2

09.30-10.30 Session 4:

- Lecture (20 minutes): Basic concepts
 - Knowledge quality assessment
 - Problem framing and context
 - Indicators
 - Intro: approaches to uncertainty management
- Discussion (30 minutes)
- Coffee break (10 minutes)

10.30-12.00 Session 5: Approaches to managing uncertainty

- Lecture (40 minutes) (JvdS)
 - Quantitative approaches
 - Qualitative approaches
 - Procedural approaches
- Discussion (50 minutes)

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.30 Session 6: Stakeholder participation

- Presentation (40 minutes)
 - Why participation?
 - Guidance on approaches.
- Discussion (40 minutes)
- Coffee break (10 minutes)

14.00-15.00 Session 7: Communication of Uncertainty

- Presentation (25 minutes) (AP)
- Discussion (35 minutes)

15.00-16.00 Discussion and evaluation of course

3 month interim period: students are expected to invest (at least) 2 days into applying the on-line guidance tool to their own projects, reflecting on their experience and reading the course compendium.

Day 3

09.30-11.00 Session 7: Sharing of experiences

- Series of short presentations by students (25 minutes)
- Discussion of experiences (55 minutes)
- Coffee break (10 minutes)

11.00-12.00 Discussion of readings from the course compendium

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.30 Session 8: Topic to be determined

- Presentation (40 minutes) (guest lecturer, to be determined)
- Discussion (40 minutes)
- Coffee break (10 minutes)

14.30-16.00 Session 9: Topic to be determined

- Presentation (40 minutes) (guest lecturer, to be determined)
- Discussion (40 minutes)