
Activity report for the Pianoforte travel grant

RADONORM 2024 – Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material – characterisation, inventory of related exposure situations and monitoring principles – the two weeks training course

Katowice (Poland), April 15th – 26th 2024

My application for the Pianoforte travel grant was to participate in the training course organized by Silesian Centre for Environmental Radioactivity together with Competence Development Centre of the GIG Research Institute. The aim of the course was to connect and educate researchers, PhD students and authorities' representatives in the field of NORM. Recent outcomes of RadoNorm project on NORM and radon exposure situations inventory and characterisation as well as monitoring and management strategies developed were introduced into the training course programme as well.

With my attendance, I was able to get a deeper look in the field in terms of regulations and their differences throughout the countries (mainly EU). Group exercises and case studies improved my ability to discuss the topic from different perspectives (NORM involving industry, researchers and regulatory bodies) and limitations of current legislation were discussed during that as well. Thanks to the lecturers but also other participants, I learned a bit more about radiochemical methods and radon (+ thoron) measurements, which are slightly different from what I normally do, as I mainly deal with solid NORM residues in the gamma spectrometry department, but it is usually necessary to combine multiple measurement techniques to assess the exposure situation properly.

Overall, I was very satisfied with organisation of the course and the subtopics that were addressed. Because of that, I would really recommend the courses organized by GIG – they have done a few in the framework of the RadoNorm project (including the one I attended) and we have been told they expect to do so next year as well.

Matěj Grapa

National Radiation Protection Institute, Czechia