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PIANOFORTE travel grant - Activity report:

Assessing Risk to Humans and the Environment

Summer School by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)
Ås, Norway
17.06.2024 – 29.06.2024

The primary aim of the training course was to provide participants with a thorough grounding in both the theory and practice of environmental radiological risk assessment.

Key objectives included:

- Understanding the theory behind environmental risk assessment.
- Gaining practical skills in using the ERICA tool.
- Developing insights into the assumptions, uncertainties, and limitations of various models used in risk assessment.

We had morning self-study sessions and frontal lectures in the afternoon. Two full days were dedicated to hands-on training on how to use the ERICA risk assessment tool. After this practical training, we took a test on the tool and obtained a certificate that states that each of us is able to perform Tier 2 risk assessments.

Through the two weeks we worked in groups on the risk assessment of a specific case study. Two other participants and I discussed the radiological effects and impact of the release of contaminated waste water by the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. On the last day, we presented our formulation of the problem and the assessment done with the ERICA tool. Thanks to our performance, we were granted 5 ECTS by the NMBU.

The central theme of the course was environmental risk assessment, with a specific focus on the exposure of humans and non-human biota to radionuclides in the environment. While the course did not extensively cover worker or medical exposures, it did touch upon these areas when relevant topics were discussed, such as radiation dose calculations and epidemiology.

The Assessing Risk for Humans and the Environment training course provided a robust educational experience. The focus on both human and non-human biota provided a holistic view of risk assessment and management.

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