Summer school on
"Assessing Risk to Humans and the Environment"
June 17th to 28th 2024

The course aimed to give students a grounding in the theory and practical skills needed to carry out environmental risk assessment for human and non-human biota, including hands-on training in risk assessment tools and models, namely on the "Erika Tool", as well as practical laboratory demonstrations and exercises. The training goals were categorically fulfilled and all the topics presented were relevant, interesting and applicable.

During the course we were asked to prepare an oral communication on a chosen case study. My group focused on the discharge of radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean.

The decision to release the treated water, contaminated mainly with tritium, was announced in 2021 by the Japanese government and started in March 2023.

Our main goals were:

- carry out a risk assessment with the Erika Tool, considering the data available on the reports of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), company responsible for the nuclear power plant;
- guarantee that the risks for humans, environment and biota are in full compliance with the applicable laws and regulations;
- implement measures to minimize adverse impacts on reputation.

Reputation is major principle of TEPCO and the Japanese government since they have to ensure that clear and reliable information is disseminated and reaches all the stakeholders, from locals to neighbouring countries and governments.

This partnership has received funding from the European Union's "EURATOM" research and innovation program under the 101061037 grant agreement.

With this oral presentation, along with self-study periods and group discussions, we applied the concepts learned during the classes and learned more about international regulation and policy, risk communication and perception, data management, and social and ethical aspects of risk management.

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