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RENEB –Realizing the European Network of Biological Dosimetry

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Creating a sustainable network in biological and retrospective dosimetry that involves a large number of experienced laboratories throughout the European Union (EU) will significantly improve the accident and emergency response capabilities in case of a large-scale radiological emergency. A well organised cooperative action involving EU laboratories will offer the only chance for a fast and trustworthy dose assessment urgently needed in an emergency situation. In this regard the European Commission supports the establishment of a European network in biological dosimetry (RENEB) involving 23 organisations from 16 countries and mainly based on biological dosimetry laboratories. This will guarantee the highest efficiency in the processing and scoring of biological samples for fast, reliable results implemented in the EU emergency management. RENEB also implements recent developments in retrospective dosimetry. The network is based on 5 work packages: WP1 Operational basis: to create a “stand-by” basis based on coordination of the existing reliable and proven methods in biological and retrospective dosimetry.

WP2 Basis for development: to expand and improve the network by implementing appropriate new methods and integrating new partners.

WP3 Quality, Education and Training: to assure high quality standards by education and training activities.

WP4 Sustainability: to establish a legal framework, harmonise the infrastructure and set up funding strategies.

WP5 Dissemination: to strengthen the awareness of the network by connecting it to radiation emergency preparedness and response systems and by spreading of information.

Since the project started in January 2012 the work-groups successfully implemented various tasks. A first training exercise to test for quality and efficiency within the RENEB laboratories was developed and realised. A plan of the first intercomparison was developed and realised. The RENEB web page is available online (www.reneb.eu), implying reporting sheets for new methodologies and potential new members. The first bulletin is edited and the project has been presented to interested communities and stakeholders in the field of emergency management (“Strengthening of Biological Dosimetry in IAEA Member States, IAEA, 2012), radiation protection (IRPA13) and radiation research (4th MELODI workshop 2012, European Radiation Research Conference 2012).

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