The International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN)

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ICRIN: International Chernobyl Research and Information Network

- **Full title**
  - Human Security for Individuals and Communities in Chernobyl-Affected Areas through Local Information Provision

- **Funding**
  - UN Trust Fund for Human Security
  - Budget: > 2.5 million USD

- **Chernobyl-affected areas**
  - Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine

- **Duration of the project**
  - 2009-2013
ICRIN: International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (cont.)

- Management and coordination
  - UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
  - Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS

- UN executing partners
  - UNICEF, IAEA, WHO

- Non-UN counterpart organizations
  - State Chernobyl bodies in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine
  - the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
  - National NGOs, local communities
  - Regional health authorities, regional educational authorities
The situation in Chernobyl 20 years after the accident

- In some areas of the Chernobyl affected regions
  - Cs-137 levels were still above actions levels
    - Milk
    - Berries
    - Mushrooms
  - Annual doses remained at levels above 1 mSv / 5 mSv
- Concerns and anxieties among people
- Lack of information on radiation related topics
- Slow economic development
ICRIN objectives

• Encourage, initiate and implement measures
  • Foster and stimulate the communication with local residents
  • Stimulate economic activities
  • Promoting healthy lifestyles and

• ICRIN philosophy
  • From humanitarian aid to assistance in recovery in the region
  • Sustainability of its measures
    • Systematic involvement of partners and authorities
    • Broad sharing of experiences.

• To improve the social and ‘mental’ situation of people living in Chernobyl-affected territories

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Objectives of ICRIN (cont.)

- To identify and satisfy the address information needs of the Chernobyl-affected population related to
  - Health
  - Environment
  - Socio-economic spheres aspects

- To provide with easily understandable information on radiation and radiation effects as elaborated during the Chernobyl Forum
  - Internationally recognized
  - Based on sound scientific knowledge
The Chernobyl Forum
(2003-2006)
The Chernobyl Forum (2003-2006)

- Established by the IAEA, in cooperation with
  - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
  - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
  - United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)
  - World Health Organization (WHO)
  - World Bank
  - Competent authorities of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine
Aims

• To elaborate and disseminate “authoritative consensual statements” on
  • Environmental consequences
  • Health effects attributable to radiation exposure arising from the accident

• To provide advice on
  • Environmental remediation
  • Special health care programmes
  • Research areas required further efforts
Topics covered by the Expert Group ‘Environment’

- **Contamination and exposure**
  - Radioactive contamination of the environment
  - Environmental countermeasures and remediation
  - Human exposure
  - Radiation induced effects on plants and animals

- **Waste management**
  - Environmental and radioactive waste management aspects of the dismantling of the Chernobyl shelter
Chernobyl’s Legacy: Health, Environmental and Socio-Economic Impacts

and

Recommendations to the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine

The Chernobyl Forum: 2003–2005
Second revised version

Environmental Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident and their Remediation: Twenty Years of Experience

Report of the Chernobyl Forum Expert Group ‘Environment’
Target groups of ICRIN

• **150,000 to 200,000 citizens in rural areas**
  • Low economic development, very limited financial resources.
  • Emphasis to the most vulnerable individuals.

• **Training of Disseminators: trustworthy sources of information**
  • Local authorities
  • Education and health care specialists
  • Local community leaders are viewed as the most

• **Other beneficiaries**
  • Government officials, decision makers, local administrations
  • Entrepreneurs and SMEs
  • NGOs and associations

• **Residents benefited more indirectly**
  • Strengthening local economies
  • Improved local services and capacity building
IAEA activities

• Analysis of needs in the information in Chernobyl-contaminated areas

• Setup of an ICRIN sub-regional Scientific Board comprising
  • Scientists
  • Experts in the area of health, environment and socio-economic development
  • To be nominated by implementing agencies

• In response to local information needs, preparation and peer review of information for dissemination to local communities and authorities
IAEA activities (cont.)

• Introduction of a system for:
  • Collecting, validating, analyzing, and adapting current scientific knowledge on radiological and economic consequences of the Chernobyl accident

• To develop scientifically sound information on radiological aspects of the Chernobyl accident

• Tailored to different target groups of the affected areas
  • Representatives from national, regional and local governments,
  • Journalists of representatives of print-media, radio and Television broadcasting.
Home page of the International Chernobyl radiological portal of the ICRIN project

This Portal is the pilot version of international Internet-resource, which presents information on the radiological aspects of safe and secure dwelling of population on territories affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe. We anticipate the attention of the widest range of Internet users, which are interested in the Chernobyl issues and radiological information in general. We hope that inhabitants of the radioactively contaminated territories, evacuees and resettlers, liquidators, teachers, doctors and community leaders of different levels, agriculturists and specialists in forestry, guests of Chernobyl territories, all of you, dear visitors, will find for yourselves here interesting and useful information. Our experts prepared it for you on the basis of information from the reliable trusted sources.

If you can not find an answer to your question, you might send it to us in the section "Questions and answers" and we certainly will give you an expert answer.
Achievements

• Dissemination of information via all relevant channels
  • Radio and TV
  • Newspapers and web-based services

• A key component was to organize information events in schools and in villages to **allow the direct contact with individuals during face-to-face discussions**
  • Trainings courses and workshops organized for media representatives and journalists
  • Capacity building training sessions for professional groups
  • Practical training in communities to increase radiation awareness (“mobile trainings”).
  • Trainings were developed and tailored to address the specific conditions in each of the three Chernobyl-affected countries.
Presentation of the Russian language edition of the Chernobyl Forum report "Conference in the National Library of Ukraine (organized by the IAEA)."
Achievements

- Networks were created consisting of national scholars from the three affected countries
- Links to the expertise of UN agencies and other authoritative bodies
- A knowledge management system was established
  - Database on scientific publications
  - Information brochures
  - Information on local radiological data
- Improve the understanding of the meaning of results of
  - Food monitoring
  - Whole-body monitoring
- Establish a well-noticed reliable source of retrieving knowledge on radiological topics and associated themes.
Monitoring of food on local markets in affected areas
Determining whole body burdens of Cs-137
Web page with radiological information related to agricultural activities in the contaminated areas.
Lessons learned

- Multi-channel efforts helped to develop and enhance the awareness among affected population with regard to the individual radiation hazards

- It provided also valuable inputs to reduce individual radiation doses and to disseminate effective practices for the daily life living and the local recovery

- Skepticism of local people could be reduced with regard to recommendations provided

- Adaptation to live in a Chernobyl-affected environment was facilitated
Mr Ban Ki-moon (UN Secretary-General)
Mr Yukiya Amano (IAEA Director General)

“Twenty-Five Years after the Chernobyl Disaster: Safety for the Future”
Kiev, 20–21 April 2011
Thank you