The Swiss National Action Plan on Radon: A multisectoral response to tackle lung cancer

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- The situation in Switzerland before the action plan
- New situation
- Radon National Action Plan 2012 -2020
- Integration with the issue of IAQ
- Vision after 2020

www.ch-radon.ch
The situation in Switzerland before the Action Plan

- For radon concentrations in premises where people live or spend time, an annual limit of 1,000 Bq/m³ is applicable
- For new and renovated buildings and for remediation projects (provided that this can be achieved by simple structural measures), a guidance value of 400 Bq/m³ is applicable

WHO’s First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, Geneva October 30 2018
New situation (after 2005)

ERR = 16% per 100 Bq/m³

Reference value in the new radiation protection ordinance:
300 Bq/m³

• Measured dwellings > 300 Bq/m³
National Radon Action Plan (2012-2020)

1. Revision of legal provisions
   • New radiation protection ordinance (26 April 2017)

2. Improving knowledge of indoor radon exposure
   • Continuation of measurements (schools, new buildings)

3. Promotion of radon protective actions in construction sector
   • Revision of building code SIA 180, FOPH recommendations

4. Development of an effective remediation strategy
   • Swiss Handbook, energy mitigation

5. Integration of radon into training of building professionals
   • Co-operation with specialized high schools, didactic material

6. Increased public awareness of the health effects due to radon
   • website, radon call center, film on remediation

7. Development of measurement tools and methods
   • Measurement quality, predictive mapping, short-term measurement
Radon as a component of Indoor Air Quality

• **IAQ Certificate of Advanced Studies (Education & Training)**
  Based on the WHO recommendations, the CAS gives access to the function of **radon consultant**, declared specialist who participates in radon diagnostic and remediation. It also gives the right to the function of **asbestos expert**. The holders of the CAS will appear on a list of FOPH website distributed to the cantonal authorities.

• **MESQUALAIR (Energy – efficient program)**
  This project aims to ensure the air quality measured in **energy-efficient** new or renovated homes, in which particular attention is paid to the effective sealing of the envelope and adequate air renewal by studying the exposure of the population to **radon** and **volatile organic compounds**.

• **Ongoing projects (Indoor Air Quality)**
  New IAQ Observatory in French-speaking Switzerland JURAD-BAT / Interreg V (F-CH): improvement of **radon risk** management and **indoor air quality** in Jura arch buildings
Radon: a competitor to energy saving

Bq/m³

Before remediation
After remediation

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Conclusions

• **Strength** of the Swiss situation: **Radon** belongs to the **Health Ministry**
  o *Intern synergy with sections of indoor air pollutants and smoking*
  o *External involvement of the building sector and the Swiss Cancer League*

• Good performance on **measurement** campaigns

• Mixed performance in the field of **remediation**

• Need to improve public **information**

• Ways to better recognise radon as a **public health problem**
  o *Integration of radon in indoor air quality programs*
  o *Integration of radon in the battle against lung cancer*

• **Long-term dream**
  o *All premises are below the reference value*
  o *Everyone knows the radon value of their indoor living area*
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION


EUROPEAN CODE AGAINST CANCER

12 ways to reduce your cancer risk

Exposure to natural radiation

UV radiation

Radon exposure

Reduce Radon, what else?

Radon, a noble gas that can induce cancer