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General Research Activities

National research program
The Swiss Federal Council launched a national research program NRP57 "Non-ionising radiation; Environment and Health". The program covers ELF and RF, is fully sponsored by the government and runs for approximately 4 years with a funding of 5 Mio. CHF. The main topics of research are:
dosimetry and exposure assessment, laboratory studies, epidemiologic studies, cell biological studies, risk perception. The program has started this year.
Information:  http://www.mobile-research.ethz.ch

Research Foundation on Mobile Communication
Research projects funded by the Foundation, as well as information activities are given on the Foundation website: http://www.nfp57.ch

Research Activities supported by the FOPH

Information to all the studies on the website:
http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/strahlung/00053/00921/00922/

CEFALO: An international case-control study on brain tumours in children and adolescents
The main goal of the study is to investigate whether use of mobile telephones increases the risk of developing brain tumours for children or adolescents. In addition, the study will provide a comprehensive dataset to investigate other potential risk factors for childhood brain tumour.

Cellular telephone use and time trends in brain tumor mortality in Switzerland from 1969 to 2002
A rising concern exists that with the widespread use of mobile communication technologies, the incidence of brain tumors may increase. On the basis of data from the Swiss national mortality registry from 1969 to 2002, annual age standardized brain tumor mortality rates are calculated.

Mortality cohort study of SBB employees – Follow-up
Ten years ago, in a mortality cohort study of SBB employees, a weak association was detected between magnetic field exposure and leukemia. In this follow-up study, mortality data from the last ten years was added so as to make the study more conclusive.

Exposure to magnetic fields from induction ovens
Although little is known about exposure to magnetic fields from induction ovens, there is some evidence that the stray fields arising may exceed the limit recommended by the ICNIRP. The aim of
this project was to quantify stray fields arising from induction ovens and to assess the suitability of the measurement conditions specified for induction ovens in the standard applicable in Switzerland.

**EMF emissions from electric heaters**
Measurement of EMF emissions from domestic heaters, taking account of Swiss electrical installation practice, was to permit an assessment of possible health risks from electric heaters.

**Development of procedures for the assessment of human exposure to EMF from wireless devices in home and office environments. Supplement 1: Close-to-Body and Base Station Wireless Data Communication Devices**
The aim of this project was to develop appropriate procedures for the assessment of exposure to EMF from wireless home/office devices and to carry out exposure measurements for selected devices.

Report of ITIS Foundation: Development of Procedures for the Assessment of Human Exposure to EMF from Wireless Devices in Home and Office Environments

**New Policies and Legislations**

**Report: "Risk potential of wireless networks"**
An interdepartmental working group has reviewed health and privacy aspects of wireless networks in order to answer a question from the parliament. The report was accepted by the Federal Council and is published on the FOPH website in German, French and Italian.

[http://www.bag.admin.ch/wlan-bericht](http://www.bag.admin.ch/wlan-bericht)

**Quality assurance programmes for base stations implemented**
Following a recommendation of the Federal Office for the Environment all three mobile communication providers implemented recommended quality assurance tests for their base stations. Information in German, French and Italian: [http://www.bafu.admin.ch/electrosmog](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/electrosmog)

**New public information activities**

**FOPH: Internet Fact-sheets on different devices as source of EMF**
On the FOPH internet page different devices are presented as source of EMF. The fact-sheets are available in German, French, Italian and English. Published fact-sheets: DECT phone, Babyphone, Induction cooker, WLAN, Bluetooth, Microwave oven. Planned fact-sheets: Mobile phone, Heating appliances, Neodymium magnets, Household appliances, Solarium, EAS.

[http://www.bag.admin.ch/emf-e](http://www.bag.admin.ch/emf-e)