

Tunisia Report on EMF Activities
(22th International Advisory Committee on EMF: 28-30 June 2017)
National Agency for Sanitary and Environmental Control of Products
(ANCSEP) Ministry of Health

I. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA

- Few research activities related to EMF exposure and health risks are conducted by the “Laboratory of Integrated Physiology, Faculty of Sciences of Bizerte” in Tunisia.
- ANCSEP provides scientific monitoring of risks associated with uncertain hazards of EMF.
- The national technical committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation health impact periodically reviews scientific developments and takes follow-up action.

II. EVOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

- The current procedure is based on two circulars from jointly Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Communication and Technologies and the Ministry of Interior.
- The circular fixed as per limit 100m between sensitive institutions (schools, kindergartens, hospitals...) and cellular phone BTS antennas, to minimize exposure.
- Publication of the Health ministry Circular to clarify the procedure for studying installation files for mobile phone base transceiver stations (BTS) antenna by the different departments of Ministry of Health.
- Three projects of legislations are currently being published:
 - A project of decree fixing exposure limits to EMF from 0 to 300 GHz ,
 - A project of an interministerial decree fixing SAR of telecommunication terminals.
 - A project of joint decree on provisions for the installation of broadcasting radio stations between Ministry of Health, Ministry of Communication and Technologies, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of environment.

III. AREA AND PUBLIC CONCERNS AND NATIONAL RESPONSES

- People who are living near mobile phone base transceiver stations (BTS) antenna, are considered to be the population with the highest risk of exposure.
- The number of claims of citizens about BTS installation has increased since 2016 due to the introduction of the fourth generation 4 G.
- The national technical committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation health impact (NIR) missions are as following:
 - Scientific awareness
 - Providing Guidance on the health and environmental effects of non-ionizing radiation (NIR) referring to relevant international organizations opinions.
 - Promotion of legal framework,

- The national technical committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation health impact has met four times in 2016. This committee is in charge of reviewing complaints filed regarding the installation of mobile phone base stations had treated 80 cases by the end of year.
- In our communication program between professionals , citizens and stakeholders workshops, press articles, flyers and posters had been maintained and published by ANCSEP
- Three days of information about "radiofrequency and health" for the professionals of the communes and the regional departments of health were organized in order to promote their knowledge in this field, in 2016.

IV. POLICIES AND MEASURES REGARDING THE EXPOSURE TO EMF AND EMF RISK MANAGEMENT.

With more than **7000** radio stations for mobile telephony (BTS, Node B...) installed in all of Tunisian territory, the ANF is in charge of controlling compliance with ICNIRP limits values of EMF level exposure for public.

Currently:

- 14.3 million functional lines.
- 2.5 million new mobile phones sold annually,

The control measurements of public exposures are made according to in-situ measurement protocol developed by the National Agency of Frequency France (ANFR), which is in accordance with the requirements of standard **NF EN 50492**.

The control measurements of public exposures are also made:

- Either in the systematic control framework of EM fields levels;
- Or following a complaint of citizens;

The parameter measured is the total average of electric field strength.

The measure in one point covered all radiofrequencies between 30 MHz and 3 GHz (HF, FM, PMR, TV, Radar, GSM, DCS, DECT, UMTS and LTE). It gives us the maximum exposure point (Worst case) and detailed analysis per sub-band.

Since 2009, the ANF has realized more than 576 measures in the context of compliance control of public exposure, on the whole country:

- 51% of measures are below 1V/m
- 49% are below 3 V/m.

All measurements prove that the exposure of Tunisian population to electromagnetic fields is significantly lower than the limits allowed by the current regulatory framework.

The website "cartoradio.tn" or "anf.tn" available to the public enables access to the results of the EM field measurements synthesized by measuring sheets for a given site.

V. PROSPECTS:

- Development of regulatory framework to protect population and workers against health risks associated to uncertain hazards of RF.
- Promoting capacity building of all professionals (health, telecommunication, collectivities, etc.).
- Promoting communication activities for citizens.