

Tunisia

Report on EMF Activities

**24th EMF Project International Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting
27-29 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland**

Prepared by: Mondher MANSOUR and Mohamed Wassim El HANI

National Agency for Sanitary and Environmental Control of Products (ANCSEP)

Ministry of Health

I. Evolution of the legislative and statutory framework

- The projects of legislations below are not yet published:
 - ▶▶ A project of decree fixing exposure limits to EMF from 0 to 300 GHz ,
 - ▶▶ A project of inter ministerial decree fixing SAR of telecommunication terminals.
 - ▶▶ A project of inter ministerial decree on arrangements for the installation of radio stations.

We also waiting the new ICNIRP guidelines which were planned to be published later 2018.

II. Research activities related to EMF

The principal research activities on the EMF fields are done by the Bizerte Sciences Faculty by the team of Pr Hafedh Abdelmelek. Last year, there are no new scientific publications.

III. Public concerns and national responses

The people who are living near mobile phone base transceiver stations (BTS) antenna, considered to be the population with the highest risk of exposure.

The ad hoc working group charged for review complaints filed regarding the installation of mobile phone base stations was met three times in 2018 and has treated 21 cases. Based on the precautionary measures, the ad hoc working group suggests that cellular phone BTS antenna should not be sited closer than 100 m to sensitive institutions (schools, kindergartens, universities and hospitals) to minimize exposure of neighbors.

Execution of the communication program to professionals and citizens with stakeholders (Workshops, press articles, flyers, posters, etc...). ANCSEP had organized, with the cooperation from RIVM –Netherlands- a national seminar “Non Ionizing Radiations & Health

Risks” for professionals of the communes and the regional departments of health and environment to promote their knowledge in this issue.

The “Tunisian Association for Ionizing and Non Ionizing Radiation Protection organized the “African Regional International Radiation Protection Associations”, AFRIRPA05 Congress in Tunis, Tunisia from 6 to 9 September 2018. A special session on Non Ionizing Radiation was organized.

IV. Policies and measures regarding the exposure to EMF and EMF risk management

With about 7500 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.

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.

The total average of electric field strength is then compared with the lowest level of the frequency detected in site (*fixed on the ICNIRP guidelines, 1998*).

From January 2018 to May 2019, ANF had measured 129 sites, 82% of the measures are below 2 V/m and 100 % are below 6 V/m. The maximum level measured is 4.27 V/m.

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

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

ANF projects to install a pilot network of fixed stations to measures EMF continuously. ANCSEP participate in this project on behalf of the ministry of health. These stations will be installed on hospitals and schools.