

European Centre of Technological Safety (TESEC)

Public awareness on radiological risks.

*Victor Poyarkov, The European Centre of Technological Safety,
EUR-OPA Council of Europe scientific network*

European Centre of Technological Safety (TESEC)

The lessons learned from Chernobyl disasters are a unique basis for strengthening of nuclear and radiation safety and disaster relief management.

One of the key recommendations of the International Conference "Twenty Years after Chernobyl accident. Future Outlook" was the necessity of deep analysis and the usage of "the Chernobyl lessons" for the better public awareness on the radiation risks.

The one of the problems, which is necessary to discuss with the public, is the general public perception of the radiation safety of nuclear or radiological facilities in the normal working conditions.



European Centre of Technological Safety (TESEC)

In Ukraine, there is the developed legal basis for the population protection against the radiation in the case of the nuclear or radiological accidents. In particular, the Article 3, the Law of Ukraine “On Human Protection Against Ionising Irradiation ” (further the Law “About the radiation protection.”) says:

Every person residing or temporarily located at the Ukrainian territory has the right for protection from the influence of ionising irradiation. This rights is guaranteed by realisation of complex of the measures intended to prevent influence of ionising irradiation on human organism above established limits of irradiation doses and reimbursement of damages resulting from influence of ionising irradiation.

But it impossible to protect people from hazard, if they nothing know about that.

In 2011 after Fukushima nuclear accident the Permanent Correspondent meeting of EUR-OPA of Council of Europe requested the network of scientific centers to develop booklet “Basic Knowledge of Nuclear Hazards: Lessons from CHERNOBYL and FUKUSHIMA” for better informing and protection of people against nuclear or radiation hazards.

The aim of the booklet is ambitious – to present basic knowledge of nuclear hazards that is acceptable and interesting for different groups of people: teachers, journalists, decision makers, students and others. As illustrated by Chernobyl and Fukushima, there is only one trustworthy source of information in the case of an emergency – people’s own analysis of initial information on the basis of their own basic knowledge.

European Centre of Technological Safety (TESEC)

The first draft was subject to a very wide consultation among professionals. The book was translated into eleven languages and discussed in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Luxemburg, Moldova, Morocco, Russia, San Marino, Turkey, Ukraine, USA and other countries. We received many useful proposals from journalists, decision makers, teachers and students who contributed to improving the text and making it more comprehensible to people the world over (see appended list of co-authors).

Booklet has been developed, translated to 11 languages, successfully presented in more than 20 countries and became information tool for better protection of people.

We sincerely hope this book may enhance the dissemination of basic knowledge on nuclear and radiological safety.