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COMET

Public web site

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Dissemination Level

PU	Public	PU
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the partners of the [COMET] project	
CO	Confidential, only for partners of the [COMET] project	

Executive Summary

The COMET (COordination and iMplementation of a pan-European instrument for radioecology) project public website: www.comet-radioecology.org was created in July 2013 and made publically available, ahead of schedule, in early August 2013.

The website is intended to provide information directly related to the COMET project and currently provides:

- Brief overview of the project and its activities
- Outputs of the project (e.g. Reports and Deliverables)
- Radioecology news (fed directly from the Radioecology Exchange)

COMET will also further develop and contribute to the Radioecology Exchange website (www.radioecology-exchange.org) (which was created during the STAR project (www.star-radioecology.org)). Project specific information will be hosted on the two projects own websites, www.star-radioecology.org and www.comet-radioecology.org; these sites will be accessible via the [Radioecology Exchange](#). As the STAR and COMET projects interact closely together and also with the [European Radioecology Alliance](#), the Radioecology Exchange will be modified throughout the COMET project to become a 'hub' for information related to European radioecology. This is a logical development as many of the STAR outputs will be developed and maintained by COMET (and ultimately the European Radioecology Alliance). All generally applicable information on environmental radioactivity will be made available on this site.

This approach, maintained by COMET once STAR finishes will ensure that STAR NoE outputs will remain available. Social media accounts (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) initiated in STAR have been retained and are accessible from the www.radioecology-exchange.org. The use of the Radioecology Exchange in this way ensures a sustainable long-term access to useful general information with a wider target group of stakeholders than that of STAR and COMET.

List of Acronyms

COMET (Coordination and Implementation of a Pan-European Instrument for Radioecology): A combination of collaborative project and coordination and support action (CP & CSA), funded by FP7-Fission-2013 and supported by the radioecology Alliance platform. It will extend the work of the STAR Network of Excellence and focus on collaboration with NERIS and MELODI platforms (www.comet-radioecology.org ; email: comet@sckcen.be).

European Radioecology Alliance: An Association whose members bring together parts of their respective research and development programmes into an integrated programme that maintains and enhances radioecological competences and experimental infrastructures, and addresses scientific and educational challenges in assessing the impact of radioactive substances on humans and the environment (<http://www.er-alliance.org/>).

Radioecology Exchange: Created during the STAR project this site is a 'hub' for information related to European radioecology (www.radioecology-exchange.org).

STAR: (Strategy for Allied Radioecology): A Network of Excellence supporting the Radioecology Alliance platform in radioecology. STAR is funded from February 2011 through June 2015 within the European Commission's 7th framework (www.star-radioecology.org).

WP: Work Package

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COMET Public website

1. The current COMET website

The COMET project public ‘interim’ website (www.comet-radioecology.org) was created (on a wiki platform, hosted by NERC-CEH) ahead of schedule to give the project an early web presence.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the COMET project website. The header includes the COMET logo and navigation links (Home, View, Edit). The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the COMET project web page' and provides an overview of the project. A diagram illustrates the relationship between COMET and other projects and networks, including OPERA, SRA, and EURADOS. The right sidebar features 'Latest News' with links to draft Euratom work programmes and EU-NORM 2 2014.

Fig 1. Screenshot of the current COMET website

One advantage of using a wiki platform (as opposed to a traditional website) is that all project partners can be given rights to add to and edit the website content. Currently, a representative from each partner institute involved in COMET has these ‘permissions’ and more people can be added at any time.

COMET also has a portal hosted by SCK which is used by the consortium to store and access documents related to the project. Each WP has a ‘working folder’ for documents in preparation and folders to store Deliverables, Milestones and presentations and minutes from meetings etc.

2. Proposed revisions to the COMET website

The interim web pages will be updated throughout the COMET project. Currently (Dec. 2013), each of the WP leaders are creating suitable summaries of the WP they are responsible for and providing pictures so WP5 can update the site. Summaries of project deliverables will be added soon after the documents are finalised.

Figure 2 presents a draft of the proposed new 'home page' of www.comet-radioecology.org which should be finalised in January 2014.

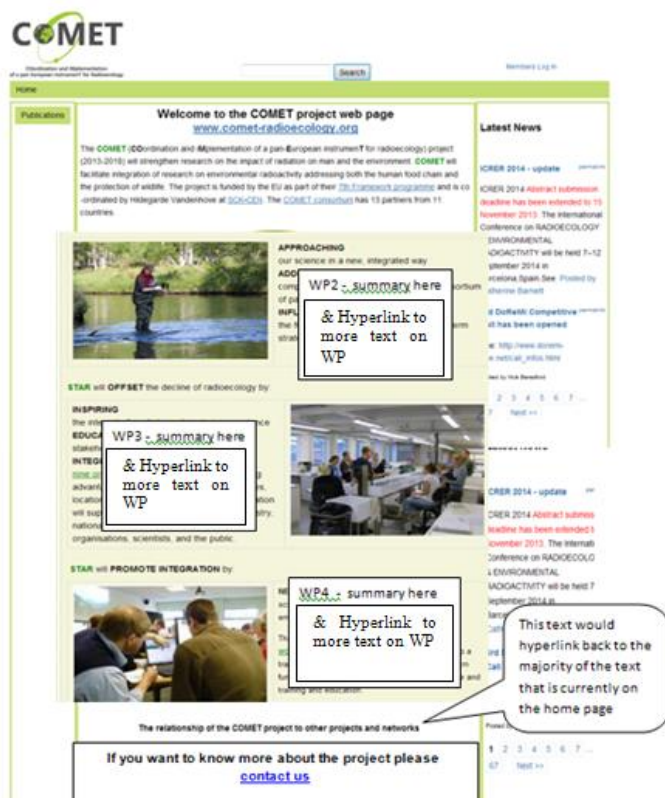


Fig 2. The revised COMET project home page

Also, early in 2014, the COMET website content will be 'moved' from the NERC-CEH wiki platform onto an independently hosted site (as this was preferred by partners involved in the project). It will retain the same web address (www.comet-radioecology.org) and partners will also retain the ability to add/remove information from the site.

Information specific to the COMET project (e.g. WP descriptions, reports and deliverables) will be hosted on this project specific website. More 'general' information (e.g. data from the observatory sites etc.) will be hosted on the Radioecology Exchange.

The COMET web pages will be constructed in such a way that they are promoted by search engines.

3. The Radioecology Exchange

The Radioecology Exchange website (www.radioecology-exchange.org) was created during the STAR project (www.star-radioecology.org). COMET will develop and contribute to the Radioecology Exchange throughout the lifetime of project. Very visible hyperlinks will be provided to both the COMET and STAR project specific websites and to the website of the European Radioecology Alliance web site (<http://www.er-alliance.org/>). Hyperlinks to other relevant organisations and networks will also be provided.

As both STAR and COMET interact closely together and also with the [European Radioecology Alliance](http://www.er-alliance.org/), the Radioecology Exchange will be modified throughout the COMET project to become a 'hub' for information related to European radioecology. This approach, maintained by COMET once STAR finishes will ensure that STAR NoE outputs will remain available. Social media accounts (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) initiated in STAR have been retained and will remain accessible from the [Radioecology Exchange](http://www.radioecology-exchange.org). The use of the Radioecology Exchange in this way ensures a sustainable long-term access to useful general information with a wider target group of stakeholders than that of STAR and COMET.

The Radioecology Exchange is currently undergoing improvement (as part of the STAR project) in part to provide access to the COMET project website. A draft of the site which is due to be completed in January 2014 is shown in Fig. 3.



Fig 3. Draft of the proposed revisions to the Radioecology Exchange home page.

During 2014, the Radioecology Exchange website content will be 'moved' from the NERC-CEH wiki platform onto an independently hosted site (as this was preferred by partners). It will retain the same web address (www.radioecology-exchange.org) and partners will also retain the ability to add/remove information from the site.

Highlighted aspects of the Radioecology Exchange site include (taken from D5.2):

- News blog – Items announcing project outputs, training courses, jobs, studentships etc.
- Virtual laboratory – These web pages, initiated under STAR, will provide information which encourages integration through joint research and integrated use of data and sample materials. They will focus on four categories:
 - Methodological: descriptions and video clips of commonly used analytical methods and protocols and the procedures used in STAR and COMET.
 - Informative: databases made available by STAR/COMET partners together with details of sample archives held (if any). Factsheets on radioecologically important radionuclides and 'topical descriptions' which show absorbed dose estimations for humans and wildlife for typical environmental exposure scenarios.
 - Models: Brief descriptions on how to use two models in-part maintained by the COMET collaborators (CROM and the ERICA-Tool).
 - Training and Education Platform: a focal point for students and professionals interested in radioecology/environmental radioactivity. These pages will present an overview of course modules; course curriculums and learning outcomes; access to some training videos, lectures, presentations and summary notes from STAR and COMET training courses and include a FAQ section.
- Observatory sites – STAR has identified two contaminated field sites (in Ukraine (Chernobyl) and Poland) at which collaborative studies could be focussed to test hypotheses and approaches. Data collected from these sites under COMET/STAR will be openly available, maximizing sharing of data and resources. Further research at the sites is planned by COMET and could also be planned in the future by the European Radioecology Alliance partners.
- Outputs from previous EURATOM projects – reports and deliverables from EC funded projects have been compiled to facilitate easy access.

4. Target audience

The COMET and the Radioecology Exchange websites are focused towards those involved in radiation protection/radioecology. They are likely to be from research institutes, universities, regulators, industry and non-government organisations (NGOs) or consultants acting on their behalf.