

Seminars of the
CRPR - Centre for Radiation Protection Research

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The CRPR invites you to the seminar entitled:

Kompetenzverbund Strahlenforschung (KVSF) – the German scientific program to increase the competence in the area of radiation research. History and experience.

by:

Prof. Wolfgang-Ulrich Müller

German Commission on Radiological Protection (SSK)
and Kompetenzverbund Strahlenforschung (KVSF)

when and where:

Tuesday, April 9th, 14:00, room E306
Svante Arrhenius väg 20C, Stockholm University,
106 91 Stockholm

Everyone is welcome...

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ABSTRACT

Kompetenzverbund Strahlenforschung (KVSF) – the German scientific program to increase the competence in the area of radiation research. History and experience

In the years 1981, 1993, 1994, 2000, and 2006 the German Commission on Radiological Protection (Strahlenschutzkommission, SSK) addressed the problem that radiation research in Germany was insufficiently funded and that institutes were closed down after the retirement of the head of the institute. Nothing happened! The situation got worse and worse. On the occasion of a supper together with the, at that time, Minister of Environment, Sigmar Gabriel, I, in my function as chairman of the SSK, touched upon this problem in my after-dinner speech. Minister Gabriel immediately promised to help. After a lot of activities (very time-consuming, partly very frustrating), the “Kompetenzverbund Strahlenforschung” (KVSF) was founded on February 7th, 2007 with a yearly financial support of 3 million euros in the beginning (this has been increased, meanwhile, to slightly more than 5 million euros per year). The money is provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

The most essential aims are to increase the competence in the area of radiation research and to support young scientists. The most important instrument to achieve these goals is the funding of networks, meaning that about 3 to 5 institutions in the field of radiation research apply for funding by submitting a proposal, in which a common question is addressed from different perspectives. An essential requirement for being funded is the integration of young scientists (graduates, postgraduates, post-docs) and some advanced training for them in the field of radiation research (summer-schools, seminars, exchange of young scientists among different groups of the network). After some problems during the start phase (in the first year), the system is running quite well, in the meantime. The proposals are peer-reviewed and extensively checked, whether they are in compliance with the aims of the KVSF. Meanwhile, it is an “open call”, so that proposals can be submitted at any time; there is no dead-line. Up to now, 20 network proposals have been funded and 13 of these are still running. About 150 publications have been produced and more than 100 young scientists got in touch with radiation research.