



EPPR Expert Group in Radiation (RAD EG) Mandate

1. Background – EPPR Mandate and Strategic Plan

The Arctic Council Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group contributes to the prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies, radiological and nuclear incidents, and other accidents, and search and rescue (SAR) in the Arctic. While not an operational response organization, members of the WG conduct projects to address gaps, prepare strategies, share information, collect data, and cooperate with relevant partners on capabilities and research needs in order to prepare for future challenges and maximize the use of available resources available in the Arctic. Projects and activities include the development of guidance and risk assessment methodologies, the coordination of response exercises and training, and exchange of information on best practices regarding the prevention, preparedness and response to accidents and threats from acute releases of pollutants and radionuclides, and the consequences of natural disasters. The EPPR mandate is refined biennially through Ministerial Declarations and is further shaped by guidance from Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs).

Vision:

EPPR strives to be the premier international forum for collaboration on prevention, preparedness and response issues in order to advance risk mitigation and improve response capacity and capabilities in the Arctic.

Guiding Principles:

The work of EPPR is based on the following guiding principles:

- The cooperation between the participating countries
- The involvement of Arctic inhabitants
- Cooperation with external bodies

The EPPR Strategic Plan Framework consist of five overarching objectives:

Objective 1: Define the risk potential for emergencies due to commercial activities, nuclear/radiological material, and natural disasters that pose a threat in the Arctic.

Objective 2: Improve prevention measures aimed at reducing accidents which could result in environmental emergencies in the Arctic

Objective 3: Improve emergency preparedness and response programs at local, national, regional and international levels, including arrangements for mutual assistance, to ensure they are commensurate with the level of risk that exists.

Objective 4: Information sharing

Objective 5: Work to effectively implement relevant agreements among the Arctic States and arrangements of the Arctic Council in order to advance emergency prevention, preparedness and response capabilities.

2. EPPR Expert Group in Radiation (RAD EG)

The function of the EPPR Expert Group in Radiation (RAD EG) is to facilitate the implementation of the EPPR mandate and strategic plan framework with regard to radiological and nuclear emergencies.

The work of the RAD EG shall be in line with the Arctic Council and EPPR WG Guiding Principles and focus on the EPPR Strategic Plan Framework Objectives 1 – 5.

The RAD EG will cooperate with other relevant external bodies to disseminate and complement existing work in EPPR. This will minimize overlap with existing work and ensure the incorporation of the most relevant international approaches. Collaborating and participating organizations in RAD EG meetings may include the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other Arctic Council working groups.

3. Administration and Organizational Structure

- The EPPR RAD EG reports to the EPPR WG at its scheduled meetings. Between sessions, the RAD EG reports to the EPPR Chair.
- The EPPR WG appoints expert members of the RAD EG, as communicated via the EPPR Arctic State and PP HoDs.
- Projects to be undertaken by the RAD EG will be presented to and agreed by consensus by EPPR Member States and Permanent Participants during regularly scheduled EPPR meetings or intersessional decision.
- The RAD EG presents updates on projects and activities undertaken by the RAD EG at regularly scheduled EPPR meetings. The RAD EG will have its main focus on EPPR-I meetings each year.
- The RAD EG is chaired (Chair) on two-year terms by a representative from one of Arctic States or Permanent Participants, which may be the EPPR Member State holding the current Arctic Council Chairmanship or as recommended by the Expert Group, through consensus approval by the EPPR WG. A Co-Chair position may be a representative from one of the Arctic States or Permanent Participants not holding the position of RAD EG Chair.
- The Chair and Co-Chair responsibilities include the management and facilitation of RAD EG meetings (both in-person and teleconferences), projects, and activities. Even though project leads may differ from the RAD EG Chair, the RAD EG Chair reports the status and results of projects to the EPPR WG. The RAD EG Chair informs the EPPR Secretariat on the administration, agenda, and outcomes of RAD EG activities.
- Arctic Council Member States, Permanent Participants, and Observers should endeavor to participate in RAD EG activities as per the Arctic Council Rules of Procedures. RAD EG meetings



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and intersessional activities will be scheduled in alignment with other Arctic Council and EPPR WG activities, when possible.

- EPPR may choose that the RAD EG Chair or Co-chair or other RAD EG members represent EPPR on topics related to radiation or nuclear matters under the EPPR mandate.

4. Amendment/Termination

This RAD EG Mandate is effective from the date of signature and may be terminated by consensus approval of the EPPR Heads of Delegation. This RAD EG Mandate may be revised/amended biennially by either consensus approval of the EPPR WG or through Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs)/Ministerial Declaration.

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Jens Peter Holst-Andersen
EPPR Working Group Chair