

The Newsletter Online interactive site is operational

Francesco d'Errico ⁽¹⁾, **Wolfgang Dörr** ⁽²⁾,
Michael Gruenberger ⁽³⁾, **Pascal Pihet** ⁽⁴⁾, **Paul Schofield** ⁽³⁾

(1) University of Pisa, Italy

(2) Technical University of Dresden, Germany

(3) University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

(4) Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire, France

A newly designed web site for the Newsletter Online has been released in May 2003 (www.euradnews.org). Most of you have visited the site already and received update e-mails. We now have six months of experience with the new site and with the editorial operations. The so-called user interface (i.e. the public site) and the administrator/editor interface have been significantly updated and are presently fully operational. Although the web site is hopefully quite user-friendly, with the booklet published in January 2004 we wish to introduce the readers of the Newsletter to some new features and to summarise the basic instructions for use. This information is available on the Web page under '**Contacts. About the newsletter**'.

The first Newsletter was issued in August 1997 in a booklet printed to about 1200 exemplars jointly edited by EULEP (European late effects project group) and EURADOS (European radiation dosimetry group) and published with the support of the European Commission (DG RTD). The Newsletter Internet site was released in 2000 as a mirror of the booklet meant to reach a broader audience. The last issue in this form (nr 12) was a special issue dedicated to training and education in radiation protection.

Since then, the Newsletter Online has been transformed into an interactive site using a database entirely operated from the World Wide Web. As a visitor, you will not see much difference with the original site since the scope of the Newsletter and its structure are basically the same. However, as a contributor to the Newsletter you will notice a major evolution in the publication process, whose main tool has become the Internet site. This approach offers distinct advantages, mainly:

- the editorial operations are simplified, resulting in shorter publication times;
- online interactions between readers and editors are possible for the submission of news, exchange of comments, registration and subscription;
- the information is recorded in a database and is searchable using simple queries.

Two "issues" of the Newsletter web site will be released each year, in analogy with the two previous printed booklets, and each time they will be introduced by a new editorial article. Thus, issue nr 13 was released in May, while the present editorial opens issue nr 14. However, between the two issues, the web site will be continuously updated by posting the contributions submitted online. The printed booklet will no longer be published twice a year, but will be replaced by special issues covering specific events. The present Newsletter booklet focuses on introducing the new web site. The next booklet is planned for March 2004 and will focus on the abstracts of the forthcoming symposium "Biological and physical dosimetry for radiation protection" jointly organised by EULEP and EURADOS (see announcements).

The Editors hope that the present approach will meet the expectations of readers and contributors and that you will visit regularly the new site, contribute the Newsletter by your submissions and participate in the forums. Furthermore, we will be pleased to receive your comments and suggestions for improvements.