

RICOMET Panel 9: Communication in the spotlight

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Communication about radiological risks, especially for low radiation doses, faces specific challenges: complexity in assessing causal relationships, uncertainty and ambiguity in interpreting results. Scientific advice related to radiological risks for policy makers or potentially affected audiences has traditionally been framed as providing objective knowledge to support rational decision making. However, over the last decades the understanding of what science can and should deliver has dramatically changed. In this session, communication models for radiological risk communication addressing complexity, uncertainty, ambiguity for different exposure situations and different stakeholders will be presented and discussed. It will be highlighted how radiation protection advisers and communicators can frame their messages such that uncertainties and ambiguities are not ignored or misinterpreted by policy makers or other stakeholders, including lay people.