

Integrating Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in  
radiation protection research

Developing a  
**Strategic Research Agenda for  
Social Sciences and Humanities**

in the EU H2020 CONCERT project

C. Turcanu, T. Perko, G. Meskens, C. Schieber\*

SCK•CEN

\*CEPN



# Why integrate Social Sciences and Humanities in radiation protection research? An example

- Emergency response and recovery a matter of (only?)  
... *dispersion and dose calculations, radioecology, radiation dosimetry, medical surveillance*



- “Radiation protection is not only a matter for science. It is a problem of **philosophy**, and **morality**, and the utmost **wisdom**” (former chair ICRP)
- The final decision-making process, may include “**societal concerns** and **ethical aspects**, as well as considerations of **transparency**” (ICRP 103)
- “Member States shall provide [...] for the **involvement** of stakeholders.” (BSS)
- “Laws for rights and relief for those affected must be made with their **participation**” (10 Lessons learned after Fukushima)

# Why integrate Social Sciences and Humanities in radiation protection research? Different rationales

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- Science for people and with people
  - EU Research Agenda
  - Make research more reflective, thus more accountable towards society
  - EU regulations and guidelines
- Better processes and better outcomes
  - Facilitate transdisciplinary dialogue
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - More deliberate policy advice
- Achieve predefined ends
  - Societal relevant goals such as legitimacy, inclusiveness
  - Align both the process and its outcomes with values, needs and expectations of society



# Steps towards integration of SSH in European radiation protection research projects

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- Importance of social and ethical aspects recognized in some areas and included in EU projects (e.g. waste, post-accident recovery)
- Expectations for SSH in EURATOM in the future
  - **Not only coordination and support actions, but also research**
  - **“Social” integrated with “technical”, not treated separately**
  - **Need to bring together natural scientists, social scientists and humanists**
- Dialogues in projects dedicated to SSH (e.g. EAGLE)
- SSH research included in specific contexts (e.g. PREPARE)
- FP7 OPERRA
  - Initiate reflection on better integration of SSH in radiation protection (low dose research)
- H2020 project CONCERT
  - **Strategic Research Agenda** for SSH in radiation protection research

# Why an SRA for Social Sciences and Humanities in radiation protection?

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- Give sufficient attention to SSH research
  - Cover knowledge gaps
  - Avoid fragmentation
- Keep up to date with the state of the art in SSH fields
  - Involve researchers outside nuclear
  - Learn from each other
  - Highlight importance of different fields of SSH
- Facilitate transition to transdisciplinary research

# CONCERT: where are we and where are we going? (1)

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- Three focus points in CONCERT
  - Ethics and justification
  - Risk perception and risk communication
  - Radiation protection culture
- Collection of topics so far: broader than the 3 focus points
  - Events organised in the framework of European projects OPERRA, EAGLE, PREPARE, CONCERT
    - E.g. OPERRA workshops, RICOMET 2015 conference
    - Questionnaire OPERRA
  - Discussions with radiation protection platforms' members

# Elements of a Strategic Research Agenda for SSH

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- **Transversal topics**

- Context: social, political, economic, cultural, etc.
- Limitations of models and hypotheses
- Stakeholder engagement



- **Focused topics**

- Currently grouped per CONCERT focus point
  - (see printed document)



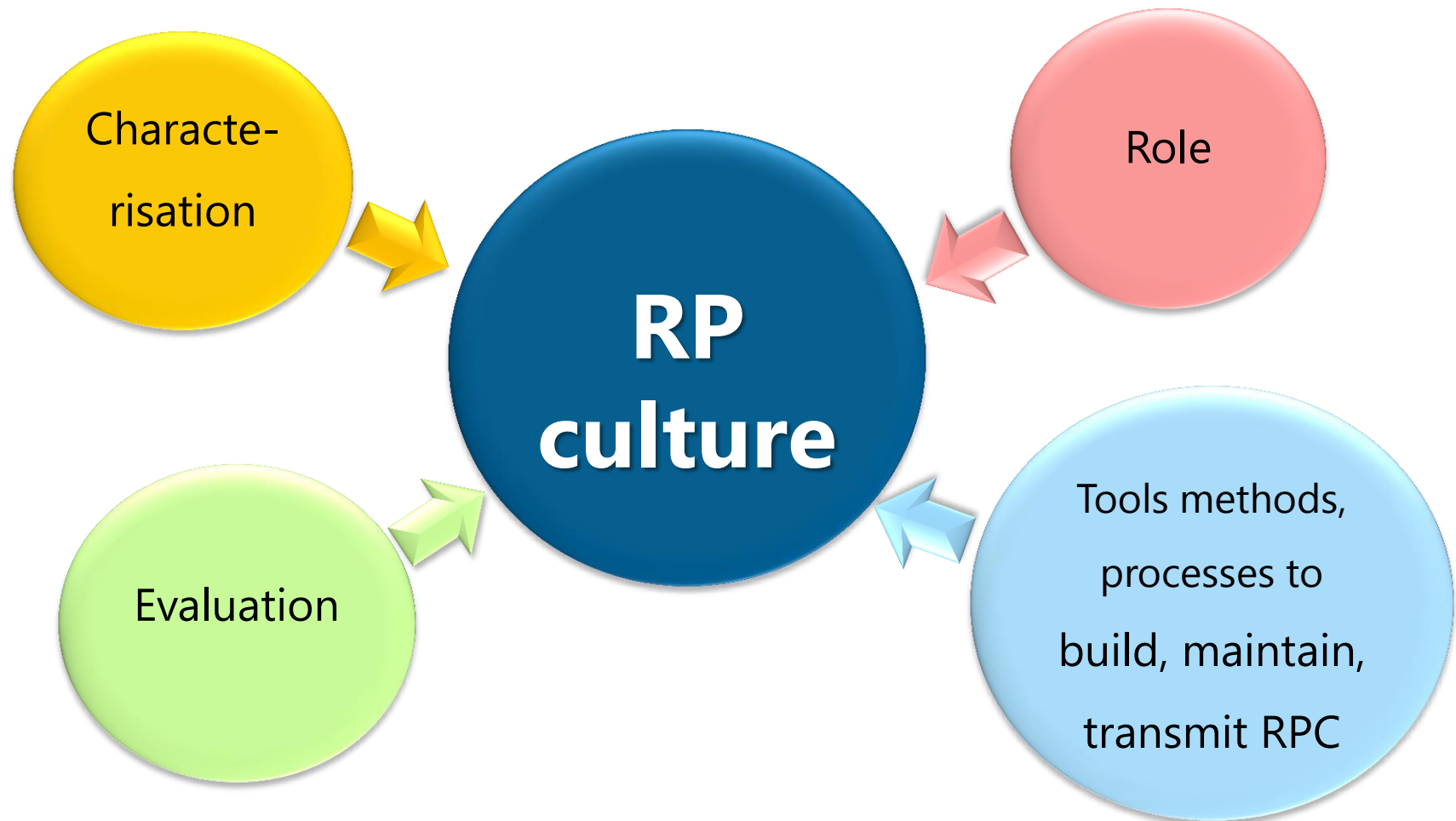
- **Several categorisations possible**

- SSH fields
- Radiation protection research areas, exposure situations, applications of IR

# Elements of a Strategic Research Agenda for SSH

## Example of SSH field

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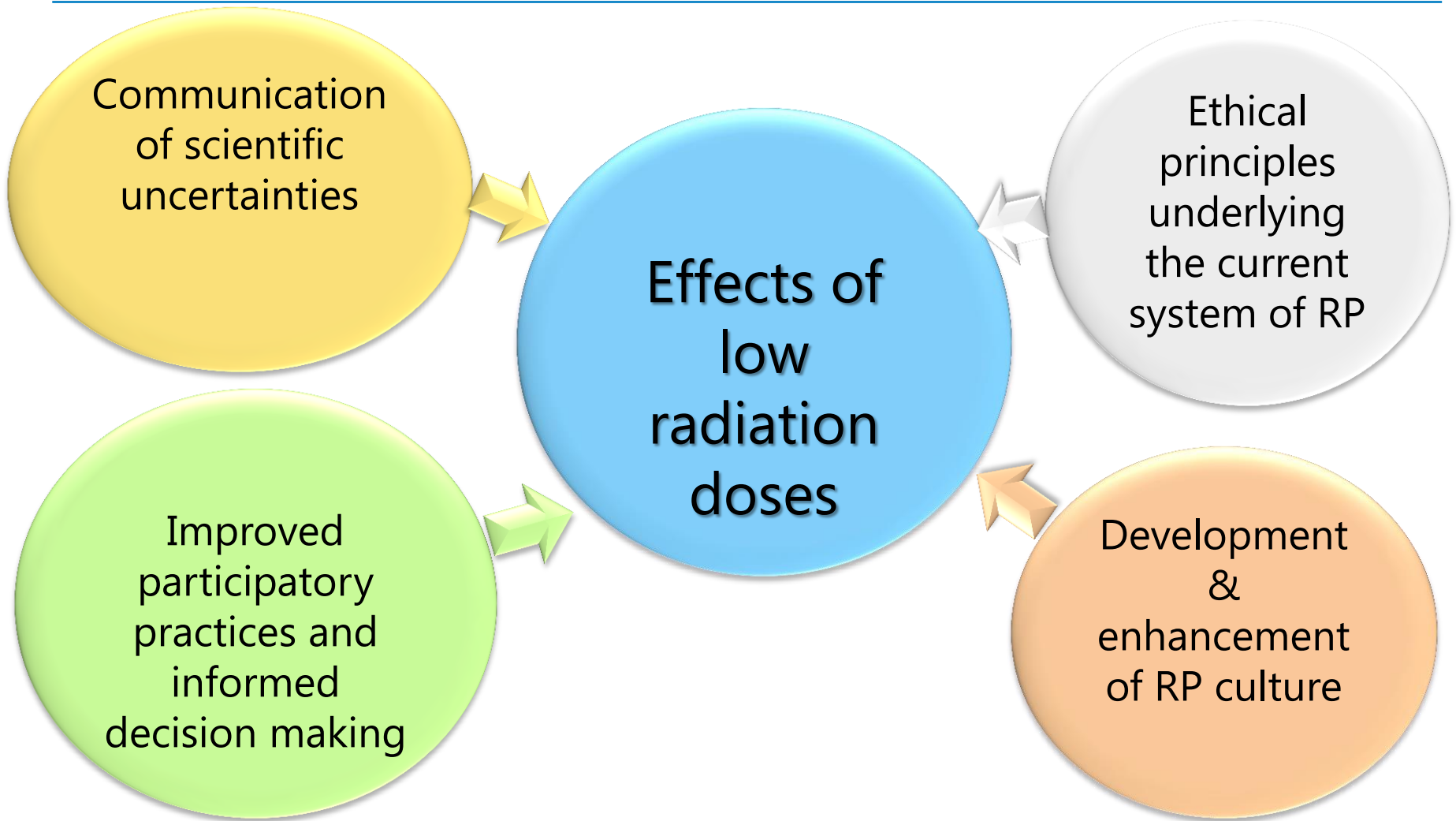
Specific fields: occupational exposure, post-accident recovery, NORM, radon exposure, medical, ...



# Elements of a Strategic Research Agenda for SSH

## Example of RP area

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Specific fields: post-accident recovery, NORM, radon exposure, medical, ...

# CONCERT: where are we and where are we going? (2)

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- Receive **YOUR** input at RICOMET 2016
  - Corner for collecting SSH ideas (post-it) - "My ideas for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)"
  - Round table discussion with radiation protection platforms
  - Open Workshop
  - Throughout the conference
- Discussion on the SRA for SSH at the Radiation Protection Week (Oxford, UK, 19-23 September 2016)
  - Consolidate a SRA for SSH
- By 10/2016: SSH SRA submitted to EC with priority list
  - Hope for an open call for EURATOM SSH research



# Conclusion

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- Social and technical influence each other and are co-produced
- SSH includes various fields of research
- SSH can enhance research on radiological protection and nuclear safety
- Interaction is sought with a broad spectrum of stakeholders for:
  - Collecting needs for SSH research in radiation protection
  - Assigning priorities to collected topics
  - Co-creating a SRA



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Your opinion matters:  
**engage with us**  
in creating a SRA for SSH !