

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

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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

- 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

- 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?

- 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)

- 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

- **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)

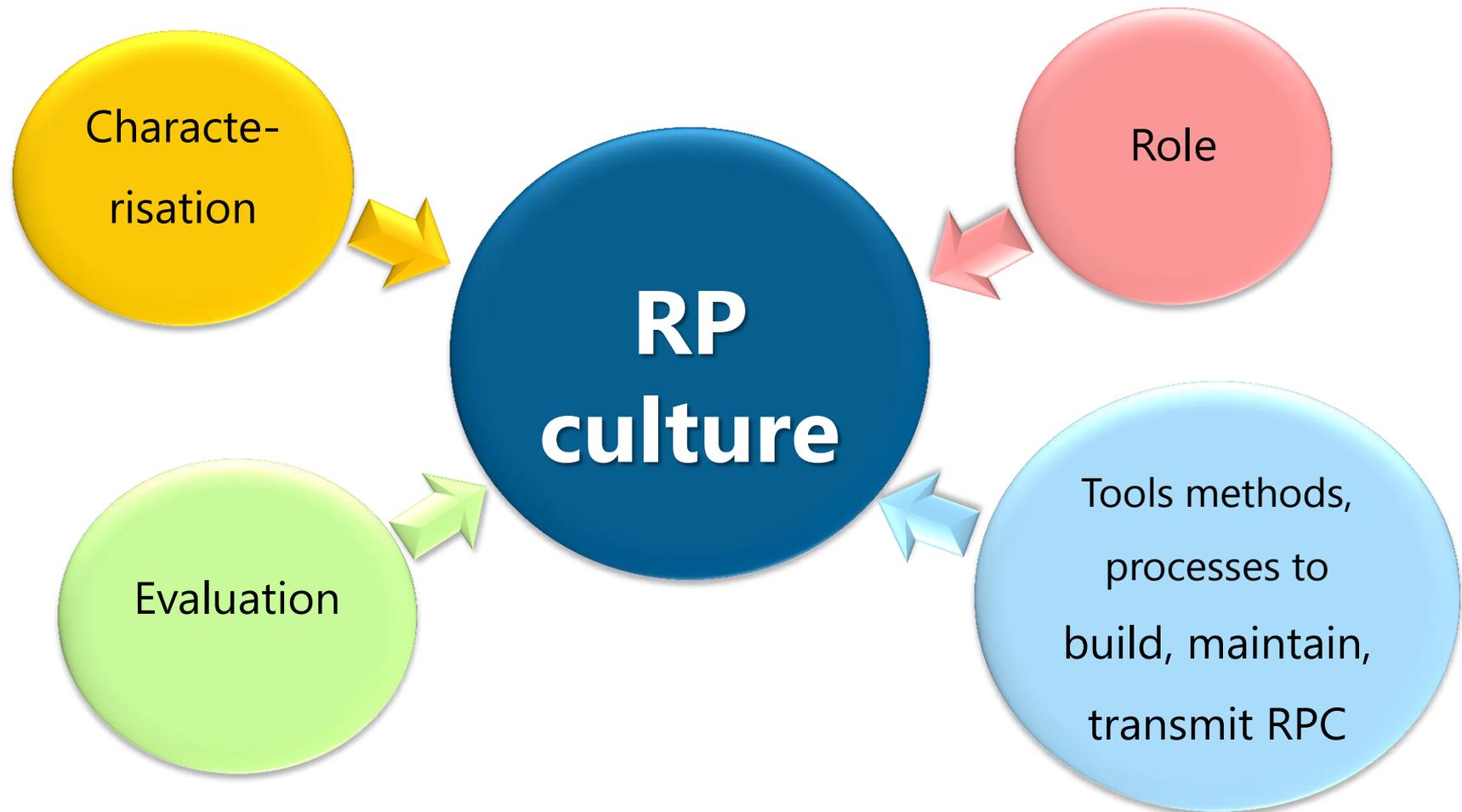


- **Several categorisations possible**

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

Elements of a Strategic Research Agenda for SSH

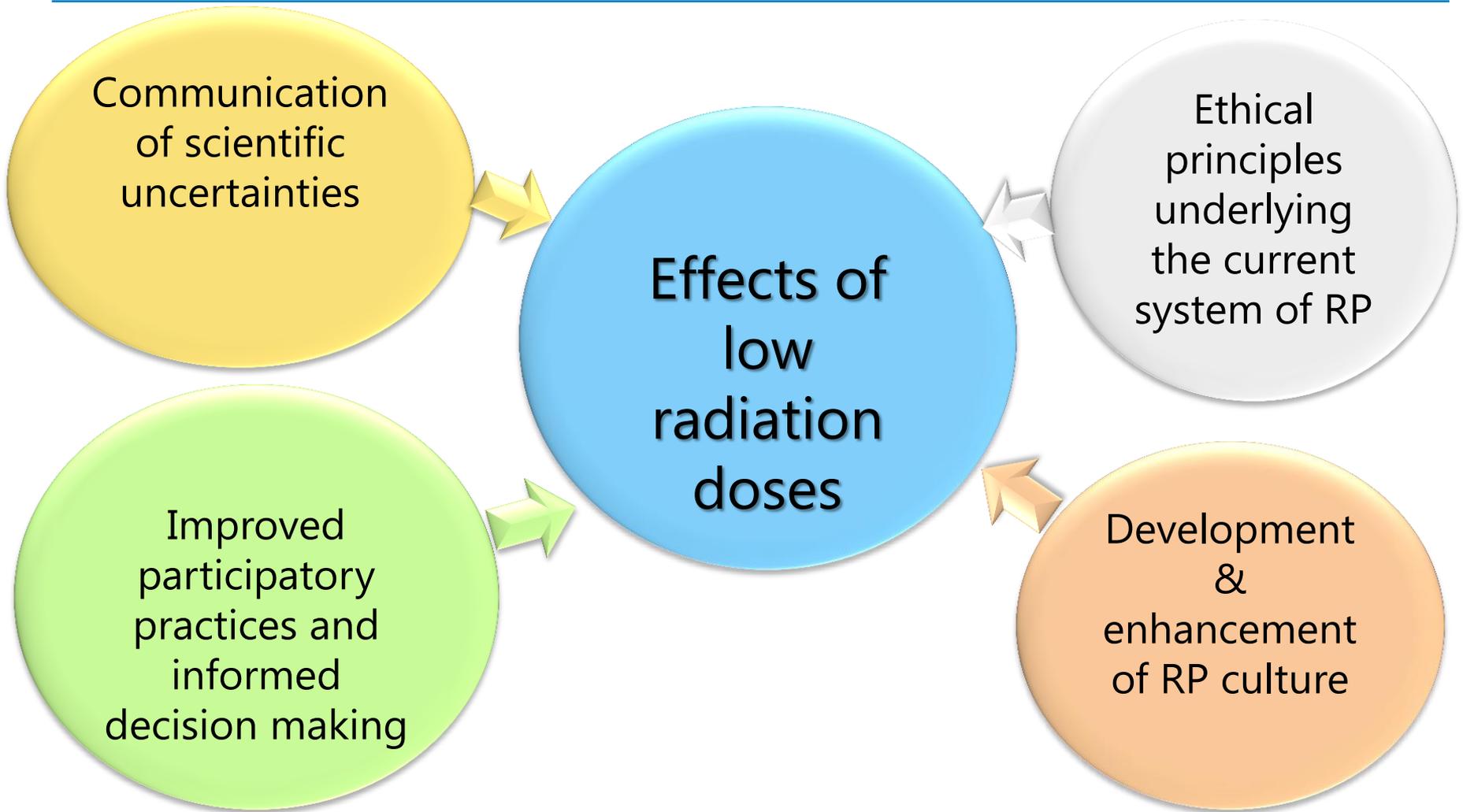
Example of SSH field



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

Elements of a Strategic Research Agenda for SSH

Example of RP area



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

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

- 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

- 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



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