**12th Coordination Meeting of the IAEA’s Network of Analytical Laboratories for the Measurement of Environmental Radioactivity**

**Information Sheet**

**IAEA Environment Laboratories, Monaco**

**13–15 October 2015**

**Meeting ID: KX-TM-49983**

*Meeting hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, IAEA Environment Laboratories*

# BACKGROUND

ALMERA (‘Analytical Laboratories for the Measurement of Environmental Radioactivity’) is a worldwide network of analytical laboratories, established by the IAEA. Through methodological and data quality support received from the IAEA and collaborative method development and validation, ALMERA member laboratories are able to provide internationally acceptable radioanalytical data in normal situations as well as in case of accidental or intentional releases of radioactivity, as requested by their nominating authorities.

The ALMERA network holds annual coordination meetings to discuss the implementation of planned activities and to define future activities of the network.

Within this context, ALMERA laboratories’ representatives are invited to attend the **12th Coordination Meeting of the ALMERA Network**, to be held from **13 to 15 October 2015 at the IAEA Environment Laboratories** in **Monaco**.

# OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The objective of the meeting is to review ALMERA activities and to define a future work plan for developing the ALMERA network’s activities in the following fields: recommended radioanalytical methods, reference materials and proficiency testing, methodologies supporting routine and emergency environmental monitoring, and radioecological assessment.

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

* Present and discuss ALMERA proficiency test results and related proposals
* Discuss the current status and plans for recommended analytical procedures developed within the ALMERA network
* Discuss priorities for training courses and workshops
* Discuss means for communication and data sharing and exchange among ALMERA laboratories
* Discuss initiatives for regional cooperation and collaboration with other networks
* Identify work plans and proposals for the ALMERA regional groups and task groups
* Review and update the general ALMERA work plan

The venue has been chosen so as to facilitate the involvement of specialists working in related fields at the IAEA Environment Laboratories to support the exchange of information and collaboration with the IAEA’s Environment Programme.

# SCOPE AND FORMAT OF THE MEETING

The meeting will provide an opportunity to undertake, at the senior technical level, a thorough review of the plan for ALMERA future activities. The meeting will also discuss how to further increase the role of regional coordination centres in mobilizing the network’s experience, encouraging exchange of expertise, and supporting capacity building at regional level.

The meeting will consist of a plenary session and working sessions for regional groups and for task groups. The plenary session will include presentations by ALMERA members on developments in radioanalytical methods, quality systems and environmental radioactivity monitoring and assessment projects in their laboratories and presentations by IAEA specialists in relevant areas. The overall ALMERA work plan will be presented at the plenary session on Thursday, 15 October 2015.

The meeting agenda will be circulated in due course.

# PARTICIPATION

All ALMERA representatives wishing to attend the meeting should be nominated by their Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs or National Atomic Energy Authority). Nominations for participation (using **Form A**) should be received by the IAEA not later than **24 August 2015**.

The final list of participants will be approved by **27 August 2015** and the confirmation of acceptance will be sent to the participants by the end of that week.

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please be informed that attendance at the meeting is free of charge for ALMERA members. However, members’ participation should come at no cost to the IAEA (accommodation, travel costs and all other expenses are to be covered by participants’ institutes), with the exception of a limited number of grants, which will be made available to applicants from developing Member States.

The grant application (using **Form C**) should be received by the IAEA no later than **24 August 2015**. No grant application will be considered after this date.

# LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is the responsibility of all participants to make their own travel arrangements to/from Monaco. Detailed information on accommodation, local transport to/from the meeting venue, and other organizational details, will be sent to all designated participants by the IAEA Administrative Secretary of the meeting.

# VISAS

Designated participants who require a visa to enter France should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of France well in advance of entry. An official letter of invitation will be issued to all designated participants by the IAEA Scientific Secretary of the meeting.

# IAEA SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY

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