

Agenda of the Case Study MACH

“Mobile phones, Antennas, Cables and public Health” (MACH)

Wednesday 20.06.2007

9:00-9:30

Introduction to the case study exercise in plenary

9:30-11:30

Work on case reframing in groups

The choice of procedure by groups (see the below exemple)

The final solution - an agreed procedure by all groups

12:00-14:00

Distribution of tasks among participants

Justification of the adopted approach

Draft of the rational participatory

Defining the media role

Sharing the results

An example of a possible participatory tool for MACH

The case study is addressing the healthy technologies for mobile communication in any urban area in Romania. The overall objectives are::

- Increasing the awareness of people regarding the mobile phones and antennas expansion and the clarification on the adverse effects of mobile phones antennas/base stations on the roofs of buildings in crowded areas.
- Identification of the obstacles to urban protection against harmful radiation
- Pertinent visions on radiation impact on communities' health
- Action plans to influence policy decisions in the field of health protection
- Action plan to value the scientific results in the field of healthy technologies and/or protective devices

The general context of participatory exercise could be described in the general concern pf public for a comfortable use of mobile phones in the context of so many base stations, antennas. It is proposed a tool for public participation but all trainers should sustain their own ideas on the best tool to be used or to critically improve the proposed tool – Workshop scenarios.

The institution interested in the public participation to debate the healthy aspects of mobile phones antennas is Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Bucharest.

It could be used for instance, from the CIPAST platform the Workshop scenarios tool. In this respect the workshop will explore several scenarios in which the technology, responsible to solve the mobile communication impact on human health, is assessed and disseminated for citizens, the decision makers, politicians, business representatives and scientists or experts. The Procida participants will be asked to contribute to the development of scenarios for the Workshop scenario tool to be used in Romanian context.

The four scenarios presented as visions on deliberation of “what to do now or tomorrow for a “healthy” development” are:

“All block of flats with aerial antennas for mobile communication versus public health”,

“All streets with aerial cables versus public health”,

“All individuals with several mobile phones versus public health”,

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"No devices to attenuate the radiation impact versus public health.

Scenarios represent urban development aspects within an extensive and exaggerate situations of an unbalanced policy in the development of the communication technology which led to irreversible health damages. Scenarios differ in the technical and organizational solutions but have similarities in their social values when generating action plans ensuring the public health in our days and in the future.

The four scenarios are judged under the three-dimensional context according to who it will be acting , how it will be acting and when it will be acting

In the 'who' dimension, the question is whether the Ministries, local authority, the market, the media, scientists or the individuals' representatives are to be the catalyst of development and implementation of practical solutions offered by science.

In the 'how' dimension, the question is whether a focus on technology will provide the answers, or whether people must, to a great extent, solve the problems themselves.

In the "when" dimension, the question is whether the institutional obstacles, parties' mercantile interests will delay the implementation of any solution to maintain or increase the public health.

The MACH Scenario Workshop possible results are:

- Identification of the obstacles to urban protection against radiations
- Pertinent visions on radiation impact on individuals and communities
- Action plans in order to influence the policy decisions of:
 - the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
 - the Ministry of Health
 - The Bucharest city hall
 - Ministry of Education and Research
- Action plans in order to value the scientific results of:
 - Research Institutes, Research centers, Universities, Inventors belonging to the field of communication, health, informatics etc.
 - Mobile phones Companies (Orange, Connex, Vodafone etc).

The results to be obtained

- A participatory tool to be implemented in a real case for the first time in Romania for MACH
- A good argumentation of the methods
- A frame in term of costs and of scientific information of the MACH case
- The exchange of views on the topic as well as on the best participatory method for other controversial cases.