

International Radiation Protection Association Young Generation Network (IRPA YGN)

Strategic Agenda for 2022— 2024

Final version: 28 February 2022

Introduction

What is the IRPA YGN?

The IRPA Young Generation Network is an international network of “Young Professionals” across the field of Radiation Protection. Its primary function is to promote communication, collaboration and professional development of Students and Young Professionals in the area of Radiation Protection and its allied fields. Membership of the IRPA YGN is open to all members of national radiation protection YGN’s, and where a national YGN is not in place, students or professionals working within the first 10 years of the career in the field of radiation protection or its allied fields.

Our vision

“To be recognised as the leading international network and voice for young professionals and students in the field of Radiation Protection”

Our mission

“To encourage, inspire and develop the next generation of radiation protection professionals across the world and promote the communication and collaboration of our members”

Our objectives

Underpinning our mission are the following core objectives:

1. Attracting individuals into the field of Radiation Protection, by engaging and inspiring them early in their career journeys.
2. Enable the development of students and young professionals studying / working in the field of Radiation Protection by providing valuable personal and professional development and growth opportunities.
3. Providing a supportive and growing community, promoting communication and collaboration to help retain young professionals working in the field of Radiation Protection.
4. Improve the understanding of Radiation Protection and its allied fields across the world by being ambassadors for the field.

Why a strategic agenda?

For IRPA, the year 2021 is the beginning of the chairmanship of M. Bernard Le Guen and also the elaboration of the IRPA Strategic Programme for the next four years. The IRPA YGN will develop its Strategic Agenda in line with the core of the forthcoming IRPA Strategic Programme and close collaboration with the IRPA Chair and Mrs. Hiroko Yoshida, the Contact Person with the Executive Council. Both have expressed their support to the IRPA YGN and foster the activities already engaged by the YGNs.

In addition, the context has become very different in the last months and the Strategic Agenda has suffered the delay and have been adapted to reflect these evolutions.

The use of webinars – and other tools for virtual interaction – has skyrocketed as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and radiation protection should not be an exception. The IRPA YGN will support IRPA in engaging a global reflection on the usage of the large variety of tools now available for distant interaction and how it can interface in IRPA organization.

The IRPA YGN will then particularly **considers the use of videos and webinars** to promote radiation protection education and communication with the public. The benefits of webinars and videos are numerous: their impact, their flexibility (access at own pace), and accessibility. It brought the potential to democratize radiation protection to a wider audience: the students and the next generation, the general public and not to forget the professionals in (least) developing countries. Concretely, the IRPA YGN will first engage the national YGNs in a video contest: this is in line with the opening of the IRPA TV Channel. Then, IRPA YGN will engage a reflection about webinars (pros/cons), based on the experience of the IRPA YGN Members and the reflection will paramount with the planning of a dedicated webinar.

Most RP organizations are present on social media, generally on different platforms and for various purposes: information, outreach, education, ... the content can be easily created and shared with a wider audience. Social media is not a one-way channel, it allows to vehicle information from the field, to engage a dialog, and to listen back from the community: they are an open field for networking. The young generation plays a particular role in the digital transformation and is positioned at the interface between the experts and the next generation/the public. Plus, the IRPA YGN can give a younger vision of the main radiation protection topics and engage students and potential radiation protection professionals. As such, **the IRPA YGN proposes a survey on the usage of social media by**

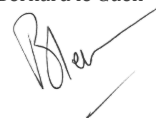
the young generation in radiation protection with a spotlight on education and training and actions engaged toward the next generation. The results will inform IRPA on the strategic use of these platforms and to (re)boost the links between radiation protection experts, the Associate Societies and Network, and foster IRPA to remain *"the international voice of the radiation protection profession"*.

The **future of the radiation protection profession** is a durable element in IRPA's Strategic Programme. The IRPA YGN would like to survey the views from individuals and national YGN about the current challenges faced by young professionals and scientists, about their career aspirations, and how to foster the next generation of the profession.

On this theme, the IRPA YGN will continue the activities already engaged, such as the *Portrait Initiative* and the collaboration with other organizations with an interest in professional development and education, and training (ex. EUTERP). In addition, IRPA YGN activities promote collaboration between the national young groups of the different radiation protection societies and generate synergies between them.

The irruption of Covid-19 has metamorphosed the life of many of us and early initiatives (cf. the Collection of Testimonies about the Impact in RP in 2020-2021) have shown that the impacts are far from negligible for the young generation in radiation protection. There is a need to formalize and share these early elements and continue the reflection. Anticipation is key and IRPA YGN would support the national YGNs to survey and report about the state of the situation and what could be the far-reaching consequences. ■ □

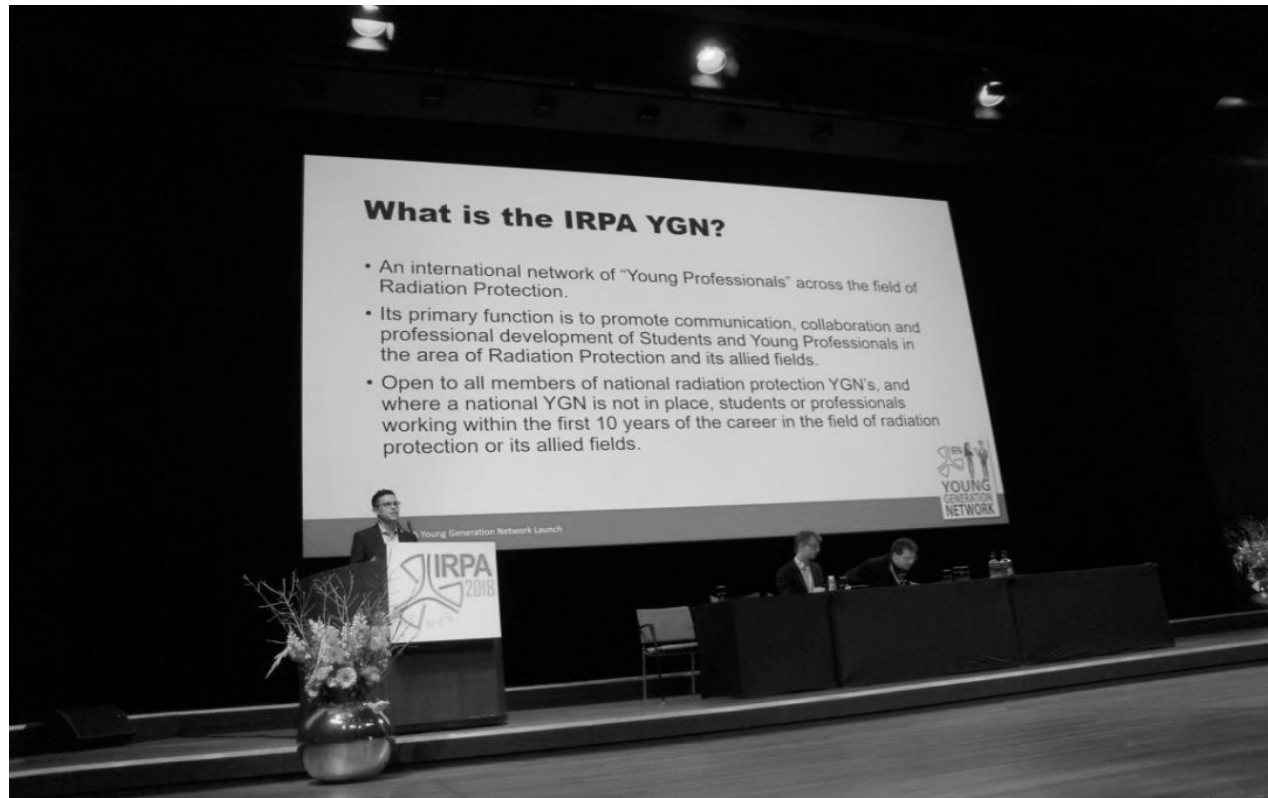
IRPA President
Bernard le Guen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Le Guen".

IRPA Young Generation Chair
Sylvain Andresz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Andresz".

THEME 1. INCLUSION IN IRPA ORGANISATION



IRPA-1	Receive advice on the Strategic Agenda and IRPA YGN initiatives from IRPA Executive Council. Work with Executives to build support for IRPA YGN activities
IRPA-2	Ensure the alignment of IRPA Strategic Programme and IRPA YGN Strategic Agenda
IRPA-3	Foster and support initiatives engage by the IRPA EC toward the young generation
IRPA-4	Support the participation and the representation of the YGNs and younger generation in IRPA congresses . Connect with congresses' organisers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Help in the design of refresher course fit for young professionals and scientists. Advertise the refresher course; – Include networking and team building; – Include young members in the Young Professional Awards; – Run a professional-lead session on topic of interest
IRPA-5	Report on activities to the IRPA EC Contact Person ^A
IRPA-6	Favour the participation of YGN members in IRPA Task Groups and Committees.

^A Mrs. Hiroko Yoshida

THEME 2. FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

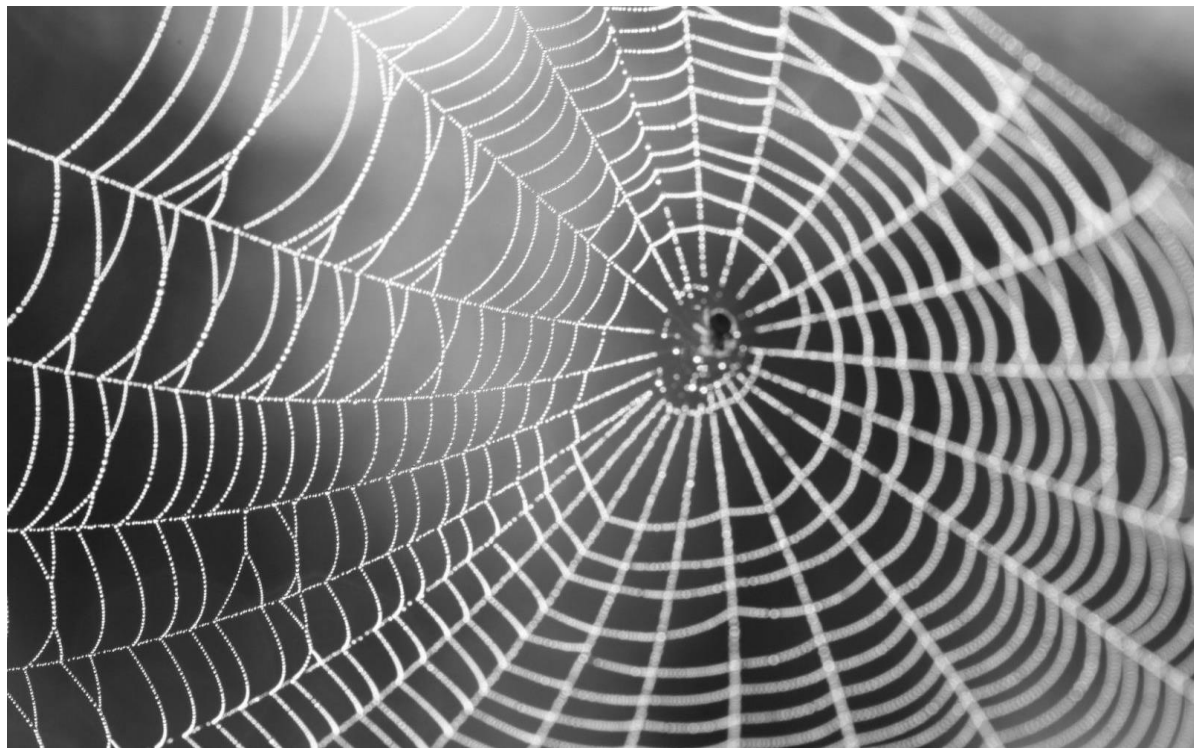


FUTURE-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Collect the YGNs' views on the future of the profession; – Investigate with YGNs the factors that motivate and empower the young professionals and scientists to join the radiation protection sector; – Report to IRPA.
FUTURE-2	– Consider disseminate and promote employment, scholarships, training course and awards in radiation protection. There is opportunity to connect with different organizations on this topic.
FUTURE-3	Put in visibility the early career of YGN members via career profiles –Continue the Portrait Initiative ^A and/or find other ways to outreach
FUTURE-4	Share the experience of YGNs in the recruiting and retention of Members in IRPA AS . Run a video contest on the topic.
FUTURE-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue collaboration with EUTERP Foundation on Education and Training ^B; – Investigate (with EUTERP) about experiences and practices in virtual education and training and outreach; – Partner with other organisations with an interest in the young generation education and training.

^A https://www.irpa.net/irpa_mini.asp?site=YPN/index.asp

^B participation in conferences; help to put forward job opportunities in Radiation Protection via EUTERP website, to help compile a list of training courses in Radiation Protection available for every country via EUTERP database etc. This collaboration will have to be associated with a more general collaboration between IRPA and EUTERP.

THEME 3. NETWORKING



NET-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue to put in visibility initiatives implemented by national YGNs (ex. via national YGN Identity Cards ^A). – Gather relevant materials and make them available for others YGNs.
NET-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Share the results of the testimonies on the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on the young generation; – Motivate YGN to continue investigate the topic and to consider the far-reaching consequences.
NET-3	<p>Consider to set up a shared Calendar with important dates on radiation protection (event, scientific anniversary etc.)</p> <p>Organize a rotating leadership of the Calendar to reduce burden over LC</p>
NET-4	<p>For not-yet-set-up & very new YGN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify and kick-off new YGN where there is opportunity; – Provide support and assistance to help the set-up of YGN. <p>Gather best practices and experience from the YGNs on this theme and share their insight (e.g. drafting a document '<i>How to start a national YGN and benefits</i>').</p>
NET-5	<p>Consider surveys, testimonies to collect the view of the young generation. (e.g. on the impacts of Covid-19)</p> <p>Report to the participants and share the results.</p>
NET-6	<p>Develop annual contest and communicate to national YGN. Vote on winner and advertise results</p>

THEME 4. OPERATION OF THE IRPA YGN



OPE-1	Maintain Leadership Committee's regular meetings and report to the Executive Council.
OPE-2	Welcome young people to the IRPA LC to represent his/her AS, country or region.
OPE-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create and maintain a mailing list of YGNs and contact persons; – Aim to increase the number in the list.
OPE-4	Introduce standalone topical presentations in LC meetings by inviting members or guests to share their activities.
OPE-5	Establish a protocol to archive records of the minutes of the LC and outreach documents make them available.
OPE-6	Introduce the position of IRPA YGN Treasurer – in liaison with IRPA Treasurer to administrative manage the budget.
OPE-7	Plan a succession planning at LC key positions.



THEME 5. COMMUNICATION

COM-1	IRPA YGN mini-site^A and blog^B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Update these websites regularly and in line with the implementation of the Strategic Agenda²; – Collect metrics.
COM-2	Provide inputs to the IRPA Bulletin, IRPA Facebook and Twitter.
COM-3	Investigate the usage of social media by the young generation in radiation protection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The results can be useful to elaborate action plan to engage the next generation – Report to IRPA and advertise the results
COM-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Aim to publish IRPA YGN articles in journal and magazine – Keep log of these publications
COM-5	Create and update an IRPA YGN outreach material (e.g. flyer, poster) that can be used for the promotion of the network.
COM-6	Identify opportunities to attend (virtual) events and share the voice of the young generation

^A http://www.irpa.net/irpa_mini.asp?site=YPN/index.asp -

^B <https://irpaygn.posthaven.com>

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