EMF Measurement and Communication Activity: the Blushuttle Project

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INTRODUCTION

During year 2002 the Italian Ministry of Communications established the Italian national Electromagnetic Field (EMF) monitoring network with the technical support of Fondazione Ugo Bordoni (FUB) and in collaboration with the local Environmental Protection Agencies of all Italian regions.

The technical part of the project ended in year 2006 but the related communication activities still go on, in particular the measurement campaigns performed using the BluShuttle vehicle which are still appreciated by Municipalities and citizens.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The network and the related public communication campaign had a multiplicity of aims:

- inform the public about the current scientific knowledge and about the current Italian regulation;
- demonstrate that the exposure to radio-frequency EMF is well below the prescribed limits in the vast majority of cases;
- activate procedures to reduce the exposure levels when they exceed the attention thresholds;
- create and support a dialogue between administrators, general public and scientists on EMF related topics.

After the end of the project it was decided to go on with the communication activity.

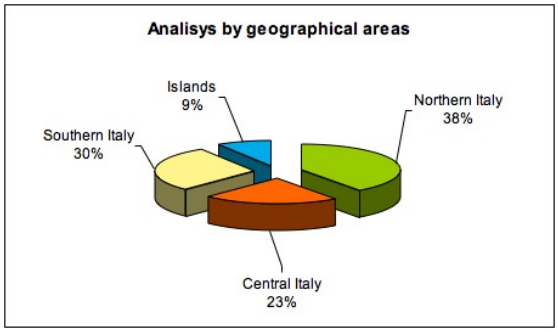
This activity was performed using the BluShuttle vehicle; a mini car equipped with a PMM8053B wide band portable EMF meter and an autonomous control centre.

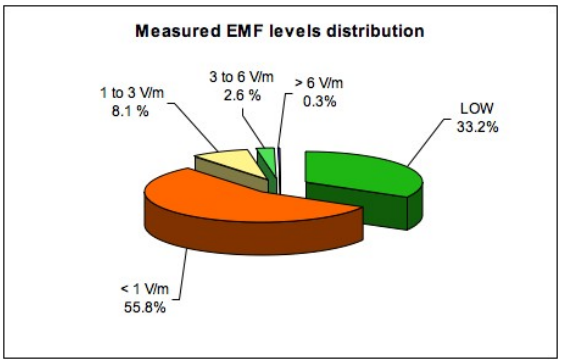
The BluShuttle vehicles can move easily and faster from a place to another inside a city and in each point a short monitoring campaign (lasting no more than half an hour) is performed.

During the last part of year 2007 and the whole year 2008 the BluShuttle visited about 45 towns all over the national territory performing more than 300 measurements. Every time the BluShuttle visited a town newspaper articles were published and meetings were organized.

RESULTS

Preliminary results are shown in figures. The situation for what concerns EMF levels is extremely reassuring: in about 89% of the sites the EMF level was lower than 1 V/m. The communication campaigns feed back show that in Italy there is still a strong interest in EMF monitoring activity in fact each time the mini car visited a town lots of articles appeared on local newspaper and 51% of the times the organization of a meeting was required by the Administrators.





CONCLUSIONS

In Italy the risk percepition on electromagnetic fields effects is still a problem. Citizens are worried about the presence of antennas and for the Municipality Administrator is difficult to create a dialogue on this topics. Monitoring and communication campaign are a good way to deal with this situation and to create a dialogue which in most of the cases is absent.

REFERENCES

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