

National Action Plan 2011-2015 for radon risk management in France

Jean-Luc Godet, Eric Dechaux (ASN)



The 2011-2015 national plan for the management of radon-related risks has been jointly developed by ASN, the Ministries of Health, Construction and Labour as well as partner organisations: IRSN (French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety), InVS (French Institute for Public Health Surveillance), CSTB (Scientific and Technical Centre for Building) and the Regional Council of Limousin.

Management of radon-related risks: a national priority

The management of radon-related risks is listed as a national priority in:

- the first and second national action plans for health and the environment (2004-2008 and 2009-2013);
- the second cancer plan (2009-2013);
- the occupational health plan (2010-2014) for monitoring the exposure of workers.

The first action plan (2005-2008) improved the prevention of the “radon” risk and developed working relationships between the parties involved: ASN, DHUP (French Directorate for Housing and Town and Country Planning), IRSN, InVS and CSTB.

A report is available at www.asn.fr.

The 2011-2015 national action plan

The main objective of the second national “radon” plan is to reduce exposure in homes. It has been jointly drafted by ASN, the Ministries of Health, Construction and Labour as well as partner organisations (ISRN, InVS, CSTB and Regional Council of Limousin). It is divided into 30 reference sheets.

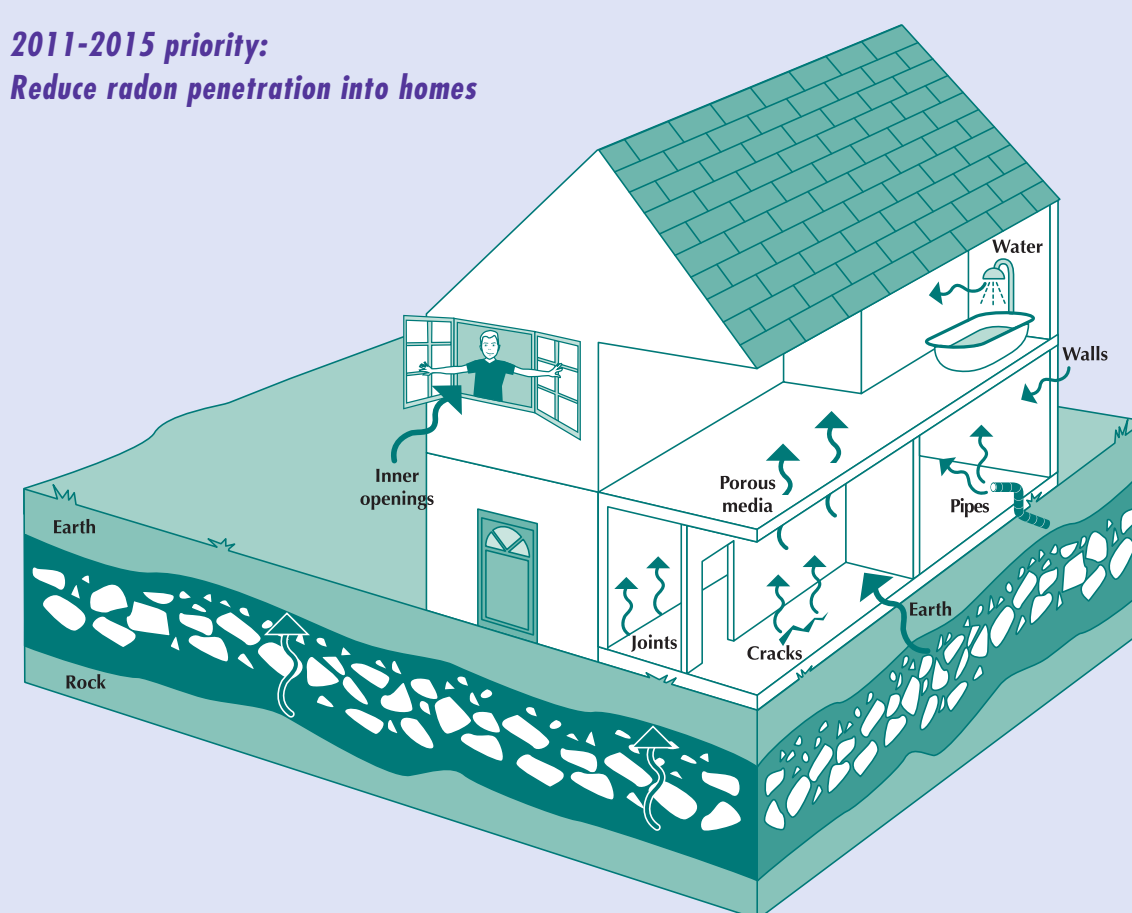
Main objectives

- Reduce exposure in buildings used for housing: manage the “radon” risk in existing housing and regulate new buildings.
- Monitor the regulations applicable to places open to the public and workers.
- Develop methods of diagnosing buildings and ensure works are carried out by building professionals.
- Coordinate policies in terms of education and research.

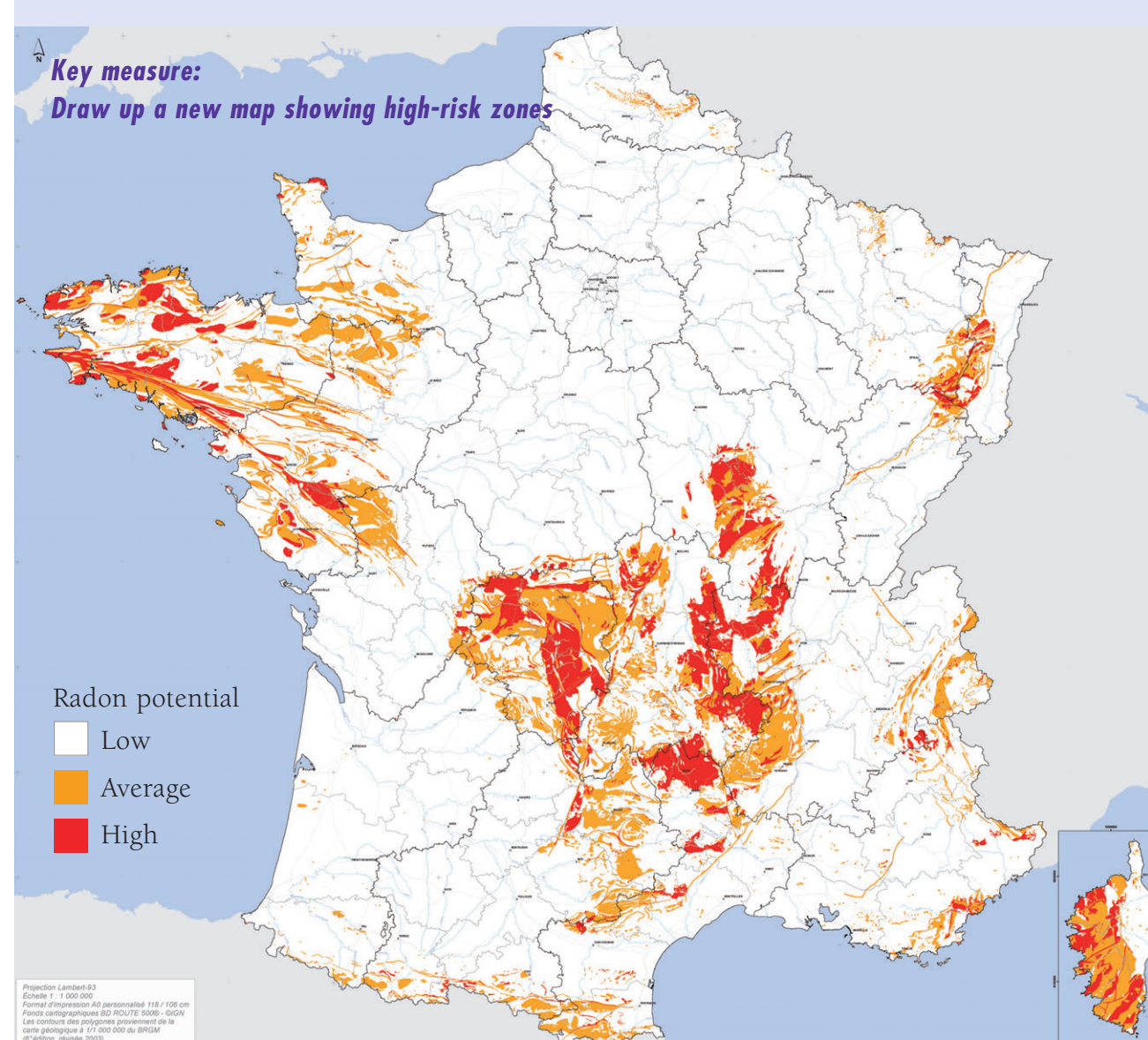
8 key measures

- 1 Define the conditions for the application of new regulations regarding control of radon in housing (article L.1333-10 of the Public Health Code as amended by the HPST¹ law).
- 2 Test out a support tool for the new regulations in three pilot zones.
- 3 Implement a tool for the certification of experts in building diagnostics.
- 4 Develop regulations for the construction of new buildings.
- 5 Draw up a new map showing the high-risk zones.
- 6 Finalise the standardisation of measurement methods.
- 7 Assess the feasibility of a quick method for evaluating the potential for radon to enter housing.
- 8 Provide the *collectivités locales*² with a decision-making tool for the management of radon-related risks.

2011-2015 priority:
Reduce radon penetration into homes



Key measure:
Draw up a new map showing high-risk zones



Map of radon potential of Geological Formations in France. Scale : 1:1000000
Sources: IRSN, ASN and GEOTER SAS.

¹ Hôpital-Patients-Santé-Territoire (Hospital-Patients-Health-Territory).

² French administrative subdivisions with an elected local government and (limited) freedom of administration.

The French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) and Ministries of Health, Construction and Labour have encouraged regional initiatives within the 2011-2015 French plan for radon risk management. Many actions taken will be part

of the development of regional "health and environment" plans (PRSE). They will contribute to enhance the skills of existing local practitioners, encourage the emergence of new ones and promote the sharing of good practice.