

Evaluation of the Belgian National Radon Action Plan 2020-2025

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1. Introduction

According to the Belgian regulation on radiation protection (ARBIS/RGPRI, RD 20/07/2001, [Article 72/1.3](#)), the National Radon Action Plan (NRAP) has to be updated on a regular basis. Following the EU BSS (2013/59/Euratom), the NRAP has to be evaluated after each reporting period. In 2020, it was decided to have an action plan covering 6 years (2020-2025). At the present stage, the period is approaching its end and an evaluation of the NRAP is required. The current document proposes the indicators to be used to evaluate the NRAP and presents an analysis of the available related data. Based on the findings, recommendations are made for the redaction and points of attention for the future NRAP 2026-2030.

The current report is based on the data available up to July 2025, so not covering the whole of data within the NRAP 2020-2025. Nevertheless, the trends and findings based on the analysis of the available data allow to draw general conclusions to be used for the preparation of the new NRAP 2026-2030.

2. Indicators

The Belgian National Radon Action Plan (NRAP) 2020–2025 has defined a series of actions and activities that are necessary to accomplish the long- and short-term objectives of the NRAP.

These objectives are:

Long-term objectives

- General protection of new buildings with a target level of 100 Bq/m³. This will reduce the collective dose and will lead to a substantial reduction of lung cancer incidence.
- Stand-still of the exposure situation in low-risk areas. Avoid the increase of the radon concentration by a decrease in ventilation (low energy construction) or an increase in radium content in building materials.
- Aim for a radon distribution in the most affected areas to approach that of the low-risk areas. This will be assured, in addition to the above-mentioned measures, by protective measures against radon ingress in new buildings and mitigation of existing buildings with high radon levels.

Short-term objectives

- Training of building professionals (for construction techniques and building material sector).
- Training of technical and administrative stakeholders (medical staff, municipal authorities, etc.).
- General prevention in the most affected areas, to reduce the population's exposure to radon (to reduce the collective dose).
- Identify and remediate all buildings with a radon concentration above and around the reference level (to reduce the individual dose). The number of affected buildings is estimated at around ~36,000 dwellings and ~2,000 workplaces in Belgium.

Based on the Belgian National Radon Action Plan 2020–2025, a set of **10 indicators** have been identified to evaluate its effectiveness:

1. Annual number of radon measurements

- Total number of measurements conducted in homes and workplaces per year.

2. Trend in measurement results

- Evolution of radon concentration statistics over time, particularly the percentage of buildings exceeding reference levels.

3. Number of remediating actions reported

- Count of corrective measures taken in buildings with high radon levels.

4. Effectiveness of remediating actions

- Reduction in post-intervention radon concentration levels, verified through follow-up measurements.

5. Inspection findings

- Results of the FANC's annual workplace inspections, focusing on compliance and enforcement.

6. Preventive measures in new buildings

- Evaluation of the success of radon-proofing techniques in new constructions.

7. Public awareness metrics

- Public response rates to awareness campaigns (e.g., participation in the national radon action month, website traffic, detector requests).

8. Training and Education outputs

- Number of professionals trained (builders, local administrators, etc.) and sessions held.

9. Geographic coverage of measurement campaigns

- Percentage of municipalities in each radon class (especially class 2 zones) that are included in annual campaigns.

10. Radon mapping accuracy and updates

- Frequency and comprehensiveness of updates to the national radon risk map, incorporating new data and geological findings.

#	Indicator	Definition	Data Source	Target / Benchmark
1	Annual Radon Measurements	Number of radon tests conducted in homes and workplaces	Radonactie.be / Actionradon.be , Radonatwork.be	Approximately 3000 measurements per year with focus on Class 2 zones
2	Measurement Trend	Change in % of buildings exceeding 300 and 600 Bq/m ³	FANC radon database	Downward trend in high-concentration buildings
3	Remediating Actions Reported	Number of corrective measures taken in response to high radon levels	FANC reports, self-reporting	Increase over the NRAP periods
4	Effectiveness of Remediation	% reduction in post-remediation radon levels	Follow-up measurements	≥80% achieved safe levels (< 300 Bq/m ³)
5	Inspection Findings	% of inspected workplaces complying with standards	FANC workplace inspection reports	>90% compliance
6	Preventive Effectiveness in New Builds	% of new buildings with radon below 100 Bq/m ³	Study by FANC	>90% compliance
7	Public Awareness Metrics	Website visits, detector requests, campaign participation	FANC web analytics, campaign data	Increasing public engagement
8	Training Outputs	Number of professionals trained (e.g., architects, officials)	FANC, Buildwise, CCW training logs	1 training session per year
9	Geographic Coverage	% of high-risk municipalities covered by campaigns	FANC campaign planning	100% coverage in Class 2 municipalities in the NRAP period
10	Radon Map Updates	Frequency and quality of updates to the national radon map	FANC geodatabase (ArcGIS)	Annual updates with new geological/radon data

2.1 Annual number and trend of radon measurements

1	Annual Radon Measurements	Number of radon tests conducted in homes and workplaces	Radonactie.be / Actionradon.be , Radonatwork.be	Approximately 3000 measurements per year with focus on Class 2 zones
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One of the aims of the NRAP is to organize annually information and measurement campaigns for radon in dwellings and workplaces. For this purpose, a collaboration structure between the federal, the regional and the provincial authorities has been set up to respond in an optimised and accessible/local manner to the needs of the public and the employers in the targeted radon priority areas as well as on a national level. The online platforms www.radonactie.be / www.actionradon.be and www.radonatwork.be have been developed for this purpose. Annual radon actions are organised between the 1st of October end the end of December. During this period, radon detectors can be ordered at a reduced price (15 euro for dwellings and 20 euro for workplaces). The radon action is launched every year by a press conference/communiqué and several media initiatives (video's, posters, mailing to specific target groups, etc.). An indicator for the effectiveness/success of these radon actions is the number of detectors ordered and the visits/responses to the dedicated web sites.

Based on available data, the annual number of radon measurements conducted in Belgium is as follows:

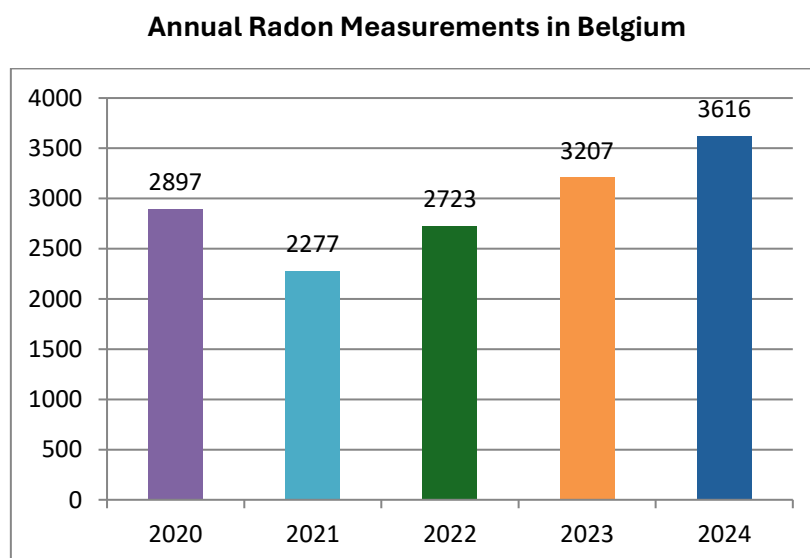


Fig. 2.1.1 Indoor radon measurements in dwellings (AR = Action Radon)

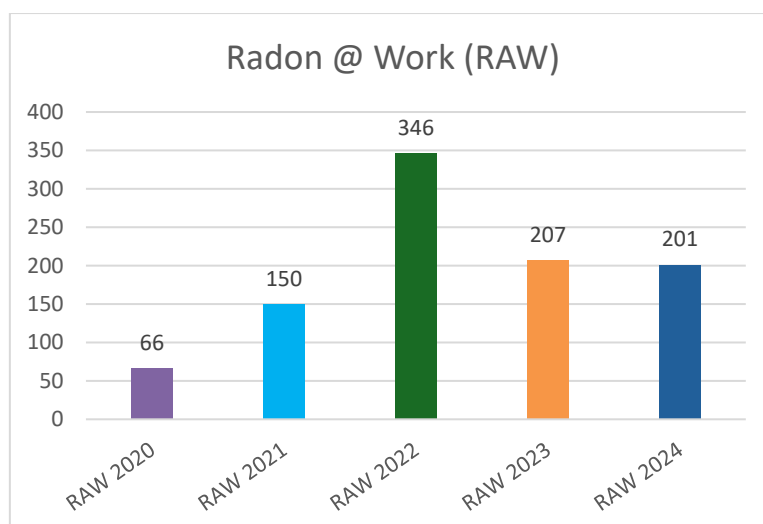


Fig. 2.1.2 Indoor radon measurements in workplaces

Further analysis of the measurement statistics is based only on the measurements in dwellings. For workplaces, trend analysis is different since the measurement strategy is different, and exposure time has to be considered in the assessment process.

The number of measurements in dwellings ordered (and actually carried out) via the platform www.radonactie.be / www.actionradon.be on a yearly basis varies around 3000 per year. This number highly depends on the response from the press to the press release/press conferences, launched every year at the beginning of October (or very end of September).

2	Measurement Trend	Change in % of buildings exceeding 300 and 600 Bq/m ³	FANC radon database	Downward trend in high-concentration buildings
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The percentage of dwellings exceeding the reference level is presented in table 2.1.1.

Year	# measurements	% > 300 Bq/m ³	% > 600 Bq/m ³
AR2020	2897	9.6	3.1
AR2021	2277	10.5	3.5
AR2022	2723	6.9	2.6
AR2023	3207	9.2	2.9
AR2024	3616	9.8	2.7
TOTAL	14720	9.2	3.0

Table 2.1.1 Trend in de measurements during the period of the NRAP (in dwellings).

The measurements carried out during the NRAP 2020-2025 have a log-normal distribution with a Geometric Mean (GM) of about 78 Bq/m³ and a Geometric standard deviation of about 2.7.

The statistical distribution of the measurements over the 5 reported years of the NRAP 2020-2025 (Fig. 2.1.3) does not show any conclusive trend, as can be expected by the random sampling and the short time period. Long-term trends in the order of 5 or 10 years are expected to be more predictable.

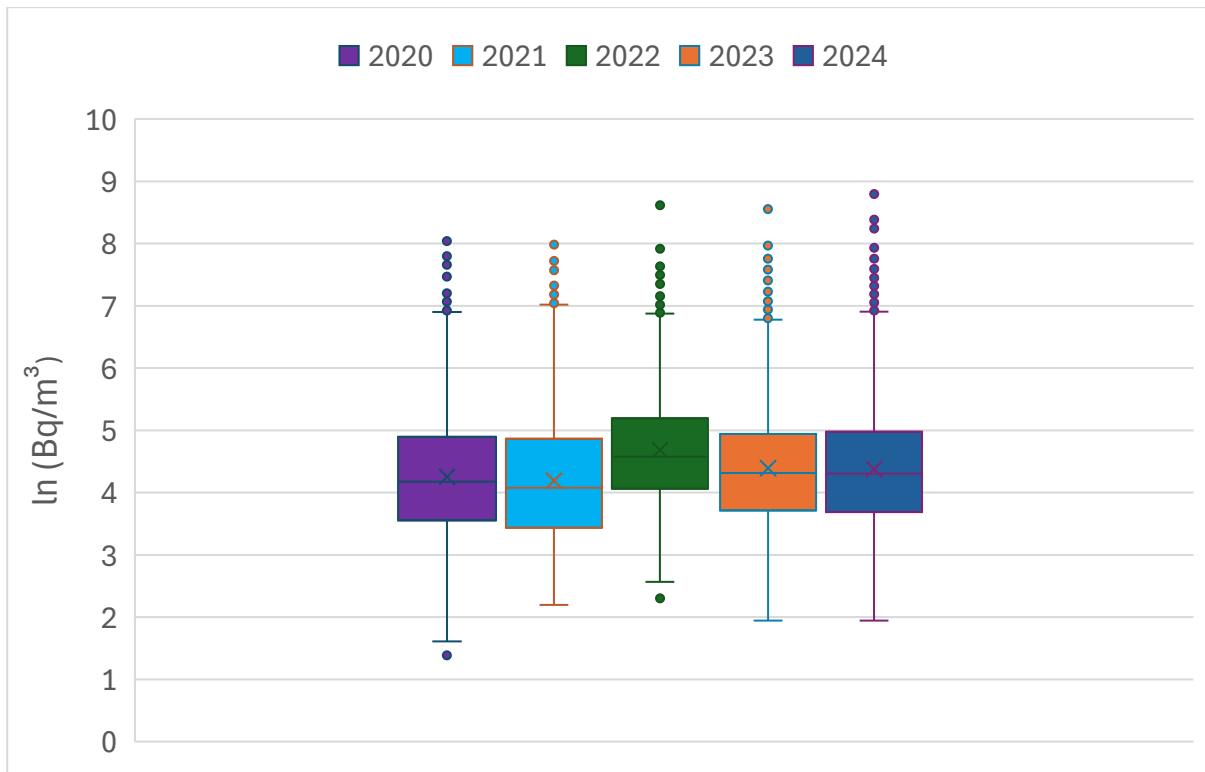


Fig. 2.1.3 Trend in the measurement statistics [$\ln(\text{Bq}/\text{m}^3)$] in the period of the current NRAP.

2.2 Number of remediating actions reported

3	Remediating Actions Reported	Number of corrective measures taken in response to high radon levels	FANC reports, self-reporting	Increase over the NRAP periods
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Dwellings

Following the annual measurement campaigns, households with results exceeding or approaching the reference level (RL) of $300 \text{ Bq}/\text{m}^3$ are encouraged to take remedial actions. After remedial actions are implemented, these households can order free of charge control detectors that allow them to evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken.

Out of all the measurements conducted in the period 2020-2024, there are 1352 points (dwellings) that exceed the reference level and thus are eligible for remediation. Due to the limiting factor of GDPR, a direct assessment of these dwellings cannot be made. For the next NRAP period, this approach will be re-evaluated (see conclusions). We need to deploy other proxy evaluations in order to get an idea of the number of effective remediations carried out. One of the approaches is to offer free control detectors after remediation. All the households that receive their result that exceeds the RL are encouraged to apply remedial actions and are offered free control detectors. The dwellings that exceed the level of $600 \text{ Bq}/\text{m}^3$ are offered a free radon inspection by the radon action partners for assessing the pathways and possible remedial actions. The number of free control detectors ordered and the number of radon inspections carried out are an indicator of the number of remedial actions, although they surely under-

estimate the real number. This is because not all concerned households request a radon inspection and not all of those who remediated their house ask for a free control detector.

# measurements	>300 Bq/m ³	# control measurements	>600 Bq/m ³	# inspections
14720	1352	172	431	305
%	9*	13**	3*	71***

Table 2.2.1 radon measurements in dwellings during the reported NRAP and statistics
*from total, **from the results > 300 Bq/m³, ***from the results > 600 Bq/m³

The table indicates that about 13% of the households with results above RL reported their radon remediating action (by ordering the test detector). However, the majority (71%) of the households with very high levels (> 600 Bq/m³) actually intended to remediate (they asked for an inspection). When looking at this group, around 35% ordered a control detector. From informal contacts we know that a significant number of these households actually bought a radon sensor or proceeded with mitigations without control measurements.

Workplaces

For workplaces, declaration to the authority (FANC) of all results exceeding the reference level is required. Follow-up is needed in this case, either by remedial actions to reduce the annual average radon concentration below the RL, or by detailed continuous monitoring of the exposure of the workers during a representative time period in order to evaluate if the exposure exceeds the legal limit (600 kBq/m³ or 6 mSv/y).

The number of declarations in workplaces over the NRAP period was 82. All these workplaces have either remediated the high values or proven compliance to the exposure level of 600 kBq/m³ per year for their workers.

2.3 Effectiveness of remediating actions

4	Effectiveness of Remediation	% reduction in radon levels post-remediation	Follow-up measurements	≥80% achieve safe levels (< 300 Bq/m ³)
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The effectiveness of the radon reduction after mitigation can be expressed by the reduction rate R, where C₀ is the initial radon concentration in Bq/m³ and C₁ is the concentration in Bq/m³ after remediation.

$$R(\%) = \frac{(C_0 - C_1)}{C_0}$$

When looking at the reported remediations, the average reduction rate is about 70%, with outliers in the less effective regions up to 0 (no reduction).

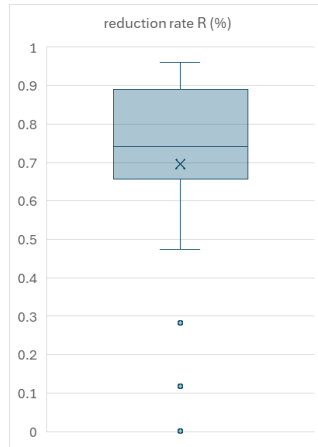


Fig. 2.3.1 Radon reduction rate of reported (2020-2024) remediations.

Although the majority of the remedial actions are effective, there is a fraction of remediations that do not lead to a significant reduction of the radon concentration. This is a common observation worldwide and could be a topic to address in detail for the coming period of the NRAP.

The reduction rate or efficiency needed to reduce the annual average radon concentration below the reference level depends on the initial radon concentrations before remediation. When looking at the reported remediations in the current NRAP, 66% of them were successful.

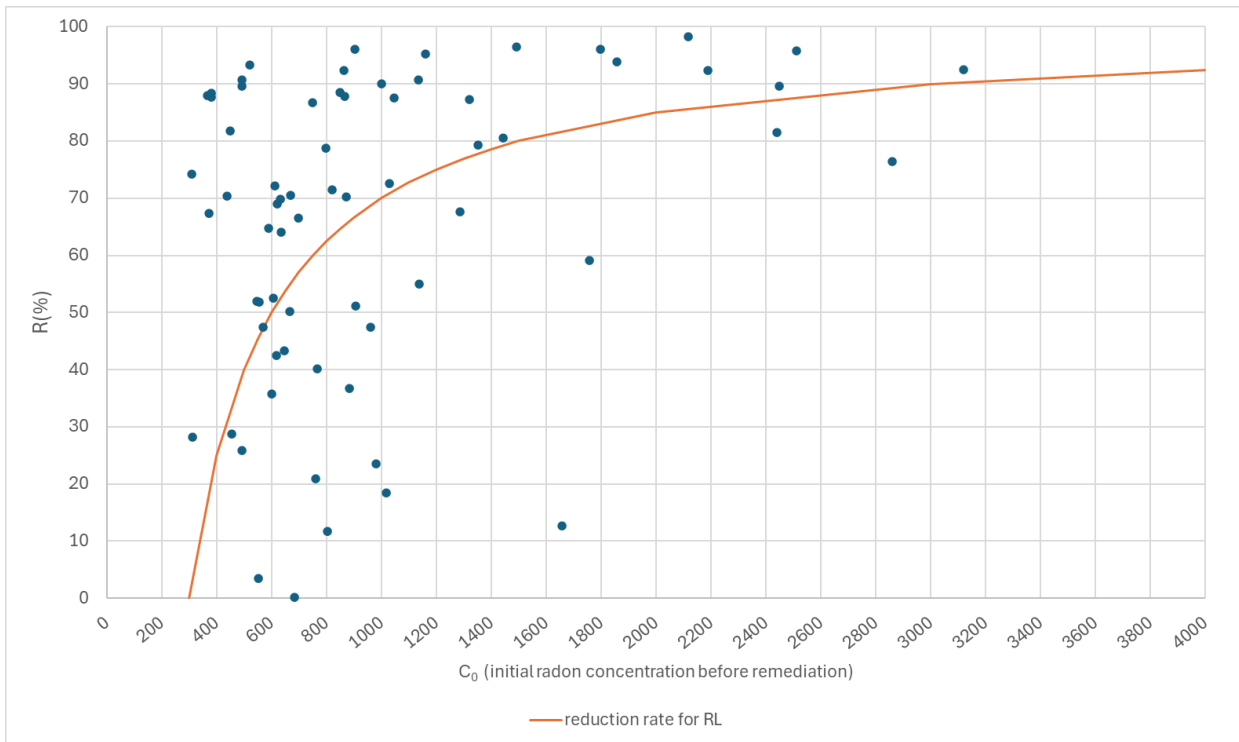


Fig. 2.3.2 Remediation efficiency and success rate.

2.4 Inspection findings

5	Inspection Findings	% of inspected workplaces complying with standards	FANC workplace inspection reports	>90% compliance
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Workplaces

According to the radiation protection regulation ([ARBIS/RGPRI](#)), work activities susceptible of having exposures to radon of the workers exceeding the reference level and dose criteria defined in Article [20.3](#) are submitted to radon measurements ([Art. 4](#)) in their premises and a declaration of the measurements if the reference level (300 Bq/m^3) is exceeded ([Art. 9](#)). In practice, certain types of workplaces located in municipalities of class 2 (with > 5% probability to exceed the reference level) have to measure radon in their buildings and declare the radon measurements results if the reference level is exceeded. Technical guidance to this process is provided on the FANC website ([Radon meten op de werkvloer / Mesure du radon sur le lieu de travail](#)).

In the period of the NRAP (results available for the period 2020-2024), 82 declaration files for radon measurements in workplaces have been registered by FANC. The follow-up of these declarations has led to 32 inspections (Table 2.4.1). The follow-up of the declarations and of the inspections resulted in the limitation of all the worker's exposures below the exposure level of 600 kBq/m^3 defined in Art. [20.3](#) of ARBIS/RGPRI. This means that the compliance of inspectees to the obligations set out in the radiation protection regulations has been 100%.

Inspections	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	total
Workplaces, by FANC	4	5	11	8	4	32
Dwellings, by FANC	19	25	11	22	22	99
Dwellings, by PARTNERS	39	40	46	35	46	206

Table 2.4.1 Number of radon inspections in the NRAP period.

Dwellings

During the period of the NRAP, 99 inspections for radon in dwellings have been carried out by FANC (Table 2.4.1). Other partners of the NRAP have carried out at least 206 diagnostic visits in dwellings in order to provide remedial recommendations.

The aim of these inspections was to motivate and support households for whom the annual average concentration exceeds the intervention level of 600 Bq/m^3 . This would correspond to an annual dose of about 20 mSv for the occupants. As stipulated in the NRAP 2020-2025, such exposure/dose is considered as not tolerable and hence efforts must be made to reduce them as much as possible. The follow-up of the inspections and the remediations following them is not completely satisfactory (see §2.2 and 2.3) and the aim of the next NRAP is to increase the effectiveness and the number of remediations.

2.5 Preventive measures in new buildings

6	Preventive Effectiveness in New Builds	% of new buildings with radon below 100 Bq/m ³	Study by FANC	>90% compliance
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The application of radon preventive measures in new buildings is very difficult to assess. The Walloon region has set an obligation in the building code for the architect of projects in radon class 2 municipalities to describe the radon protective measures in the building dossier. Based on the number of questions of architects and building companies to FANC related to building preventive measures, the application of these measures in new build projects seems to be increasing:

Year	Questions to FANC
2020	25
2021	34
2022	19
2023	28
2024	21
2025	NA

Table 2.5.1 indication of new-build radon prevention based on the number of questions received by FANC in the NRAP period 2020-2025.

FANC has developed brochures and technical guidance in collaboration with BUILDWISE to assist the building industry in protecting new buildings: [Qu'est-ce que le radon ? > Publications / Wat is radon? > Publicaties](#).

Mapping of the territory in terms of radon risk on a square kilometre also assists the building industry to determine the adequate level of building protection for a specific building site: [Radon Risk in Belgium 2024](#)

The actual application of new building prevention has to be addressed in more details during the next NRAP.

2.6 Public awareness metrics

7	Public Awareness Metrics	Website visits, detector requests, campaign participation	FANC web analytics, campaign data	Increasing public engagement
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Another way of evaluating the success of the annual information campaigns is to evaluate the monthly and daily orders of radon detectors, and to look at the responses/visits to the dedicated web sites. Every year, a dedicated press communication is developed, focussing on a specific theme of radon management. Sometimes, specific partners organise local (provincial and regional) press conferences, inviting journalists, to talk about the radon action. The return in the media is monitored. An overview of the impact of communication actions is given here:

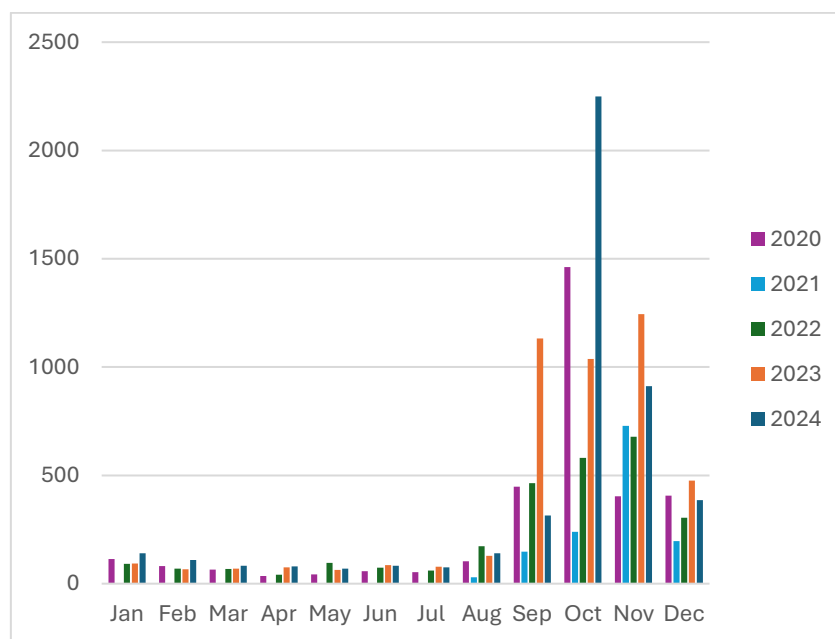


Fig. 2.6.1 Monthly orders of radon detectors during the NRAP period.

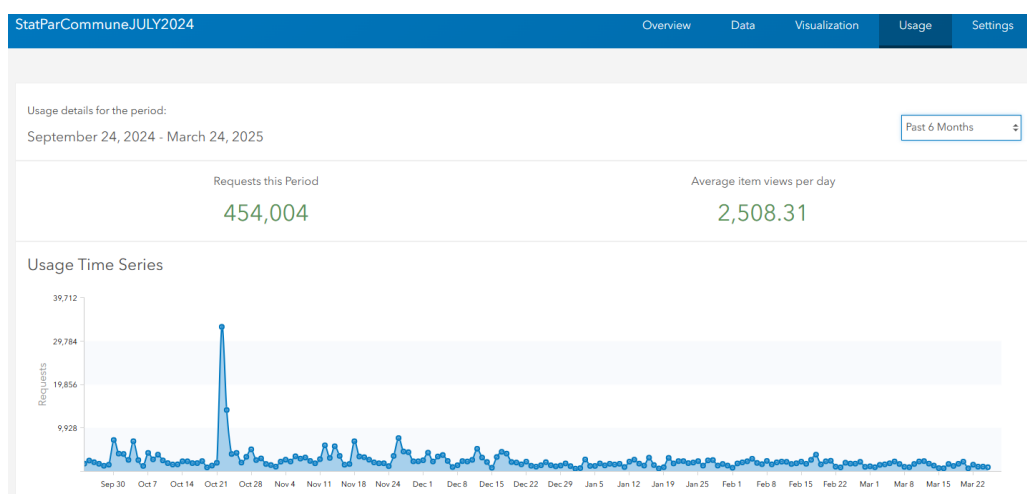


Fig. 2.6.2 Unique visits to the dedicated web sites during the period of the radon action, example for the year 2024.

There is a clear effect of the press releases and the related coverage by newspaper, tv, radio, and social media on the topic of radon on the visits to the different related web sites as well as on orders of radon detectors. The communication plan is set out on a yearly basis and try to focus on a specific topic each year.

COMM	Theme
2020	Measurements (video)
2021	Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
2022	Municipal campaigns
2023	10 years national radon action (Radonactie.be / Actionradon.be)
2024	Building professionals and prevention
2025	Evaluation NRAP

Table 2.6.1 *Thematics of the communication plans during the NRAP period.*

For the occasion of the European Radon Day (ERD), each year on November 7th, a communication on the topic is sent out using the FANC web site, social media channels, and partnership initiatives such as press conferences, publications, etc.

ERD	Theme
2020	Healthy Indoor Environment and Radon as a Pollutant
2021	Radon and the pandemic (working from home)
2022	Radon and the Internet of Things (IoT)
2023	10th anniversary of the European Radon Association (ERA)
2024	10 years of general European requirements for radon in workplaces and at home
2025	To be determined

Table 2.6.2 *Thematics of the communication plans for the ERD's 2020-2025.*



Table 2.6.3 *Some illustrations of the NRAP and ERD infographics.*

Some other trends can be identified when looking at the media return of the different campaigns:

The campaign focus shifted from strong social media engagement in 2020-2021 to a peak in traditional media coverage in 2023 and 2024 (Fig. 2.6.3). Media attention for the campaign 2020-2021 was likely overshadowed by COVID-19 coverage, while social media mentions were higher as people spent more time online. As the pandemic subsided, traditional media regained focus on other topics, leading to increased coverage in 2023 and 2024.

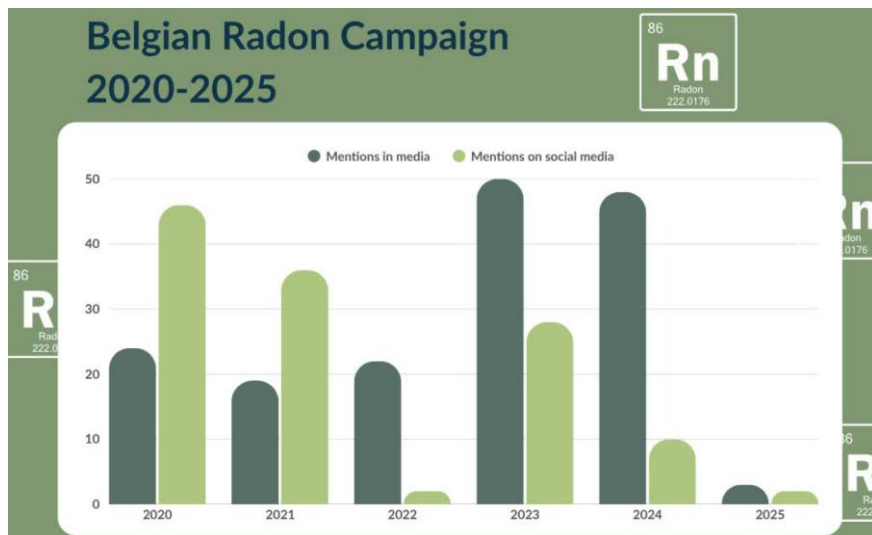


Fig. 2.6.3 Media coverage in the period of the NRAP 2020-2025.

The sentiment towards the campaign on social media is largely positive, with strong peaks in 2020 and 2023 (Fig. 2.6.4). The year 2021 stands out as the most mixed, likely influenced by COVID-19: people were already overwhelmed by health-related information and may have been less receptive to another awareness campaign. From 2022 onwards, social media mentions drop to very low levels, making sentiment trends less representative.



Fig. 2.6.4 Sentiment towards the radon campaigns on social media.

The campaign is mainly discussed in the French speaking part of the country (Fig. 2.6.5), which is logical since the primary target audience lives in the Walloon Region. A cross-analysis with social media shows that most negative comments come from Dutch speakers. A possible explanation is that radon is a less prominent issue in Flanders (due to different soil and geology), which may lead to less awareness and lower perceived relevance of the campaign among Dutch speakers compared to those directly affected in their homes (French and German speakers).

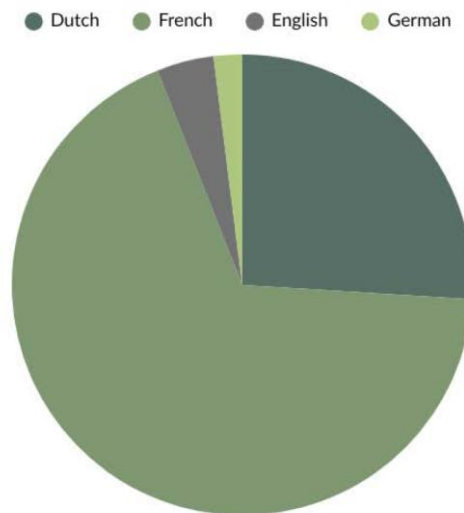


Fig. 2.6.5 Language of mentions in media and social media

Based on the balanced coverage between national and regional media, we aim to increase efforts in both to ensure consistent awareness. Additionally, targeting French- and German-speaking regions more effectively (Walloon Region), given their higher engagement, could enhance the campaign's impact.

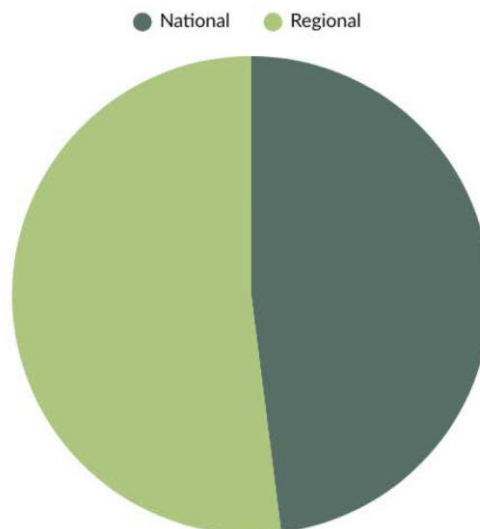


Fig. 2.6.6 Number of publications in national and regional media.

2.7 Training and Education outputs

8	Training Outputs	Number of professionals trained (e.g., architects, officials)	FANC, Buildwise ¹ , CCW training logs	1 training session per year
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Another aim of the NRAP is to organise a yearly training course for radon professionals (architects, building industry, public servants,...). This aim has been reached:

Year	Date	Place	Number of participants
2020	07/11/2020	Wavre	18
2021	19/11/2021	Marche	32
2022	08/09/2022	Webinar Interreg	~20
	15/09/2022	Burdinne	17
2023	07/11/2023	Bruxelles	12
2024	29/11/2024	Mons	48
2025	29/09/2025	Waimes	NA

Table 2.7.1 Training courses organised during the NRAP period.

The training courses are organised in collaboration with the building research organization BUILDWISE and architect or builders associations such as CCW (Confédération de la Construction Wallonne) and the Order of Architects. The training is considered in the evaluation of permanent education of the participants. The training focuses on the southern French-speaking part of the country since all the class 2 municipalities are located in this region (Walloon region). The number of participants to the training courses is difficult to control. The next NRAP should explore alternative training methods to increase the number of participants. The use of webinars will be tested for the radon action 2025 in October 2025.

¹ Previously BBRI (Belgian Building Research Institute)

2.8 Mapping developments and geographical coverage

9	Geographic Coverage	% of high-risk municipalities covered by campaigns	FANC campaign planning	100% coverage in Class 2 municipalities
10	Radon Map Updates	Frequency and quality of updates to the national radon map	FANC geodatabase (ArcGIS)	Annual updates with new geological/radon data

The aim of this indicator is to have a systematic and regular update of the radon mapping and statistics after every measurement campaign, and to have a relevant coverage of the territory in terms of radon risk and measurement density. Both indicators are met during the NRAP, as is shown in the following figure:

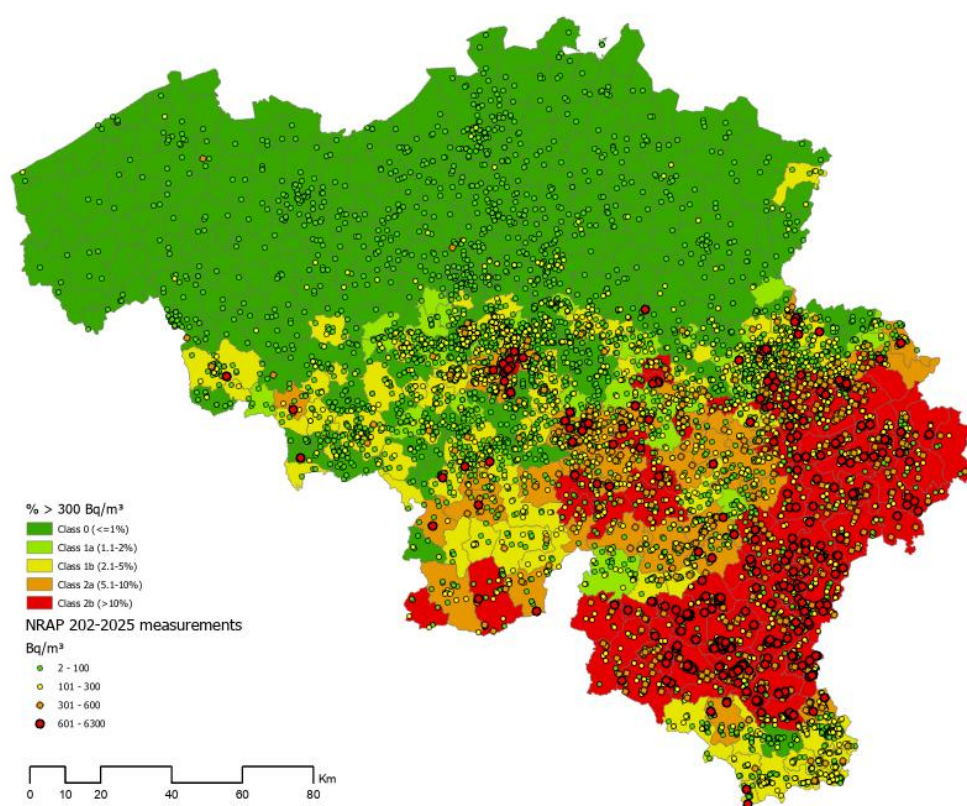


Fig. 2.8.1 Measurement distribution and geographical coverage of the indoor radon measurements carried out in the framework of the NRAP 2020-2025.

The coverage of the radon measurements is conform to the aim to have at least all of the municipalities of class 1 and class 2 covered. The whole territory is covered by the measurements of the NRAP 2020-2025, with a strong concentration in the higher risk areas.

3. Results and Discussion

The number of measurements during NRAP 2020-2025 corresponds to the set targets. The annual Radon Action, with press releases, local newspaper announcements and municipal and provincial communications will further be developed and organised during the next NRAP. For example, the use of adequate media to get in touch with the targeted audience (social media adapted to younger or older audience in addition to classical media) should be investigated.

The number of remediating actions reported should increase. Since only 13% of the concerned households seem to have undertaken remedial actions, additional efforts must be done to increase this number in the next NRAP period. For example, the target group of households with inspections could be contacted with a questionnaire (as has been done already in the Province of Luxemburg), since their contact details are available. As they already committed too mitigation, contacting them personally would not pose a GDPR problem. An evaluation has to be done in order to assess the possibility of contacting all the participants of a certain measurement campaign within the limits of the GDPR regulations.

There is an important fraction of remediations that do not lead to a significant reduction of the radon concentration. This is a common observation worldwide and has to be a topic to address in detail for the coming NRAP period.

Inspections in workplaces lead to positive results in terms of exposure assessment and mitigations (if needed), with > 90% compliance of the inspectees.

The application of preventive measures in new buildings is difficult to assess since there is no systematic reporting or registration. The next NRAP should contain a focus point on the development of an effective method for assessing prevention in new buildings.

The public awareness activities carried out during the NRAP 2020-2025 focussed on motivating the public to carry out radon measurements and to proceed to remediation where needed. This has been satisfactory for the measurements, and the same approach will be continued during the next NRAP. For motivating the public to remediate, the approach will have to be adapted during the next NRAP in order to increase the number of remediations.

Regular (annual) training courses for stakeholders have been organised during this NRAP. This will be continued during the next NRAP. Efforts should be made though in order to increase the number of participants.

Mapping and geographical coverage is updated on a yearly basis and this will continue during the next NRAP.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The NRAP 2020-2025 covered a wide range of actions and activities aiming at a series of long-term and short-term objectives (see §1).

The series of identified indicators has been evaluated for the period 2020-2025 with the following conclusions:

#	Indicator	Definition	Target / Benchmark	Conclusions
1	Annual Radon Measurements	Number of radon tests conducted in homes and workplaces	+/- 3000 measurements per year with focus on Class 2 zones	The number of measurements and distribution zones reach the set objectives
2	Measurement Trend	Change in % of buildings exceeding 300 and 600 Bq/m ³	Downward trend in high-concentration buildings	The downward trend in the measurement statistics is not significant on the period of the NRAP
3	Remediating Actions Reported	Number of corrective measures taken in response to high radon levels	Increase over the NRAP periods	The number of remediations must increase during the next NRAP
4	Effectiveness of Remediation	% reduction in radon levels post-remediation	≥80% achieve safe levels (< 300 Bq/m ³)	The effectiveness of the remediations must increase during the next NRAP
5	Inspection Findings	% of inspected workplaces complying with standards	>90% compliance	Achieved
6	Preventive Effectiveness in New Builds	% of new buildings with radon below 100 Bq/m ³	>90% compliance	Difficult to evaluate, a survey will be developed during the next NRAP to help gathering the data
7	Public Awareness Metrics	Website visits, detector requests, campaign participation	Increasing public engagement	The public awareness activities are satisfactory and will continue during the next NRAP
8	Training Outputs	Number of professionals trained (e.g., architects, officials)	1 training session per year	New training methods should be developed during the next NRAP to reach more participants
9	Geographic Coverage	% of high-risk municipalities covered by campaigns	100% coverage in Class 2 municipalities	Achieved
10	Radon Map Updates	Frequency and quality of updates to the national radon map	Annual updates with new geological/radon data	Achieved

References

Belgian National Radon Action Plan 2020-2025 (NRAP): [Radon Actie Plan / Plan national belge d'action radon > 2021-09-22-belgian-national-radon-action-plan-2020-2025-en-v2.pdf](#)

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