

Summary  
of the 2014 December meeting in the  
**Specialty Group of Society of Risk Analysis (SRA)**  
on  
**Foundational issues in Risk Analysis**

<http://www.sra.org/frasg>

Denver, 7-10 December 2014

Here is a summary of the activities of the Specialty Group (SG) on Foundational issues in Risk analysis (FRASG) presented at the SRA annual meeting in Denver 7-10 December 2014.

Four symposia were organised by the FRASG and given that it was the second time that we had arranged such initiatives, I am very happy with the result. All symposia had a large audience - and the discussions were lively and interesting. I thank all the speakers and session chairs for their important contributions.

I hope that next year we can organise many symposia and roundtables for the SRA annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia, in December 2015. I welcome any initiative to generate such sessions. I will organise some myself, but hope that others can also take the lead and invite people to contribute. Developing such sessions constitute an important part of the work of the FRASG.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December lunch time, we had the second meeting of the FRASG. I gave a 15 minutes introduction where I reviewed the work of the group in 2014 (see the enclosed slides for details). Main focus was on the new SRA Glossary and plans for activities of the SG in the coming year. Below is a summary of the main activities of the SG in 2015.

The FRASG will have several regular activities, of which these are the most important ones:

**Regular activities**

- Special sessions/symposia at the SRA annual meeting
- Special sessions/symposia at other SRA meetings (SRA- Europe for example)
- Stimulate papers on foundational issues for journal publication
- Website: information about relevant workshops, literature, etc.

In addition, the SG will take the initiative to run some other more specific activities. These two activities will be given priority to the coming year:

## **Specific activities**

- **SRA Glossary**

A draft version of the SRA glossary was presented to the SRA council. The response was very positive and the suggested plan for how to proceed was approved (see enclosed slides from the SG meeting). The objective is to have a final version ready for approval by the SRA council in their June 2015 meeting. A draft version of the glossary will soon be sent out for comments.

- **Developing input for a white paper on the Foundations of risk analysis**

The idea of the white paper is to prepare a document which summarises and reflects on the key scientific pillars of the risk analysis field, the core of our field – the elements that unify us, with both a current and future perspective. We would like to review the foundations of risk analysis, identify key challenges and provide recommendations for directions to address these challenges. The ambition is not to establish one unified perspective – the right view – but to highlight what are some of the main issues and their rationale. At this stage we have identified the following topic-candidates for the white paper:

- The Future of Risk Analysis: Meeting the Challenges. Emerging trends
- Risk analysis and science
- Uncertainty in Risk analysis
- Confronting deep uncertainties
- Confronting the unforeseen
- How to take into account early signals and precursors in risk management
- Are risk analysis results trustworthy? Why or why not? What can we do to make them more trustworthy?

The plan is to prepare a draft that includes some of these topics in 2015 and present the results at the annual meeting in December in Arlington 2015. We hope to be able to present a draft of the white paper to the SRA Council in December 2016.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support and I hope we will be able to establish some good processes also this year and deliver some useful results.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Terje Aven

January 2, 2015