

# IEMFA newsletter, February 2024

## Argentina - Cities ban 5G

There are now five Argentinian cities that have banned the installation of **5G communications technology**. The group Organised Citizens to Regulate Telecommunications (Corte) promoted the initiative due to the lack of scientific studies around **5G** and the consequences that its installation may cause to people.

Einar Flydal in Norway writes:

"That some cities and neighbourhoods in southern Argentina oppose the deployment of 5G is not remarkable. What is remarkable, however, is the message conveyed by Argentina's state news agency Telam on the issue, on which the article in La Nacion, a paper and online newspaper in Argentina, is based.

The article shows that the politicians have done a thorough job here, not what comes from transnational bodies like the WHO as truth, or swallowing claims that harmful effects are hysteria and superstition - because that's the scientists the WHO relies on claim.

And the decisions in Argentina mean that ICBE-EMF, the fairly new International Commission on Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields, is made up of heavy biological and medical expertise and has issued strong warnings, is recognised as a counterpart to ICNIRP and WHO.

As is well known, ICNIRP and WHO reject all such health risks - because "*they have not been sufficiently proven*" and because they only look for acute risks associated with the amount of energy absorbed in the tissue, as if that were the whole story.

This is also a feather in the cap of the European Parliament's Panel on Future Science and Technology (STOA), which is quite clear that the health risks are real and clear, although still poorly understood."

**Source:** Einar Flydal's blog 5 January 2024, text in Norwegian: <https://einarflydal.com/2024/01/05/flere-byer-i-argentina-nekter-5g-utbygging-for-forskerne-er-enige-om-helsevirkningene/>



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## UK - Study shows that mobile phone use reduces sperm count

Sperm counts have been declining in recent years and, according to researchers, in young men aged between 18 and 22, this may be due to the use of mobile phones.

The study, conducted by Oxford University among others, shows that men who use their mobile phones at least 20 times a day are significantly more likely to have lower sperm concentration and fewer sperm. It has not been possible to determine whether it is talking on the phone or doing other things like texting - that causes the deterioration in sperm count.

Keeping your mobile phone in your front pocket is therefore a bad idea. Researchers are therefore urging men to keep their phones in backpacks, other bags or jackets, and preferably not to talk directly into the phone, but to use headphones instead. Wi-Fi-equipped laptops have been linked to reduced sperm motility and an increase in the fragmentation of sperm DNA after just four hours of use.

**Sources:** Swedish papers Dagens PS, Aftonbladet and Dr Joseph Mercola, <https://www.dagensps.se/weekend/halsa/ny-studie-mobilanvandning-ger-farre-spermier/>

## World - UNESCO calls for mobile-free schools

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is calling for a ban on smartphone use in classrooms. A report shows that 1 in 4 countries in the world have already introduced a ban, either fully or partially.

With unfettered access, smartphones can destroy students' attention and distract from learning, UNESCO argues.

In a 2017 article entitled *Brain Drain: The Mere Presence of One's Own Smartphone Reduces Available Cognitive Capacity*, researchers showed that the closer a student was to a smartphone, the worse they performed on a test. Students who were asked to leave their phone in another room performed best, students who kept their phone in their pocket or bag had mediocre results, and students who kept their phones on their desk performed worst.

**Source:** Global News, <https://globalnews.ca/news/9858348/unesco-smartphone-ban-schools-classrooms/>

## Sweden - Primary school to be completely mobile-free

Primary school pupils will no longer be allowed to have mobile phones at school. The phones will be collected when pupils arrive in the morning and returned when they go home. New Zealand and Russia are also banning mobile phones in classrooms, but are implementing the ban faster than Sweden.

**Sources:** Swedish Radio, MSN.com, <https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/regeringen-grundskolan-ska-blir-helt-mobilfri>

## Finland - Are mobile phones ruining our relationships?

Are you annoyed that your partner finds it hard to get away from their mobile phone? Then you are not alone! Mobile phones are a major threat to our love relationships, according to new research from Finland. They lead to distance, suspicion, frustration - and divorce.

"The research results are clear," says researcher **Anna Rotkirch**, who initiated the project, to TV4. She believes that these are major trends in society - and that it has been seen over time that mobile phone use leads to a greater risk of divorce after 10 years of marriage.

'Screen time, and especially separate screen time - i.e. your partner looking at his or her mobile phone and you looking at yours - is associated with a decline in the quality of the relationship and a shorter relationship,' says Anna Rotkirch.

The mobile phone can also trigger suspicion and there is a link between mobile phone use and jealousy, infidelity - and the risk of divorce. The problem with the screen is that those around you cannot know what you are doing on it. They do not know who you are writing to, what you are looking at and so on.

If you read a magazine or a book, you have an idea. But on the screen you don't. This increases mistrust, which leads to more jealousy, more conflicts and more suspicion in relationships," says Anna Rotkirch.

**Source:** Swedish paper Kurera 19 December 2023, <https://kurera.se/sa-forstor-mobilen-vara-relationer/>

## Europe - EU wants 5G in your car

All new cars are equipped with **eCall**. This is the system that automatically makes a free 112 emergency call if your vehicle is involved in a serious road accident. Currently, eCall works via 2G and 3G networks, as these networks will be switched off by 2025, the new EU regulation refers to,

"Vehicle safety - updated standards for in-vehicle emergency call systems (eCall)", intends to change the standards for the transition of eCall to 4G and 5G networks.

**Europeans for Safe Connections (ESC)** has sent feedback to the EU:

"For passenger vehicles / private cars, eCall must be optional and the manufacturer must offer a variant of the vehicle, without installed wireless technology or a possibility to switch off eCall."

**Source:** ESC



## Sweden - Politicians' electricity discount for IT giants bad for society

The Swedish agency **Growth Analysis**, has now reviewed the tax rebate that American IT giants such as Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook received from the government in 2017 to establish themselves in Sweden. The energy tax for data centres was greatly reduced, by 98 percent. This would promote growth and create jobs, it was claimed. But that was hardly the case. In reality, few jobs were created.

*"Our analysis shows that the reform was not economically profitable. The tax loss already amounted to more than SEK 1 billion by 2020,"* said Simon Falck, an analyst at Swedens Growth Analysis, in a statement.

**Source:** Growth Analysis, <https://www.tillvaxtanalys.se/publikationer/wp/wp/2023-12-12-assessing-the-welfare-effects-of-electricity-tax-exemptions-in-general-equilibrium-the-case-of-swedish-data-centers.html>

## Sweden - Sixth 5G case study: Whole family affected by microwave syndrome

A new case study, the sixth to date on the health effects of 5G exposure, shows that an entire family of two adults and three children aged 4-8 suffered symptoms typical of microwave syndrome while holidaying near a 5G mast. When the family returned home, where radiation levels were significantly lower, the symptoms disappeared and health was restored.

**Source:** Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation, <https://www.stralskyddsstiftelsen.se/2023/12/08/ny-fallstudie-5g-hel-familj-drabbades-av-mikrovagssyndromet-nara-5g-mast/>

## Sweden: Screen-free preschool and more books in primary schools



The Swedish government is implementing measures to reduce screen time and is investing heavily in more books in pre-schools and schools.

"We need to move from screens to binders, not least for our pre-school children," says Swedish Minister for Labour and Integration Johan Pehrson.

**Source:** The Swedish Government.

## Sweden: GSM and 3G networks to be decommissioned

The decommissioning of GSM and 3G networks has already started. The plan is that operators, will close down their 3G networks by the end of 2024. GSM networks will be phased out by the end of 2025.

The Swedish Consumer Agency writes: "This means that mobiles and other technical equipment that only work via GSM and 3G can, in the worst case, stop working."

**IEMFA's comment:** If you have to buy a new mobile phone - choose a mobile phone that can be connected by cable, most expensive mobiles seem to be able to use this nowadays. IEMFA's technical expert argues that SAR values are meaningless, as they do not show the radiation leaving the mobile phone but only that which "sticks to the brain". No one should hold a mobile phone against their body when using it.

Tip: We suggest that it is often cheaper to buy a second-hand mobile phone with a warranty from a company.

## Norway: European Court of Human Rights does not take up complaint about new electricity meters

The Norwegian complaint to the European Court of Human Rights on human rights related to electromagnetic radiation and biological damage was rejected by a judge. It was the highest instance, so the case is not being reviewed by the Court. The entire legal process in Norway has cost NOK 7.6 million. The entire amount was raised through donations.

**Sources:** The Norwegian Strålevett magazine (issued by the Norwegian organisation for EMFsensitive) and Einar Flydal, Norway, <https://einarflydal.com/smartmaler-info/>

## Dirty electricity - a hidden trigger of disease and reduced life expectancy

The Swedish Electrical Safety Authority writes: *"All electronics can emit radio waves at different frequencies that can cause interference to other electronics such as radio and mobile phones."*

Many common diseases, especially cancer, are related to high-frequency disturbances of electricity, called electromagnetic interference (EMI) or 'dirty electricity'. Historical data also suggests that electrification has reduced life expectancy

EMI is biologically active and affects mitochondrial function, which we now understand is at the heart of virtually all chronic diseases

Cancers appear to be frequency-specific, meaning that certain frequencies cause specific cancers.

Breast cancer in men is an indicator of exposure to EMI.

**Source:** Dr Joseph Mercola, December 2023

## Sweden: Another new case study on 5G

The new case study concerns a woman, 82 years old with electrohypersensitivity (EHS) since almost four decades. Following the deployment of 5G base stations near her home, she developed serious health problems, including fatigue, dysaesthesia (a type of chronic pain), dizziness, balance disorders and light sensitivity, all of which are part of the microwave syndrome.

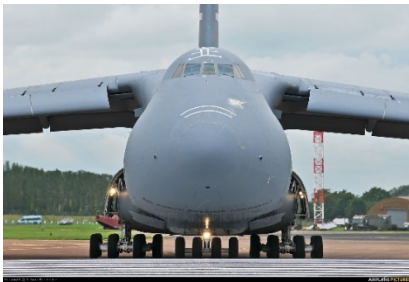
Her 83-year-old husband was also affected, although to a lesser extent.

*"The ethical and moral principles of medicine that can be applied to illness caused by RF radiation are respect for life, human dignity, self-determination, medical care, justice and utility. These principles are central to the ethics of physicists and other health professionals.*

*All these principles have been violated and in fact microwave disease with various symptoms has not been recognised as a disease by the medical community. This is mainly due to a lack of scientific knowledge on this subject",* says Dr Lennart Hardell.

**Source:** Radiation Protection Foundation and Dr Lennart Hardell.

## Sweden: US gets 'unfettered access' to 17 Swedish military bases



The Swedish government has signed an agreement giving the US free access to a large number of Swedish military bases, [SVT](#) reports.

*"U.S. forces, U.S. contractors, Swedish contractors, family members, and others as agreed by the parties shall have unrestricted access to and use of agreed facilities and areas for visits; training; exercises; manoeuvres; transit; support and related activities; aircraft refuelling; vessel refuelling; aircraft landing and recovery;*

*temporary maintenance of vehicles, vessels, and aircraft; accommodation of personnel; communications; assembly and deployment of forces and materiel; pre-stocking of equipment, supplies and materials; security assistance and cooperation; joint and combined training; humanitarian and disaster relief; contingency operations; construction in support of activities agreed by the Parties and other purposes agreed by the Parties or their executive agents, including those related to the North Atlantic Treaty."*

**Source:** Government, December 2023

<https://www.regeringen.se/globalassets/regeringen/dokument/forsvarsdepartementet/avtal-om-forsvarssamarbete-mellan-sverige-och-usa.pdf>

**IEMFA's comment:** This entails the additional burden on humans and nature of increasing radiation levels from military signalling systems.

## Smartphones transmit signal in airplane mode - iPhone even when switched off

An iPhone transmits a signal even in **airplane mode**, if the *Find My Phone* function is activated.

Note, this feature is the **default setting** for the iPhone.

What is new is that an iPhone sends a tracking signal even when it is **switched off**.

The update of the iPhone's operating system to **iOs15** includes coding that uses the phone's battery to power the Bluetooth transmitter. This allows your iPhone to connect to other iPhones that have the *Find My Network* feature enabled. Together, all iPhones create a kind of "network" that send and receive location information.

*"Apple is proud that the 'Find My Network' feature is actually on and sending signals, even when you think your phone is off!"*



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An iPhone from **model 11 onwards** with **iOs15** can thus be **tracked** even when it is **completely switched off**, exposing you and the environment to electromagnetic **radiation**.

This iPhone feature is turned off if '*Find My Network*' is deactivated. The alternative is to put the phone in a sealed tin box or Faraday's cage.

**Sources:** Various websites such as Apple.com, Techwellness.com, Macworld.com and 9to5mac.com.

<https://techwellness.com/blogs/expertise/how-to-stop-iphone-tracking-and-emf-when-off>

<https://www.macworld.com/article/2154248/how-to-find-a-missing-iphone-or-ipad-when-its-nearly-out-of-power.html>

<https://9to5mac.com/2021/06/07/ios-15-find-my-network-can-find-your-iphone-when-it-is-powered-off/>

Samsung also has this feature, but it is not standard and must be activated. Some Android phones do not have the tracking function in airplane mode or when it is switched off. It's best to keep Bluetooth turned off at all times.

The equivalent function for **Android** is called "*Find My Device*".

*"Find, lock, or erase your lost Android device"*.

The phone must have power and be connected to mobile data or WiFi. Also required:

- The phone is logged in to a Google account
- The phone has *Location* enabled
- Your phone has *Find My Device* enabled

**Source:** Google.com, <https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/6160491?hl=en>

A member with a microwave meter reports that a Samsung Galaxy S7 (an Android phone) emitted a tracking signal when the "*Find My Device*" function was activated. This was even when the phone was in **airplane mode**, and all wireless was seemingly turned off. A rather strong pulse once per second.

The signal disappeared when "*Find my device*" was deactivated.

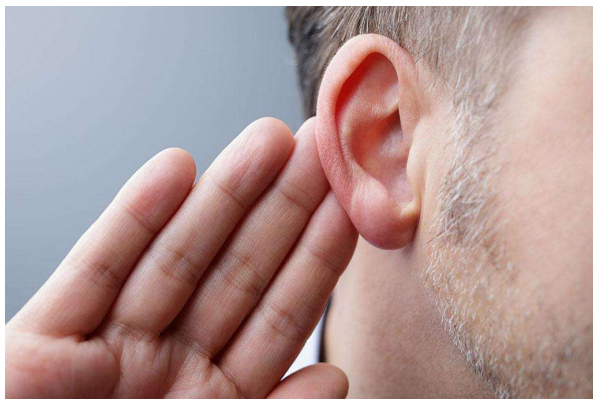


## Italy - Hearing problems, can this be caused by EMF?

Hearing loss is one of the most common and growing disorders of the sensory system. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), almost 2.5 billion people worldwide - or 1 in 4 people - will be living with some degree of hearing loss by 2050.

In a study published in September 2023, Italian researcher Valerio Magnaghi and his team provided valuable insights into this possibility.

The Magnaghi article points out that electromagnetic fields can affect health. The authors state that *"a number of other environmental factors, including exposure to electric or electromagnetic fields (EMF) emitted by electronic devices (e.g., household appliances, laptops or mobile phones), have also been suspected as potential risk factors for human health, likely including VS [Vestibular Schwannoma or acoustic neuroma, which causes dizziness, tinnitus and hearing loss]. Over the past decades, scientific studies, empirical observations and patient reports have clearly demonstrated interactions between exposure to electromagnetic fields and health problems, but at the same time, the general sensitivity to environmental factors, such as electromagnetic fields, has often been overlooked."*



Magnaghi's team explained that electromagnetic fields can potentially cause hearing problems via their effects on Schwann cells.

**Source:** Mohammed T, Melfi V, Cociago A, Magnaghi V. Hearing loss and vestibular schwannoma: new insights into the role of Schwann cells. *Cell Death Dis*, 2023 Sep 23; 14(9):629. doi: 10.1038 /s41419 - 023-06141 -z. PMID: 37741837; PMCID: PMC10517973.

## World - Ookla 5G Map™

The interactive 5G map from Ookla shows 5G deployments in cities around the world. The map is updated weekly from verified public sources and Ookla data.

Zooming in on the map shows more information and details about the cities where the networks are located.

As of January, 233 operators and 145,914 transmitters are reported for 5G.

**Source:** Ookla,

<https://www.speedtest.net/ookla-5g-map>

