RASSC 40 Meeting
Heads of the European Radiological protection Competent Authorities (HERCA)
Report of Activities
IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria | 21-22 June 2016

The Association HERCA (Heads of the European Radiological protection Competent Authorities) has the objective to contribute to a high level of radiological protection throughout Europe.

The members of HERCA are the European Radiation Protection Authorities (RPA) represented by the Heads of the authorities.

The programme of work of HERCA is based on common interest in practical and harmonized solutions to important regulatory issues to be applied at the national level.

HERCA collaborates with relevant stakeholders and approaches stakeholder involvement with a view on maximizing the efficiency and efficacy of its efforts. HERCA will keep relevant stakeholders informed about its activities and is prepared to consider requests from them for advice on radiological protection and regulatory matters.

Overview of HERCA activities
HERCA current activities cover the following areas:
- Medical Applications
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Veterinary Applications
- Non-Medical Sources and Practices
- European Radiation Passbook and Outside Workers
- Education and Training
- Transposition of Euratom BSS
- NORM and building materials
- Radon

More information on HERCA and its current activities.

Collaborative efforts with stakeholders in the medical field.

Multi-stakeholders workshop on Level II justification and on the Reporting of Accidental and unintended exposures

HERCA will organise two multi-stakeholder workshops in Paris on the transposition of specific EU BSS Directive articles, identified as challenging issues in the medical field:
- a Workshop on Generic Justification of Medical Exposures using Ionising Radiation (24 noon - 26 noon, October 2016)
- a Workshop on Accidental and Unintended Exposures(26 noon - 28 noon October 2016)

Several HERCA stakeholders are invited: COCIR, EANM, EFOMP, EFRS, ESR, ESTRO, ISRRT, PFPS, WHO, WONCA, IAEA, EC (DG ENER and DG SANCO).
The objectives of these two workshops are: (1) To explore a common understanding of the new BSS requirements, (2) To exchange on national approaches relating to the implementation of these new BSS requirements; (3) To collect the opinion of important European stakeholders, particularly the European medical societies and manufacturers and (4) To assist in the development of HERCA Positions Papers intended to facilitate implementation of the BSS.

**Individual justification and CT optimisation**

Early March 2016, HERCA organised a Joint multi-stakeholder meeting on the justification and optimisation in medical field. This MSM was a follow-up of the two first meetings on the justification of individual medical exposures and on the optimised use of CT-scanners. Considering the successful outcomes of these MSM, HERCA decided to transform these two issues into standing items and to organise a third MSM on CT optimisation in spring 2017.

**Inspection Competence**

In November 2016, HERCA will organise a “European action week”. HERCA members are invited to organise several inspections in medical radiology according to a similar template and procedure.

**HERCA Radon Workshop on National Radon Action**

A European workshop on radon, supported by HERCA, was held in Geneva from 12 to 14 October 2015 and organised by ASN (France), NRPA (Norway) and PHFO (Switzerland). It was mainly focused on the issue of controlling radon exposures in workplaces. The main objective was to provide a forum for European countries to exchange points of view on the transposition of the specific requirements of the Euratom-BSS dealing with radon exposure in workplaces (articles 5, 9, 25, 31, 35, 54, 103, annex XVIII (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10)) and the impact on existing national approach and strategy.

The “Common understanding and recommendations related of the BSS requirements on radon in workplaces” was published on HERCA website in May 2016. Some recommendations underline, in particular, the need for international tools for the radon dose calculation and for European guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the new BSS requirements.

For more information: ([http://www.herca.org/herca_news.asp?newsID=54](http://www.herca.org/herca_news.asp?newsID=54)).

**HERCA Workshop on NORM and Building Materials**

HERCA organised a workshop on 24-26 May 2016 in Bergen, Norway, on the NORM and building materials. The objective was to develop a common understanding of the EU BSS directive articles addressing NORM and building materials issues and, if possible, specific recommendations for cases where flexibility is allowed for transposition.

Some features:

- Organisation by NRPA (Norway), CSN (Spain) and ASN (France),
- Supported by HERCA, with the participation of EC, IAEA and the CEN/TC 351/WG3
- 27 participants from 15 European countries

The WS final report will be issue in November 2016, after the HERCA Board approval. First conclusions highlighted the need for a European Guidance on NORM, based on the best practices in place in terms of efficiency. The existing European guidance RP 112, needs to be updated on both issues NORM and building materials, in particular by taking into account the latest developments from ICRP.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response**

In October 2016, HERCA and WENRA associations issues the HERCA-WENRA Approach for a better cross-border coordination of protective actions during the early phase of a nuclear accident. Since, HERCA has been tasked by both association to develop tools for a successful implementation of the approach. The following documents are issued:

- Guidance document for bilateral agreements,
Currently, the HERCA WG on Emergencies works on the following topics:

- Elaboration of “Country fact-sheets” on national EP&R
- Assessment and Prognosis in Response to an Emergency at a NPP
- Follow-up of the implementation status in HERCA countries,

On 14-15 June 2016, HERCA and WENRA jointly organized a workshop on the implementation of the HERCA-WENRA Approach with the participation of the civil protection competent authorities.

The first objective of the workshop was to encourage the cooperation with civil protection competent authorities in Europe: 80 persons from 23 countries participated in the WS, a quarter of them being of the civil protection field.

The second objective was to discuss issues already identified and to define steps for addressing them. Trust between authorities competent in radiation protection, nuclear safety and the relevant authorities involved in disaster management is of fundamental importance to establish the rapid and reliable channels of information, communication and alerts necessary for a harmonised approach in the early phase of a nuclear accident.

During the workshop, it was noted that the authorities competent in radiation protection, nuclear safety and civil protection need to continue to work on the possible ways of implementation of the HERCA-WENRA Approach, while taking into account existing international standards and mechanisms. The participants underlined the need for setting up an effective and coordinated cooperation with all the relevant authorities involved in disaster management, with the support of EC DG ECHO.

Furthermore, the participants identified some areas with nuclear power plants near national borders in Europe where in-depth work for implementing the HWA should be prioritized.

### HERCA Workshops and Meetings in 2016

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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Joint Multi-stakeholders’ meeting on optimization and justification in medical field</td>
<td>IAEA Headquarters, Vienna</td>
<td>10 March 2016</td>
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<td>Workshop on the transposition of the Euratom BSS directive in relation to NORM and building materials</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on the implementation of HERCA-WENRA Approach with civil protection</td>
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