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 workshops on Level II justification and on the Reporting of Accidental and Unintended Exposures
HERCA organised 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 - 27 October 2016)
Several HERCA stakeholders participated: COCIR, EANM, EFOMP, EFRS, ESR, ESTRO, ISRRRT, WHO, IAEA, EC/DG ENER.

Participants explored a common understanding of the new BSS requirements and exchanged on national approaches relating to the implementation of these requirements.
Concerning the Workshop on Generic Justification of Medical Exposures using Ionising Radiation, excellent discussions were developed with participating stakeholders on various aspects of the justification, in particular, of new types of practices. The interrelation between Healthcare System and Radiation was also discussed.

With relation to the Workshop on Accidental and Unintended Exposures, appropriate guidelines need to be defined and a close cooperation between medical societies and radiation protection authorities is needed for defining criteria and disseminating information on events.

On both topics, a position paper will be drafted and discussed between HERCA and its stakeholders. HERCA plans to issue this position paper by mid-2017.

**CT optimisation**

On 6 March 2017, HERCA will organise in Vienna (IAEA premises) a last multi-stakeholder meeting on the optimisation in medical field. This MSM is a follow-up of the previous meetings organised on the optimised use of CT-scanners.

*Addendum to HERCA position paper “The process of CT dose optimization through education and training and role of CT Manufacturers”*

*Multi-stakeholder meeting on CT dose optimisation (1st April 2015, Paris, France)*

**Inspection Competence in Medical Field**

From 8 to 15 November 2016, HERCA organised a “European action week”. Eighteen countries participating in HERCA activities carried out several inspections in medical radiology on justification principle according to a similar template and procedure. Some inspections will be also organised in December and January 2017.

*Media Press Release*  
*Information Leaflet*

**HERCA Radon Workshop on National Radon Action**

A [European workshop on radon](https://www.iaea.org) supported by HERCA, was held in Geneva from 12 to 14 October 2015. 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 related requirements of the Euratom BSS directive and on 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.

**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.

The workshop report and the related common understanding will be issued early 2017.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response**

In October 2014, 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](https://www.iaea.org). Since, HERCA has been tasked by both association to develop tools for a successful implementation of the approach.

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](https://www.iaea.org). 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.
Four points would need further investigations: (1) The food chain protection, the extension of protective actions at distances beyond the emergency planning zones and the use of non-radiological criteria for deciding on protective actions, (2) Prioritization of NPPs near national borders (3) Authorities competent in radiation protection, nuclear safety and civil protection need to continue to work on the implementation of the HWA while taking into account existing international mechanisms, standards etc. (4) Support of EC DG ECHO.

In September 2016, HERCA and WENRA issued the Workshop Summary Report.

HERCA working group on Emergencies remains tasked with following-up the implementation of the HERCA-WENRA Approach and with developing appropriate tools for facilitating the Approach implementation.

Veterinary Applications

Early November, HERCA approved two documents dealing with veterinary applications.

(1) Position paper on veterinary medicine applications of ionising radiation. Considering changes of veterinary applications of ionizing radiation, this position paper exposes the need for strengthening radiation protection requirements to become commensurate with the risks implied. In particular, the education and training requirements need to be brought in accordance with the scope of practice, tasks and responsibilities of the professionals involved, so as to assure an adequate protections of workers, members of the public and the environment.

(2) Guidelines on Education and Training requirements for veterinary professionals (veterinary doctors, veterinary radiographers and veterinary assistants).

HERCA workshops, meetings and events in 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Workshop on the transposition of the Euratom BSS directive in relation to NORM and building materials</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>24-26 May 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on the implementation of HERCA-WENRA Approach with civil protection</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>14-15 June 2016</td>
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<td>HERCA Inspection week on justification in medical field</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>8-15 Nov. 2016</td>
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HERCA workshops, meetings and events in 2017

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-stakeholders’ meeting on CT optimization in medical field</td>
<td>IAEA Headquarters, Vienna</td>
<td>6 March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness week in medical field</td>
<td>Europe</td>
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