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
- NORM and building materials
- Radon
- Non-Medical Sources and Practices
- Education and Training

Most of HERCA activities are related to the transposition and implementation of the requirements of the Euratom BSS Directive (BSSD).

More information on HERCA and its current activities.

Medical applications

Level II justification and 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:

Several HERCA stakeholders participated: COCIR, EANM, EFOMP, EFRS, ESR, ESTRO, ISRRT, 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.

Regarding the Level II justification, HERCA works on a position paper expressing HERCA’s position on fundamental challenges in the transposition of Art. 55.2 (a) and (c) of the Euratom BSS Directive and presenting a set of conclusions. This document should be issued by end 2017.

Regarding the Reporting of Accidental and Unintended Exposures, HERCA released on its website the HERCA Position paper on Accidental and Unintended Medical Exposures in June 2017.

CT optimisation

On 6 March 2017, HERCA organised in Vienna (IAEA premises) the last multi-stakeholder meeting on the optimisation in medical field. The objectives of these 3 meetings were to promote collaboration between
stakeholders and the outcomes showed stakeholders’ willingness to promote E&T in CT optimization and to collaborate. A report summarizing all activities carried out since 2010 will be issued by end 2017.

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)
Last multi-stakeholder meeting on CT dose optimisation (6 March 2017, Vienna, Austria)

Inspection Competence in Medical Field
From 8 to 15 November 2016, HERCA organised a “European action week”. Seventeen countries participated and conducted 142 inspections in medical radiology on justification principle according to a similar template and procedure. Results will be shared by end 2017.

Media Press Release
Information Leaflet

Medical equipment
HERCA started working on medical equipment to deal with the topics covered by article 78.2 of the BSSD, and on the follow up of the HERCA letter on DAP units. Exchanges with COCIR are planned.

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 are available on HERCA website.

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 (HERCA-WENRA Approach = HWA). Since, HERCA working group on Emergencies is tasked with following-up the implementation of the HERCA-WENRA Approach and with developing appropriate tools for facilitating the Approach implementation.

HERCA developed several guidance and tools such as Guidance for bilateral Arrangements or Country Fact Sheets. HERCA also currently works on the definition and development of a common situation report and on the coordination of cross-border protective actions.

Veterinary Applications
In May 2017, HERCA Board approved the Guidelines on radiation protection education and training of veterinary professionals (veterinary doctors, veterinary radiographers and veterinary assistants).

HERCA remains involved in the IAEA technical group in charge of the drafting of an IAEA Safety Report on radiation protection and safety in veterinary medicine.

HERCA Chairmanship
At the last HERCA Board meeting in Warsaw, the members of HERCA Board elected Mrs Karla Petrová as next Chair of HERCA starting 1 January 2018. She will replace Mr Sigurður M. Magnusson, Chair of HERCA since 2012.