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.

Medical applications

Level II justification


CT optimisation

On Nov. 3rd, HERCA Board approved the HERCA report on CT Manufacturers Stakeholder Involvement. This report develops HERCA interactions with CT manufacturers, in particular through the different multi-stakeholders meetings organised since 2010 for promoting collaboration between stakeholders. The outcomes showed stakeholders’ willingness to promote E&T in CT optimization and to collaborate.

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. HERCA will present a paper at the upcoming IAEA international conference on Radiation protection in Medicine: Achieving Change in Practice (11-15 Dec. 2017).

**Other fields of activities**

On Nov., 3rd, HERCA Board approved the action plan of the Working Group on Medical Application. Thus, HERCA Board also approved the creation of two new working packages on (1) clinical audits and (2) nuclear medicine focused on optimisation. The Working Group on Medical Applications also continues its work on medical equipment, inspector competence of authorities and awareness in medical exposures.

**Natural radiation sources**

On Nov., 3rd HERCA Board approved the creation of a new working group for addressing natural radiation sources. Based on the experience gathered from the different workshops organised on Radon, NORM and building materials and from issues identified by HERCA members regarding BSSD transposition and implementation, HERCA will work on the definition on its mandate and action plan at short term.

**Workshop on NORM and building materials**

**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 HWA implementation. HERCA developed several guidance 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.

On Nov. 3rd, HERCA Board approved the action plan of the Working Group which will focus its actions on the HWA, the increase of mutual understanding and knowledge and the development of guidance documents.

**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).

In 2018, the working group on Veterinary Applications will work on equine veterinary practices, the protection of owners/handlers and the release criteria / safety measures in veterinary nuclear medicine.

**Research and Industrial Sources and Practices**

The HERCA working group on Research and Industrial Sources and Practices covers all radiation protection issues concerning the justification and optimization of non-medical applications of ionizing radiation. In particular, this WG currently works on industrial radiography, security of radioactive sources (IAEA Security Guide No.11), maintenance of industrial radiography equipment, high-activity sources inventory, ionizing radiation systems for cargo-screening and justification principle.

**Education and training**

On Nov. 3rd, HERCA Board approved the Guidance on the Implementation of Radiation Protection Expert and Radiation Protection Officer Requirements. This document details the different options for implementation of the BSSD requirements and provides a common understanding regarding these requirements.

**HERCA Chairmanship**

On Nov. 3rd, HERCA Board elected Mrs Fernanda Sánchez Ojanguren (CSN, Spain) and Mrs Mette Øhlenschlæger (SIS, Denmark) as HERCA vice-Chairs for the 2018-2020 period. For more information: 20th HERCA Board meeting (2-3 Nov. 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark).