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
- Research and Industrial Sources and Practices
- Natural Radiation Sources
- Education and Training

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

HERCA was created in 2007 and is chaired by Mrs Karla Petrova (SUJB, Czech Republic).

More information on HERCA and its current activities.

Medical applications

HERCA working group on Medical Applications has four major activities; Inspection competences of authorities, Awareness in Medical Exposure, Medical Equipment and Clinical Audits.

Awareness in medical exposures

After the European Inspection Campaign to Assess Patient Radiation Protection in Diagnostic Radiology organised late 2016, HERCA plans, late 2019, a European Awareness initiative in a coordinated process across several European countries focused on the justification of medical imaging involving ionizing radiations. In the coming months and after interaction with national stakeholders, HERCA will prepare the campaign with the objective to propose a tool kit to all HERCA members.

Medical Equipment

HERCA continues its work on the standardisation of Dose Area Product (DAP) units and interacts with COCIR. HERCA is Category B liaison organisation for observing IEC Technical Committee 62 (TC62) which covers electrical equipment in medical practice (IEC SC 62B: Diagnostic imaging equipment and IEC SC 62C: Equipment for radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and radiation dosimetry). HERCA also interacts with EFOMP which supports HERCA activities in this field.
**Inspection Competence in Medical Field**


HERCA organised a [workshop on “how to inspect Justification and Optimisation in Nuclear Medicine”](https://www.iaea.org) on 6-8 Nov. 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden. This second workshop was addressed to experienced inspectors from radiation competent Authorities, members of HERCA, and covered nuclear medicine both in diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

**Other fields of activities**

HERCA conducted an exploratory work on interventional radiology, protontherapy and radiation therapy in order to identify possible topics of interest for HERCA, including patients and occupational exposures.

**Natural radiation sources**

The HERCA WG on [natural radiation sources](https://www.iaea.org) interacts with EC, IAEA and major stakeholders such as WHO, UNSCEAR and ICRP. In particular, first issues covered are

- The identification of the consequences of the new radon dose conversion factors at a national level and to work towards identifying options to dealing with them.
- The impact of standardization works on national regulations with regards to building materials. To develop relations with CEN and exchange with EC (Art. 31 GoE WP NAT).
- To scope out a review of the EC Guidance 122, part. 2 considering the on-going revision work undertaken by IAEA.

**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)](https://www.iaea.org). Since, HERCA Working Group on Emergencies is tasked with following-up the implementation of the HWA developing appropriate tools for facilitating the implementation and preparing a complementary document. HERCA developed several guidance or [Country Fact Sheets](https://www.iaea.org).

HERCA WG on emergencies also works on the coordination of cross-border protective actions.

**Veterinary Applications**

HERCA Board approved the [Veterinary Guidelines for protection of veterinary professionals and members of the public during off-site x-ray examinations](https://www.iaea.org), and the WG on veterinary applications prepares a more detailed document on national approaches.

This working group also works on the release criteria and safety measures in veterinary nuclear medicine and on the different pre-purchase exams realized on horses.

**Research and Industrial Sources and Practices**

HERCA Board approved the [Statement on the justification and use of hand-held X-ray equipment](https://www.iaea.org). Currently the WG on research & industrial sources & practices WG 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.

**Other information**

Next HERCA Board meeting: 15-16 May 2019 in Liverpool, UK.

For more information: [www.herca.org](https://www.herca.org) | Contact point: HERCA Technical Secretariat, secretariat@herca.org