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 requirements 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

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. HERCA produced a first toolkit for HERCA members for helping in the implementation of the campaign at national level. These documents are currently submitted to European stakeholders consultation.

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.

HERCA also interacts with COCIR regarding the information to be provided to undertakings required under art. 78 of Euratom BSS directive. This work is also supported by ESTRQ and EFOMP.
**Clinical Audits**

HERCA plans to issue by end 2019 a position paper focused on the requirements for clinical audits (art. 58.e of the **Euratom BSS directive**) for addressing the differences between the requirements for clinical audit and the requirements for inspection by the competent authorities of Member States (Art. 104).

**Nuclear Medicine and Inspection Competence in Medical Field**

Based on the conclusions of the workshop on how to inspect justification and optimisation in nuclear medicine, HERCA decided to create a dedicate work package for interacting with manufacturers for optimisation of nuclear medicine, sharing information, organising an inspection week and for issuing a position paper on the implementation of the Euratom BSS directive requirements in nuclear medicine.

**Awareness in medical exposures**

End 2019, HERCA plans to launch a European awareness initiative in a coordinated process across several European countries focused on the justification of medical imaging involving ionizing radiation.

**Natural radiation sources**

The HERCA WG on natural radiation sources 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.

**Education and Training**

HERCA works on the implementation on Euratom BSS directive requirements with regard to Radiation Protection Experts (RPE) and Radiation Protection Officers (RPO).

**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 works on the implementation of the HWA and has recently developed complementary documents such as Country Fact Sheets, guidance to extend the application of the protective actions of evacuation, sheltering and the distribution of stable iodine (ITB) and guidance for additional urgent protective actions during the initial phase of a nuclear emergency.

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

**Veterinary Applications**

HERCA completed its work on the Veterinary Guidelines for protection of veterinary professionals and members of the public during off-site x-ray examinations and currently works on release criteria and safety measures & activities in veterinary nuclear medicine and on the pre-purchase exams on horses.

HERCA interacts with ICRP and FEEVA.

**Research and Industrial Sources and Practices**

Currently, HERCA 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: 30-31 October 2019 in Rome, Italy.

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