ALBANIA

FIRST REGULAR NATIONAL REPORT

under the

Convention on Nuclear Safety

August 2016

CONTENTS

A – INTRODUCTION

This National Report is the first report submitted by the Republic of Albania according to the Article 5 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (here- and-after: CNS). Therefore, this report presents the national policy of the Republic of Albania towards nuclear activities giving an overview on the current status of implementation of the CNS in Albania.

Republic of Albania has no nuclear installations, according to definition of the CNS, on its territory. Albania has no nuclear power plants and no intention to build any in the foreseeable future. Albania has a considerable activity in applying radiation and radioisotopes in human health, industry, agriculture and environment. Albania has a strong cooperation with the IAEA TC department and the Division of the Nuclear Security.

Thus, legislative, regulatory and administrative measures have been undertaken in order to maintain a high level of radiation protection and safety. Therefore, this report addresses how the Republic of Albania has achieved the relevant objectives of the CNS regarding non-nuclear countries.

Albania ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) on 29.06.2011, and the CNS is officially in force in Albania since 27.09.2011.

Sources of ionizing radiation in Albania are mainly used in medicine, industry, science and education. When performing activities in medicine, such as radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, diagnostic and interventional radiology, have been applying telecobalt machines with Co-60, brachytherapy machines with Ir-192, linear accelerators and other sources of ionizing radiation. Nuclear medicine uses Tc-generator for diagnosis and I-131 for therapy. X-ray machines (conventional X-ray and CT) are used in routine for diagnostic purposes. The Non-destructive techniques (NDT) with X-ray machines and radioisotope sealed sources (mostly Ir-192 source) are used by public and private companies in several industrial sectors. X-ray machines are used in borders for baggage inspection.

The National Regulatory Authority (NRA) in Albania is Radiation Protection Commission (RPC), which is decision maker, while the Radiation Protection Office (RPO) is executive and inspection body of the Radiation Protection Commission. Radiation Protection Commission as the responsible body for the implementation of CNS ensures that Albania is fully committed to the obligations regarding the provisions of the Convention.

This National Report was prepared in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Guidelines regarding National Reports under the Convention on Nuclear Safety, INFCIRC/572/Rev.4 dating from 16 April 2013. Having no nuclear installations, Articles 7, 8, and 16 of the CNS will be reported only.

The IAEA conducted the first International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission in Albania on 16-27 May 2016. The mission reviewed Albania's nuclear security-related legislative and regulatory framework for radioactive material and associated facilities and activities. The IPPAS team concluded that Albania has taken important steps to strengthen nuclear security. The team identified a number of good practices while also making recommendations and suggestions for continuous improvement.

B – SUMMARY

As already emphasized, this is the first full report which Albania is submitting based on CNS. Albania, after 1995, when Law on Radiation Protection was adopted, has made significant progress when it comes to radiation and nuclear safety in the country. Particularly significant is the progress in the establishment of the regulatory body and strengthening of its capacity, as well as the adoption of laws in the field of radiation and nuclear safety. Also it is important to emphasize that Albania has ratified most major international instruments in the nuclear field and is deeply committed to the implementation of its international obligations. Through the adoption of regulations, the latest IAEA standards are taken in consideration, especially BSS, Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines regarding national reports and is applicable to non-nuclear countries and includes areas relevant to the work of the regulatory body. The report focus on the description of the legislative and regulatory framework, the establishment and the status of the regulatory body, as well as on the preparation and response to emergencies (extraordinary circumstances).

C – REPORTING ARTICLE BY ARTICLE

Article 7 CNS – Legislative and regulatory framework

(1) Establishment and maintenance of the legislative and regulatory framework

Based on the IAEA Radiation Protection Advisory Teams (RAPAT) recommendations the Parliament of Albania approved the Radiation Protection Act No. 8025 "On ionizing radiation protection" of 09/11/1995, which is the basic law on radiation protection. Amendments to the Law on radiation protection have been approved to bring it in line with EU legislation. The Law 8025 was amended and promulgated in 2008 as Law No. 9973 and in 2013 as Law No 26/2013.

The Radiation Protection Commission (RPC), which members are appointed by the Council of Ministers, is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) with independent status and competences. RPC is the main organ in the field of radiation protection, safety and security. The strategic objective of the Radiation Protection Commission (RPC), as the national independent authority nominated by the Council of Ministers under the Ministry of Health, is to protect workers health, public and environment from the effects of ionizing radiation, taking maximum benefits of using ionizing radiations. Radiation Protection Office (RPO) is an executive and inspection body of the Radiation Protection Commission.

Within the existing legislative framework the most outstanding issues have been addressing, in particular recommendations by RaSSIA on security and physical protection of radioactive materials according to General Safety Requirements (GSR) part 3. At the moment the legislation is approximate to EU legislation.

(2)/(i) National safety requirements and regulations

The Council of Ministers has adopted an appropriate set of regulations that cover the area of security, safety and radiation protection to ionizing sources as follows:

- The Regulation "**On safe management of radioactive waste**", Decision No. 8, date 7.01.2010, which addresses:

Management of liquid and solid radioactive wastes, obligation of user of sources for the treatment of the waste, transport of radioactive waste, conditioning and storage of radioactive waste, limits of concentrations and total activity of the main radioisotope for liquid waste released into municipal sewer system, categorization of the radiotoxicity group of radionuclide's.

- The Regulation **"On the categorization of radioactive sources in the Republic of Albania"** Decision No.9, date 7.01.2010, which addresses:

Basic elements for assessment of the categorization, effects of the radioactive materials according to the categorization and categorization of the radioactive materials.

- The Regulation "**On licensing and inspection of the activities with ionizing radiation**" Decision No. 10, Date 7.01.2010, which addresses:

Exclusions, licensing conditions, validation time of the license, inspection, duties of inspectors, actions of inspectors when is a risk, right of inspectors, complain against decisions, licensing application forms.

- The Regulation "**On the safe transport of the radioactive materials**" Decision No.488, date 23.6.2010, which addresses:

Definitions, notification for transport, classification of the packages, contamination, limit levels, limit radiation levels during the transport, transport categorization, package label, additional conditions, accompanying documentation during the transport, passage through custom, final provisions, values of the radionuclides for the transport, limit activity for the excepted packaging, perform of radioactive danger and labels of transport categories.

- The Regulation "**On safe handling of ionizing radiation sources**" Decision No.543, date 7.7.2010, which addresses:

Responsibility of subjects for the application , rules and requirements, the general obligations for practices and sources, requirements for the practices, requirements for sources , justification of practices, dose limitation, optimization of protection and safety, dose constraints, exposures, license, clearance release from controls, quality assurance, guidance levels for medical exposure, measures for the reduce of human errors, radiation protection experts , security of sources, safety and security assessment, defense in depth, intervention, notification requirements, interpretation of terms, list I-exemption and list II-dose limits.

- The Regulation "**On the security of radioactive sources in Republic of Albania**", Decision No 877; date 30.10.2015, which addresses:

Object of the regulation, purpose, definitions, security of radioactive sources, requirements for security of radioactive sources, requirements for physical protection of radioactive sources group A, requirements for physical protection of radioactive sources group B, requirements for physical protection of radioactive sources group C, transport of radioactive sources, responsibilities of Radiation Protection Commission, responsibilities of the licensees, report, lost and orphan sources, cooperation with law enforcement agencies, cooperation with custom, contact point with the IAEA, appendix 1-physical protection plan and appendix 2-objectives of the physical protection for different security groups of radioactive sources.

- The Regulation "**On the protection of workers occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation**" Decision No 590, date 18.08.2011, which addresses:

Responsibilities, conditions of service, classification of areas, classification of workers, local rules and supervision ,personal protective equipment, co-operation between employers, licensees, individual monitoring and exposure assessment, category A and B workers, monitoring of the workplace, health surveillance, records, special circumstances.

- The Regulation "**On guidance levels for indoor radon concentration and the concentration of radionuclides in goods, to protect the public**", Decision No 957, dated 25.11.2015, which addresses:

The object of the regulation is the definition of guides and reference levels, as follows:

- PART I-Guide levels for concentration of radon indoor. The action plan for radon, concentration of radon in working places, radon concentration in residential buildings and public buildings.
- PART II-Guide levels for radio nuclides in water for public consumption, monitoring of compatibility, non compatibility, exemptions.
- PART III-Levels of reference for agricultural products contaminated as a result of nuclear accident or radiological emergency. The maximum permitted levels of food contaminated with radioactive substances. The maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination on animal food. The maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination for cosmetics. Review of the maximum permitted levels, control of imports, exports control.
- PART IV-The reference levels of gamma radiation emitted by building materials, control of construction materials , trading of building materials, import and export of construction materials.
- PART V-Control of scrap, special provisions for the scrap recycling installations, information for employers regarding scrap import and export of scrap
- PART VI-Other provisions Quality control
  - ✓ Annex 1-maximum levels of radioactive contamination, allowed of food products after a nuclear accident or radiological emergency
  - ✓ Annex 2- maximum levels of radioactive contamination allowed of food products for animals after a nuclear accident or radiological emergency
  - ✓ Annex 3- example. export certificate for agricultural products
  - ✓ Annex 4 -types of building materials taken into account for the emission of gamma radiation
  - ✓ Annex 5- activity indexes concentration of gamma radiation emission from building materials
  - ✓ Annex 6-example for certificate of monitoring of the load scrap.

- The Regulation "**On public protection from the discharges in environment, determination of the sampling, regions and measurements frequency**", Decision No 313, dated 09.05.2012, which addresses:

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Waters Administrations is responsible for the environmental control, objective of regulation is network monitoring, the conception of national network for radioactivity monitoring, strategy of sampling and measurements, related with every types of samples, types of samplers, types of measurements and periodicity.

- The Regulation "**On safety of the public to the exposure of the ionizing radiation sources**" Decision No 481, dated 25.07.2012, which addresses:

Responsibilities, control of visitors, sources of external irradiation, radioactive contamination in enclosed spaces, radioactive waste, discharge of radioactive substances to the environment, consumer products, monitoring of public exposure.

- The Regulation "**On safety to medical exposures with ionizing radiation sources**", Decision No. 229, dated 20.03.2013, which addresses:

Responsibilities of the licensees, justification of medical exposures, optimization for protection for medical exposures, requirements for equipment and radiant generators using sealed sources for diagnostic radiology, requirements for radiation generators and radiation installation for radiotherapy, diagnostic exposure, nuclear medicine, therapeutic exposure, calibration, clinical

dosimetry, quality assurance for medical exposures, guidance levels, dose constraint, maximum activity for patients in therapy with open or sealed radio nuclides on discharge from hospital, investigation of accidental medical exposures, records, procedures.

- The Regulation "**For the basic rules of the radiological installations in medicine**" Decision No 404, date 18.06.2014, which addresses:

Rules for X-ray applications in radiology system, radioscopy system, computerized tomography and dental radiography.

- The Guidance**, "Training Program in the field of Radiation Protection",** No 1438/6 date 12 March 2011, which addresses:

- The categories of persons to be trained
- Qualified expert
- Responsible of radiation protection (RPO)
- Employees who use the ionizing radiation sources
- Employees of regulatory body
- Institutions to carry out the training of employees
- Retraining
- Assessment and recognition of training
- Syllabus of courses for radiation protection
- Recognition of qualified expert

- The Guidance on **"the procedures of the evaluation of the applications for recognition by the RPC as a medical physicist**", No. 4629/1, dated 1.11.2012.

- The Guidance on "**Procedures for the physical move of radioactive materials, goods and response in case of incident with radioactive sources in customs points**", No 1526/2 dated 13.04.2012.

- The Guidance on "**Elements for recognition by Radiation Protection Commission for legal, physical persons, who perform measurements with ionizing and non ionizing radiation, calibration of radiometric and measuring the radiation devices, training and personal dosimetry service**", no 1526/1, date 13.04.2012

- The Guidance on **"Import export and transit of radioactive sources of category 1 and 2 in Republic of Albania**" No 134, date. 12.4.2011

Radiation Protection Commission (RPC), in order to provide more support in the process of implementation of obligations about protection from radiation, has adopted a set of codes of practices as follows:

- -Code of Practice in Radiotherapy No. 804 / 1 date 15.03.2005
- -Code of practice in Radiology No 804 / 2 date 15.03.2005
- -Code of practice in Nuclear Medicine No 5027/2 date 2/12/2010
- Code of conduct for the safety and security of radioactive sources, No. 1388, dated 14.04.2004

Radiation Protection Commission adopted a declaration in support of "Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources" IAEA Nr. 1388 14/04/2004 and a letter was sent to the Director General of the IAEA about.

Radiation Protection Office (RPO) in support of its tasks has drafted:

- -List of controls in Radiology
- -List of controls in Nuclear Medicine
- -List of controls in Radiotherapy
- -List of controls for sealed sources.

These check lists include all elements that an inspector has to check during an inspection.

The existing regulations, guidance's and codes of practice address occupational and public exposure, dose limits, medical exposure, transport of radioactive materials, waste management and emergency situations. However, some medical practices, such as dental radiography, are not yet addressed and there is not the dedicated codes of practice for industrial applications. Some draft regulations are be in preparation to address these aspects.

(ii) Licensing system

The authorization system was established in 2000. The authorization process in Albania is regulated with the Regulation No.10, Date 07 January 2010 for "Licensing and inspection of activities with sources of ionizing radiation ". Part of this regulation are two application forms, one is for activities with X ray generators and one for sealed/unsealed radiation sources.

Regulation describes the rules for the process of authorizations. The authorization is preceded by notification. The authorization application must contain details of the radiation sources, the purpose of use, the radiation protection measures regarding optimization, justification, dose limits, shielding calculation and emergency countermeasures. Particular information is required on the qualifications and work experience of the radiation protection officer and staff. The new requirement is that except of training in the radiation protection field, staff should be subjected to testing the knowledge obtained in the training. RPC has recognized the Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics to perform this process for all categories.

The system for assessment of applications is based on current IAEA recommendations. There are clear procedures on application, assessment of application up to refusal of applications. There are established procedures on assessment of preparation of report on application for license.

Radiation Protection Commission (RPC) has approved:

- The document on procedures, explanatory format and evaluation of the application for license of the activities with ionizing radiation sources No.3618/5 dated 13.05.2014
- The document on "The status of medical physicist in Albania", No. 459/1, date 31.1.2012.
- The guidance on procedures of application for recognition by the RPC, as medical physicist No.4629/1 dated 01.11.2012

- The procedures of evaluation of the application for the recognition by the RPC as qualified experts for ionizing radiation protection No. 3618/4, dated 13.05.2014

The document No 494/7, date 7/2/2011 includes:
- The evaluation procedures of the application for license of the activities with ionizing radiation sources
- Inspection procedures, inspection protocol
- Model of preparation of the inspection report
- Instruction format related to the license application fulfillment
- Format application delivery.
- Evaluation model of the application for license.

There are some practices and radiation sources, which are exempted from licensing and this list is in compliance with the IAEA BSS. The authorizations are currently renewed every 5 year, but risk of practice is taken into account during assessment of applications (graded approach).

(iii) Regulatory inspection and assessment system

In accordance with Law 8025, Article 8(c) amended on the Regulation on Licensing and Inspection, the RPC has established a systematic inspection programme. All ionizing radiation sources are subject to physical check and planned inspections are scheduled annually for higher risk sources and less frequently for others. The system of authorization and inspection was established in 2000.

The Radiation Protection Office (RPO) applies checklists and written inspection procedures according to the RPC guidance "Basic model for the inspection report, Nr 5027/3, date 2/12/2010. The RPC has established procedures that require the completion of inspection reports within two weeks and the communication of the results of inspections to the registrant or licensee within 1 month.

The RPC has been preparing written, formal procedures for follow-up inspections as required by the regulation on inspection that includes:

- Evaluation procedures of the application for license of the activities with ionizing radiation sources
- Inspection procedures, inspection protocol
- Model of the preparation of the inspection report
- Instruction format related to the license application fulfillment
- Format application delivery.
- Evaluation model of the application for license

Based on the law No.8025 dated 9.11.1995 as well as amendments No.26/2013, article 8, point 2; the Council of Ministers defines cooperation between RPO and the Central State and the State Health Inspectorates regarding the protection from ionizing radiation. As amended, the regulation of the State Health Inspectorate, No. 321, dated 31.07.2015, states that for technical aspects the responsible for the inspection is the Radiation Protection Office (RPO).

(iv) Implementation of the existing regulations and license conditions

There are legislative provisions for enforcement including the imposition of fines for violations where legal prosecution is not being pursued. Law 8025, Article 10, makes provision for the enforcement of regulatory actions, including sanctions. The enforcement actions are based on the type and severity of non-compliance and the fine is prescribed by the law (100 000 -300 000 Lek).

Articles 6, 8 and 9 of the Regulation on Licensing and Inspection set out the rights and responsibilities of RPC inspectors and detail actions available to them. Law 8025 and the regulation together provide the authority and guidance for inspectors on the enforcement policy of the RPC.

It seems that the new amendments in 2008, establish clear enforcement actions (e.g. instructions, sanctions, fines, suspensions) based on the nature of non-compliance and the implications for safety.

The RPC has not established formal arrangements with relevant government agencies where enforcement requires the involvement of the police, Ministry of Justice or other authorities.
In accordance with Article 8 of the Regulation on Licensing and Inspection, RPC may require the operator to cease activities and to take prompt actions to restore an adequate level of safety in situations deemed to pose an imminent radiological hazard to workers, the public or the environment.

Legislation and regulations make provision for enforcement, including penalties, sanctions and the actions and responsibilities of inspectors; however, the enforcement policy of the RPC has been implemented recently however.

In case of enforcement provisions the dual nature of the regulatory body, namely the RPC and the RPO makes it difficult for the inspector to maintain on-the-spot authority and retain the inspector's integrity as an authorized person, who is independent in enforcing the law.

Article 8 CNS. The Regulatory Body

(1) The establishment of the Regulatory body

The Radiation Protection Act No 8025, date 09.11.1995 amended, established the:

- Radiation Protection Commission (RPC) as the Regulatory Body; and the
- Radiation Protection Office (RPO) as its inspection and enforcement organ (Executive Body).

The composition of the Radiation Protection Commission (RPC) is established on the Decision No 123, dated 5.3.2014 of the Council of Ministers "For the establishment, composition and form of organization, operation, remuneration of the Radiation Protection Commission". The RPC is chaired by the Minister of Health. The members of the RPC are nominated by the Council of Ministers and they are from institutions without conflict of interest with users.

The Radiation Protection Commission (RPC) has six non-permanent members and five experts from different Ministries, institutions and agencies; it includes:
(i) a representative of the Institute of Public Health,
(ii) Lawyer of the RPC,
(iii) a representative of the Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics (IANP) (Director),
(iv) a representative of the Authority of Electronic and Postal Communications,
(v) an expert in the field of protection against ionizing radiation and non-ionizing radiation
(vi) a member with a comprehensive knowledge of physics, electromagnetism and the interaction of ionizing radiation with matter.

The experts are from other ministries or organization (one of them is representative of Ministry of Interior which covers the security issues) or are qualified experts in the radiation protection field, recognized by the RPC.

The Chairman of the RPO is Secretary of the RPC.

The mission statement of the Radiation Protection Commission (RPC) is to provide for the safe & secure use of radiation sources and to protect people and the environment against potential harmful effects, for now and future simultaneously ensuring to community the maximum benefit from use of radiation sources.

The functions, powers and duties of the RPC include:
- preparation of regulations, and issues guides and Codes of Practice for radiation protection and safety;
- overseeing enforcement;
- issuing licenses;
- technical management of all national and local authorities for immediate enforcement of necessary procedures for mitigation of the effects of nuclear accidents;
- making recommendations and proposals for the improvement of the radiation protection legislation;
- cooperating with national and international organizations on radiation protection issues;
- defining the structure of the RPO;
- nomination/dismissal of the Chairman of RPO; and
- cooperation with the State Inspectorate.

The functions, powers and duties of the Radiation Protection Office (RPO) include:
- preparation of information on licenses (applications, suspension or cancelation) for RPC approval;
- enforcement;
- inspection;
- collection of information and performance of necessary analysis and measurements for radiation protection control;
- keeps national inventory of sources; and
- preparation of relevant information, including reports, for Commission.

The RPO have eight full technical staff and two administrative supporting staff.

The RPO is equipped with an X- Ray test device, dose rate meters, a multichannel analyzer, a Field Spec unit, dosimeters of different types, phantoms, etc.

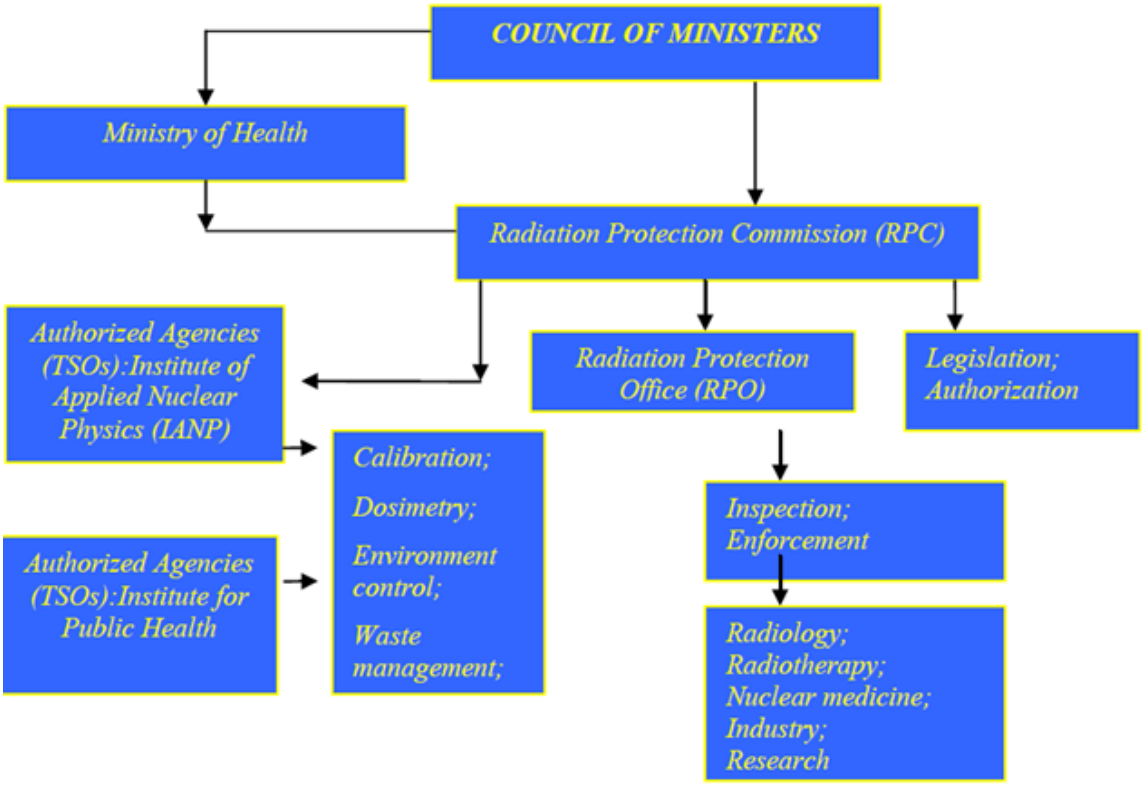
According to Law 9973 all regulatory activities associated with the system of authorization, inspection and enforcement are implemented by the RPC and RPO.

In support of the Albanian RPC, there are four technical service organizations (TSOs):

- The Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics (IANP), which has responsibilities relating to radiation protection expertise, calibration, dosimetry service, waste management, training programmes, environmental control, and emergency response.
- The Institute of Public Health, which covers medical surveillance of occupationally exposed workers.
- The Institute of Radiation covers issues on expertise and training programme for users.
- The Institute of Radiation Protection covers issues on expertise and training programme for users.

The RPO has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics (IANP) for technical assistance and other provisions. For the moment the medical surveillance is covered by the Institute of Public Health due to merging of the department of professional diseases at University Hospital Centre of Mother Theresa (UHCMT).

Below is the RPC Organizational Chart as it pertains to radiation users in Albania:



RPC Organizational Chart

(2) Status of the regulatory body

The distribution of responsibilities among organizations having responsibility for radiation safety in Albania appears to be well defined. The regulatory body appears to be effectively independent of operating organizations by reporting to the Council of Ministers via Minister of Health.

The RPO has sufficient facilities and equipment to perform its duties and responsibilities as the executive body of the RPC. The RPO has 10 technical and administrative staff. As necessary and appropriate, the RPO uses the services of experts from the Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics, Institute of Radiation and Institute of Radiation Protection to undertake technical activities.

The staff qualification is adequate. All staff attended IAEA regional and post-graduate training courses, which have covered radiation safety and to certain extend the security of radiation sources. Existing continuous educational and training programmes in Albania serve the requirements of agencies involved in regulation or those of the users of ionizing radiation.

The Council of Ministers Decision No. 123, dated 5 March 2014, point 12 states that the financial effects arising from the application of this decision are covered by the annual budget approved for Ministry of Health. The RPO has not its own budget. The funds for the RPO are allocated by the Ministry of Health through the Institute of Public Health (IPH) and may not necessarily meet the RPO's annual requirement to deliver its planned regulatory programme.

Article 16 Emergency Preparedness

(1) Plans and programs in case of emergencies

In the Republic of Albania, radiation sources are mainly used in different applications including medicine, industry, agriculture, research and education. The previous experiences in the country as well as in many other countries require enforcement of rules and regulations on radiation protection to prevent any probable accident with radioactive sources. Due to a human and/or design error such sources might cause a radiological accident leading to overexposure of patients, radiation workers and public. On the other hand, although Albania does not have any research reactor or nuclear power plant (herein referred to as NPP), it is in relatively close distances from some NPPs in operation in some neighboring countries, which in case of accidents could affect the territory of Albania, such as: Kozloduy NPP in Bulgaria, Krsko NPP in Slovenia, Paks NPP in Hungary and Cernavoda NPP in Romania.

By considering the existing radiation sources in the country and the geographic position of the country towards the neighboring NPPs, Albania falls into threat categories III, IV and V.

Based on the above stated information, and keeping in mind the need to be ready to respond to any radiological emergency, it is prepared the National Response Plan to Radiological Emergencies for the RPC, IANP and RPO, 2007. The main purpose of this Plan is to establish and organize the necessary infrastructure in Albania to mitigate and eliminate the consequences of each type of radiological emergency, in an integrated manner. Therefore, this Plan should be read and applied in correlation with the National Plan for civil emergencies, No.853 date 3.12.2004.

The legal basis of the National Response Plan to Radiological Emergencies is the Law No. 8025 of 09.11.1995 „On Ionizing Radiation Protection“ as amended No. 9973 on 28.07.2008, Law No. 9756 from 26.03.2001 “For civil emergencies”, Law on Environmental Protection No. 10431 from 09.06.2011 and other specific laws. This Plan also provides for personnel and equipment necessary, according to the procedures developed and recommended by the IAEA, to face with radiological emergencies.

The main objectives of the National Response Plan to Radiological Emergencies are:

- To aware the attention of users and relevant authorities to the possibility of the occurrence of a radiological accident and to the implementation of the necessary measures to avoid it;
- To reduce the risk of accidents and / or to mitigate the consequences of accidents when they occur;
- To avoid serious deterministic effects (such as deaths from accidents);
- To reduce as much as possible the stochastic effects.

The prime responsibility for ensuring safety and radiation protection belongs to the physical/ legal person who operates with ionizing radiation sources. Planning for the protective measures towards radiological emergency is based on the goals of defining the responsibility of the users, the regulatory authority as well as the other organizations responsible for the implementation of this Plan. When the consequences of the emergency are inside the premises or in their immediate vicinity, the responsibility for countermeasures belongs to the user.

Each user of radiation sources is responsible for the following:

- Strictly to apply all the regulatory requirements and precautionary measures to prevent any possible accident within its premises;
- To prepare an emergency response plan related to the activities that he performs;
- To test the effectiveness of its emergency response plan through periodic exercises for mitigating the consequences of all possible accidents;
- To immediately inform NOEC about whatever type of accident occurrence, giving an overview and its opinion regarding possible assistance that can be given.
- To classify the emergency and to take all the necessary actions to mitigate the consequences of the accident and to protect his personnel and emergency workers, as well as the public on site, as requested in this Plan;
- To advise the local authorities about the necessary protection measures of the offsite public, if necessary.

The NOEC (National Operational Emergency Center) has to inform the other actors like IANP, RPO and local authorities regarding further measures for mitigating the consequences of the accident or activating this Plan. The NOEC (National Operational Emergency Center) has to establish appropriate channels of coordination and communication.

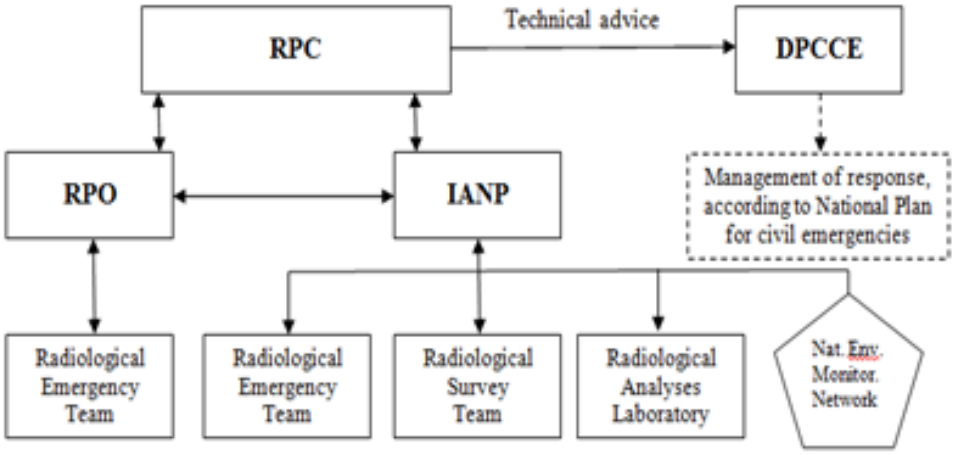
When the accident consequences are not located only within the premises or in their immediate vicinity, but are influencing a greater area, then for mitigation of the consequences of the accident the user, the IANP, local authorities and any other first response organization (e.g. Police or fire

brigades) with responsibilities by law and/or designated through this Plan are responsible and shall be engaged to mitigate the accident consequences.

The RPC will provide technical adviser to DPCCE (Directorate for Planning and Coordinating of Civil Emergencies) for taking the necessary measures to deal with the emergency. RPC has to gather and analyze information from the emergency response teams and first responders to give appropriate advice to DPCCE. Meanwhile, DPCCE will organize and coordinate the work of different organizations under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration, the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, General Directorate of Customs and mass-media.

The National Response Plan to Radiological Emergencies includes the main duties for the RPC, RPO and IANP in advising the DPCCE. The specific tasks of each responsible organization, for all applicable radiological threat categories in Albania, are defined in this plan.

Diagram of the national response organization for radiological emergencies in Albania



There are two types of emergency response teams:

- Radiological Emergency Teams
- Environmental Survey Teams.

Radiation Protection Office (RPO) has one Radiological Emergency Team, while IANP has besides the Radiological Emergency Team, an Environmental Survey Team and a National Environmental Monitoring Network.

The plan provides the classification of emergencies, elements on main response action during the transport of radioactive material, elements on protection of emergency workers, training of this category of workers, testing the plan, quality assurance, etc.

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