

IRPA

**The role of professional societies
in promoting radiation protection
education and training**

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What is IRPA?

IRPA is...

THE international association of radiological protection practitioners, joining through national or regional Associate Societies



51 Associate Societies

64 Countries

About 18,000 individual members:

from regulatory bodies, industry, medicine, research, education, ...



IRPA's MISSION

- IRPA is the international professional association for radiation protection.
- IRPA promotes excellence in the practice of RP through national and regional Associate Societies and RP professionals by providing benchmarks of good practice and **enhancing professional competence** and networking.
- IRPA promotes the application of the highest standards of professional conduct, skills and knowledge for the benefit of individual and society.



IRPA's VISION for 2020

- **IRPA is recognized by its members and stakeholders as the international voice of the radiation protection profession in the enhancement of radiation protection culture and practice worldwide.**



IRPA's Strategic Plan

GOAL 3

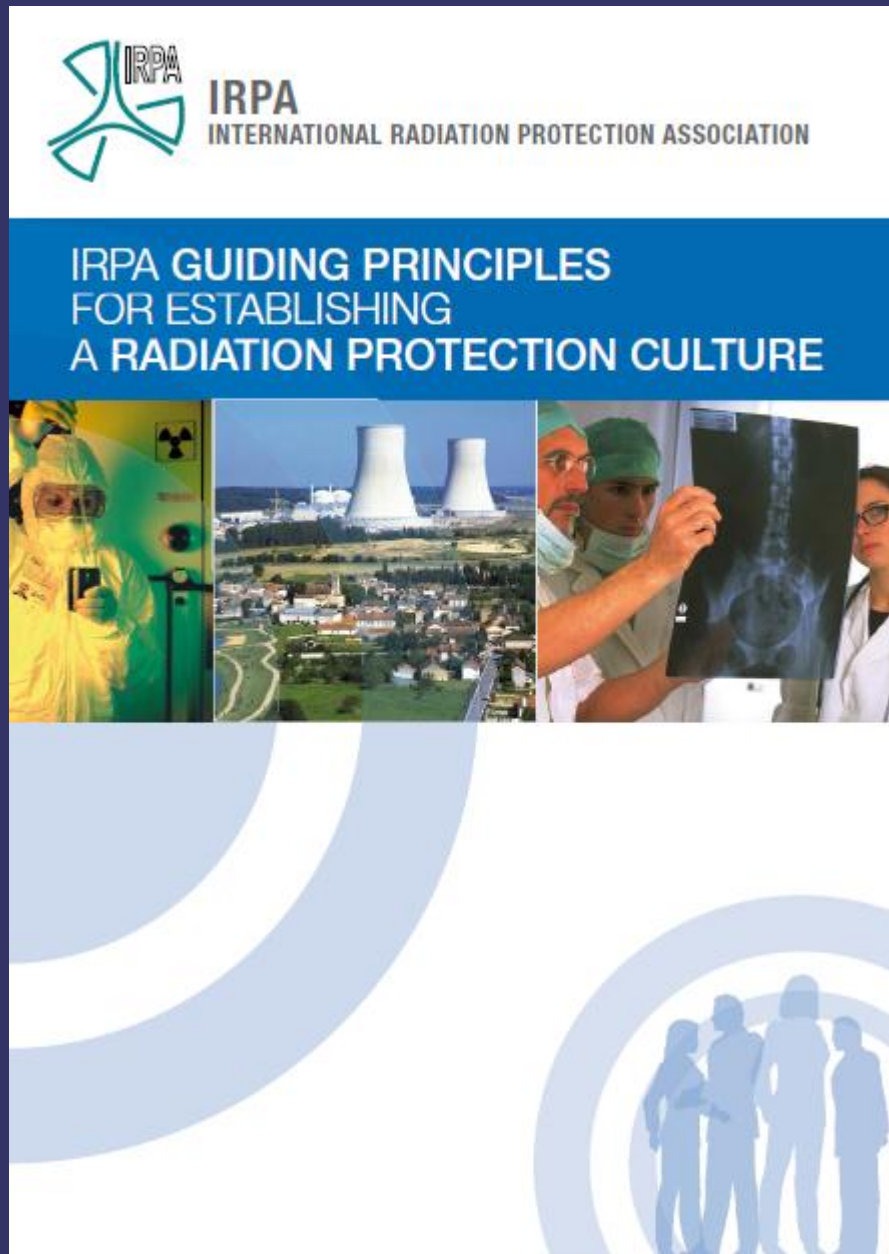
**“Promote excellence in
radiation protection
professionals”**

**Guiding principles for
establishing a radiation
protection culture**

**Action Plan on
Education and
Training**



IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a RP Culture





IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a RP Culture

The importance of education:

“Culture is learned, passed on and changed by a pattern of basic assumptions, cultural paradigms, and by groups of people who have shared significant problems, and who have taken in new members. **When taught to new members, culture has a stabilizing function, and basic cultural assumptions serve to stabilize a group”**



IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a RP Culture

The importance of education:

“Radiation protection culture is a learned way of life”

- It is obvious that a way of life should start with a proper education
- RP Culture must be present in all the academic curricula on radiation applications



IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a RP Culture

4.2 CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

There are at least four ways to impact RP culture:

- **Strong leadership** focusing on operational RP culture, and modelling, reinforcing and coaching safety behaviours;
- **Educating and training the people involved in RP applications;**
- Creating **positive** and total **awareness** about RP at working places;
- Establishing adequate and **proper communication** processes among all the practitioners involved in RP applications.



IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a RP Culture

4.2 CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

As a general rule, it can be assumed that the usual ways to establish and improve levels of culture include continuous educational processes, access to multimedia (e-learning, applied games, etc.), and effective communication amongst workers, between directors / managers and workers, and between workers, patients and the public.

Continuous learning allows a proper sharing of competence looking for new and better RP methods.



IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a RP Culture

4.2 CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Education and training contribute to a high level of RP culture by addressing the above issues, and also by:

- continued proactive updating for professionals and the general staff, on the **evolution of scientific knowledge and related judgments of relevance in RP**. Such information can be presented by different means, e.g. newsletters, discussions, etc.;
- **raising** an adequate **awareness** among people directly or indirectly involved in RP.
- making sure that all radiological aspects are well known to workers, and everybody has the **correct training to take care, prevent unnecessary exposure and evaluate RP aspects**;
- (...)



IRPA Guiding Principles for Establishing a RP Culture

4.2 CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Education and training contribute to a high level of RP culture by addressing the above issues, and also by:

- (...)
- emphasizing that radiation protection culture is not an established area of knowledge, but one of continuous change and update, not only in its contents, but also in its approaches.
- Training is undertaken and updated periodically, and testing is done to evaluate training efficacy.
- Learning from events, incidents and near misses is an important part of culture development.



IRPA Education & Training

- ❑ **General considerations:**
 - ❑ IRPA Associate Societies are not universities and their E&T activities are not intended for an academic diploma but for **professional enhancement**.
 - ❑ Associate Societies do not offer courses intended for certification of RP professionals, which is the role of authorities in cooperation either with universities or specialised training centres
 - ❑ Activities of the Associate Societies on E&T focus either on general training for radiation workers or on specific topics for update (**continuous education**)



IRPA Education & Training

□ General considerations:

- IRPA Associate Societies are not universities and their E&T activities are not intended for an academic diploma but for **professional enhancement**.

□ IRPA should

- promote and support,
- provide networking,
- provide guidance

} to E&T activities of its Associate Societies individually or, preferably, in cooperation



IRPA Strategic Programme for 2012 – 2016

- **Continuing priorities:**
 - “To embed the sharing of good practice and professionalism in Associate Societies and individual members through the development of Guiding Principles, **the support and coordination of education and training** and the convening of effective meetings and Congresses”
 - To increase the efforts of IRPA **to support young practitioners and scientists** in their work in radiation protection, **in their education and training**, and in their efforts to become members of the radiation protection community
- **Full support to the Education & Training Plan**
- **Task Group on E&T**
- **Task Group on Certification of Radiation Protection Expert**



IRPA Strategic Programme for 2012 – 2016

IRPA Task Group on E & T

- To develop ideas and establish priorities for the implementation of the IRPA E&T Plan
- To periodically review and update if necessary the IRPA E&T Plan

IRPA TG on Certification of Radiation Protection Expert

- Focus on developing guiding principles for a certification process for radiation protection experts which could be initiated by ASs in their countries/regions

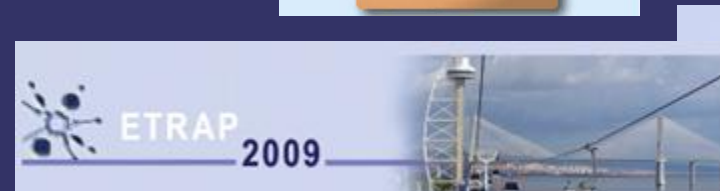
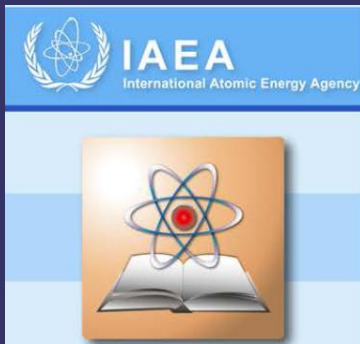


Education & Training Plan

- Three main lines:

A. Cooperation with international and regional organizations dealing with E&T in Radiation Protection: IAEA, ETRAP conferences, ENETRAP/EUTERP, AAHP

IRPA is representing the profession views





Education & Training Plan

- **Three main lines:**
 - A. Cooperation with international and regional organizations** dealing with E&T in Radiation Protection: IAEA, ETRAP conference, ENETRAP/EUTERP, AAHP
 - B. E&T actions within IRPA:**
 - Refresher courses
 - Discussion forums during IRPA Congresses
 - Webpage: with searchable database of announcements and resources available
 - C. Support to E&T actions organized by Associate Societies:**
 - Share, Coordinate, Networking, Young generations



B. E&T actions within IRPA (1)

Refresher courses at IRPA congresses:

- Inclusion of Refresher Courses and Seminars within each IRPA Conference
- Evaluation and follow-up (questionnaires to participants)
- Exploring live webcast and podcast ...
- Improving website accessibility to texts and presentations (including RC from IRPA Regional Congresses) (searching engine)



B. E&T actions within IRPA (2)

E&T on the IRPA website

- IRPA Definition of Radiation Protection Expert (RPE)
- IRPA Education & Training: Presentation
- Reference documents
 - The role of IRPA in education and training of radiation protection professionals (2003)
 - Christian Wernli, David Cancio and Jack Valentin
IRPA Executive Council Education and Training Committee
 - IRPA's Contribution to E&T Activities for Radiation Protection Professionals (2009)
 - Eduardo Gallego and Alfred Hefner
IRPA Executive Council
- IRPA Congresses Training Material:
 - IRPA 11 (2004) 16 Refresher Courses (Text+Powerpoint in one file)
 - IRPA 12 (2008) 20 Refresher Courses + 3 Seminars (Powerpoint)
 - IRPA 13 (2012) 21 Refresher Courses (Powerpoint with audio)



B. E&T actions within IRPA (2)

E&T on the IRPA website

- **New web-based database on E&T*:**

IRPA
INTERNATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION
ASSOCIATION

Register for updates Search Contact Us EC Login

You are here: [Education and Training](#) > [Database](#) Last Updated on 12/18/2013 11:53:48 PM

Database

IRPA Education and Training database

Events Resources Database Login Database Search

Events

	Title	Date	Organizer	Language
	Curso sobre "Blindajes frente a radiaciones en las instalaciones sanitarias"	09/11/2012 - 09/11/2012	SEPR and Hospital Clínico Universitario Lozano Blesa de Zaragoza	Spanish
	EURADOS School on Retrospective Dosimetry (Practical exercises in Solid State & Cytogenetic dose reconstruction)	22/10/2012 - 26/10/2012	EURADOS, European Radiation Dosimetry Group; Bfs, Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz, Germany and Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany	English
	Radiobiología: situación actual y perspectivas futuras	22/10/2012 - 26/10/2012	SEPR with CIEMAT, CSIC and CSN	Spanish
	Curso sobre "Manejo del paciente en procedimientos con isótopos radiactivos"	19/10/2012 - 19/10/2012	SEPR and Hospital Clínico Universitario Gregorio Marañón de Madrid	Spanish
	Advanced WE-Heraeus Physics School on Ionising Radiation	10/08/2012 - 19/08/2012	Helmholtz Zentrum München, Institute of Radiation	English

*Donated by the Spanish Society of Radiological Protection



B. E&T actions within IRPA (2)

E&T on the IRPA website

- **New web-based database on E&T:**
 - Announcement of future events
 - Available resources (documents; presentations; training material in general)
- **Objectives:**
 - To announce training courses or activities
 - To share and disseminate training material and resources
 - To provide a useful tool for searching
- **Users: all RP professionals**
- **Managers: One contact person per Associate Society**
- **Access the database (beta version)**



C. Support to E&T actions organized by the Associate Societies (1)

IRPA AS seminars, short courses, summer (or winter) schools on specialized topics.

- **Promote coordination:**
 - **By conducting surveys to have a complete picture**
 - **Web-base database with searching engine in the website**
 - **IRPA sponsoring would be granted to those activities which clear and openly look for professional enhancement within the IRPA family.**



C. Support to E&T actions organized by the Associate Societies (2)

IRPA Stimulation and follow-up of E & T activities:

- **Stimulate the creation of “E & T networks” within IRPA:**
 - **for instance by those societies sharing language** (e.g. Latin-American societies together with Spain and Portugal)
 - **or belonging to the same region** (e.g. European Radiation Protection Young Scientists Exchange Network, with pilot project for schools and universities with participation from ÖVS, FS, SFRP, NVS, NSRP and SRP)
 - **with dedicated space in the website**



Attract and engage young generations

- **Attract young professionals to IRPA**, by initiatives like the Awards for young professionals or scientists at every IRPA Regional and International Congresses
- **Creation of a Young Professional network**
 - Launched at IRPA13
 - To integrate young radiation protection professionals more closely into the activities of the IRPA



Promoting Radiation Protection Education & Training

What role can play the IRPA Associate Societies?

- AS can contribute significantly to **continuous education** of their members
- **IRPA can help!**
 - By sharing contributions to the IRPA database on E&T events and resources,
 - By promoting coordinated activities,
 - By encouraging the creation of E&T networks sharing language or regional proximity
 - By the new young professionals network