HERCA

Strengthening cooperation between radiation safety regulators in Europe

Sigurdur M. Magnusson
HERCA Chair

International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems:
Sustaining Improvements Globally
11-15 April, IAEA, Vienna
Overview

- Overview of HERCA
- HERCA External Relations
- Ongoing activities & recent achievements
- Conclusions
Overview of HERCA

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Background

Despite common European Regulatory Framework, the flexibility in transposing into national regulations has led to differences in radiation protection practices throughout Europe

→ HERCA (Heads of European Radiological protection Competent Authorities) was established in 2007.

> In recognition of the need for increased co-operation between Radiation Protection Authorities within Europe.

and

> The need for a common understanding, mutual approach and harmonization at the practical level.
Objectives

HERCA is a voluntary association with the objective to contribute to a high level of radiological protection throughout Europe by:

- Building and maintaining a comprehensive European network of radiation safety regulators in Europe.
- Promoting exchange of experience and learning from each other’s best practices.
- Developing, by consensus, a common approach to radiological protection issues.
- Discussing, and where appropriate, expressing consensus opinion on significant radiological protection and regulatory issues.
- Having an impact on the practice of radiological protection, within the States of HERCA members, through the voluntary implementation of outcomes from HERCA work.
Participation

Official nomination by Radiation Protection Authorities (RPAs)

31 countries (the 28 EU MS + IS, NO, CH)

54 organisations (RPA + TSO),

305 nominations

Observers
EC, IAEA, NEA, WHO, US FDA
Structure

Board

Technical Secretariat

Working Groups (WG)
- Emergencies
- Medical Applications
- Veterinary Applications
- Non-medical sources & practices
- Education & Training

Task Forces (TF)
- Transposition Euratom BSS

Networks (NT)
- Dose Passbook/Outside workers
- Collective medical doses

Workshops (WS)
- Emergencies, Medical applications, Radon, NORM, Building materials

Chairmanship
- Mr MAGNUSSON, IRSA, IS, 2012-2018
- Mr HARBITZ, NRPA, NO, 2008-2011
- Mr LACOSTE, ASN, FR, 2007-2008

Vice-Chairmanship
- Mr CHEVET, ASN, FR, 2015-2017
- Ms PETROVA, SUJB, CZ, 2015-2017
Structure cont.

Board of HERCA
Decision-Making body
- Meets twice a year

Working Groups (WG) and Task Forces (TF)
Working efficiently on a limited number of topics
- Composed of senior experts,
- Report to the Board twice a year. Board approves work plans.
- Organize workshops and multi-stakeholders
- Outcomes: Common positions, statements, approaches and guidance
Structure cont.

**Technical Secretariat**
Focal Point for coordinating all HERCA activities

- Organises and follows-up HERCA Board meetings and HERCA activities
- Coordinates relations with stakeholders
- Manages restricted and public websites of HERCA
- Hosted by and funded mainly by the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN).

**Budget**
voluntary contribution from members

- Based on pledges
- Used for funding websites, events and some secretariat activities in addition to those funded by ASN
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External Relations
Framework for collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Collaboration for maximizing effort, efficiency and efficacy

HERCA:

- develops and maintains, suitable relations with regulatory authorities from countries which are not members of HERCA, with international organisations and other relevant stakeholders
- keeps relevant stakeholders informed about its activities and considers requests from them for advice on radiological protection and regulatory matters
- ensures appropriate opportunities for relevant stakeholders to comment on its work: for example, multi-stakeholders’ meetings on justification and optimisation in the medical field.

HERCA has now more than 50 external stakeholders
External Relations
Overview of current active stakeholders:

- **International Organisations:** EC, IAEA, IRPA, ICRP, NEA, WHO, UNSCEAR, ILO

- **Groups of Authorities/Regulators:** ENSREG, WENRA, EACA, ERPAN, FORO

- **Medical societies:** ESR, EANM, EFRS, EFOMP, ESTRO, PFPS, WONCA, …

- **Research Projects & Platforms:** ENETRAP, MEDRAPET, NERIS,

- **U.S. Organisations:** FDA, NCRP, CRCPD, EPA

- **Manufacturers:** COCIR, ELC

- **Other:** IEC, Radiation Regulator, NTW, …

**Special status of the European Commission**
(observer in Board & Working Groups)
Overview of HERCA

HERCA External Relations

Ongoing activities & recent achievements

Conclusions
Transposition of the EU BSS Directive

**Action Plan (approved in Oct. 2014),** addressing:

- HERCA’s role in the transposition of the BSS into national regulations.
- Actions for HERCA in relation to the transposition of the BSS.
- Coordination between HERCA and the EC in relation to BSS transposition.
Emergency Preparedness & Response

HERCA-WENRA Approach for a better cross-border coordination of protective actions during the early phase of a nuclear accident. Approved by HERCA and WENRA in 2014.

Background:
– National EP&R has been developed across Europe without giving high priority to cross-border issues.
– A nuclear accident in one country may have an impact in neighbouring countries.
– A severe nuclear accident in Europe, can not be excluded.

The HERCA-WENRA approach contains 2 parts:

1. General Mechanism.
   - The main strategy is to aim at an alignment of the response between neighbouring countries (in the first hours of a nuclear accident).
   - After the first hours: Development of a common situation report
Emergency Preparedness & Response

HERCA-WENRA Approach for a better **cross-border coordination of protective actions** during the **early phase** of a nuclear accident.

- 2. **Case of a Severe Accident requiring Rapid Decisions for Protective Actions, while very little is known about the Situation.**
  - Recommendations of protective actions need to be formulated rapidly, leaving very limited time for cross border coordination during the first phase of the accident.
  - The HERCA-WENRA approach contains **pre-defined simplified schemes for protective actions** (that may be applied in these cases, as improbable they might be).
    - evacuation should be prepared up to 5 km around nuclear power plants, and sheltering and iodine thyroid blocking (ITB) up to 20 km;
    - a general strategy should be defined in order to be able to extend evacuation up to 20 km, and sheltering and ITB up to 100 km;
  - The need for rapid decisions using the simplified schemes for protective actions will only apply during an initial phase.
HERCA-WENRA Approach for a better cross-border coordination of protective actions during the early phase of a nuclear accident.

The focus is now on development of tools for a successful implementation of the HERCA-WENRA Approach.

On-going activities

- Elaboration of “Country fact-sheets” on national EP&R
- Assessment and Prognosis in Response to an Emergency at a NPP
- Development of a common understanding of reference levels
- Follow-up of the implementation status in HERCA countries, creation of a WP on the implementation of HERCA-WENRA Approach
Emergency Preparedness & Response

HERCA-WENRA Approach for a better cross-border coordination of protective actions during the early phase of a nuclear accident.

Need for discussion with civil protection authorities regarding implementation.

Workshop on HERCA-WENRA Approach with civil protection authorities

- To discuss ways for implementing the approach at national, bilateral and multinational levels.

- 14-15 June 2016, Slovenia, funded by HERCA and WENRA.
Medical Applications

Extensive stakeholder Involvement
- Observers: EC, IAEA, WHO and US FDA
- Close collaboration with medical societies (especially ESR)

Ongoing Activities

WP Justification – Individual & WP Optimisation
- Joint Multi-stakeholder meeting on the justification and optimisation in medical field (10 March 2016, Vienna).
  - Follow-up of the two first meetings on the justification of individual medical exposures and on the optimised use of CT-scanners.
  - Participation of regulators, medical societies, international organisations and manufacturers.
Medical Applications

Ongoing Activities (cont.)

WP Generic Justification (level II)
- Workshop on 24-26 October 2016, Paris, France

WP Reporting of Accidental and unintended exposures
- Workshop on 27-28 October 2016, Paris, France

WP on Inspection Competence
- Organisation of a WS on optimisation and justification of practices in diagnostic radiology (Brussels, Oct. 2015)
- Organisation of a European action week - Inspection of justification in medical imaging in all HERCA Countries (November 2016): Same template, common aims.
Outside Workers & Dose Passport

European radiation passbook

- Document “Requirements for a European electronic system for exchanging data on radiological monitoring of workers” approved by the HERCA Board in 2015 and sent to the European Commission.
- Next step: to develop an European electronic system for exchanging data on radiological monitoring of workers

Veterinary applications

Mandate

- Developing guidelines for an education and training regulatory framework of veterinary applications (nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and interventional radiology)

On going activities

- Guidelines on RP E&T of veterinary radiographers, assistants and doctors in NM and RT already completed.
- Guidelines on RP E&T in interventional radiology under development.
Radon

Objective

- Exchanging views for assisting Member States in the transposition of the Euratom BSS directive.

Outcomes

- Two radon workshop dedicated to National Radon Action Plans organized in 2014 and 2015 (second WS report to be released by mid 2016).

NORM and building materials

Objective

- Exchanging views for assisting Member States in the transposition of the Euratom BSS directive.

On-going activity

- An HERCA Workshop on NORM and Building Materials organized on 24-26 May 2016 in Bergen (Norway)
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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Organiser</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HERCA Workshop on implementation of RPE &amp; RPO</td>
<td>ANVS (NL)</td>
<td>Montrouge (FR)</td>
<td>6-8/7/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st European HERCA MedInspector workshop</td>
<td>WG MA FANC</td>
<td>Brussels (BE)</td>
<td>6-8/10/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd European Workshop on National Radon Action plan</td>
<td>FOPH (CH)</td>
<td>Geneva (CH)</td>
<td>12-14/10/2015</td>
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## HERCA Workshops in 2016

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<tr>
<td>Joint Multi-stakeholders’ meeting on optimization and justification in medical field</td>
<td>IAEA Headquarters, Vienna</td>
<td>10 March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on the implementation of HERCA-WENRA Approach</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>14-15 June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on the transposition of the Euratom BSS directive in relation to NORM and building materials</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>24-26 May 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on Generic Justification in medical field</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>24-26 Oct. 2016</td>
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Conclusions:

- HERCA can address, in an efficient manner, radiation safety and regulatory issues of common interest for its members thanks to an effective network of competent experts.

- HERCA has developed common regulatory approaches in terms of practical implementation leading to a number of successful outcomes such as position papers and statements.

- HERCA has active relations with many major stakeholders in RP at European and international level for a better understanding of radiation safety and regulatory issues.

- HERCA has significantly increased the multilateral cooperation between radiation safety regulators in Europe and has obtained results exceeding what any single regulatory authority could achieve.
Thank you very much.

• For more information on HERCA, visit the website www.herca.org

Or

• Contact the HERCA secretariat at secretariat@herca.org