

National perspective

Cuba: Expectations from the EduTA

Cuba has developed a good infrastructure to ensure radiation protection and safety and to build competence in this area. The regulatory body (CNSN: Centro Nacional de Seguridad Nuclear), with the collaboration of training providers (CPHR: Centre for Radiation Protection and Hygiene) played an important role in this process. However, there is an increasing need for education and training (E&T) in some professional categories, particularly in the medical field. In the previous years, great effort has been made to design and implement a national



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policy and strategy for E&T in radiation protection in order to adopt a sustainable and systematic approach, based on the analysis of training needs and the optimization of existing capabilities and resources.

In this context, the EduTA that is planned for 2016 is considered to be as an important tool to support national efforts to:

- Identify ways to improve the national policy and strategy, and the related national E&T programme;
- Verify consistency of the national legal and regulatory framework for E&T with the IAEA Safety Standards and documents, and, if necessary, identify ways to improve it;
- Strengthen national contribution to the region within the IAEA Technical Cooperation regional project in the field of E&T in radiation protection;
- Disseminate the IAEA Safety Standards and the methodology to establish a national strategy for E&T to the other concerned national stakeholders.

Greece: Monitoring progresses with a follow-up EduTA

The Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE) is the national regulatory body in the field of radiation protection and nuclear safety. Beyond the regulatory functions, its mission includes the establishment and implementation of sustainable E&T programmes in radiation protection.

Since 2003, EEAE has acted as an IAEA Regional Training Centre in radiation protection, providing courses in English for the benefit of all the Member States in the European region. In 2008, EEAE hosted an EduTA mission to assess

the existing E&T programme in radiation protection, to identify the actions needed to improve it, and to strengthen the general legal and regulatory framework for E&T in radiation protection. The mission provided the basis for the Long Term Agreement between IAEA and the Hellenic Government.

Over the last seven years, EEAE has taken important initiatives to address the recommendations from the 2008 EduTA, including the implementation of a quality



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management system for non-formal E&T programmes in radiation protection (ISO 29990:2010) and the establishment of a national E&T programme based on the assessment of training needs.

Aiming at continuously improving the legal and regulatory framework for E&T in radiation protection as well as strengthening organizational capabilities

for E&T, EEAE recognizes the importance of the EduTA to this endeavour. Therefore, EEAE requested a follow-up mission that was conducted in October 2015. The objectives achieved were:

- Receiving advice on the actions taken to address the recommendations from the 2008 EduTA mission;
- Monitoring the progress made in the development of the legal and regulatory framework for E&T, in compliance with the IAEA Safety Standards;
- Evaluating the initiatives taken to establish the national strategy for E&T and to implement the E&T programme in radiation protection and safety;
- Identifying further ways and opportunities to be beneficial, as an IAEA Regional Training Centre in radiation protection, to other IAEA Member States in the region.

Israel: Benefits of the EduTA

The EduTA mission to Israel was conducted in May 2015.



The EduTA Team and the Israeli Counterparts

The mission was hosted by Soreq Nuclear Research Centre (SNRC).

Israel has a complex regulatory infrastructure with five government ministries and agencies regulating radiation protection of workers, patients, members of the public and the environment. Representatives from all relevant ministries and agencies took part in the EduTA mission and presented main regulations and guidelines addressing education and training in radiation protection. The EduTA team members visited the National School for Radiation Protection that trains Radiation Protection Officers and Certified Radiation Inspectors and met with leading instructors of first responders to a radiological event.

The EduTA mission provided a unique opportunity to:

- Bring together all the ministries and agencies regulating radiation protection to discuss the status of the regulatory framework for E&T;
- Reactivate the National Advisory Committee to provide a coordination framework for the actions identified during the EduTA mission;
- Strengthen national regulatory framework for E&T by identifying action to: develop and implement E&T requirements for medical practitioners; develop legislation to address optimization of radiation protection of patients during medical exposure;
- Promote a sustainable approach to build competence by adopting a national strategy for E&T in radiation protection.

The EduTA mission paved also the way for a more effective and needs-oriented request of assistance from IAEA through the Technical Cooperation programme.

Regional perspective

AFRA: supporting regional cooperation

The African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) provides a framework for African Member States to intensify their collaboration through programmes and projects focused on the specific shared needs of its members. It is a formal inter-governmental agreement which entered into force in 1990.

In the context of AFRA, Regional Designated Centres for training and education in radiation protection (RDCs) are established African institutions able to provide services, such as training of highly qualified specialists or instructors needed at the national level and also to facilitate exchange of experience and information through networks of services operating in the field.



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The arrangements for the recognition of RDCs include audits performed according to selective criteria based on the responses to the questionnaires. EduTA is one of the major components within the audit process. EduTA missions were conducted in the Africa Member States hosting a candidate institution to become RDC. Based on audit reports, AFRA in cooperation

with IAEA has so far recognized the Centre de Recherche Nucleaire d'Alger (CRNA) in Algeria, the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS) of University of Ghana, and the Centre National de l'Energie, des Sciences et Techniques Nucleaires (CNESTEN) in Morocco.

The EduTA missions for the auditing of the AFRA RDC is an important tool to help the institutions put in place the basic infrastructure (human resources, physical structures, laboratory facilities) to conduct the Postgraduate Educational Course in Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources, with participants from all the AFRA Member States. From the appraisal, the RDCs are encouraged to conform to IAEA safety guidance and syllabi for organizing the E&T activities and by so doing, management systems are put in place for the evaluation of activities. Finally, compliance of national legal and regulatory framework for E&T with IAEA Safety Standards is also promoted.

For further information:

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