

## ***Enhancing training opportunities in nuclear engineering in Armenia***

### ***The challenge...***

A high level of nuclear competence is required for the safe use of nuclear applications, and to ensure the protection of workers, the public and the environment. Armenia has identified the training of national specialists in the nuclear sector and the establishment of a national education and training system as a key priority for collaboration with the IAEA. Proper coordination with the various national authorities is considered essential for the development of the comprehensive infrastructure and programme.

### ***The project...***

Over the past several years, the IAEA has worked with the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA), as well as the personnel of the Armenian nuclear power plant (NPP) and technical universities and institutes, to address future workforce demand developments, and to enhance capabilities in delivering nuclear education programmes.

Through the technical cooperation programme, the IAEA has supported the installation of a computer based educational laboratory on Reactor Physics, Control and Safe Operation of Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) at the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA). The Laboratory uses proven simulation software to model the WWER-1000 NPP with the required scope and accuracy, and supports the training of young specialists in nuclear engineering and reactor physics. The project activities have included the procurement of modelling software with a basic set of training tasks and relevant hardware for the laboratory. The system allows the user to design new tasks that are relevant to their needs. A special train-the-trainer session was held for SEUA lecturers on the effective use of the laboratory and software tools for the development and upgrading of diverse training scenarios.



*Train-the-trainer session for the university faculty.*

### ***The impact...***

The new laboratory significantly increases national nuclear engineering education and training capabilities in Armenia and is a valuable contribution to enhance NPP operation safety. In particular, the continuous professional development of qualified personnel working with nuclear power applications was enhanced through the implementation of modern educational approaches, methods and tools. Cooperation between educational institutions and industry has improved due to their close collaboration in the implementation of the training programme and their shared use of the established educational complex. The project has helped to enhance Armenian NPP operation safety and has strengthened the nuclear and radiation safety regime in the country.

On the basis of the positive project results and the experience obtained, projects for the establishment of similar educational laboratories have been initiated in Belarus and Ukraine.