

Developing human resources and infrastructure for nuclear power in Belarus

The challenge...

The construction of the first nuclear power plant (NPP) in Belarus entails the establishment of an infrastructure that will ensure the safe, reliable, and peaceful use of atomic energy. Organizations involved in the development of the nuclear power programme need skilled personnel for safe and efficient nuclear power plant construction and operation. In addition to the training that will be provided by the NPP contractor, long-term preparation to equip local staff with relevant technical knowledge is needed in order to enable the safe and secure future operation of the NPP. Continuous capacity-building efforts in parallel with the NPP construction are therefore required. Belarus has asked the IAEA to support the establishment of a viable staff training system through the provision of expertise and targeted training opportunities.

The project...

The project builds on the achievements of an initial technical cooperation project which took place from 2009 to 2011 to support the establishment of a nuclear power programme in Belarus. The current project is complex in character, with several direct beneficiaries. These include the Ministry of Energy (the nuclear energy programme implementing organization or NEPIO), the Directorate for Nuclear Power Plant Construction (DSAE), the Ministry of Education and designated universities, and the Joint Institute of Power and Nuclear Research, which is the technical support organization. Under the current project, additional modules of a computer-based training system have been supplied for use in university teaching and training programmes in the field of nuclear engineering.

The DSAE has received educational and methodical materials to support the training (and re-training) of specialists in the nuclear energy sector. Scientific visits were organized for relevant professionals to various host institutes in France, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Sweden, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Normative documents and technical standards for the NPP staff training system were developed together with the project counterpart. The IAEA also took an active role in reviewing Belarus' new *State Human Resources Development Programme for Introducing Nuclear Power*, which was subsequently adopted as a state level HR planning document.

The impact...

Continuous professional development and outreach has contributed to public acceptance of Belarus' decision to embark on a nuclear power programme. Training capacity was improved in line with the standards of NPP staff training already established in countries with operating nuclear power programmes. Individual and group training was provided for the staff of all participating beneficiaries, enhancing their skills and knowledge. The future NPP programme in Belarus will contribute to greater energy security and will reduce dependence on the supply of imported natural gas.



Expert visit to the NPP construction site in Ostrovets, Belarus.