IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme

September 2013

Preparing the next generation of radiation protection leaders in Europe

The challenge…

Building competence in radiation safety is fundamental to the establishment of a comprehensive national infrastructure for radiation safety. The high-level education and training of regulators, future decision makers and key personnel from relevant national bodies is especially important for the effectiveness and sustainability of such an infrastructure. All analyses of training needs to plan for an optimal use of national and international resources.

Most Member States in the Europe region have some form of education and training programme in radiation safety in place, but for some, a sustainable approach to meet their national needs effectively is still needed.

The project…

Two technical cooperation projects addressed the immediate education and training needs of graduate level staff earmarked for positions in radiation protection, including health physics by supporting participation in the postgraduate educational course (PGEC) on Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources. This 24 week educational course in radiation safety covers the whole range of areas for the use of nuclear technologies, including in industry, medicine and research. Since 2009, two PGEC courses have been conducted in Russian in Minsk, Belarus (2009 and 2012), and one course in English in Aghia Paraskevi, Greece (2011). A further course is planned for 2014.

In order to address national education and training infrastructure sustainability, Member States were helped to develop a national strategy for education and training in radiation safety. Guidance in both Russian and English was developed and disseminated in two workshops held in 2012.

The impact…

As a result of the projects, the number of trained and educated personnel in the Europe region with a sound foundation in radiation protection and knowledge of related safety fundamentals has increased. From 2009 to 2013, 55 young professionals from Europe were trained in the PGEC and are now utilizing the skills gained in the various specialized fields related to radiation protection and the safe use of radiation sources in their countries. They are expected to take a leading role in radiation protection in their respective countries.

Students on a field exercise for the PGEC on Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources , Belarus.

In 2012, 36 participants from 22 countries attended workshops that provided comprehensive and systematic information on national education and training infrastructure in radiation safety. This has provided a good basis for the future development of national strategies for education and training in the field. Project counterparts are now working on establishing such education and training strategies. Preliminary information on education and training practices and activities in each participating Member State, as well as details of national legislation and regulations for education and training in radiation, transport and waste safety, has been collected. This will help to optimize the use of national resources and ensure sustainability.

Technical cooperation projects RER/9/101: Building Competence through Education and Training in Support of Radiation Protection and RER/9/109: Strengthening Education and Training Infrastructures and Building Competence in Radiation Safety

13-28701