

Strengthening radiation safety education and training in Latin America and the Caribbean

The challenge...

The IAEA Strategic Approach to Education and Training in Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety 2011–2020 provides a framework for establishing a sustainable education and training infrastructure in Member States. The framework addresses national needs for building and maintaining competence in radiation, transport and waste safety and is consistent with IAEA Safety Standards. Almost all Latin American and Caribbean countries are involved in training activities to achieve this goal. However, in most cases, these activities are not part of a national strategy that includes essential aspects for the creation of a sustainable system, such as the clear definition of regulatory requirements, the permanent identification of needs, the appointment of responsibilities, the definition of the role of different education forms, and applicable training.

The project...

Through this regional project the IAEA helped Member States to develop and implement sustainable national strategies to strength their infrastructure for education and training in radiation, transport and waste safety, based on their needs and optimizing available resources at national and regional level.

The project helped Member States in the Latin America region to understand and exchange experiences on the application of a systemic approach to education and training in radiation, transport and waste safety. This included the content and scope of a national policy and strategy, the enhancement of the regulatory framework, and the identification of national needs and determining aspects during the development of the national training programme. Regional workshops and expert missions played a key role in assisting countries to create a group of specialists that will maintain and promote national efforts in this field.



The impact...

The project has motivated radical changes at the country level, and has been a key element in improving national capabilities for radiological protection and safety systems. Thirty-seven professionals participated in postgraduate and specialized training courses, creating a major body of experience in the region. These activities were carried out in collaboration with the two IAEA Regional Training Centres in Argentina and Brazil.

New tools developed by the Member States under the project – three Guides of Specific Regulatory Requirements for Occupational Categories and Practices, including medical and industrial applications – have facilitated the conception and implementation of policies and the establishment of corresponding national programmes in line with the IAEA Strategic Approach, including the identification of training needs.