

A FRAMEWORK FOR TRAINING OF FIRST RESPONDERS AND INTERVENTION TEAMS

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In Portugal the response to a nuclear or radiological (NR) emergency involves several entities, including public institutions, armed forces and law enforcement forces. These entities have different capabilities, equipment, procedures and training programs, as a result of their individual needs and competences.

In case of a NR emergency, these capabilities would be made available to the Portuguese National Authority for Civil Protection (ANPC) requiring that these teams will work together on the field and demanding some degree of harmonization for an effective response. The risk evaluation should also be similar, increasing the effectiveness of the decision support.

Taking this into account, a training program was designed to promote joint exercises for specific tasks and related procedures in different radiological environments, such as detection and measurement of radiation sources; source identification and risk evaluation; sampling and decontamination. The specific training on NR emergencies promotes capacity building and the operationalization of the guidance documents produced by ANPC for managing this kind of emergencies, thus improving the level of preparedness and effectiveness of the first responders.

The national training programme has been defined since 2011 within the National Commission for Radiological Emergencies (CNER), chaired by the ANPC, providing a formal framework for receiving contributions from the relevant national entities and for completing the lessons learnt process.

Since 2012 three training courses for first responders were delivered, based on the Portuguese version of the IAEA's Manual for First Responders, involving more than a hundred and fifty trainees from dozens of different entities and several LivEx and Table Top exercises were organized.

A description of the training framework, objectives and results is presented in this paper.