

Selected achievements

2021: The Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL) is established.

2019: Latvia further harmonizes its radiation safety legislation and policies in line with IAEA safety standards.

2017: A national survey of indoor radon concentrations is conducted, concluding there are no specific radon prone areas in the country.



Undergraduate radiography students using the anthropomorphic phantom and couch for patient immobilization within the radiotherapy course module. (Photo: A. Bajinskis/Faculty of Medicine, University of Latvia)

National priorities

- Radiation safety
- Regulatory infrastructure
- Nuclear knowledge management
- Human health
- Waste management and environmental monitoring

Main areas of IAEA support

- Nuclear and radiation safety
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Radiotherapy services
- Radiation protection

Project successes

Human health

The Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL) was established in Latvia in 2021 with the technical and financial support of the IAEA. It is part of the IAEA/WHO SSDL network, and the only calibration laboratory for radiation protection and diagnostic radiology in Latvia.

Radiotherapy services were enhanced through specialized training and the introduction of advanced technology.

Key findings discovered during an audit carried out by a Quality Improvement Assurance Team for Radiation Oncology (QUATRO) at Riga East University Hospital were shared with

over 50 counterparts from Latvian hospitals and the Ministry of Health in October 2022.

Radiation protection

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Latvia is the exclusive provider of the radiation protection and safety course modules in radiation therapy for radiation therapy technologists (RTTs) and therapeutic radiographers.

With IAEA support, the faculty acquired new equipment to provide advanced training in radiation therapy quality and patient radiation safety for practicing RTTs and radiography students, and to offer hands-on training for residents and medical physicists.

In order to build capacity, a two-part national training course was organized at the University in October 2019.

In 2016 and 2017, Latvia conducted its first large-scale national survey to assess the concentration of radon in homes, offices, and public buildings.

The IAEA provided support through training, advising on an action plan and facilitating radon detector procurement.

Due to a lack of technical capacities and accredited laboratories for radon measurements in the country, Latvia's nuclear regulatory body used laboratory services outside the country to analyse the resulting measurements and data. The analysis revealed low concentrations of radon gas in the tested buildings. Survey results were published in the European Atlas of Natural Radiation, serving as a basis for future large scale surveys.

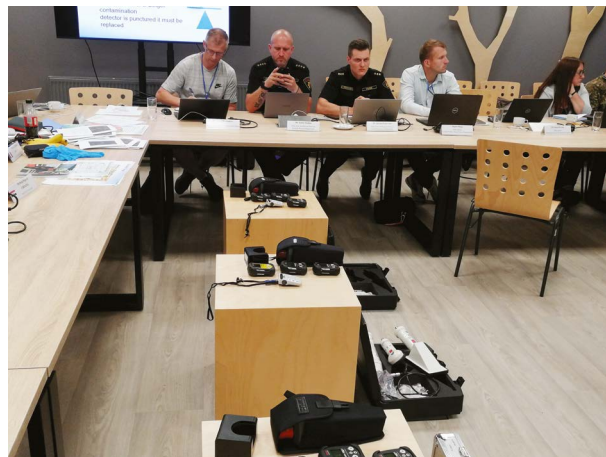
Radiation safety

In 2019, the IAEA conducted independent expert review missions to assist Latvia in fulfilling its obligations under the European Union's nuclear and radiation safety standards.

Recommendations from the 'Integrated Regulatory Review Service' (IRRS) and the 'Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation' (ARTEMIS) were instrumental for the development and implementation of Latvia's regulatory framework, as well as its policy and strategy for radioactive waste management.

Participation in the major initiatives

- ZODIAC



National training course for first responders in case of radiological emergency, July 2023. (Photo: A. Romans/RSC SES)

IAEA support received in the 21st century



Contributions to South-South and triangular cooperation

