



# IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

*Atoms for Peace*

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## ***Strengthening national regulatory infrastructure for the control of radiation sources in Latin America and the Caribbean***

### ***The challenge...***

Regulatory infrastructures for the control of radiation sources vary within the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in areas that include legislation, regulations and guidance, authorization systems, inspection programmes, notification and the national register of radiation sources. A number of countries were without radiation safety legislation and regulations or did not conform to IAEA standards. Assistance was needed to strengthen regulatory infrastructure in the region, to ensure the protection of people and the environment from the adverse effects of ionizing radiation.

### ***The project...***

With the assistance of the IAEA, 19 Member States in the region have received expertise, training and equipment related to regulatory body infrastructure and activities, according to country specific action plans. Projects were carried out in partnership with the Spanish Nuclear Security Council and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Several training courses were held on radiation protection and regulatory control, and expertise was provided to assess, advise and support regulatory infrastructures. The competencies and practical skills of lawyers and customs officers for the control of radiation sources were also strengthened.

### ***The impact...***

Capacities to support national regulatory infrastructure have been strengthened in all participating countries, improving deficiencies in legislation, regulations and guidance, authorization and inspection, and improving the effectiveness and sustainability of national regulatory infrastructure.

- A Law of Radiation Safety has been approved in one country and working plans for the establishment of legislative framework have been drafted in two countries.
- A Memoranda of Understanding between regulatory authorities and customs in 15 countries has been established and 23 customs personnel have improved their knowledge of radiation safety.
- Many regulatory staff members now apply the knowledge they acquired in the elaboration of regulations, in inspection and authorization processes in industrial irradiators and radiography equipment and other practices involving radioactive sources, and in the safe transport of radioactive material.
- 54 lawyers of the regulatory bodies from 13 countries are now applying the knowledge acquired in radiation safety.
- Regional mapping by category of all the industrial irradiators and industrial radiography equipment in the region has been carried out, including authorization status.