

## **Session 8 - Emergency preparedness**

Five articles were presented within the session. The articles, questions and discussions covered several related topics such as: organization of emergency response, tools and procedures for radiological data gathering in the case of nuclear emergency, decision making techniques in the field and emergency exercises. The participants jointly concluded that each country should develop a national off-site emergency response plan, even if no nuclear installations are running in the country because there are no borders regarding radioactivity transport.

It is recognized that emergency planning must be carried out at two major levels. First, the user must be prepared to mitigate the potential consequences of the accident at the source and alert off-site officials. Second, the off-site officials must be prepared to manage and reduce the impact on the public.

Establishment of a national nuclear emergency response capability should be carried out by applying step-by-step approach that includes: (1) National policy review and development (2) Determination the level of preparedness needed, (3) Development of the planning basics, (4) Allocation of responsibilities, (5) Development of radiological emergency plan, (6) Development and implementation of the detailed emergency plans, and (7) Training of different emergency working groups. Approach like this one has been widely applied in European countries.

There is a continuous need for cooperation in the field between countries in the region. The most important are early notification, data exchange and mutual assistance. That is the reason why implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements and international conventions in the field are highly recommended.

The preparedness of the emergency response organizations has to be demonstrated periodically through partial and integrated emergency exercises. Mutual exercises that include off-site officials from different countries will be favorable. Regarding to that, the session participants underlined a need for mutual medical exercise in the field between Slovenia and Croatia.