

Key achievements in Latvia

- 2019: Latvia establishes a plan to further harmonize its radiation safety legislation and policies in line with IAEA safety standards, update the training plan based on a comprehensive human resources assessment and strengthen long-term radioactive waste management strategies.
- 2017: A national survey of indoor radon concentrations is conducted, concluding there are no specific radon prone areas in the country.
- 2016: The Baltic's first cyclotron to produce radiopharmaceuticals is inaugurated at the Nuclear Medicine Centre in Riga.

Atoms for peace and development

Widely known as the world's 'Atoms for Peace and Development' organization within the United Nations family, the IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

The IAEA's technical cooperation (TC) programme helps countries to use nuclear science and technology to address key development priorities in areas including health, agriculture, water, the environment and industry. The programme also helps countries to identify and meet future energy needs. It supports greater radiation safety and nuclear security, and provides legislative assistance.



Recent project successes

Human health

In 2016, Latvia inaugurated its first cyclotron facility at a newly established Nuclear Medicine Centre in Riga. The centre produces radiopharmaceuticals to treat a broad range of cancers such as those of the breast, prostate, lung, and brain. The IAEA provided support in the form of expert missions, staff training, fellowships and the procurement of equipment.

Radiation protection and nuclear safety

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

The IAEA supported training for the programme, the development of an action plan and the procurement of radon detectors. 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, which revealed low concentrations of radon gas in the buildings tested.

The results were published in the European Atlas of Natural Radiation and provide a basis for future large scale surveys.

Radiation safety

In 2019, the IAEA conducted independent expert review missions to assist Latvia in meeting 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) are helping to improve the development and implementation of Latvia's regulatory framework and its radioactive waste management policy and strategy.

Nineteen participants from eight Latvian State medical, safety and security organizations were provided with training on emergency preparedness and response in Riga in 2017. (Photo: A Romans/RSC SES)

Active national projects

- Strengthening Knowledge and Skills in Radiotherapy Quality and Safety (LAT0003)
- Strengthening the Competence in Radiation Technologies and Safety for Biomedicine and Materials Science (LAT0004)
- Improving the Capacity of the Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory for Radiation Protection Measurements (LAT6004)
- Enhancing Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Organizational Effectiveness of Regulatory Infrastructure (LAT9014)
- Strengthening Radiation Safety Culture in Medicine and Improving the Knowledge of Regulatory Personnel (LAT9015)

Latvia also participates in 30 regional and 2 interregional projects, mostly in the areas of radiation protection and nuclear safety.

Previous IAEA support to Latvia

IAEA support has focused on strengthening capacities in nuclear and radiation safety, enhancing emergency preparedness and response, and improving the quality and safety of radiotherapy services. Further assistance also enhanced the capacity of a secondary standards dosimetry laboratory for radiation protection measurements.



In 2019, the IAEA enhanced Latvia's skills in emergency preparedness through the training of 25 medical doctors from 14 regional hospitals and patient admission departments. (Photo: A Romans/RSC SES)

IAEA support to Latvia, 2009–2019



243 50 130

trained
(including 145 women)

international
experts
provided

attended specialist
meetings
(including 75 women)

Priority areas of support

- Improving radiation safety and regulatory infrastructure
- Supporting nuclear knowledge development and management
- Strengthening human health
- Improving waste management and environmental monitoring

Latvia's contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, 2009–2019

16
expert and lecturer
assignments provided
by Latvia

4
training
courses
hosted

6
fellows or
scientific visitors
hosted

Based on data available as of April 2020

Strategic documents supported

- Country Programme Framework 2020–2025, signed in December 2019

www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation

The IAEA collaborates with National Liaison Officers and Permanent Missions to deliver its TC programme.