



## IRPA Initiatives on Education, Training and Recognition of Radiation Protection Professionals

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and Professional Recognition

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## The International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

- IRPA consists of individual members grouped in national or regional societies. The members of the Associate Societies (AS) automatically become members of the Association
- IRPA is a non profit organisation registered in Washington DC
- Today, IRPA consists of 45 AS with more than 17000 members worldwide

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## Role of IRPA

- To provide a medium for communication and advance of radiation protection throughout the world
- To encourage the establishment of radiation protection societies
- To encourage professional enhancement publications and support international meetings
- To encourage the establishment and continuous review of universally acceptable radiation protection standards and recommendations

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## Education and training

- Status of 2004 is given in the paper "The Role of IRPA in Education and Training of Radiation Protection Professionals" ([www.irpa.net/edu](http://www.irpa.net/edu))

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## IRPA surveys on education and certification

- Surveys among AS in 1991 and 1994
- Large differences found in formality, legal requirement, recognition and training methods
- EC decided for direct involvement through refresher courses at IRPA Congresses
- Recommendation to AS to include training activities in their meetings

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## IRPA Refresher Courses

- 16 refresher courses early morning at IRPA10 (2000)
- 16 refresher courses early morning at IRPA11 (2004)
- Full text of all courses available on the IRPA web site ([www.irpa.net](http://www.irpa.net) and [www.irpa11.com](http://www.irpa11.com))

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## Main activities since 2004

- Promotion of professional enhancement
- Participation in international and regional programs
- Furthering harmonization of professional recognition

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## Professional enhancement

- Regional IRPA Congress Paris 2006: 9 Refresher Courses
- IRPA12 (Buenos Aires 2008) will include again professional enhancement sessions
- Further courses at regional congresses and meetings of AS's

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## Participation in international and regional programs

- IRPA is a member of the Steering Committee on Education and Training of the IAEA
- IRPA is a member of the Steering Committee for the initiation of EUTERP

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## Furthering harmonization of professional recognition

- IRPA is in contact with the IAEA, EU and OECD/NEA in view of the upcoming revision of the Basic Safety Standards
- IRPA contributes to the development of standardized definitions of professional requirements and recognition processes in radiation protection (e.g. "Qualified Expert")

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## Outlook

- Refresher courses have to be continued and made available for a wide audience
- Cooperation with other international organizations has to be fostered
- Involvement of AS in national education and training programs should be intensified

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## Main conclusions

- IRPA has the potential to represent the knowledge and experience of the professionals actively working in the field
- In cooperation with governmental organizations, normally representing national authorities, IRPA can contribute to widely applicable new recommendations

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## Upcoming IRPA events

- 2<sup>nd</sup> European Regional IRPA Congress  
PARIS 15 -19 May 2006  
[www.irpa2006europe.com](http://www.irpa2006europe.com)
- 12<sup>th</sup> International IRPA Congress  
BUENOS AIRES  
19 - 24 OCTOBER 2008  
[www.sar.radioproteccion.org.ar/irpa12](http://www.sar.radioproteccion.org.ar/irpa12)
- **See you there, thank you!**

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[www.irpa.net](http://www.irpa.net)

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