



Contribution ID: 138

Type: **Poster**

Nuclear Forensics Role and Capabilities in the Romanian Nuclear Security Infrastructure

Tuesday, 8 July 2014 13:00 (1 hour)

Nuclear security is now become an global issue and nuclear forensics is one of the very important part in an on-going national programme for nuclear security.

Romania has the capacity to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of nuclear materials, including through cooperation with the IAEA, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.

Since the launch of the IAEA database, Romania only reported some minor incidents. In recent years, the frequency of recorded events was about 1 or 2 per year. They are, nevertheless, insignificant in what concerns their impact on the environment and for the population.

The National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) is the competent authority responsible for regulation, licensing and control in the nuclear field in relation to safety, security and safeguards. CNCAN issues legally-binding regulations in all these areas and is responsible for review and assessment, authorization, inspection and enforcement activities.

Nuclear forensics is one element of nuclear security regime that is viewed as the opportunity and challenge for Romania and CNCAN.

Nuclear forensics is the examination and evaluation of discovered or seized nuclear materials and devices or, in cases of nuclear explosions or radiological dispersals, of detonation signals and post-detonation debris. Nuclear forensic evidence helps law enforcement and intelligence agencies work toward preventing, mitigating, and attributing a nuclear or radiological incident.

Responsibilities to investigate nuclear security incidents belong thru NBC Team of the Directorate of Firearms, Explosives and Dangerous Substances (DAESP) of the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police (IGPR DAESP NBC Team).

The IGPR DAESP NBC Team was founded in 2001 within the Organized Crime Countering Directorate and from 2009 has formed part of the Directorate of Firearms, Explosives and Dangerous Substances of the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police. This is the only unit within the Romanian Police with competences regarding crime scene investigation in cases of illegal use of Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) agents.

Intelligence support for such a kind of event came from the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) which is the leading national authority in preventing and countering terrorism and from the Department for Intelligence and Internal Protection (DIPI) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

For the most cases of illicit trafficking of nuclear materials happend in Romania, the nuclear forensics tasks were performed by the Institute for Nuclear Research –ICN and the Institute for Nuclear Research and the National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering-Horia Hulubei .

The cooperation among the all participants in intervention is coordinated by CNCAN follow-up the National Response Plan for Illicit Trafficking of the Nuclear and Radiological Materials.

The IFIN-HH also ensure the training basic, advanced, theoretical and practical domain for participants involved in nuclear security field in a specialized Training Center in Nuclear Field.

Country and/or Institution

Romania

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Session Classification: Poster Session I