



European
Commission

European Nuclear Security Training Centre (EUSECTRA)

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A dedicated training facility



Over the last two decades, increasing security concerns with respect to illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials were largely acknowledged by the international community.

Following these concerns, the Joint Research Centre was tasked by the European Commission (DG HOME) to set up a dedicated European Nuclear Security Training Centre (EUSECTRA) as recommended by the EU CBRN Action plan adopted by the European Council in December 2009.

Located at the European Commission Joint Research Centre Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU) in Karlsruhe and Ispra, this centre serves as a platform for knowledge transfer and for networking of experts.

Realistic training with Special Nuclear Material

Based on the unique combination of scientific expertise, specific technical infrastructure and availability of a wide range of nuclear materials, EUSECTRA complements national training efforts by providing realistic scenarios with real special nuclear material. The training program offers a unique opportunity for trainees to see and experience actual materials and commodities. In particular, EUSECTRA is one of the few places in the world where a wide range of samples of plutonium and uranium of different isotopic compositions can be used for training in detection, categorization and characterization.



Wide range of topics

EUSECTRA courses include border detection, train-the-trainers, national response plans, nuclear forensics core and advanced capabilities, radiological crime scene management and nuclear security awareness. In addition, EUSECTRA continues to cover safeguards training activities.

New facility inaugurated in 2013

The new EUSECTRA facility at the ITU Karlsruhe site was inaugurated on 18 April 2013, complementing the sister facility operated by ITU in Ispra since 2009. It provides an indoor training area to simulate airport conditions, equipped with pedestrian portal monitors and an x-ray conveyor and a dedicated laboratory for safeguards courses. Outdoor facilities with different types of radiation portal monitors are also available for border detection training.



International dimensions

The EUSECTRA benefited from the experience and the cooperative work of the Border Monitoring Working Group in elaborating comprehensive training schemes for front line officers, first responders, measurement expert support teams and nuclear forensic experts comprising practical and table-top exercises. Such reference and standardised training materials have been developed in close collaboration with international experts (e.g., from IAEA, US-DoE, FBI, NFI, CEA) to integrate different available modules into a coherent and comprehensible set of training courses which ultimately shall aim to cover both detection and response strands.

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