

Rise of TSO Role in the Moldovan Nuclear and Radiological Infrastructure

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Actuality of the development of TSO is becoming more acute in the context of the increasing role of nuclear technologies in the development of society. This is not due by diminishing the role of the National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activity (sole Regulatory Body in Moldova), but due to the complexity and multilateral areas which may influence the radiation protection, nuclear safety and security. Limited human and financial resources of the Regulatory Body consisted the fundamental arguments, which convinced Moldovan legislators to reflect TSO, in the new legislative act on regulation nuclear and radiological activity (Law No. 132 of 8 June 2012, Monitorul Oficial of the Republic of Moldova, no. 229-233 from 02.11.2012). In the Art. 8 of this Law is underline, that the national nuclear infrastructure consists also of radiological experts, other qualified human resources from the sectors of research, training, education, TSO, regardless of its legal form of organization. Thus, for the first time TSO are accepted as intrinsic part of the national infrastructure in the nuclear and radiological field.

As was mentioned above, countries with limited resources have all the reasons to establish such a legal framework, so that the activities of TSO and experts will become benefic and attractive in supporting the Regulatory Body, stakeholders and society as a whole.

Currently TSO development in Moldova is rising, although not with the expected rates. Enabled TSO activate in different sectors as: on evaluation of the regulatory framework and preparation of draft normative acts, consultations concerning technical equipment, training, improving RPO knowledge's, pre-licensing inspection, ensuring quality control, metrological assistance, update of the web page, ensuring information security and providing consultancy on cyber security issues, exchange of information during round tables, workshops as well as conferences or exercises. TSO are both from the private sector, NGO, as well as from the state sector. In particular, it is extremely important the TSO role in new areas, which carries an increasing role, such as cyber security, vulnerability of physical protection involves cyber security requirements. The development of information technology delivers new knowledge to Regulatory Body staff, witch are difficult to implement due to the specific topics. Thus, the areas of cyber security can be supported only by specialised organizations. The regulatory body's partnership with TSO must be a strategic, long-term and their relationship must be in a well-defined regulatory framework, ensuring fair competition, stimulating work, fair recognition of TSO the results of TSO, the possibility of taking into account the recommendations and opinions by TSO.

TSO should confirm to the Regulatory Body, stakeholders and to the society their competences, prove the existence of adequate resources to perform their mission and provide credible technical and scientific expertise. From that point of view TSO are interested in a long term policy, for establishing as baseline of technical expertise and scientific knowledge in the field, for identifying and addressing security and safety research needs, and by fulfilling education and training needs. Moldovan TSO became more attractive, fact confirmed by receiving in the last year more funds from US NRC, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority for sustaining of Moldovan Regulatory Body.

Country or International Organisation

Republic of Moldova

Author: Prof. BUZDUGAN, Artur (National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activity)

Co-author: Mr BUZDUGAN, Aurelian (Cyber Security Center CERT-GOV-MD, S.E. Center for Special Telecommunications)

Presenters: Prof. BUZDUGAN, Artur (National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activity); Mr BUZDUGAN, Aurelian (Cyber Security Center CERT-GOV-MD, S.E. Center for Special Telecommunications)

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