



Abstract: This presentation will focus on the importance of education and will present the efficiency of the Postgraduate course in Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation in Republic of Moldova. This curriculum was developed with the support of Swedish Radiation Safety Authority.

The political instability in the Black Sea region, the lack of territory control [1, 2], and the serious violation of international agreements, underline the need for active participation of all international actors in the non-proliferation of ADM. In this respect, an invaluable role is the continuing education and information of the new generation on the need to make the relevant non-proliferation treaties universal, therefore irrevocable and binding to all countries.

The University's Senate Decision from 26 February 2013 established the National Nuclear Security Support Center (NNSSC). The NNSSC, with the support of the IAEA, became a member of International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN). The purpose of the NNSSC is determined by the need of long-term sustainability in nuclear safety through effective education and culture. The Center's main objectives are:

- to raise postgraduate processes in nuclear security and non-proliferation;
- to affiliate to world nuclear security and non-proliferation education and informational systems;
- to support and train the development of human resources engaged in related activities.

Guided by these goals, the curriculum for the Nuclear Safety and Security subject (ECTS 4) has been developed. The curriculum includes theoretical lectures, seminars and individual tutorials and is designed for Master's students. The NNSSC has a special emphasis on developing the teaching staff through the synergy of nuclear safety, non-proliferation and cyber security (with IAEA support). Furthermore, the Center is also

engaging master students to participate at Summer Schools at the Center for Non-proliferation (Odessa, Ukraine) or ESARDA training course in Trieste (Ispra, Italy). These activities that are financially supported by the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM). Taking into account that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and NPT are inextricably linked, the curriculum has been supplemented with topics on non-proliferation as well as the role and importance of international treaties (such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty). In addition, cyber-security as an intrinsic pillar of nuclear safety and security, as well as non-proliferation, has been added in this optional curriculum. Both the upgrade of the curriculum and the organization of national training courses were possible thanks to the support received from SSM.

At the end of the Master's degree course, students have to write a thesis, 30% of which subject is in the areas of nuclear safety, non-proliferation and cyber security interaction. This is followed by a test grid exam. Results have shown that master students possessed a greater degree of awareness of nuclear safety and non-proliferation than post-graduate students did. This optional discipline is also required by the graduates of other Universities in Moldova, totaling 25 master students per year.

References

1. Nuclear Security in the Black Sea Region. Contested Space, National Capacities and Multinational Potential. SIPRI Policy Paper no. 49. Vitaly Fedchenko, Ian Anthony, December 2018.
2. Zaitseva, L. Steinhäusler, F., Nuclear trafficking issues in the Black Sea region, EU Nonproliferation Consortium, Non-proliferation Paper no. 39, Apr. 2014.