

Training for Regulation or Regulation for Training?

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1. What is CIPRSN?

The Independent Commission for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (CIPRSN) was created in 2005 by Decree-Law 139/2005.

CIPRSN's main competencies are:

- assessing the current legal framework and proposing necessary reforms;
- recommending inspections and measures required for the protection of the population and of workers;
- validating data to be transmitted to the EC and to international organizations;
- cooperating, within its scope of competences, with the relevant authorities of other countries and with international organizations.

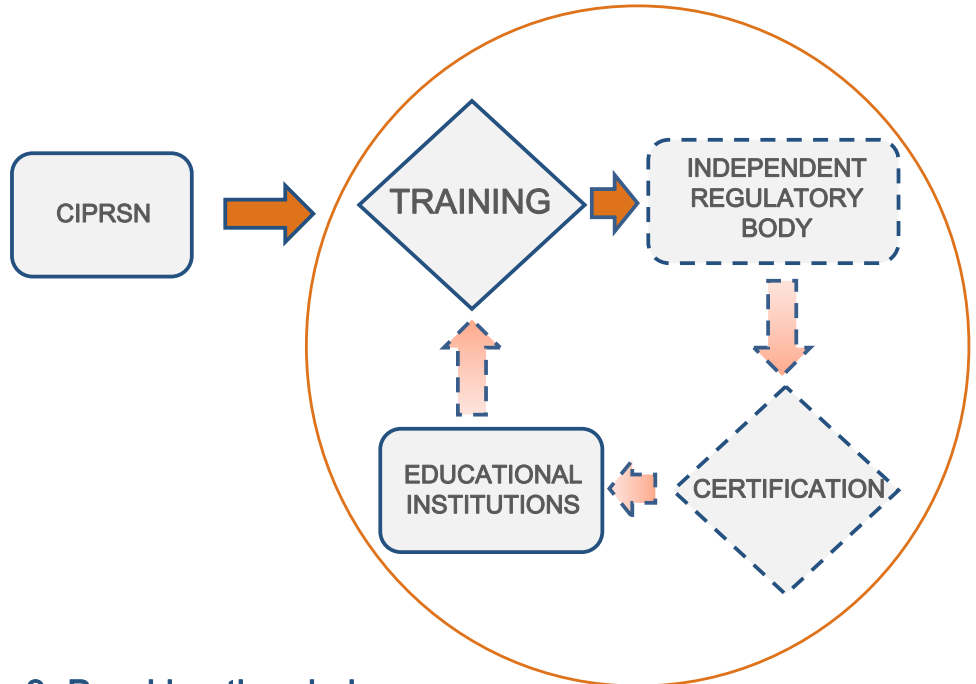
CIPRSN is not a regulatory body and has no licensing and enforcement competencies.

2. Training for Regulation in Portugal

Few efforts were made in the past to recruit and train students in specific legal and technical aspects of regulation and inspection in radiation protection.

The circular problem facing the development of an efficient national regulatory system can be stated as follows:

A regulatory body requires people with expertise in licensing and inspection, but how can a training program be developed without an efficient regulatory system?



3. Breaking the circle

CIPRSN recruited two legal advisers and two physicists to build a team coordinated by an official seconded from the EC.

The team was involved in tasks of CIPRSN. This work served at the same time as training case studies. Works developed so far comprise:

- Contribution to the solution of infringements processes;
- Consolidation of the Portuguese law;
- Visits to national and private entities that deal with ionizing radiation.
- Development of guidelines (e.g.: PET cyclotron);
- Self-assessment of the Portuguese regulatory infrastructure.

These tasks provided a sound knowledge in regulatory issues for this group of people.

4. How to move forward?

The increasing number of installations requires training of people in specific areas of regulation. Such training can only be sustained by an independent body with an autonomous budget directed to radiation protection issues. Such body does not exist in Portugal, leading to a situation which is not in conformity with the requirements of:

- The Convention on Nuclear Safety (Articles 8(1) and 11(2));
- European Directive 2009/71/EURATOM (Article 5).

The establishment of an independent authority is required by international conventions. This authority must ensure a sufficient number of qualified staff with appropriate education, training and retraining.

CIPRSN trained a core group of experts with competences needed for a Regulatory Authority.

An urgent decision is needed to establish this authority!