

Workshop on radiological protection culture in medicine

Plenary Session IV

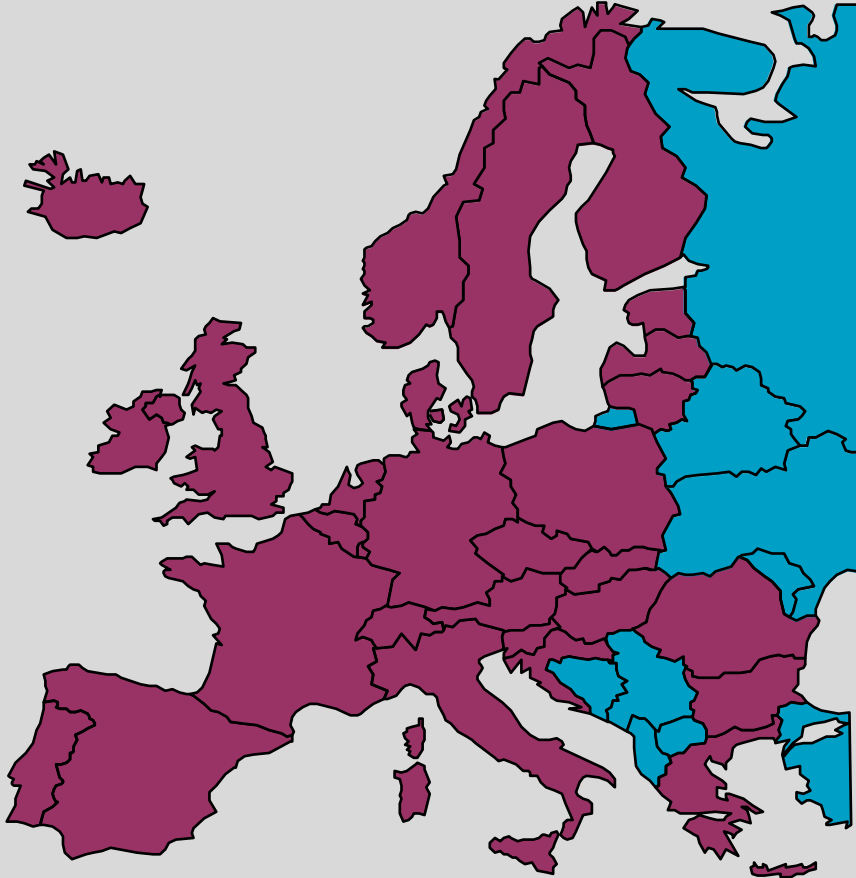
Stakeholders' point of view: 5 key issues for developing a RPCM

Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA)

Presented by: Eva G. Friberg, Norway

HERCA as a Voluntary Association

HERCA Member Countries



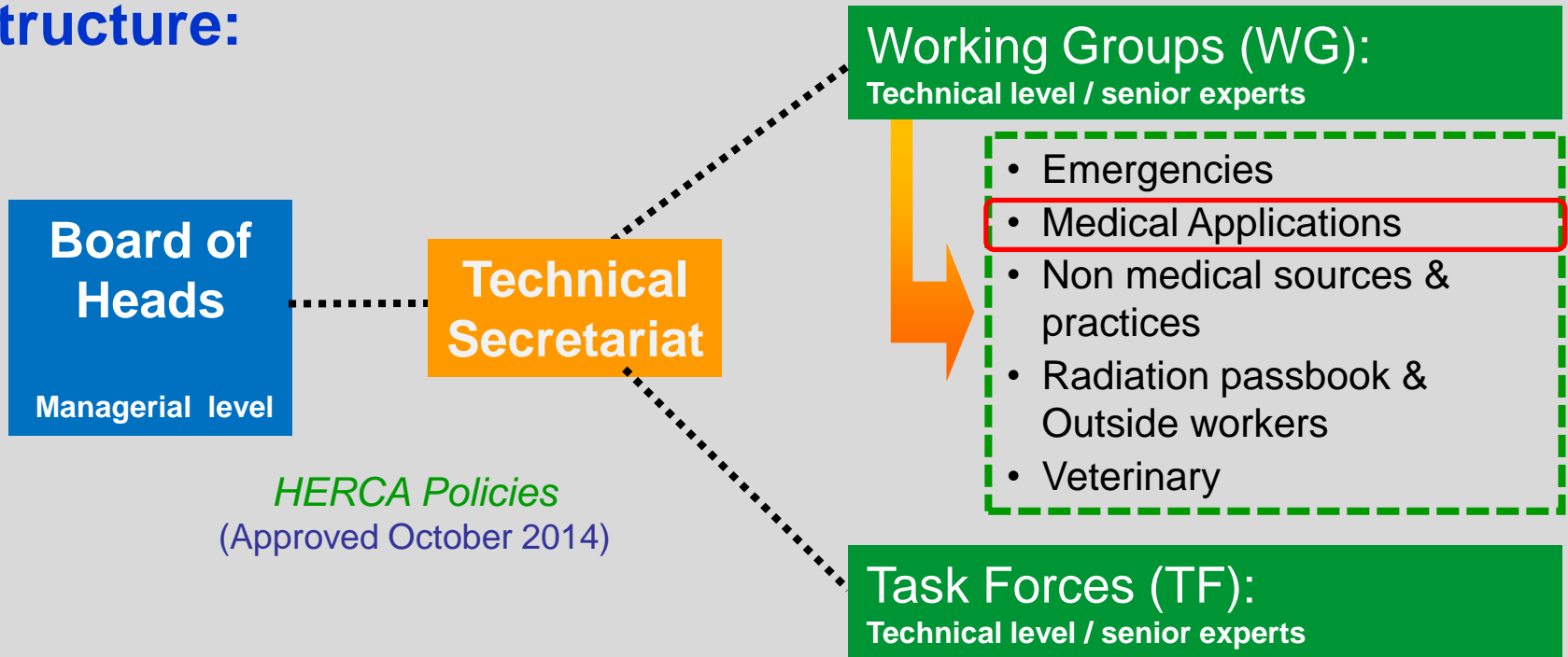
- HERCA, the *Heads of European Radiological protection Competent Authorities*, was founded in 2007.
- It is a voluntary association in which the heads of the Radiation Protection Authorities work together in order to identify and discuss common interests in significant regulatory issues within RP.

Member Countries: 31
(28 MS + IS, NO, CH)

Observers: 4
(EC, FDA, IAEA, WHO)

HERCA as a Voluntary Association

Structure:



HERCA Policies
(Approved October 2014)

Chairmanship:

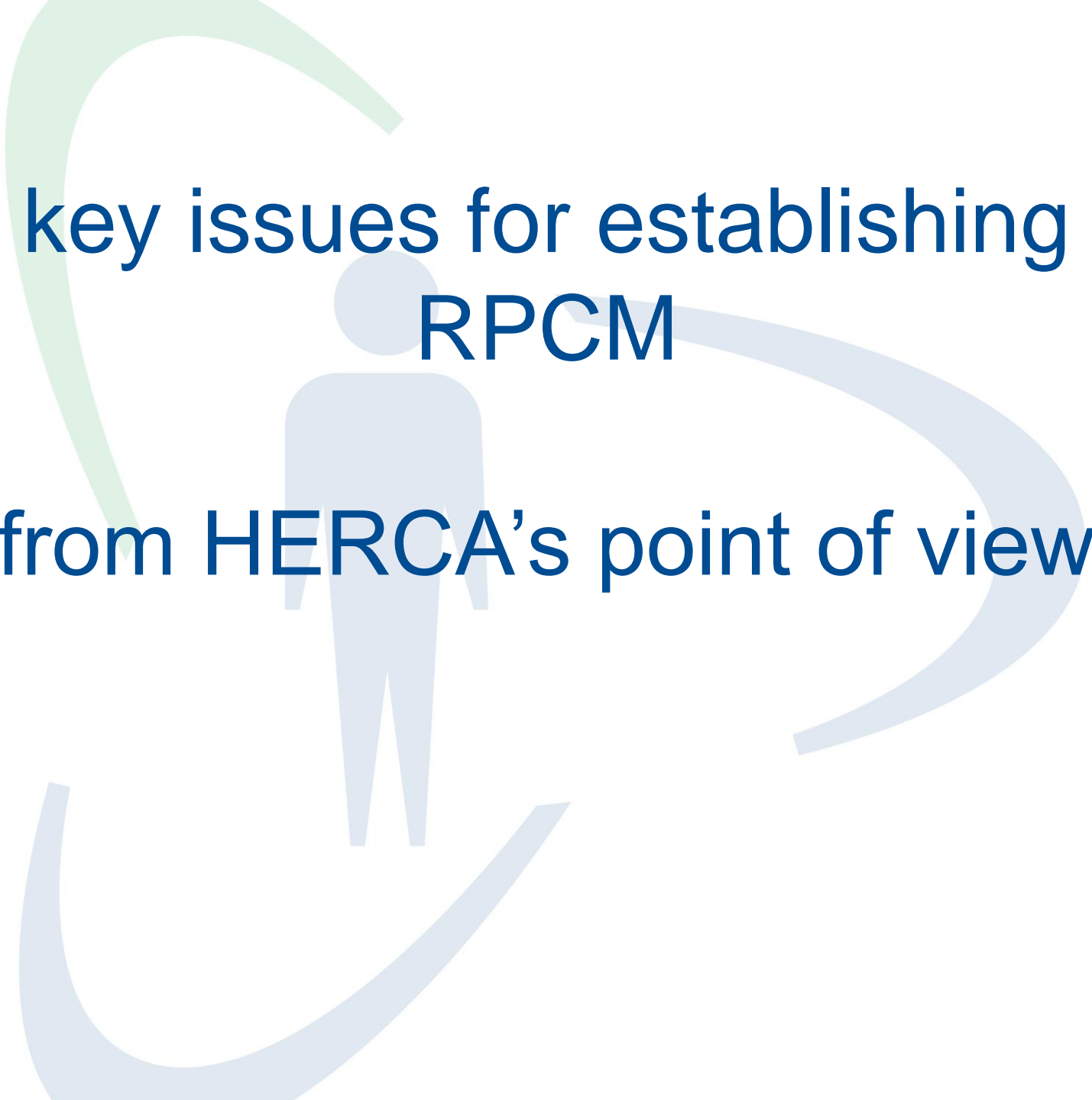
Mr **MAGNUSSON**, IRSA, Iceland 2012 - 2018
Mr **HARBITZ**, NRPA, Norway 2008 – 2011
Mr **LACOSTE**, ASN, France 2007-2008

RPCM from a regulatory point of view

- A good RPCM ensure for a proper implementation and daily compliance with the principles of justification and optimization and must be in continuously development
- The present and quality of a RPCM is highly dependent on the local beliefs, attitudes and behaviours among all members of the organization

Role of the regulators

- Provide a sufficient national RP framework, based on the IAEA/EU-BSS, to foster the local development of a RPCM
- RPCM can not be regulated but the regulators can inspect if a RPCM is developed and present within the organization

The logo for HERCA (Health, Environment, and Risk Consulting Agency) is a stylized, light blue figure of a person with arms raised, set against a white background. The figure is composed of simple, rounded shapes. The text is overlaid on the figure.

5 key issues for establishing a
RPCM
from HERCA's point of view

1. Awareness and attitude



- Proper education and training is essential to raise awareness of radiation risk and establish a positive attitude towards RP
- To accept and believe that radiation is associated with danger and to handle radiation with respect
- Proper risk communication with colleagues, patients and society

HERCA-initiatives:

- Foster a change in attitude towards RP by increasing the awareness and level of education through our activities:
 - Discussions, surveys, organizing and hosting stakeholder meetings and workshops and publishing position papers on key issues
 - Participating in European/international meetings, workshops, conferences presenting HERCAs point of view

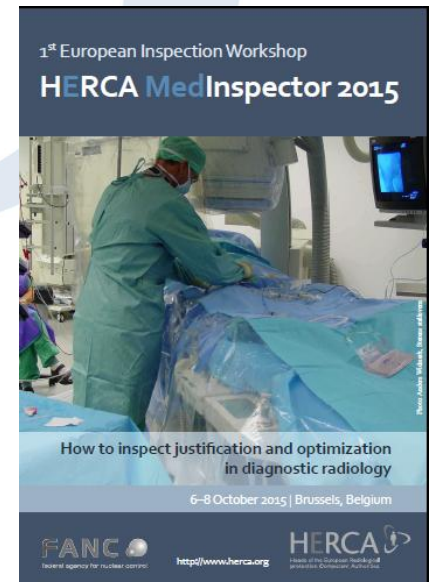
2. RP in management and QA-system

- RP, justification and optimization must be implemented in hospitals management and QA-systems, and be of high priority
- Strong leadership focusing on RP and responsibilities clearly defined within the whole organization (top-down)
- Assessment by internal/external audits to evaluate attitude and level of implementation in daily work to identify areas of improvements



HERCA-initiatives:

- Promoting regulatory bodies to perform inspections to verify local implementation
- Facilitate sufficient inspector competence
 - UK inspector training courses (PHE)
 - HERCA Inspector Workshop in diagnostic radiology
 - Planned European Action Week – Inspection on justification



3. Reporting events, learning, improving

- Local system for reporting and follow-up events, with a no blame policy
- Local evaluation and feedback systems to learn from events
- Lesson learned as input to risk-assessment and training for continuous improvement (involvement of all workers)
- EU-BSS: Significant events to be reported to competent authorities

HERCA-initiatives:

- Established a WP on reporting events
- Working on a position paper and planning for an upcoming workshop with stakeholders



4. Strengthen the role of manufacturers

- Manufacturers have an important role in providing safe and optimized equipment, to develop dose reducing tools and to provide proper training and education in using the equipment, including RP issues

HERCA-initiatives:

- Established good cooperation with CT manufacturers & COCIR
- Underlined their responsibilities in dose reduction, ending up with a voluntary self-commitment on important issues such as dose reducing tools, dose management and reporting tools, curricula in RP



PRESS RELEASE

**Regulators Work With Medical Industry on
Radiation Protection**



COCIR
SUSTAINABLE COMPETENCE IN ADVANCING HEALTHCARE
European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry

**CT Manufacturer's Voluntary Commitment
Regarding CT Dose**
To HERCA Working Group "Medical Application"/Sub-Working Group
"CT Manufacturers' involvement"
Version 2

5. Strengthen involvement of professional societies

- European professional societies has an important role in RP, especially when it comes to proper implementation of justification and optimization



HERCA-initiatives:

- Developed a good and transparent communication with stakeholders
- Provided position papers on justification and optimization
- Arranging multi-stakeholder meetings (MSM) to establish a platform for communication with and between stakeholders
- MSM with focus on justification and optimization (2 performed, next in spring 2016)
- Promoting the concept of self-commitments among European professional societies to commit themselves to act on identified tasks to ensure for proper justification and optimization

HERCA's role in medical RP

- HERCA has **no statutory role** in relation to medical radiation protection in Europe.
- Never-the-less, HERCA can be a **positive force** by:
 - raising **awareness** on radiation protection issues,
 - acting as a **platform** to identify such issues, to develop a common understanding and to explore common approaches,
 - promoting **good practices** among its member countries,
 - facilitating the involvement of important **stakeholders**,
 - providing **guidance** where appropriate and feasible,
 - being a **resource for competent authorities** in its member countries,
 - acting as an interested stakeholder with the **European Commission**, and
 - adding value to areas involving **trans-boundary processes**.