

Preparedness Guide for Embassies

Nuclear or Radiological Emergencies

This guide contains recommendations to assist the preparedness of Embassies potentially affected by a nuclear or radiological emergency, provided there is prior acceptance by foreign affair authorities of the HERCA countries in question. It distinguishes between minimum requirements that embassies should have in place and additional measures (measures that would be of benefit in a crisis, but which may not be realistic in each case, in particular for small embassies).

Criteria for determining the embassies to which the present guide applies depend on national circumstances and risk assessment. It is left to each country to decide on the relevance and implementation of the different recommendations.

Minimum preparedness requirements for Embassies

- Basic information on radiation and protective actions
- How to rapidly activate an emergency response
- Emergency plans and procedures (a step-by-step approach), emergency contact list
- Independent communication equipment (satellite telephones, Smartphones, etc)
- KI-tablets for the staff

Additional preparedness and equipment

- Regular training on nuclear emergency activities (e.g. testing of communication channels)
- KI-tablets for nationals
- Contamination detector and arrangements for staff decontamination
- A hand held radiation detector, instructions for use and maintenance (on-site or fly-in)
- Protective clothes, masks
- Vinyl plastic and adhesive tape to seal the Embassy
- Arrangements for automatic monitoring

First responses in case of a nuclear or radiological emergency

- Collect information on the situation
- Contact with own country authorities, own nuclear and/or radiation safety authority(-ies) and/or expert organisations, as identified in national emergency plans
- Contact other, in particular other European, Embassies in the country to exchange information and advice
- Check if the Embassy/Consulate(s) staff and their families are safe (eventually give shelter to their families if appropriate)
- Preparation of stockpiles of water, food, drugs, electric generators, etc
- Establish radiological protection of the Embassy (access control, control of contamination, etc)
- Inform nationals and organize a hotline