

## Interregional Group Scientific Visit on Advanced Capacity Building in Preparedness and Response to Nuclear and Severe Radiological Accidents

Mr. Aleksandar Dzhartov from the Republic of Bulgaria took part in an Interregional Group Scientific Visit on Advanced Capacity Building in Preparedness and Response to Nuclear and Severe Radiological Accidents conducted under the INT/2018 project on Supporting Knowledgeable Decision-making and Building Capacities to Start and Implement Nuclear Power Programmes. The event was organized by IAEA and hosted by Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

In Bulgaria, for the last two years, Mr. Dzhartov has been working as a Director of Critical Infrastructure, Prevention and Control Directorate to the Directorate-General Fire Safety and Civil Protection of the Ministry of Interior. He performs activities related to the supervision of state fire control, preventive control, critical infrastructure protection and last but not least the overall compliance with the provisions of the disaster protection legislative framework. In addition, Mr Dzhartov, based on his observations, gained knowledge and considering the national conditions, has been tasked with drafting various ordinances and regulations in order to further harmonize the national legislation with the present European Union, International and Global agreements.

Mr. Dzhartov's visit was hosted by Dr. Kenneth Peddicord and was comprised of theoretical lectures and field visits. The agenda of the visit was comprehensive and included a variety of carefully-selected topics such as US NRC response to the Fukushima nuclear accident, Emergency Management in the state of Texas during nuclear incidents



or emergencies, Role of the nuclear regulator during nuclear incidents or emergencies, the role of the IAEA Incident and Emergency Centre in emergency preparedness and response, Role of the Texas Department of State Health Services/Radiation Control Program during nuclear emergencies, Role of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) during nuclear incidents or emergencies. Undoubtedly, one of the most interesting elements of the attendance was the visit of the Disaster City - the largest search-and-rescue training facility in the world.

All the knowledge and experiences acquired during the fellowship will be shared with the senior leadership of Directorate-General Fire Safety and Civil Protection, colleagues and agencies dealing with issues of Nuclear Safety in the Republic of Bulgaria.

**ALEKSANDAR DZHARTOV** 

Bulgaria

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