The Eastern Europe Research Reactor Initiative (EERRI) was established in January 2008 to enhance cooperation between the Research Reactors in Eastern Europe to maintain and improve their services, and use the synergies of the existing facilities. The activities are supported by the IAEA. Members of the EERRI are the following institutions:

- Vienna University of Technology/Atominstitut, Vienna, Austria
- Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic
- Nuclear Research Institute (NRI), Rez, Czech Republic
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Budapest, Hungary
- KFKI Atomic Energy Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary
- Institute of Atomic Energy, Swierk, Poland
- Institute of Nuclear Research, Pitești, Romania
- Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Vinca Institute of Nuclear Science, Serbia

It is obvious that EERRI offers a large variety of nine research reactors in seven different countries (Fig. 1 and Table 1): three of them are MTR/High flux reactors (Maria, BRR and LVR-15), three are TRIGA reactors (ATI, USS, ICN), two are training reactors (VR-1, BME-TR) and one is a critical assembly (RB). EERRI can offer both steady state and pulse mode operation. Wide power range and various reactors' use allow EERRI to offer to solve any type of the experimental work usually performed at research reactors from beam experiments through various types of neutron activation analysis, fuel investigation, material science, radioscopes production to education and training.

EERRI Training Course Program

The group fellowship training programme offers a unique training experience that includes visits to at least 3 different research reactors. The programme is aimed at young, technical professionals who have no or little nuclear experience. Candidates should have technical degrees in engineering or science and may eventually be responsible for research reactor activities in countries that have no experience with such facilities. Participants may also include technical professionals seeking hands-on nuclear reactor facility experience and familiarisation to support the development of a nuclear power programme. Due to the limited infrastructure for practical/experimental activities, each course is limited to 8 participants.

The programme involves theoretical classes, site visits and hands-on experimental activities. Candidates are tested/evaluated periodically throughout the programme. The following topics are covered:

- Technical visits to reactors
- Introductory lectures
- Theory (lectures and computer based exercises)
- Basic reactor experiments (lectures and practical exercises at the reactor)
- Reactor operation (lectures and practical exercises at the reactor)
- Safety operation of RR (lectures and practical implementation at the reactor)
- Irradiation and utilization (lectures and demonstrations at the reactor)

The six week course for the participants with little or no nuclear experience focused on all aspects of the research reactor operation covering topics from legislative through theoretical and experimental reactor physics, reactor construction, operation to reactor utilisation. It is a typical example of a wide range course, which is extremely difficult to organise by a single reactor or single university. Such a reactor coalition can organise it much more efficient.

EERRI Training Course - General Information

At the beginning the main scope of the EERRI Group Fellowship Training programme was to assist Member States that consider building a research reactor (RR) as a first step to develop nuclear competence and infrastructure in the country. The training programme has been elaborated with the purpose to assist such IAEA Member States in the pursuit of these ambitious endeavours. It helps developing the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out activities related to planning, evaluating, development, construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of research reactors and more generally will familiarize young professionals with all aspects connected to nuclear reactors.

The programme has been organised within the framework of the Eastern European Research Reactor Initiative (EERRI). In its inaugural edition in spring 2009, the programme involved the participation of EERRI member states that operate research reactors, the Atominstitut of the Vienna University of Technology (Vienna-Austria), the Jozef Stefan Institute (Ljubljana - Slovenia), the KFKI Atomic Energy Research Institute and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, the last two from Budapest, Hungary.

Until the end of 2011 five training courses each one with in duration of six weeks have been successfully performed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The EERRI coalition and the EERRI training course are supported by the IAEA.

REFERENCES

1. EERRI webpage (November 2011)

PHYB08 2012 ADVANCED IN REACTOR PHYSICS
KNOXVILLE, TN USA, 18-20TH APRIL, 2012