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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the May edition of the Newsletter of the EUTERP Foundation. It was good to see so many of you at the ETRAP conference in April; it was very helpful to hear your views on the potential role of EUTERP over the next few years. The ETRAP conference was well attended and generated much interesting discussion, and I hope that we will be able to take forward the conclusions and recommendations that were highlighted in the final session. Further information on the conference is given in an article in this Newsletter.

EUTERP has been invited by the European ALARA Network (EAN) to join forces in hosting a workshop on ALARA in education and training. This workshop is scheduled to be held in Croatia in May 2014 and will replace our proposed 2014 Workshop in Malta. I am sure this joint venture will be of benefit to both EUTERP and EAN and will hopefully result in new faces participating in the discussions and workshop sessions. We will provide you with more information on the workshop as soon as it becomes available.

Michèle and I also participated in the first meeting of the HERCA Task Force (TF) on Education & Training in Radiation Protection. HERCA (the Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities) has set up the Task Force to obtain a general picture of the situation on education and training in radiation protection and to identify the current needs for harmonisation among HERCA member countries. The first meeting considered the implications of the forthcoming BSS requirements for recognition of Radiation Protection Experts. This is an area of interest and relevance to us all, and we will report progress in future EUTERP Newsletters.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any aspect of education and training in radiation protection, or submit an article for a future Newsletter.

Best wishes

Richard Paynter,
President of the EUTERP Foundation



HERCA SETS UP A TASK FORCE ON E&T IN RADIATION PROTECTION

Ton Vermeulen

Radiation protection education and training (E&T) has been of utmost interest for HERCA from the beginning of the Association. As a matter of fact, among the list of challenges in radiation protection included in the questionnaire sent by ASN in 2007, which was the basis to set up HERCA working groups, some topics in the "Training section" were given the highest priority. Nevertheless, at that time, the topic was recognised as already covered by the European Commission sponsored programmes underway and at that time it was agreed not to duplicate this effort.

The interests of HERCA in E&T activities have been confirmed during the last HERCA meetings and in particular in the activities of ENETRAP following previous contacts from this consortium.

In a context where

- The legal framework in which the recognition of Radiation Protection Experts (RPEs) & radiation Protection Officers will be embedded, as described in the revised draft of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards, will require clear guidance to the Member States.
- The final requirements for RPE and RPO in the future Directive is not stabilised and is still under discussion.
- In some European countries, there is only one training scheme for the qualified expert while in others, such as UK, a double level system already exists.
- The harmonization, whenever possible, of the requirements for education and training (E&T) of persons in charge of tasks in radiation protection is of importance for HERCA participating authorities if the mutual recognition of persons who wish to work abroad is aimed at.

The Board of Heads of HERCA approved at its 10th Meeting held in Paris on 30-31/10/2012 to set up a Task Force (TF) on Education & Training in Radiation Protection (TF E&T-RP) and a mandate was given to this TF. The ultimate mandate of the TF, which will be led by Mr Ton Vermeulen (The Netherlands) would be to present to the Board of Heads a general picture of the situation on E&T in RP and to

identify the current needs for harmonisation among HERCA member countries and eventually, if needed, the mandate of a future working group on E&T.

In carrying out its activities, special attention should be paid to not duplicating the work already done by others, rather the TF should take advantage of it. In this sense, the TF should take advantage of the work already carried out by ENETRAP & EUTERP.

THE MEDRAPET PROJECT

John Damilakis

MEDRAPET (MEDical RADIation Protection Education and Training, MEDRAPET) is a European Commission project aimed to a) assess the implementation of the Medical Exposure Directive provisions related to radiation protection education and training of medical professionals in the EU Member States and b) update the Radiation Protection 116 Guidelines. The professional organizations involved include the European Society of Radiology (ESR) as a coordinator, the European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (EFOMP), the European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS), the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO), the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) and the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe (CIRSE). The activities of MEDRAPET have focused on three main tasks i.e. a) the conduction of a survey on radiation protection education and training of medical professionals in the EU member states, b) the organization of a European workshop and c) the development of a European Guidance document on radiation protection education and training of medical professionals. The guidance document provides guidelines on radiation protection education and training of medical professionals in the European Union. Detailed information about MEDRAPET can be found at the project website (www.medrapet.eu).

NEXT EUTERP WORKSHOP 7 - 9 MAY 2014, CROATIA

In contradiction to what was announced in the previous Newsletter, the next EUTERP workshop will take place in May in Croatia. The reason for this change is that the European ALARA Network (EAN) was also planning their annual workshop in the same period, and since the topics are overlapping, we decided to join forces.

Previous EAN and EUTERP workshops have noted the importance of delivering effective radiation protection education and training to workers and other stakeholders. Consequently, this joint EAN-EUTERP workshop will consider how E&T programmes can be delivered effectively, to improve radiation protection in practice and disseminate the ALARA culture.

The workshop will consist of presentations (oral and posters) intended to highlight the main issues, and a significant part of the programme will be devoted to discussions within working groups. Participants will be expected to produce recommendations on E&T issues, to be addressed to relevant local, national and international stakeholders.

The workshop programme covers E&T for various types of stakeholders (Employers, Managers, Workers, Patients, General Public, Students and Pupils) and will include the following subjects:

- New European BSS
- European Qualification and Accreditation Schemes (ECVET, EQF, ...)
- Effectiveness and efficiency of E&T
- Practical ALARA training
- New learning tools
- Elements contributing to ALARA culture
- E&T at all organizational levels

The workshop will take place in Hotel Lone, in Rovinj, Croatia. A welcome reception will be organized on the 6th of May, 2014, in the evening.

The registration fee will be 400 € and will include: welcome reception, workshop dinner, three lunches, two coffee breaks per day, transport to the workshop-dinner, Brijuni (Pula) excursion, as well as the usual workshop materials.

REPORT ON ETRAP2013



ETRAP 2013 took place last March in Vienna. With 131 participants from 37 countries, this was the most "international" ETRAP ever.

ETRAP was organized in collaboration with IAEA and IRPA, and with strong support from HERCA, IRPA and EFOMP. Each of these organizations show an active interest in E&T in RP and their individual initiatives were presented at this conference. EUTERP was recognized to play a key role as a source of information, particularly regarding national implementation. We will continue this task through our website, our workshops and through this Newsletter.

From the conference, it can be concluded that the ECVET credit system will become a common tool and should be implemented in all RP training. Focus should be put on knowledge, skills and competences rather than on number of course hours. The use of learning outcomes will also improve the efficiency and effectiveness of courses. Refresher training was highlighted as an important factor in the continuous professional development and the learning pathway of professionals in radiation protection.

The conference also showed that this community is still struggling with the concepts and implementation of qualification, accreditation and certification. Different approaches in different countries remain, even after the harmonization efforts taken during recent years. However, several examples from bi- and multilateral recognition that were presented showed us a possible way forward and with the new task force of HERCA it is expected that more transparency and uniformity in these matters will be set for the coming years.

Attention was also given to the young generation: it was generally acknowledged that specific initiatives should be supported for this target public, in order to guarantee sufficient RP competences in the future.

Last but not least we want to mention the attention that the ETRAP participants gave to the session on the introduction of ethics in RP courses, and the bridge to public perception and communication.

All these topics will hopefully be brought to attention in the forthcoming Horizon 2020, which at the European level will deal with the policy and future projects in radiation protection education and training in the different sectors where ionizing radiation is used. From the conclusions of the ETRAP2013 it can clearly be advised that:

- RPE and RPO training guidance;
 - focus on training needs for other persons;
 - qualifications systems such as EQF, ECVET etc.;
 - changes in delivery of training (e-learning, webinars, virtual world training, role of social media, ...);
 - public perception and information;
 - ethics modules in RP courses
- are the topics to be treated in the next months and years to come.

EUTERP ASSOCIATES

The EUTERP Board considers that the maximum participation in the EUTERP by its Associates is fundamental to the aim of promoting consistent levels of E&T in radiation protection by all providers throughout the European Union. To achieve this, the Board recommends that any organization involved in providing RP education and training may apply now and will be accepted as a provisional Associate free-of-charge for the rest of 2013. This will enable such organizations to participate in the expansion of the EUTERP website to include more national detail while identifying for themselves the benefits of

- Access to all topical information on Radiation Protection Education and Training, European harmonization & mutual recognition matters, related Law & Regulations as included in the EUTERP Foundation website and the consequent ability to keep up-to-date.
- Direct involvement in the biennial EUTERP Foundation workshops, with the possibility of contributing papers, topics and advising on the format of the meetings.

- Discounts on workshop fees and other selected events (maximum two participants per Associate).
- The ability to add one or more Associate Pages to the website. These pages can be used to e.g. advertise Education & Training courses, share web links, publish projects about harmonization and/or mutual recognition (e.g. bi- or trilateral projects) and other related matters.
- Access to all sections of the EUTERP discussion forum and the option to start a new section.
- Contributions to the EUTERP Foundation Newsletter including free advertising.
- Involvement in the development of policy, standards and guidance documents.
- A direct link with the EUTERP Foundation and free, automatic information exchange with the other Associates.

The Board has further recommended that to avoid any prejudice on the part of existing Associates, no fee will be charged for 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 17-21 November 2013: [NESTet](#)
- 7-9 May 2014: 5th EUTERP Workshop
- 23-27 June 2014: [4th European IRPA congress](#)

CONTACT

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