



NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN RADIATION PROTECTION PLATFORM

In this issue more about the Platform, the logo, a summary of the Feasibility Study and the first workshop in May 2007

Introducing the Steering Committee

The European Commission has appointed a Steering Committee to supervise the project and to assist the coordinator in its tasks.

The Steering Committee will meet about twice a year. The kick-off meeting was held on 11-12 May 2006 in Brussels. At this meeting, the Steering Committee has been officially inaugurated. During the meeting, the Steering Committee has, together with the coordinator, elaborated a methodology plan for addressing the legal and administrative aspects and the functional aspects the Platform.

The second Steering Committee meeting has been held on 7-8 November 2006 in Brussels. The meeting addressed the progress made in setting up the Platform and discussed the contents of the website, the first Newsletter and the programme of the first workshop.

The members of the Steering Committee are:

I. McAulay, (Member), Euratom Art. 31 Expert Group
J. Naegele, (Scientific Officer; Member), EC, D.-G. TREN
M. Coeck, (Member), SCK.CEN, Belgium
G. Morkūnas, (Member), RSC, Lithuania
R. Paynter, (Member), HPA-RPD, United Kingdom
S. Mundigl, (Observer), EC, D.-G. TREN
G. van Goethem, (Observer), EC, D.-G. RTD
G. Sadagopan, (Observer), IAEA
C. Wernli, (Observer), IRPA
K. Olsen, (Observer), IFOMP
D. Owen, (Observer), IOE



The Steering Committee at their meeting in November. From left to right: Christian Wernli; Richard Paynter; Ian McAulay; Jochen Naegele; Michèle Coeck; Jan van der Steen; Geetha Sadagopan; Gendrutis Morkūnas.

Editorial

In Europe, there are no doubts that there is a need to maintain and even increase the expertise related to radiation protection. A common training and education strategy should take into consideration:

- Public expectations regarding health and safety related to nuclear matters, e.g. through training and communication at all levels.
- Better sharing of training and education resources and knowledge amongst public and private organisations.
- A European added value of building up strengths and shrinking weaknesses in training and education organisations through networking across the European Union.

A common European vision for maintaining competences in radiation protection is emerging, focussing on a common denominator for qualification of radiation protection experts and for mutual recognition and mobility of these experts across the European Union. Therefore, the European Commission, D.-G. Transport and Energy, has now launched the initiative to establish a European Radiation Protection Training and Education Platform (EUTERP Platform), to address a number of issues related to education, training, recognition and mutual acceptance of radiation protection experts.

The objectives of the Platform can be summarised as:

- to remove obstacles for the mobility of RPEs within the European Union through harmonisation of criteria and qualifications for and mutual recognition of such experts;
- to facilitate the transnational access to vocational education and training;
- to better integrate education and training into occupational radiation protection infrastructures in the Member, Candidate and Associated States of the European Union.

It is recognised that all countries have developed their own education system over a long period of time and it would be impossible to strive to uniformity in the educational approach. Instead of that, and despite the diversity of education and training systems, harmonisation should be reached by evolution of internationally agreed common minimum criteria for the qualifications of the RPE. Recognition should not only be based on the initial education and training, but also on competence. A pragmatic and stepwise approach is necessary for a harmonised and internationally agreed system of recognition of RPEs. The Platform could provide the basis for such an international agreement.

We proudly present herewith the first issue of the EUTERP Newsletter, which gives some basic information about the approach of the EUTERP project, the activities of the Platform, the possibilities of participation, as well as the conclusions of the feasibility study that has led to the establishment of the Platform. We hope that it raises your interest. More copies of the Newsletter can be downloaded from the website of the EUTERP Platform at www.euterp.eu.

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Workshop

EUROPEAN TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN RADIATION PROTECTION PLATFORM

First EUTERP Platform Workshop

“Qualifications and Requirements for Recognition of Radiation Protection Experts, Radiation Protection Officers and Radiation Workers”

Hotel and conference Centre Karolina, Sausio 13 street 2, Vilnius, Lithuania, 22 – 24 May 2007

Objective

This workshop is the first in a yearly series of workshops of the EUTERP Platform. The aim of this particular workshop is to focus on finding a common denominator for international agreement on the qualifications for training and education and requirements for mutual recognition of Radiation Protection Experts (RPEs), Radiation Protection Officers (RPOs) and Radiation Workers. Since this is the first workshop, the objectives of the Platform will also be discussed, as well as the expectations of the participants with regard to the outcomes of the Platform.

The workshop will consist of presentations (oral and posters) and work in small working groups. The workshop will specifically address the key elements for harmonisation of training and education requirements, as have been recommended in the preceding phase of the Platform during a workshop held in Madrid, 20-21 May 2004. These key elements are:

- Recommendation 1: Analyse the differences in interpretation of the BSS definition of QE in the national legislations*
Recommendation 2: Define common minimum requirements for competences of RPEs, RPOs and workers, taking into account job profiles, sector of work, etc.
Recommendation 3: Provide guidance on the implementation of the requirements into national regulations

Scope of the Workshop

The Workshop programme will include the following subjects:

- Introduction and scene setting:
 - An overview of the objectives of the EUTERP Platform as well as the objectives and work programme of the workshop.
 - Overview of international E&T activities.
- National expectations of participation in EUTERP:
 - What is the expected outcome of the EUTERP Platform?
 - What is considered to be the best approach to reach the optimal harmonisation of E&T requirements for RPEs, RPOs and workers in the various sectors of work?
- Discussion of the ENETRAP project results in working groups:
 - Assessment of training needs.
 - Interpretation of the definition of the Qualified Expert in national legislations.
 - Requirements for competences of RPEs, RPOs and workers in the European Union.

Expected outcome

The workshop aims at providing recommendations to the European Commission for international agreement on the qualifications for training and education and requirements for mutual recognition of RPEs, RPOs and workers.

Target Audience

All concerned stakeholders in radiation protection training and education are invited to participate, such as:

- National competent radiation protection authorities;
- National bodies responsible for professional education and vocational training;
- Providers of training and education in the radiation protection area;
- Professional organisations representing the receivers of training and education;
- International organisations and associations;
- Operators and employers.

