

10th EUTERP WORKSHOP

Competence-based approaches in radiation protection

July 7-9, 2026
PSI, Villigen, Switzerland

From 7–9 July 2026, 31 people from 13 different European countries gathered at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland for the 10th EUTERP workshop to discuss new developments in E&T in RP under the title “Competence-based approaches in RP”. Core of the workshop were three working sessions, where small groups discussed the topic of competencies in radiation protection:

1st working session on “Design, Implementation & Evaluation of Competencies”

Aim of the session was to agree upon a common terminology, exchange experience and build consensus and/or a common understanding of competencies. The working session translated concrete examples of competence needs in radiation protection via learning outcomes, the design and development of E&T activities and associated evaluations. As a result, it can be stated, that national and international references/guidance documents are very valuable, as formulating competences and associated learning outcomes is not that simple as it seems. The context of the needs is also very important, in terms of pre-requisites, time constraints and sector-specificities. Additionally, the needs in function of the time has to be taken into account – competences are changing (AI, new applications, workforce). Also, soft skill training (e.g. behavior aspects, communication, public speaking) is often lacking in the current training courses, although soft skill training requires also dedicated experts (social scientists/educators, com specialists)

2nd working session on “IAEA competence framework and current status of qualification pathways”

During this session an introductory presentation provided an overview on the Qualified Expert (QE) and RPO as covered in IAEA safety standards, the challenges of IAEA member states in implementing IAEA requirements for QE and RPO and the draft publication on building competence for QE and RPO. Aim of the working session was to familiarise the participants with the terminology and approaches and enabling the participants to provide informed feedback on the IAEA draft publication on building the competences of QER and RPO. The working session was organized in two parts: During part 1 the competence framework was discussed and in part 2 learning qualifications pathways were covered. By attending this working session EUTERP participants had the opportunity to ensure that the document reflects their understanding paving the way to a competence framework they could refer to as a benchmark (for internal quality check; for potential cross-border activities including the design of programmes to bridge gaps between different MS) and to the development

of training syllabi and material (e.g., RPO) that could be more easily used as basis to develop national training material.

3rd working session on “New methods in Radiation Protection E&T”

Here, small groups used case studies to explore how AI could be used to compare competencies from the guidelines of different countries in order to identify similarities and differences. Although in-depth analysis was not possible due to time constraints, the results were promising and highlighted limitations and boundary conditions in using LLMs. It was subsequently decided to pursue and further develop this approach, as the expertise available within the EUTERP network provides the capacity to review and validate results obtained using AI. Detailed information on this will be sent to EUTERP associates and workshop participants over the coming weeks. A collection of national guidelines, compiled for this third working session, will be published on the EUTERP website shortly.

In addition to the themes of the above working sessions, a total of **17 presentations** outlined best practices in the field of E&T in research programmes and highlighted current developments in individual countries. These presentations were preceded by scene-setting contributions from the EC, HERCA and IRPA.

Alongside the input from the presentations and the work carried out in the working sessions, typical for an EUTERP workshop, many interesting discussions took place during the breaks or in the evenings at the BBQ or the social get-together. Overall, it was a productive, successful and enjoyable workshop in a professional setting. Many thanks to the PSI School of Radiation Protection, in particular Maya Keller, for hosting the workshop to the highest standard!

