



Hheads of the European Radiological  
protection Competent Authorities

# **Conclusions & Recommendations by the HERCA Task force on Education & Training in Radiation Protection (TF E&T-RP)”**

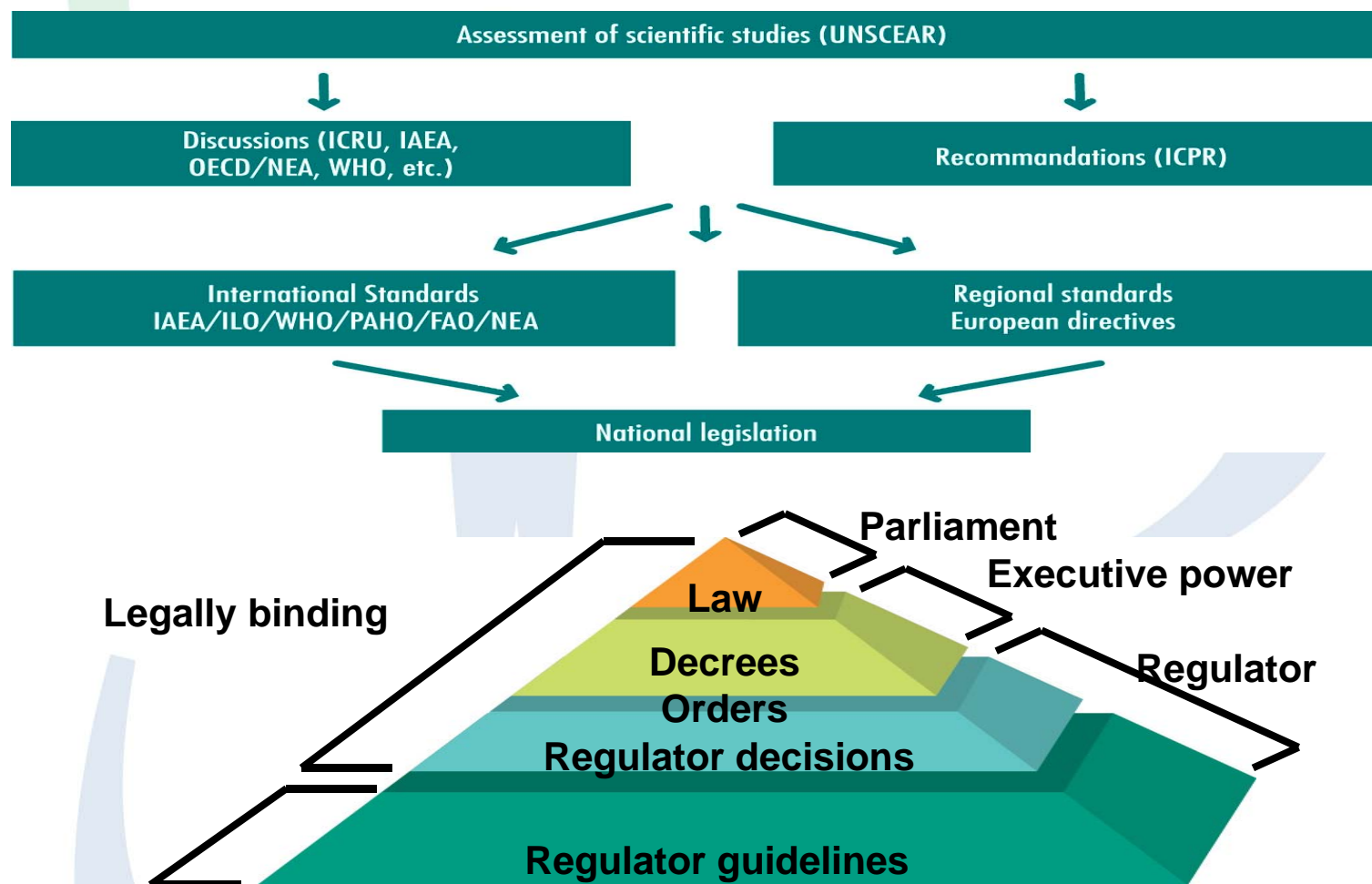
**Ton Vermeulen**

# Overview

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# Background

## Regulatory framework in Europe



# Background

Despite common European Standards/ Directives/ Recommendations and/or Guidance, the flexibility in transposing into national regulations has led to existing differences in the practical transposition of both International and European Standards resulting in differences in radiation protection practices throughout Europe → need for a network/association to exchange on regulatory radiation protection issues

- Recognition of the **need for increased co-operation** between Radiation Protection Authorities within Europe.
- Need for a **common understanding, mutual approach and harmonization whenever possible.**

Set up of HERCA : 2007 – Preliminary works in 2006 (ASN questionnaire to RP European authorities identifying priority topics for harmonisation )

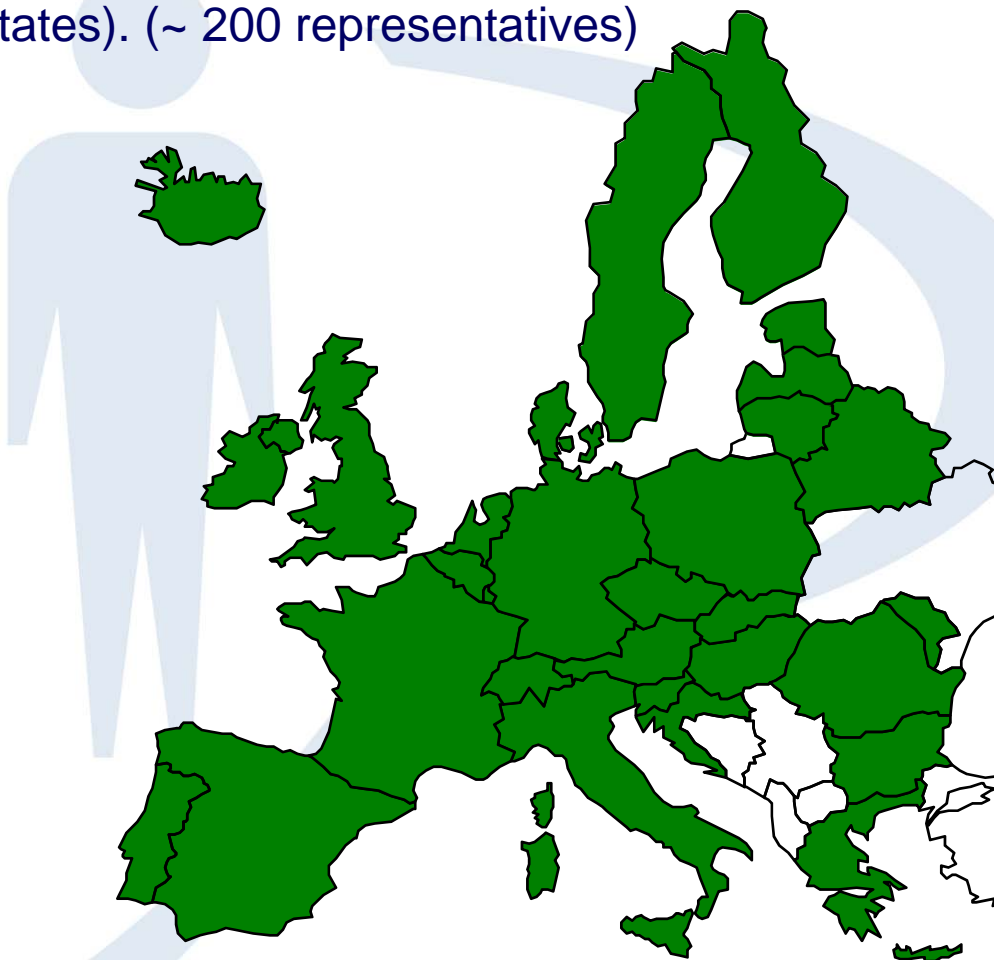
Since then, 12 plenary meetings (last one in Berlin, Germany, Nov 2013)

# HERCA Overview

Participation: official nomination by RPAs

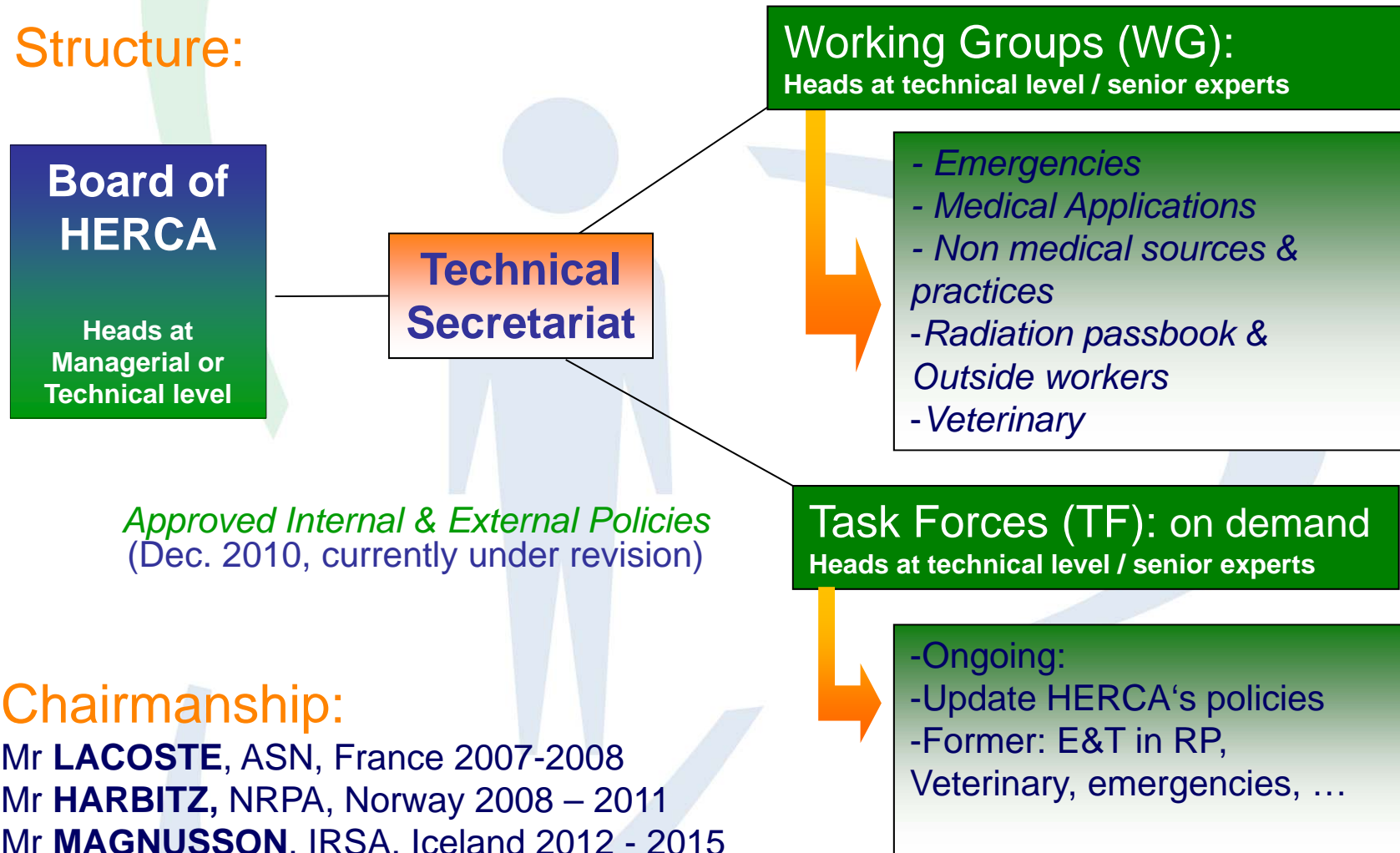
51 RPA from 31 European countries (including the 28 EU States). (~ 200 representatives)

AT	:	Austria
BE	:	Belgium
BG	:	Bulgaria
HR	:	Croatia
CY	:	Cyprus
CZ	:	Czech Republic
DK	:	Denmark
EE	:	Estonia
FI	:	Finland
FR	:	France
DE	:	Germany
EL	:	Greece
HU	:	Hungary
IS	:	Iceland
IE	:	Ireland
IT	:	Italy
LV	:	Latvia
LT	:	Lithuania
LU	:	Luxembourg
MT	:	Malta
NL	:	Netherlands
NO	:	Norway
PL	:	Poland
PT	:	Portugal
RO	:	Romania
SK	:	Slovakia
SI	:	Slovenia
ES	:	Spain
SE	:	Sweden
CH	:	Switzerland
UK	:	United Kingdom



# HERCA Overview

## Structure:



## Chairmanship:

Mr **LACOSTE**, ASN, France 2007-2008

Mr **HARBITZ**, NRPA, Norway 2008 – 2011

Mr **MAGNUSSON**, IRSA, Iceland 2012 - 2015

# Objectives & fields of competence

*HERCA addresses the protection of **people** and the **environment** against the effect of ionising radiation.*

## Objectives

- to build and maintain a **network** of chief radiation safety regulators in Europe
- to promote **exchange** of experience and **learning** from each other's best practices
- to discuss and where appropriate, express its **consensus opinion** on significant regulatory issues
- to develop, by consensus whenever possible; a **common approach** to radiological protection issues
- to have an **impact on the practice** of radiological protection, within the States of HERCA members.

## Fields of competence

- Radiological protection during the design, the construction, the operation and the decommissioning of nuclear installations,
- The transport, the storage and the use of radioactive materials and ionizing radiation for industrial, medical and veterinary and research purposes, including the radiation sources of natural origin.
- It considers radiological protection in normal conditions as well as in the event of incidents or accidents and the possible consequences of malevolent acts.

# E&T in Radiation Protection

- E&T RP has been of utmost interest for HERCA from the beginning
- The topic was recognised as already covered by EC and activities ENETRAP
- The interest of HERCA in E&T has been confirmed in HERCA meeting June 2012
- In December 2012 a Task Force on E&T in radiation protection is installed for 1 year.



# Mandate Task Force E&T in RP

## Ultimate mandate of the TF E&T

- Present a general picture of the situation on E&T in RP
- identify the current needs for harmonisation among HERCA member countries and eventually,
- if needed, mandate of a future working group on E&T.

## Mandate on RPE

Come up with **general picture** of situation in HERCA MS with regard E&T requirements **radiation protection experts** allowing to decide on further steps to achieve solutions leading to a uniform way of **mutual recognition**

The TF E&T-RP should **analyse** the applicability between HERCA members of the procedure developed by ENETRAP for the benchmarking of national E&T on RP

# Mandate

## Mandate on RPO

Come up with a **general picture** of the current status of existing equivalents to **radiation protection officers** and existing plans to **implement** the new Directive's requirements

The TF E&T-RP should **make a survey** on the current RPO requirements or where appropriate the plans for RPO requirements in the different HERCA member countries

## Mandate on workers

Come up with practical and operational solutions leading to a uniform way for assessing the education and training schemes of **workers**

# Conclusions

## after first orientation: June 2013

- **General picture** (EC / ENETRAP 2005) indicated that, national systems for recognition QE's varied considerably ( role, level of education and competency ) **could be enough to comply** with mandate to provide a general picture of the **situation on RPE**
- Acknowledging the importance of E&T in RP and the mutual recognition of experts and workers, **first priority should be to update national systems to the new BSS**
- **Guidance has to be developed urgently** to support the implementation of RPE and RPO

# Results Task Force Dec. 2013

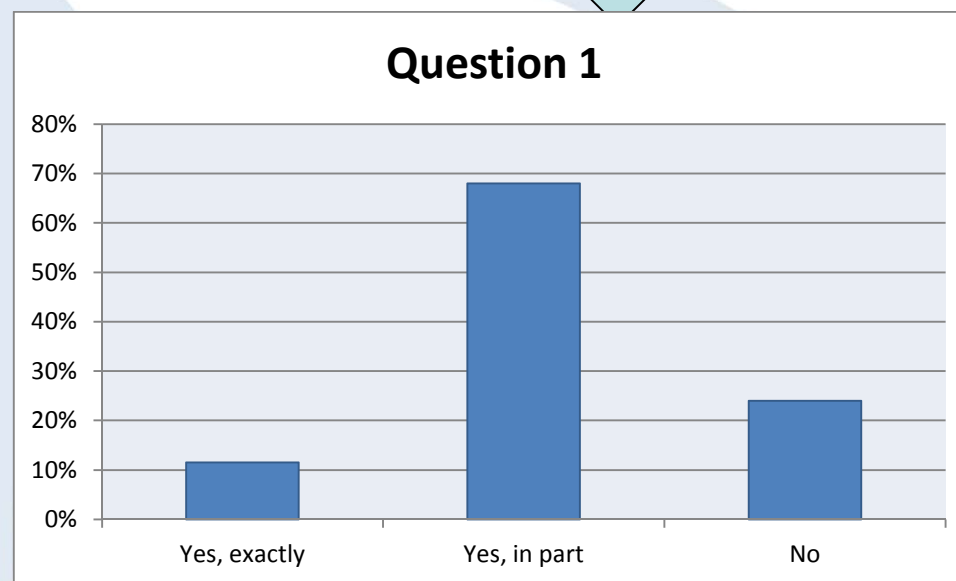
- Report with findings, conclusions and recommendations
- Appendix with picture RPO in HERCA MS
- [http://www.herca.org/herca\\_news.asp?newsID=30](http://www.herca.org/herca_news.asp?newsID=30)
- **Members Task Force:**  
Ton Vermeulen (Chair, NL),  
Olvido Guzmán (ASN & **HERCA Secretariat**),  
Konstantinos Karfopoulos (Gr), Katalin Lumniczky (Hu),  
Richard Painter (UK), Marie-Line Perrin (FR),  
Dolores Rueda (Es), Annemarie Schmitt-Hannig (Ge),  
Carel Thijssen (NL)

# Results Questionnaire RPO

## Question 1

Does the definition of the RPO in the revised BSS reflect a similar role in your national legislation?

Impressively high response



Questionnaires sent: 31  
Questionnaires received: 26  
Answers: 26

# Results Questionnaire RPO (2)

## Question 2

**Primary tasks and responsibilities associated with the role of the RPO**

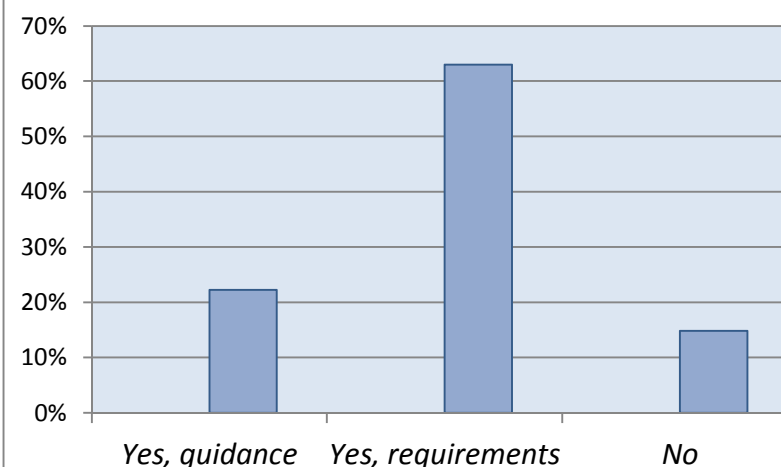
Primary tasks described in BSS	Harmonization >50%
Ensuring accordance with the requirements of any specified procedures or local rules	<b>100%</b>
Supervise implementation of the program for workplace monitoring	55%
Carrying out periodic assessments of the condition of the relevant safety and warning systems	60%
Supervise implementation of personal monitoring program	60%
Participating in arrangements for prevention, preparedness and response for emergency exposure situations	60%
Information and training of exposed workers	60%

# Results Questionnaire RPO (3)

## Question 3

Are regulatory guidance/requirements available that specifies the minimum educational level, training, work experience and personal attributes that are required for RPOs?

Question 3



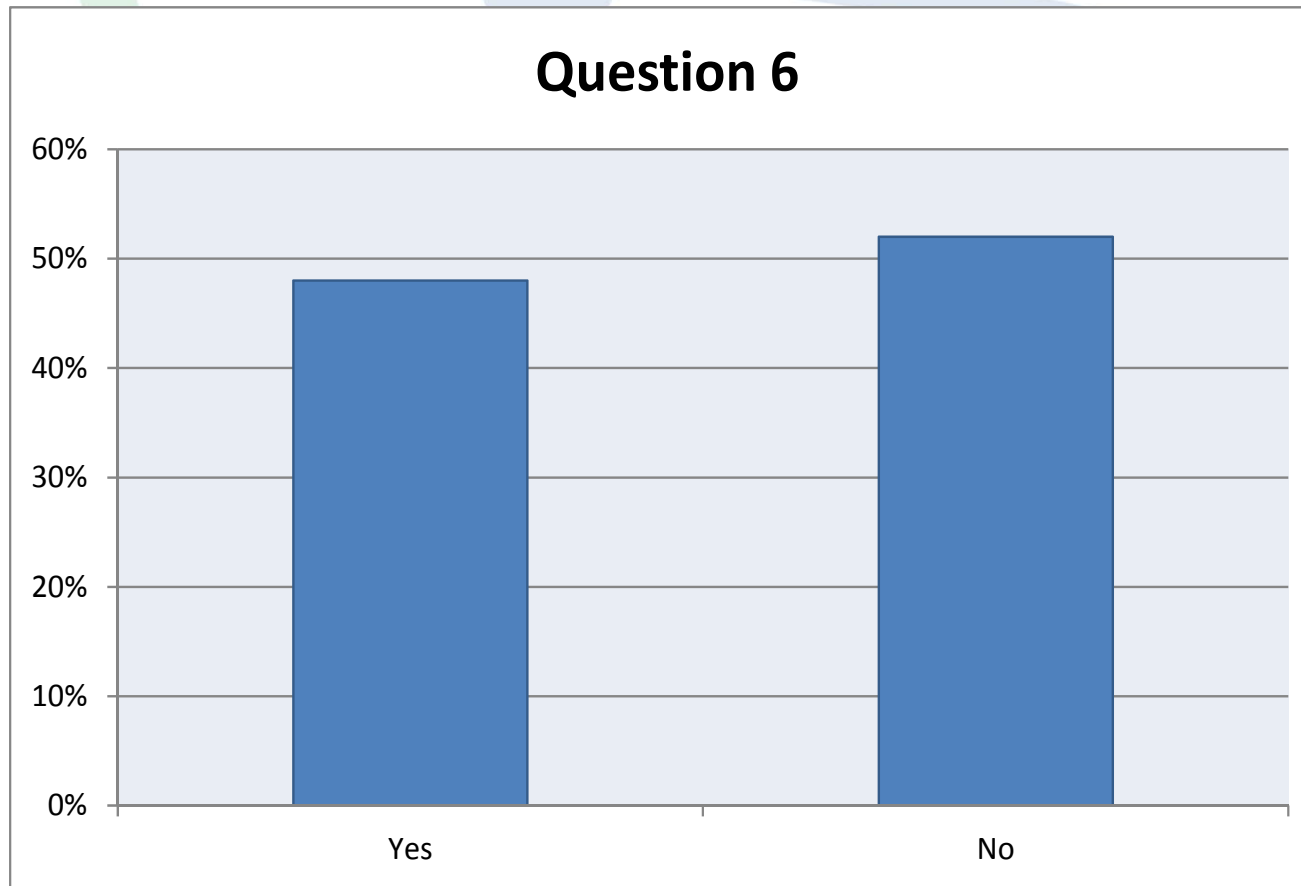
Guidance/Requirements	% of yes
Education	60%
Training	70%
Personal attributes (qualification, competence)	48%
Renew personal attributes	30%
Work experience	30%

Yes: 85%  
No: 15%

# Results Questionnaire RPO (4)

## Question 6

Does your legislation require the formal recognition of RPOs or equivalent?



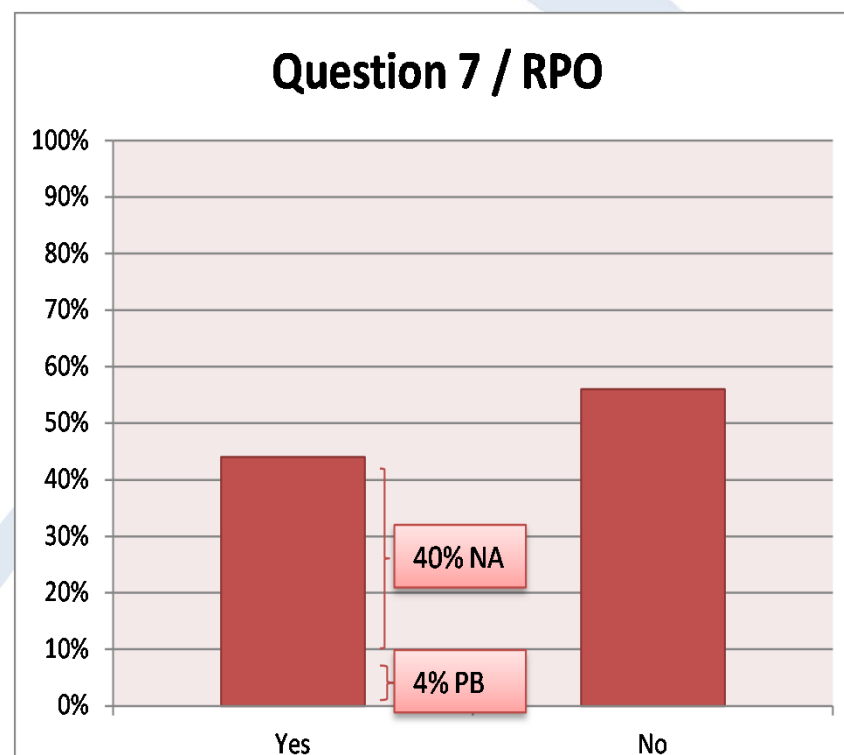
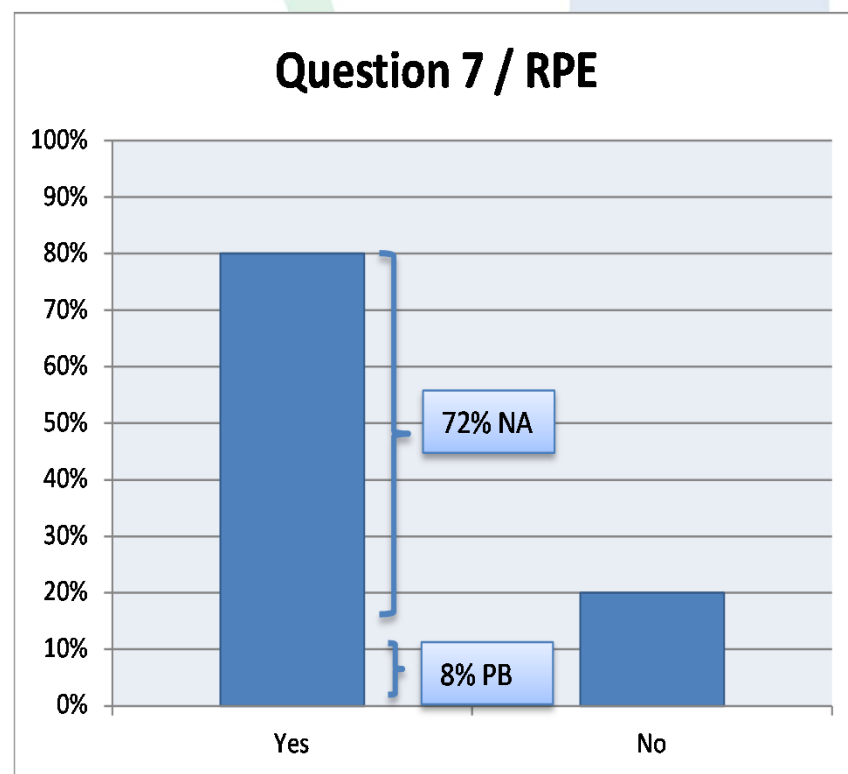


# Results Questionnaire RPO (5)

## Question 7

Are there formal systems in place for the recognition of RPEs or RPOs in your country by national authorities (NA) or professional bodies (PB)?

Formal recognition system in place  
**80 % RPE** **45% RPO**



# Results Questionnaire RPO (6)

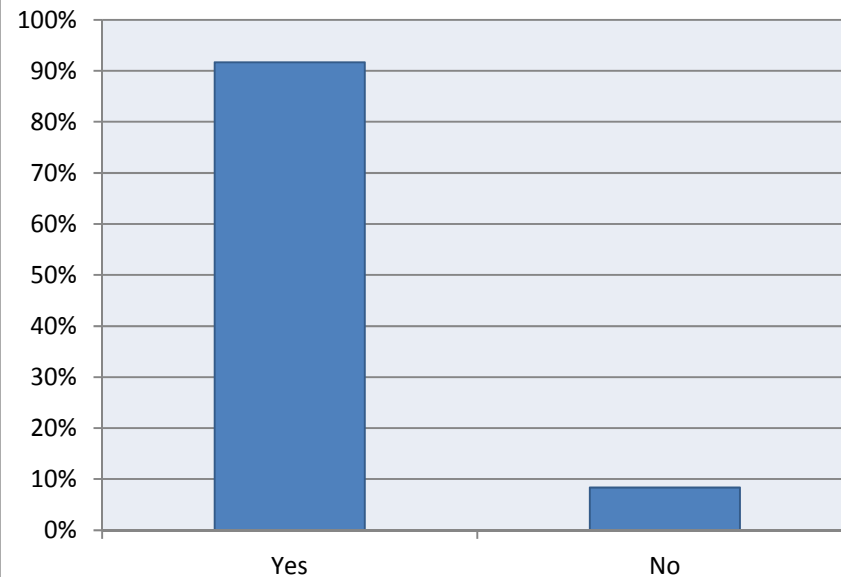
Questions 8 and 9 (If a formal recognition system for the RPO is in place)

8. Is there a minimum level of basic education, training and experience required for the recognition of RPO?

9. Once the prerequisites are fulfilled, is successful completion of any of the courses identified in Question 5 sufficient for recognition as RPO?

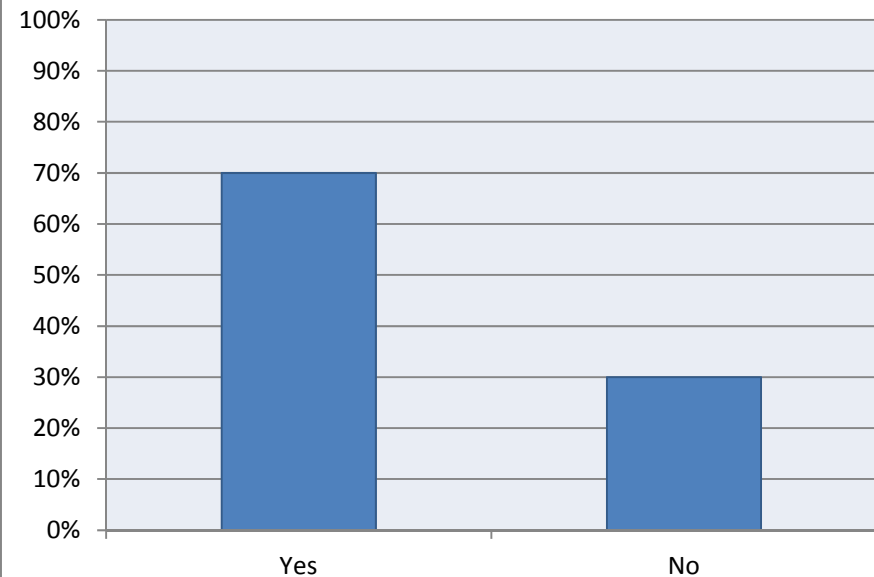
100% = 12 answers

**Question 8**



100% = 10 answers

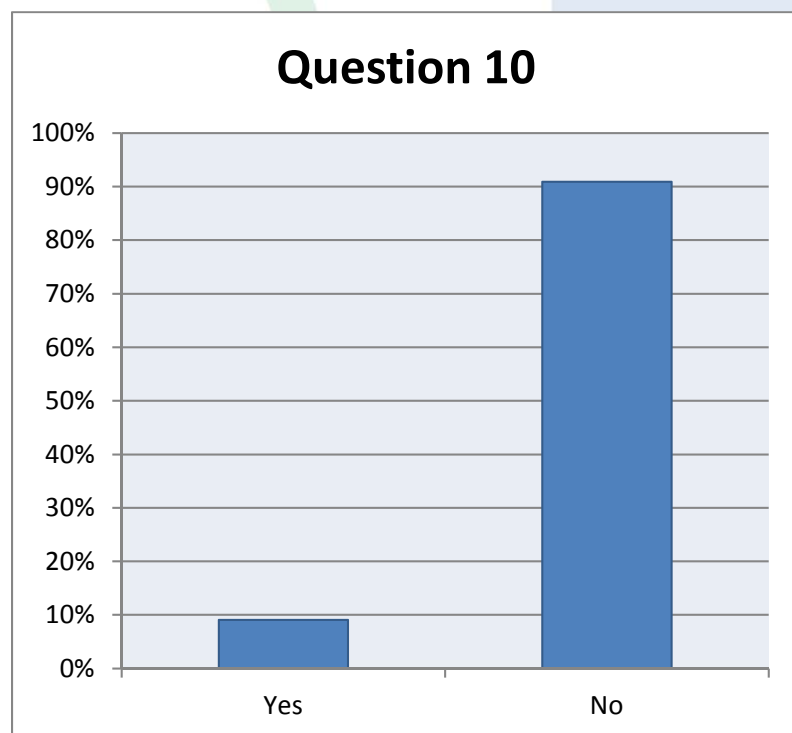
**Question 9**



# Results Questionnaire RPO (7)

## Question 10

Are there in your country mutual accepted training courses for exposed **workers** in the field of borderless mobility between EU-member-states?



Questionnaires sent: 31  
Questionnaires received: 26  
Answers: 11

Data collected are not possible to lead to a conclusion

# Findings on RPE

- BSS describes RPE in general  
(appropriate knowledge, training and experience in order to give advice in RP)
- BSS describes indications (tasks) on the matters an RPE should give advice on
- National authorities should be responsible for recognition systems for RPEs (which include assessment of training)
- In ENETRAP WD 2.2 some guidance has been developed for mutual recognition on RPEs

## Findings on questionnaire RPO (2)

- Most MC have partly similar positions to RPO (BSS)
- E&T: Most MC have a training scheme for RPOs
- < 50% of MC have system of RPO recognition
- BSS: RPO is technically competent in RP matters (for a given type of practice and to supervise implementation RP arrangements)
- ENETRAP developed guidance on course content training schemes of RPO, but not in detail on learning outcomes
- EQF level comparable to RPO qualification is envisaged to be the level of 3 to 6 depending on the practice

# Findings on E&T workers

- Undertaking has responsibility for ensuring workers have suitable information and training
- Level of training is dependent on work and practice being carried out.

The RPE has the duty of advising on appropriate training programs and the RPO has the task of implementing these programs

- RPO must ensure that the worker has sufficient and regular training and understands local rules and requirements
- Some countries have only guidance others have requirements for the “appropriate” training of workers

# Conclusions on RPE

- General picture (ENETRAP 2005) could be enough to comply with mandate to provide a general picture
- BSS does not specify detailed requirements in terms of education, training and experience for the RPE
- ENETRAP reference training scheme provides a good model for the knowledge and theoretical competence on the EQF level 6 and 7
- Further guidance is needed to describe the workplace competencies required to fulfil the matters given in BSS.
- These workplace competencies need to be mapped to the relevant knowledge and skills given in the ENETRAP training scheme

## Conclusions on RPE (2)

- Other training schemes and workplace job training can also achieve the required competencies
- first priority has to be given on the work needed for implementation of the BSS  
Mutual recognition could be developed once the new guidance has been developed
- Once the new BSS has been implemented and guidance developed, a new survey should be done



# Conclusions on RPO & workers

- Further guidance should be developed for RPOs including core competences and practical experience specific for different types of practices derived from BSS

## workers

- Due to low priority and lack of information the TF E&T cannot give a good picture on the situation
- E&T of workers can taken on board in the development of guidance on the implementation of the BSS
- No role for HERCA to take the harmonisation of the E & T of workers as described in the mandate

# HERCA approach on RPE

- It would be helpful for EC if they develop guidance for the implementation of the BSS
- HERCA MC could be associated and have an input to the development of the guidance
- When new guidance is published, HERCA should recognise it as a reference for the HERCA MC and national authorities should follow it
- Once the new BSS has been implemented and guidance developed, a new survey should be done
- Depending on the results, HERCA could decide on developing a mutual recognition system

# HERCA approach on RPO and E&T workers

## – **Radiation Protection Officer**

In the opinion of HERCA, it would be helpful for EC if they develop further guidance on the role of the RPO and the required training and competencies

HERCA members could be associated and have an input to the development of the guidance

## – **E&T of workers**

Guidance for the RPE and RPO should include information on training assessments of new workers and identification of new training requirements

# Organization further work 2014

- The TF will remain active for one year
- Work still has to be carried out in the implementation of the BSS and later possibly as regards mutual recognition of the RPE and, perhaps, a common approach for RPO
- After this period there will be decided about further continuation of the work in E&T in HERCA and eventually about the way it will be organized

The background features a large, stylized HERCA logo. It consists of a light blue human figure with arms and legs extended, positioned centrally. This figure is surrounded by three large, curved, light green and light blue shapes that form a circular motion around it, suggesting a cycle or a process.

# Thank you for your attention!