



NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN RADIATION PROTECTION PLATFORM

In this issue more about the Second and the Third EUTERP Platform Workshop,
Nuclear Education and Training in the new “Energy Policy for Europe”

Editorial

This editorial is a bit different from the editorials of the earlier issues of the Newsletter. At the moment that you read this Newsletter, I will be retired and my colleague Folkert Draaisma has taken over the responsibilities to coordinate the activities of the Platform in the last year of the contract period.

This issue deals mainly with the outcome of the second EUTERP workshop, which was again held in Vilnius, Lithuania, 23-25 April 2008. Just as the first workshop it was well attended by 67 participants, coming from 22 countries (19 Member States, 1 Candidate State and 1 Associated State of the European Union, and 1 country from outside the European Union and from 5 international organisations and networks. The workshop was again a real success, thanks to the excellent work of the staff of the Karolina Hotel and Conference Centre, the staff of the Radiation Protection Centre RSC (in particular Gendrutis Morkūnas) and not in the least to the active contribution of all participants, in particular during the working group and plenary discussions.

As you can read elsewhere in this Newsletter, the outcome of the workshop is laid down in recommendations to the European Commission that are of importance for the revision process of the Euratom BSS, namely to replace the old definition of the Qualified Expert by a new definition for the RPE, to include a definition of the RPO, and to include a requirement on the employer that sufficient arrangements are in place to provide effective radiation protection. Furthermore, recommendations

are made to develop guidance on the roles, duties, competences and recognition of RPE and RPO; on training and instruction of Radiation Workers; on recognition of training providers; and to develop a European Reference Training Programme. The results of the workshop have been discussed in a meeting of the Steering Committee. As a follow-up, it was concluded that the recommendations will be further elaborated by the Steering Committee during the summer period and then submitted to the Group of Experts according to Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty that is preparing the revision of the Euratom BSS.

The second workshop also addressed the issue of sustainability of the Platform after the contract with the European Commission will be ended. From the discussion it can be concluded that there is a great interest in the continuation of the Platform. Several countries expressed their willingness to support the coordinating activities in the period after 1 April 2009, but it was mentioned that for a final decision more details need to be presented, such as clear objectives, structure, budget, and the time for which support is requested. Such a document has been prepared and will be distributed to the EUTERP members in short time.

During the workshop we received two proposals to organise the third workshop in spring 2009, namely in Turkey and in Portugal. The Steering Committee took notice of the proposals and has decided on the venue of this third workshop. You can read the outcome of this decision further in this Newsletter.

I am confident that we have established a firm base for a successful and self-sustainable EUTERP Platform. For me it was a real pleasure to work with you to achieve this goal, and I want to thank all of you for that. I was very much surprised by the nice words that were addressed to me at the end of the second workshop and I would like to thank you once again for the presents. They will remind me of the good spirit of work in this project. I am sure that Folkert Draaisma will continue with the same spirit and bring the project to a successful end.

I wish you all the best for the future.

Jan van der Steen
EUTERP Coordinator



Third Workshop in Turkey

Turkey was chosen to host the 3rd EUTERP Workshop. We have finalized the contracts with the local organisers and set the date at 16 - 18 April 2009. The workshop venue will be the Green Palace hotel. I invite you to visit their website (<http://www.ichotels.com.tr/greenpalace/tr/index.html>) to get in the mood for our 3rd Workshop! The workshop fee will be approximately the same as for our 2nd Workshop in Vilnius, and will include three nights accommodation and breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The programme will be published soon, together with a request to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. If you already have ideas or requests to address certain topics at the Workshop, please send your proposals to: elsacker@nrg.eu.

Correction: In the previous Newsletter #4 Yuliya Dimitrova, European Commission, D.-G. TREN, Unit H4 was the author of "Education and Training in the revision of Basic Safety Standards directive and recast of radiation protection legislation" instead of Stefan Mundigl.

Nuclear Education and Training in the new "Energy Policy for Europe"

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Towards a "European Strategic Energy Technology Plan" (including nuclear fission)

In response to the conclusions of the European Council of March 2006, the Commission adopted the so-called *Energy Package* on 10 January 2007. It was the subject of the Communication *An Energy Policy for Europe* (EPE). Of particular importance is the accompanying Communication *Towards a European Strategic Energy Technology Plan* (SET plan)¹. The aim of the SET plan is to provide an objective perspective on the different energy technologies which will or might become available between now and 2050 to tackle the "energy supply issue" while respecting the environment (CO₂ and GHG free sources) and being competitive.

For the preparation of the SET Plan 2008, a wide consultation was organised across the EU about the need for "European Industrial Initiatives". On that basis, the EC proposed on 22 November 2007 to launch six priority initiatives, starting in 2008, one of them being a *Sustainable nuclear fission initiative*. This EC proposal was then endorsed by the recent European Council of 13 - 14 March 2008 (Brussels)².

Keeping the nuclear option open means also maintaining an adequate skills base to ensure sufficient personnel in research organisations as well as in nuclear installations. This is a concern shared not only by the EU (in particular, by the Euratom Framework Programme FP-7 (2007 - 2011)) but also by OECD/NEA and by IAEA.

To support the above SET Plan in the specific area of nuclear fission and radiation protection, a European Technology Platform
1 http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/doc/19_strategic_energy_technology_plan_en.pdf
2 http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/99410.pdf

was created in September 2007, namely: the *Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform* (SNE-TP)³. All nuclear fission stakeholders come regularly together with the aim to produce a *Strategic Research Agenda* (SRA) and a *Deployment Strategy* (DS), including policy framework. A special group of the SNE-TP is also devoted to nuclear Knowledge Management and Education & Training (E&T).

Focussing on nuclear education (that is: basic or life-long learning)

The goal of Euratom in this specific area is to offer a number of instruments that help produce top-quality teaching modules at higher education level. These modules are then assembled into Masters programmes or higher level training packages that are jointly qualified and mutually recognised across the EU. This is done within the DG RTD programme FP-7 (including *PEOPLE*⁴), in collaboration with the DG EAC *Lifelong Learning Programme* (2007 - 2013)⁵.

The Euratom approach for nuclear E&T is naturally in line with the Bologna mechanism (ERASMUS). More specifically, its strategy is based on the following four objectives:

- MODULAR COURSES AND COMMON QUALIFICATION APPROACH (offer a coherent E&T framework and ensure top-quality for each module)
- ONE MUTUAL RECOGNITION SYSTEM ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION (e.g. European Credit Transfer and accumulation System of ERASMUS /ECTS/)
- MOBILITY FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ACROSS THE EU (prepare the "internal market" for free circulation of nuclear experts)
- FEEDBACK FROM "STAKEHOLDERS" (BOTH SCIENTIFIC AND FINANCIAL) (involve the "future employers" in the process, thereby getting additional funding).

In order to achieve the above objectives, a non-profit making association (*under French law of 1901*) was formed in September 2003: this is the "European Nuclear Education Network" (ENEN)⁶, a spin-off of the homonymous FP-5 (1998 - 2002) project. As of December 2007, the membership of the ENEN Association consisted of 44 members. ENEN can be considered as an important step towards the harmonisation of training activities in nuclear fission and radiation protection in the EU-27.

If mobility between EU countries is to be promoted for higher education and lifelong learning, a European Qualifications Framework is needed. This is the scope of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)⁷, adopted by the European Parliament in October 2007 (to be formally adopted by the Council in 2008). The EQF will provide a common language to describe qualifications which will help Member States, employers and individuals compare qualifications across the EU's diverse education and training systems.

Focussing on nuclear training (that is: learning a particular skill)

In line with the four above objectives of ENEN, Euratom FP-6 (2003 - 2006) launched a number of strategic studies about training needs in specific areas of reactor engineering and safety design, waste management (including Partitioning and Transmutation

3 www.snetp.eu

4 http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html

5 http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/lfp/index_en.html

6 www.enen-assoc.org

7 http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index_en.html

