



# NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN RADIATION PROTECTION PLATFORM

In this issue more about the First EUTERP Platform Workshop

## Editorial

This issue of the Newsletter focuses on the outcome of the first EUTERP workshop, which was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, 22-24 May 2007. The workshop was attended by 69 participants, coming from 29 countries (22 Member States, 2 Candidate States and 2 Associated States of the European Union, and 3 countries from outside the European Union) and from 7 international organisations and networks. The workshop was 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 8 concrete recommendations, which are important for the revision processes of both the Euratom and the international Basic Safety Standards. They also give a clear direction of work for the Platform members for the upcoming year, in order to establish international agreement on qualifications, competence and criteria for recognition of Radiation Protection Experts and Officers.

We are happy to announce that all European Member States are now represented in the EUTERP Platform. The total number of national representatives (from Member, Associated and Candidate States and the observers from 4 countries outside the European Union region) is more than 135. Add to that the representatives of 15 international organisations and networks, and the total number of members is exceeding 150. Most of you (Big Brother is watching you!) are making use of the EUTERP website as a means for information, but I hope that the follow-up of the results of the workshop will lead to an increase of the use, by its Forum, as a means for discussion.

The National Contact Points have been addressed separately in the recommendations of the first workshop. They will play an important role in coordinating the follow-up discussions on the results of the workshop within their countries and to give feedback about national viewpoints to the Platform. Not all countries have been appointing a NCP yet. You can see the updated list in this Newsletter and on the EUTERP website. I would like to ask the missing countries to appoint a NCP as soon as possible.

The EUTERP website also contains a page with training events. I would like to invite you to add your training events in the folder on EUTERP website. I hope this Newsletter inspires you to contribute to the important work of the Platform that is in front of us. Also, if you want to contribute to next issues of the Newsletter, please send me your information. More copies of the Newsletters can be downloaded from the website [www.euterp.eu](http://www.euterp.eu).

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## Summary of the First EUTERP Platform Workshop

The aim of the workshop was 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) and Radiation Protection Officers (RPOs). The workshop specifically addressed the results of the ENETRAP<sup>1</sup> project, which formed the basis for the discussions on harmonisation of training and education requirements for RPEs and RPOs. A full summary of the workshop and the individual presentations can be downloaded from the EUTERP website.

## THEMES AND ISSUES ARISING

### The definition of RP professionals

The ENETRAP project investigated the differences in the interpretation of the definition of the QE in the national regulations. About half of the countries claimed that their definition of RPE reflects exactly the definition of the QE. About a quarter of the countries indicated that their definition reflects only partly the definition of QE, and for the rest of the countries there is no definition at all in their regulations. IRPA has made progress, in cooperation with ILO, about the inclusion of the RPE as an occupation in the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). The proposal is to include the RPE in Unit Group 2243 (Environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals). Apart from that, IRPA is also working on a definition of the RPE and the Certified RPE (CRPE). The representatives of the EC and the IAEA emphasized the cooperation in the revision processes of the Directive 96/29/EURATOM and the international BSS and invited the Platform to provide them with recommendations on definitions and qualifications of RP professionals.

### The Medical Physicist Expert and the Radiation Protection Expert

The question was raised whether the MPE can be considered as equal to the RPE, i.e. whether the MPE could play the same role and have the same responsibilities as the RPE. There was no unanimity on this issue. In some countries the MPE also plays the role of RPE, specifically in small hospitals; in other countries,

<sup>1</sup> *European Network on Education and Training in Radiation Protection. ENETRAP is a research project that is being carried out under the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Commission. This project has established a training scheme for professional radiation protection experts as well as an academic Master Course in Radiation Protection for students. Furthermore, the ENETRAP project has studied the differences in the interpretation of the definition of the Qualified Expert, as defined in Directive 96/29/EURATOM, in the national legislations of EU Member, Candidate and Associated States, as well as the differences in requirements for competences of RPEs and RPOs.*









## Follow-up of the Workshop recommendations

The results of the workshop have been presented to the Expert Group according to Art 31 of the Euratom Treaty, at its meeting of 12-13 June 2007 in Luxembourg. Although no formal opinion of the Art 31 Group was asked about the findings, there was general agreement about the importance of the conclusions and recommendations for the revision of Directive 96/29/Euratom with respect to education, training, qualification and recognition of radiation protection professionals. The Group took specifically notice of the interaction between the qualifications and duties of the Medical Physics Expert and the Radiation Protection Expert and agreed on the proposal to invite a member of the Medical Working Party of the Group to participate in the Steering Committee meetings of the EUTERP Platform.

At the meeting, the representatives of the European Commission and the IAEA reiterated their statements on cooperation in the revision of their respective basic safety standards. The representative of IRPA recalled the presence of the three organisations in the Steering Committee of the EUTERP Platform, thereby assuring the close cooperation in the field of training and education, and expressed the willingness of IRPA to cooperate in the development of definitions of radiation protection professionals.

The Art 31 Group invites the Platform to elaborate the recommendations and awaits with great interest the further work of the Platform.

This means that we have to set the ball running. The Steering Committee will make proposals for definitions (**Recommendation 1**) and guidance on criteria for qualifications (**Recommendation 2**) of the RPE and RPO. These proposals will be put on the Forum of the website for discussion. We would like to see a coordinated discussion, meaning that within each country the proposals are discussed under coordination of the National Contact Point, and that national views are fed back on the Forum.

With respect to **Recommendation 3**, we propose that the European Commission will formally ask the Art 31 Medical Working Party to contact EFOMP and (when established) the European Medical ALARA Network (EMAN) to address the links between the RPE and the MPE with regard to education, training, duties and responsibilities of these experts. The results will, in due time, be put on the Forum page of the website.

**Recommendation 4** is waiting for input from Recommendations 1 and 2. The intention of EC, IAEA and IRPA to cooperate is already expressed above.

With respect to the promotion of standardized training material (**Recommendation 5**), it is concluded that it is necessary to establish a methodology for objectively comparing training materials and courses. This requires some research funds, for which we are investigating the possibilities within the European Commission (both DG-TREN and DG-RTD).

In the meantime the National Contact Points are invited to assemble information on training materials and training events within their countries in order to establish a data base (see also the Editorial of this Newsletter).

**Recommendation 6** and **Recommendation 7** are both dealing with recognition of RPEs and RPOs. Here again research is necessary to develop a methodology for assessing the recognition of RPEs and RPOs, based on a career profile consisting of a description of roles and duties, education, training and work experience. As for Recommendation 5, we are investigating the possibilities for carrying out the work. The methodology, when established, should be discussed by the National Contact Points for its acceptability as a system for (mutual) recognition of RPEs and RPOs. Depending on speed of finding the research possibilities, the results may be discussed at the second EUTERP Workshop.

The total of these activities encompasses **Recommendation 8**.

## List of National Contact Points

| Country        | National Contact Point        | Affiliation   |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Austria        | Th. Geringer                  | ARC Seibersdorf   |
| Belarus        | A. Timoshchenko               | International Sakharov Environmental University   |
| Belgium        | L. van Bladel<br>P. Kockerols | Federal Agency for Nuclear Control<br>Belgian Association for Radiological Protection     |
| Czech Republic | H. Podskubkova                | State Office for Nuclear Safety (SUJB)  |
| Denmark        | K. Ulbak                      | National Institute of Radiation Protection  |
| Estonia        | M. Lust                       | Radiation Protection Centre   |
| Finland        | R. Havukainen                 | STUK  |
| France         | Th. Lahaye                    | Ministry of Labour  |
| Greece         | P. Dimitriou                  | GAEC  |
| Italy          | A. Luciani<br>G. Cucchi       | ENEA<br>General Secretary of ANPEQ  |
| Kazakhstan     | I. Khvoshnyanskaya            | Radiation Protection and Ecology Center   |
| Latvia         | M. Caikovska                  | Ministry of Environment; Radiation Safety Centre  |
| Lithuania      | J. Karpenko                   | Radiation Protection Centre   |
| Luxembourg     | N. Harpes                     | Ministry of Health  |
| Macedonia      | G. Angelovski                 | Radiation Safety Directorate  |
| Malta          | P. Brejza                     | Radiation Protection Board  |
| Netherlands    | A. Vermeulen                  | Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment   |
| Norway         | T. Wøhni                      | National Radiation Protection Authority   |
| Poland         | P. Krajewski                  | Central Laboratory for Radiological Protection  |
| Portugal       | C. Oliveira                   | Nuclear and Technological Institute   |
| Romania        | M. Ceclan<br>V. Zsombori      | Politechnic University of Bucharest<br>National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control |
| Spain          | M. Marco                      | CIEMAT  |
| Sweden         | B. Ekström                    | SSI   |
| Switzerland    | S.-G. Jahn                    | Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate   |
| United Kingdom | R. Paynter                    | HPA-RPD   |

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