

EUTERP@IRPA18

As many of you will recall, the EUTERP was asked to host a session at IRPA18 in The Hague back in June. Working within the overall conference theme of “Encouraging sustainability in radiation protection”, the session was run as a mini-workshop with just two core topics: - training for radiation workers and evaluating the impact of training programmes. These topics were chosen as they had not had a particularly high profile in recent E&T events of conferences and it was felt IRPA18 provided a good opportunity to stimulate some discussion.

Our workshop was scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday 6th June, which turned out to be a warm, sunny day in The Hague. This could have been a bit of a distraction for potential participants but concerns on this were misplaced as the workshop was very well attended with some 70 participants (mainly training providers) contributing enthusiastically to the discussions which were led by three of the EUTERP Board Members; Penelope Allisy, Michèle Coeck and Joanne Stewart.

Joanne kicked off the first session of the afternoon with some food for thought on “*Radiation Workers : The front line of safety ?*”. In this, the relationship between the employer, the RPE, the RPO and the worker was explored, some (limited) data on worker numbers and dose trends presented and some training lessons learned from some recent incidents reviewed. Some time was spent considering the exact requirements of the 2013 BSSD Euratom relating to worker training. In conclusion, the observation was posed that the expectation for any group of workers is that the radiation protection training or instruction process should result in individuals that are “suitably informed and aware”.

At the end of the session, 3 questions were presented for discussion, which resulted in good debate and elicited a number of thought-provoking observations.

“the relationship between dose and the effectiveness of training should be further explored”

“an objective of worker training is often to eliminate or reduce fear of radiation”

“it is essential that the worker being trained trusts, and has confidence in, the trainer”

Q1. Is the provision of knowledge/information sufficient to train radiation workers ?

“knowledge on its own is never sufficient – creating a positive safety culture is essential ”

Q2. How is worker training best addressed ?

Q3. How can awareness be maintained ?

“too much scientific content often does not help ”

“training is most effective when delivered in the context of the application”

Michèle lead the second session of the afternoon with a look at “*Radiation protection training: what are the expectations?*”, specifically, the expectations with respect to efficiency, effectiveness and

impact. The matter was explored from the perspective of the employer, the learner and the trainer and it became clear that the while there is, of course, some commonality in the needs of these different stakeholder groups there are also some important differences. It is important to be aware of these differences, not least when trying to evaluate or assess the impact of the training: do we get what we were expecting? Again a series of questions were presented for discussion at the end of the session, continuing the lively debate.

"Training adults is difficult "

"Trainers should not try to be Superman "

"A forum for trainers to share best practice would be useful "

"Effectiveness of training can be assessed through proper audit post training "

In terms of the measurement of effectiveness and impact :-

"A range of training tools are required in order to get the message across "

"TTT courses can be very effective "

Q1. How do you do it ?

Q2. How would you want to do it ?

Q3. What do you need ?

Q4. Is there any added value in implementing anything at EU level ?

"Not more than 15% of any course time should be lecturing "

Both discussion sessions drew out constructive comment, observation and suggestions - much more than can be summarised here – and all is being taken forward to help shape the next full [EUTERP workshop in Malta](#), 10 to 12 April 2019 where the overarching theme will be "Optimizing radiation protection training". We hope you will join us there!