

Background

The development of a common European radiation protection and safety culture and, based on that, the mutual recognition of radiation protection courses and the acquired competencies of radiation protection experts (RPE) and officers (RPO) is becoming a real need. The ENETRAP project ("European Network for Education and Training in Radiological Protection" - 6FP project n° 516529) aims at bringing together different ideas and approaches of education and training (E&T) in radiological protection (RP) in order to better integrate and harmonise national E&T activities on a European level.

The project started in April 2005. 10 partners are involved in ENETRAP: SCK·CEN (coordinator), CEA-INSTN, FZK-FTU, BfS, ENEA, NRG, CIEMAT, HPA-RPD, UJF and UHI-NHC. These partners have years of experience with established E&T programmes and play an important role in the development of specific techniques such as e-learning or On-the-Job Training (OJT) related to RP. As a result of their fundamental scientific research, collaboration with industry and practical experience, the partners have a solid scientific knowledge of all aspects of RP and are ideally placed to transfer the know-how and estimate the needs in this field.

Objectives

The ENETRAP project aims at establishing a sustainable E&T infrastructure for RP as an essential component to combat the perceived decline in expertise and to ensure the continuation of the high level of RP knowledge.

The main objectives of the ENETRAP project are (1) to better integrate existing E&T activities in the RP infrastructure of the European countries in order to combat the decline in both student numbers and teaching institutions, (2) to develop more harmonised approaches for E&T in RP in Europe, (3) to better integrate the national resources and capacities for E&T and (4) to provide the necessary competence and expertise for the continued safe use of radiation in industry, medicine and research. Any such infrastructure must ensure that provision is made for both the appropriate initial training ("Education") and for the subsequent gaining and maintaining of specific expertise and competencies ("Training") at all levels. This approach is hoped to favour the mobility of students, teachers and workers and will help to initiate a confidence building across institutional and national borders which is a prerequisite for mutual recognition.

Principal results

The project will produce a state-of-the-art report on radiation protection E&T activities in the enlarged European Union. Assessment of training needs and capabilities within the EU Member States, the New Member States and the Candidate States and an evaluation of the current situation with regard to recognition of competencies and diplomas are the keys for developing a common radiation protection E&T infrastructure in Europe. The required qualifications for key professional functions in industry, medicine, research and the public sector along with the training available to support those qualifications will be assessed, including on-the-job training programmes and e-learning opportunities. To this end a survey (by questionnaire) is being undertaken across the EU countries to elicit detailed information. Past and current training programmes will be studied and the current European Radiation Protection Course (ERPC) will be revised. Special attention will be given to the compliance of European and International E&T requirements in RP with the Basic Safety Standards for protection against ionising radiation established and promoted by the European Union and by the IAEA. A pilot session of one or two revised modules of the ERPC will be organised.

Future developments

In order to better integrate and harmonize national E&T activities on a European level, ENETRAP will assemble different ideas and approaches, ultimately delivering an operational network of different institutes conducting or promoting radiation protection E&T activities on different levels.

Linking those European countries with established and active programmes in E&T (BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, NL, UK) via a structured network will facilitate the integration and optimisation of existing resources within Europe. In a later phase, extension to other Member States will be established. Such extension should be performed in close relation with the European Training and Education in Radiation Protection (EUTERP) platform which could play a role in reaching consensus about an internationally agreed system of recognition of RPEs. The network aims to achieve close and sustainable collaboration between the main E&T providers in Europe.

In the field of "Education", a project proposal for a European Master in Radiation Protection (EMRP) will be submitted to the DG Education.

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Main reference

www.sckcen.be/enetrapp

proceedings of the ETRAP2005 conference

proceedings of the ENC2005 conference

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