

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Editorial

Proposal to develop European guidance in support of the E&T requirements for the RPE and RPO

IRPA Working Group on Qualification and Certification of Radiation Protection Experts - status report

The Heads of European Radiation Competent Authorities (HERCA) task force

EUTERP in the Advisory Board of FP7 projects EUTEMPE-RX and EAGLE

Next EUTERP Workshop abstract deadline:
29 November 2013

EUTERP at OPERRA task 2.1 meeting

New Associate - RaDKoR

ICMP2013 - Brighton

Website update

Upcoming events

Contact

EDITORIAL

A major topic in the EUTERP workshops over the past few years has been the revision of the European BSS and the implications for the education and training of workers, supervisors and experts. It is good to see that the revised BSS is now almost finalised and is likely to be officially published by the end of the year. Those who were involved in the discussions and working groups at the Workshops will be pleased to know that our proposals for the definitions and roles of the Radiation Protection Expert and the Radiation Protection Officer were incorporated into the early drafting of the BSS and have remained largely unchanged in later drafts. These are unlikely to change significantly in the final translation phases of the publication and we now need to plan for the training demands that will arise when the BSS requirements are incorporated into national legislation. The implementation date for the new requirements is likely to be 2018.

The need for changes to national legislation in four years' time has been taken up by the Heads of European Regulatory Authorities (HERCA), who have created a task force to review the training and competency needs for RPEs and RPOs arising out of the revised BSS. I have been a member of this Task Force as the representative of EUTERP and my report on this work is given elsewhere in the Newsletter.

This Newsletter also provides details of the joint EUTERP/European ALARA Network Workshop to be held in Croatia next year. The programme will include the key topics that you raised at the ETRAP conference in March this year and will provide a good opportunity to further develop proposals for European Qualifications, blended learning etc. I hope you can make it.

Finally, if you have not already done so, please take advantage of the current free offer of becoming an Associate of EUTERP, and encourage other institutions to do so as well. Our most recent Associate is professional society RaDKoR in Turkey – see later in the Newsletter. Being an Associate provides a good opportunity to influence the development of education and training in radiation protection in Europe.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any aspect of education and training in radiation protection, or submit an article for a future Newsletter.

Best wishes

Richard Paynter,
President of the EUTERP Foundation



PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP EUROPEAN GUIDANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE E&T REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RPE AND RPO

Richard Paynter

The new European BSS Directive lays down specific requirements for the Radiation Protection Expert (RPE) and for the Radiation Protection Officer (RPO) and over the next few years each Member State must translate these requirements into national legislation.

Experience has shown that, even though the specific requirement in a European Directive may be quite clear, there can be widely varying approaches to the interpretation of those requirements and their implementation in practice. This is perhaps well illustrated by the different interpretations of the "Qualified Expert" in the previous BSS and the consequential varying approaches to E&T that prompted much of the work undertaken in the ENETRAP and ENETRAP II projects and led, in part, to the introduction of the concepts of RPE and RPO in the new BSS.

This being the case, it is clear that the availability of pragmatic and substantive guidance on how the new requirements for RPE and RPO would be best implemented in Member States would be of value, not only in facilitating the implementation of the requirements across Europe, but in helping to ensure a consistent approach. EUTERP has been taking the matter forward with both HERCA (see below) and the Commission and a structured proposal to develop the required guidance is currently under consideration as part of an ENETRAP III submission. The intention is that any guidance produced would address all key issues for RPE and RPO but with emphasis on

- the intended roles, functions and duties of the RPE and the RPO
- detailed competence requirements for both roles, and
- the associated necessary education and training.

We will keep you updated with respect to any progress.

IRPA WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF RADIATION PROTECTION EXPERTS - STATUS REPORT

Hielke-Freerk Boersma

In 2011 the former IRPA President Ken Kase initiated a Working Group on Qualification and Certification of RPEs. Its main objective is to develop a document of guiding principles for the development and implementation of a certification process for Radiation Protection Experts that would be useful to those IRPA Associate Societies that would like to initiate such a certification process or improve an existing process in their countries. The working group (in the meantime renamed as Task Group on Certification of RPEs) is co-chaired by Kent Lambert (USA) and Colin Partington (UK).

In 2012 a draft document was presented to the members of the working group, based on reviewing a few national registration and qualification schemes, and addressing all relevant aspects of the certification process, focusing specifically on education, experience and levels of RPEs. Simultaneously, these certification schemes, exclusively from the Anglo-Saxon countries, were made available through the IRPA website.

The response to this draft led to the conclusion that a survey of opinions on the certification process was a logical next step. Simultaneously, the number of WG members increased in order to obtain a more global representation. The survey has been distributed among the members of the working group. Within due time the survey will be extended to include the opinion of all Associate IRPA Societies. So far, the survey shows that there will not be one unique way to establish a certification scheme.

In 2014 a second draft will be discussed between the working group members, presumably during the Regional IRPA congress in Geneva. The final draft will then be discussed and approved by the IRPA Executive Council in 2015. During IRPA 14 in Cape Town the General Assembly could finally adopt the document as an IRPA publication.

In order to use the deliveries of the ENETRAP projects for the guiding document Heleen van Elsäcker-Degenaar (NL) was appointed as member

of the working group. Other European members are Alexander Brandl (A), Daniele Giuffrida (I), Georgio Cucchi (I), Vadim Chimak (UKR), Gregor Omahen (SLO) and Hielke Freerk Boersma (NL). Actual information on the working group can be found on www.irpa.net.

THE HEADS OF EUROPEAN RADIATION COMPETENT AUTHORITIES (HERCA) TASK FORCE

Richard Paynter

Richard Paynter recently attended the second meeting of the HERCA Task Force on education and training in radiation protection. The meeting reviewed the outcome of a recent HERCA questionnaire on RPE and RPO recognition that had been sent to national regulators. It was clear from the results of the questionnaire that the majority of European countries had posts similar to the RPE and RPO in their legislation, and while the majority of countries had a recognition process in place for RPEs some also required formal recognition of RPOs (this is not a requirement of the revised BSS). A number of countries also incorporated the roles of RPE and RPO in a single post and were unclear on how the two roles were to be separated. The Task Force concluded that there was a need for guidance to be developed on recognition systems for RPEs and the required competence and training needs for the role. This recommendation would be submitted to the Board of HERCA for consideration.

EUTERP IN THE ADVISORY BOARD OF FP7 PROJECTS EUTEMPE-RX AND EAGLE

Michèle Coeck

EUTEMPE-RX and EAGLE are two FP7 projects that started very recently. EUTERP was invited to participate in the Advisory Board of both of them.

EUTEMPE-RX deals with developing training programmes for the Medical Physics Expert working in interventional and diagnostic radiology, and as such shows some parallel with the ENETRAP projects. The recommendation to have medical physicists available in diagnostic imaging has been reinforced in the draft of the new BSS document. It follows from the steadily growing trend in the number of exposures for medical applications, the growing public awareness of the effects of ionizing radiation and the growing complexity of medical devices and their need for assessing both dose and performance. In parallel to this, the 'Guidelines for the MPE' project has defined knowledge, skills and competences (KSC) for the different levels of medical physics that can be achieved and they fix EQF level 8 for the Medical Physics Expert. In practice, most EC Member States do not have the capability to offer a series of courses in medical physics in radiology up to EQF level 8. The main goal of the EUTEMPE-RX project is to create a possibility for the medical physicist to be trained to EQF level 8. This will be achieved by the project consortium that groups teachers in European centres of excellence along with specialists in education and teaching and professional organizations. The project will develop 12 courses on a range of topics, with radiation safety and efficacy being prevalent in the course topics, and covering an important part of KSCs listed in the 'Guidelines for the MPE'. EUTEMPE-RX is coordinated by Prof. Dr Hilde Bosmans of KU Leuven, Belgium.

The EAGLE project is a Euratom FP7 "coordination action" of 3 years, launched under the work programme 2012, which will help identify and disseminate good practices in information and communication processes related to ionising radiation.

For this purpose, the consortium intends to review national and international data, tools and methods as well as institutional work in order to identify education, information and communication needs as well as coordination possibilities at European level. Moreover, EAGLE will foster a move towards the ideal of citizen-centred communication, including a participative component.

The approach taken is based on an interactive exchange of information and opinions concerning risks, and risk communication among the risk assessors, risk managers, mass media, informed civil society and other interested parties usually referred to as stakeholders.

The project will bring together representatives of nuclear actors, users of ionizing radiation,

authorities, journalists, social media consultants, and informed civil society. EAGLE will gather stakeholders at conferences, workshops, dialogue groups and pilot actions with a goal to generate a better understanding of different perspectives, perceptions and information needs on ionizing radiation.

Consequently, a platform on communication related to ionizing radiation will be founded with the mission to establish a forum for dialogue and exchange of communication material between all European organizations, institutions, associations and people taking part in decision-making related to ionizing radiation.

More information about the EAGLE project can be found on <http://eagle.sckcen.be/>

NEXT EUTERP WORKSHOP ABSTRACT DEADLINE: 29 NOVEMBER 2013

Michèle Coeck

Previous EAN and EUTERP workshops have noted the importance of delivering effective radiation protection education and training to workers and other stakeholders. Consequently, this joint EAN-EUTERP workshop will consider how E&T programmes can be delivered effectively, to improve radiation protection in practice and disseminate the ALARA culture.

The workshop will consist of presentations (oral and posters) intended to highlight the main issues, and a significant part of the programme will be devoted to discussions within working groups. Participants will be expected to produce recommendations on E&T issues, to be addressed to relevant local, national and international stakeholders.

The workshop programme covers E&T for various types of stakeholders (Employers, Managers, Workers, Patients, General Public, Students and Pupils) and will include the following subjects:

- New European BSS
- European Qualification and Accreditation Schemes (ECVET, EQF, ...)
- Effectiveness and efficiency of E&T
- Practical ALARA training
- New learning tools

- Elements contributing to ALARA culture
- E&T at all organizational levels

The workshop will take place in Hotel Lone, in Rovinj, Croatia. A welcome reception will be organized on the 6th of May, 2014, in the evening.



The registration fee will be 400 € and will include: welcome reception, workshop dinner, three lunches, two coffee breaks per day, transport to the workshop-dinner, Brijuni (Pula) excursion, as well as the usual workshop materials.

The EUTERP Foundation is able to sponsor one participant per EUTERP Associate for an amount of 100 euro. Applications should be made in writing for named individuals who are members of a EUTERP Associate and endorsed by the NCP. Application forms are available from the Secretary of EUTERP.



IMPORTANT DATES:

- Submission of abstracts: 29 November 2013
- Registration: 15 April 2014
- Workshop: 7-9 May 2014

<http://ean-euterp.ekoteh.hr/>

EUTERP AT OPERRA TASK 2.1 MEETING

Nathalie Impens and Michèle Coeck

The Radiation Protection community is preparing to increase interactions and enhance synergies with organizations that are active in similar research domains. EURATOM supports these activities amongst others through the FP7 project OPERRA (Open Project for the European Radiation Research Area). This project aims at establishing the necessary structures needed to manage the long-term European research programmes in Radiation Protection (RP), bringing together research on low-dose effects, radioecology, emergency preparedness and dosimetry. The project started on 1st of June 2013 and will last for 4 years.

Within OPERRA Work Package 2 entitled: "Integration of national & EU research & training programs covering research in radiation protection of OPERRA", the following goals are defined:

- To promote the joint programming of research in the whole area of radiation protection, including low-dose effects, radioecology & nuclear emergency preparedness, at the European and national levels, respectively;
- To explore opportunities for international and national joint funding of these research activities;
- To determine the most suitable conditions for a better integration of education & training and research activities in different areas of radiation protection;
- To promote the cooperation between the radiation and non-radiation research communities.

One of the most important tasks within this Work Package is Task 2.1, entitled "Identifying key partners involved in radiation protection research, as well as education & training, and joint programming of research activities in radiation protection, ...". On October 9, during the MELODI Workshop in Brussels, the OPERRA leaders responsible for task 2.1 organized two brainstorm meetings with MELODI, NERIS, ALLIANCE, EURADOS, EUTERP, EURAMET, EMAN and EAN. The first meeting aimed at identifying common (research) fields of interest, the second meeting aimed at identifying potential modes of collaboration and an attempt to build a consensus on how to organize in practice future multilateral

collaborations. At these meetings, EUTERP was represented by Annemarie Schmitt-Hannig and Michèle Coeck.

As a first conclusion related to future collaboration for E&T activities, it was agreed that the new EUTERP website would foresee a dedicated space for the projects and E&T activities from EURADOS, EAN, ALLIANCE, etc. Secondly, in the next editions of this Newsletter, these networks will be invited to write a contribution to update the EUTERP stakeholder with their activities. Further, an investigation will be made on how E&T conferences such as ETRAP can broaden towards E&T in RP organized by these networks. A first step is being taken by the joint EAN-EUTERP organization of our next Workshop in Croatia.

We are looking forward to hearing about the E&T activities of these networks and to future collaborations.

**NEW
ASSOCIATE**

RADKOR
RADYASYON DAN KORUNMA UZMANLARI DERNEGI

Penelope Allisy-Roberts

EUTERP is very pleased to welcome the professional association RaDKoR of Turkey as an Associate. RaDKoR was established about one year ago to provide professional and competent authority recognition of Radiation Protection expertise in Turkey. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Energy (TAEA) and the universities are coming together to realize the necessary communication and co-operation. The Charter of the Association will be on the website radkor.org.tr / radkor.org that is currently under construction and should be ready early in 2014. One of the main objectives of RaDKoR is to lead vocational training by the creation of a strong team of trainers, academics and experts. This work has already made a strong start.

EUTERP encourages and welcomes applications for Associate membership, which is currently without charge until June 2014. Associates are kept informed and participate in the formation of the work programme. Other benefits are listed on the EUTERP website.

ICMP 2013 – BRIGHTON

Penelope Allisy-Roberts

A poster illustrating the work of EUTERP was exhibited at the ICMP conference in Brighton in early September. The poster was hosted by the EFOMP as a EUTERP Associate and announced also the Workshop to be held in Croatia in 2014.

THE EUTERP FOUNDATION: PROVISION OF A CENTRALIZED EUROPEAN SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON RADIATION PROTECTION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Introduction
In Europe a clear vision for the required competences in radiation protection is emerging with efforts currently being focused on promoting a consistent approach to the training and development of Radiation Protection Experts (RPEs) and of Radiation Protection Officers (RPOs) across the European Union.
The EUTERP is helping to realize this vision.
Started as an initiative of the European Commission, the EUTERP Platform was transformed into a legal entity as a Foundation under Dutch law in June 2010.

Main objectives

- to encourage and support harmonization of education and training requirements for RPEs, RPOs and radiation workers in general, facilitating the mobility of these professionals;
- to promote the integration of radiation protection education and training systems into general vocational training and education infrastructures, facilitating the attendance of participants at courses;
- to act as a central focus for the sharing of information on training events, standards, developments, and all other related information.

National contact points (NCPs) and Associates
The NCPs play an important role in the EUTERP organization. They disseminate information at the national level and keep EUTERP and its Associates informed about national regulatory requirements, national certification schemes for RPEs, RPOs and workers, etc.

Upcoming Workshop
Rovinj, Croatia (Istria peninsula) from 5 to 7 May 2014
Education and Training in Radiation Protection: Improving ALARA Culture
abstract deadline 29 November 2013; registration deadline 15 April 2014
<http://ean-euterp.ekoteh.hr>

Board members

 Centre for Radiation, Chemical & Environmental Hazards Richard Paynter President	 Penelope Allisy-Roberts Secretary	 Folkert Draaisma Treasurer	 Marcel Schewezenburg Board Member	 Michele Goetsch Board Member	 Centre for Radiation, Chemical & Environmental Hazards Joanne Stewart Board Member
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www.euterp.eu

WEBSITE UPDATE

Richard Paynter

We have recently reviewed the usability and appearance of the EUTERP website. This review concluded that, while the website initially satisfied our needs, it does not have the functionality for the more sophisticated uses that are now required of it e.g. the hosting of the ENETRAP database of course providers and their offerings. In view of this the Board has decided to commission the development of a new website that will be more suitable for our needs. This work will commence very shortly and we hope to have the new website in place by mid-2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 17-21 November 2013: [NESTet Conference](#)
- 7-9 May 2014: [5th EUTERP Workshop](#)
- 12-16 May 2014: [IAEA International Conference on Human Resource Development for Nuclear Power Programmes: Building and Sustaining Capacity](#)
- 23-27 June 2014: [4th European IRPA congress](#)



Courtesy of the EFOMP

CONTACT

www.euterp.eu

info@euterp.eu