



Topic

Occupational, public and environmental radiation protection is a major challenge in the industrial applications of ionising radiation, both in the nuclear and non-nuclear domain, as well as in other areas such as the medical and research area. As is the case with all nuclear expertise, there is a trend of a decreasing number of experts in radiation protection due to various reasons. Therefore, maintaining a high level of competencies in this field is crucial for

- the future applications of ionising radiation and
- the assurance of the protection of workers, the public and the environment.

A sustainable Education and Training (E&T) infrastructure for Radiation Protection is an essential component to combat the decline in expertise and to ensure the continuation of the high level of radiation protection knowledge in the future.

Such infrastructure has to be built in a way that both the initial training ("Education") and the unceasing maintenance of the level of competencies ("Training") are available.

The development of a common European radiation protection and safety culture and, based on that, the mutual recognition for radiation protection courses and the acquired competencies of radiation protection experts becomes a real need. The harmonisation of E&T is a good starting point. Moreover, harmonisation will favour the mobility of workers and students throughout the European countries.

Project details

Contract n° 516529 (DG RTD)

Duration 2005-04-01 till 2007-04-01

Funding 400 000 euro

Partners

SCK•CEN	The Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (coordinator), Belgium
INSTN (CEA)	The Institute for Nuclear Sciences and Technology, France
FTU - FZK	Centre for Advanced Technological and Environmental Training, Germany
BfS	German Federal Office for Radiation Protection, Germany
ENEA	The Italian National Agency for New Technology, Energy and Environment, Italy
NRG	Netherlands Research and Consultancy Group, The Netherlands
CIEMAT	The Research Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology, Spain
HPA	The Health Protection Agency, Radiation Protection Division, UK
UCL	Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
UJF	Université Joseph Fourier, France
NHC (UHI)	North Highland College, University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland

Website <http://www.sckcen.be/enetrap>

The main objectives of this project are

- to better integrate existing education and training activities in the radiation protection infrastructure of the European countries in order to combat the decline in both student numbers and teaching institutions;
- to develop more harmonised approaches for education and training in radiation protection in Europe and their implementation;
- to better integrate the national resources and capacities for education and training;
- to provide the necessary competence and expertise for the continued safe use of radiation in industry, medicine and research.

These objectives will be reached by the establishment of a European E&T network which will

- assess training needs and capabilities;
- identify the potential users and their future involvement in order to insure the sustainability of the network;
- launch a consortium of universities with the aim to create a European Master in Radiation Protection;
- review the scientific contents of E&T activities;
- explore the effectiveness of on-the-job training and identify options for additional programmes;
- propose recommendations for the recognition of courses and competencies of radiation protection experts;
- make recommendations for revising the current European Radiation Protection Course (ERPC) to include a system for credit points and modern educational tools, such as distance learning.

Two characteristics of this project are

- the wish for promoting a "bottom-up" approach instead of the more usual "top-down";
- the decision for developing a modular structure as well for the Education as for the Training programmes.

The main deliverables of the ENETRAP project are

- comment on the status, value and appropriateness of current education and training initiatives within the EU;
- recommendation to EUTERP regarding the way forward with respect to:
 - required developments in education and training resources to support the Radiation Protection Expert, and
 - establishing a system for mutual recognition of training and competencies;
- the delivery of a pilot session for a revised ERPC;
- a proposal for the establishment of a Universities Consortium.