



HERCA E&T WG
in
Radiation Protection

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Chair of HERCA E&T WG

**20th EAN workshop: “ALARA for interventional radiology &
nuclear medicine”, Vienna, 2-4 October 2023**

Short introduction



Heads of the European Radiological protection Competent Authorities

- Voluntary association created in 2007
- Brings together 56 competent authorities from 32 European countries

Chairmanship

Chair: Jean-Luc LACHAUME (ASN, France)

Two vice-chairs: Pilar LUCIO CARRASCO (CSN, Spain) and Patrick Majerus (MS, Luxembourg)



Objectives



- HERCA is working on topics generally covered by provisions of the EURATOM Treaty.
- The goal of HERCA is to contribute to a high level of radiological protection throughout Europe.
- The programme of work of HERCA is based on common interest in significant regulatory issues.



Objectives

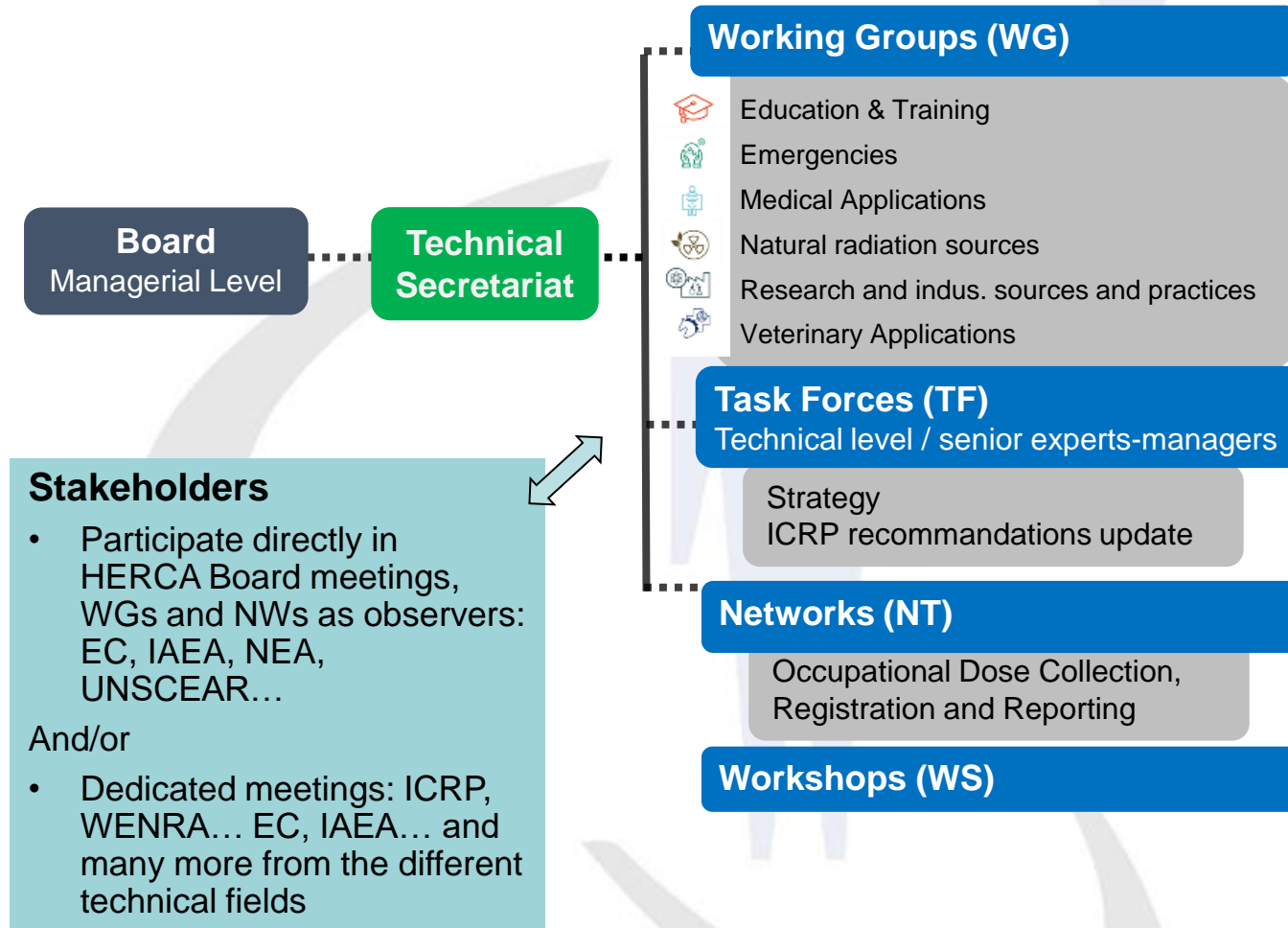


In order to achieve its goal, HERCA:

- **maintains** a European network of chief radiation protection regulatory authorities,
- **promotes** the exchange of ideas and experiences, avoiding unnecessary duplication of work and learning from one another's best practices,
- **develops** a common approach to radiation protection and the way it is transposed into regulation,
- **discuss** and, where appropriate, **express** its consensus opinion on significant regulatory issues.

ACTIVITIES ▾

Organization



HERCA WG E&T



- Radiation Protection Education and Training (E&T) has been of outmost interest for HERCA from the beginning of the Association in 2007.
- Working Group on E&T is focusing on the implementation of requirements of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards (BSS) regarding RPE and RPO.
- Participants from 18 HERCA MSs.



HERCA WG E&T Mandate



The WG shall:

1. Investigate the implementation of a graded approach for the RPE/RPO assignment.
2. Identify the common criteria among MSs which could be used for the evaluation of the competences of the RPEs and RPOs.
3. Define and describe the concepts of on-the-job training and work experience for the RPEs and RPOs as it is strongly related to the required competences for their recognition.



HERCA WG E&T Mandate



The WG shall:

- 4. Investigate** whether further action should be taken for the harmonization of the different approaches to achieve a common understanding for the recognition of RPEs and RPOs among the MS.
- 5. Create** communication channels with research platforms for the exchange of information on advancements on radiation protection.
- 6. Define** the different training and retraining approaches for the occupationally exposed workers and the associated role of the undertaking, RPE and RPO.



HERCA WG E&T Mandate

With regard to E&T



The WG shall:

1. **Identify** in which ways a graded approach can be implemented in training and retraining activities of RPE, RPO and occupationally exposed workers.
2. **Identify** any additional training requirements on specialized topics related to RP which are possibly created by the new technologies and advances in the uses of ionizing radiations and RP.
3. **Investigate** the common training and retraining possibilities among the MS for the RPEs, RPOs and occupationally exposed workers.
4. **Create** and maintain communication channels with other national and international platforms, networks, or organisations (MELODI, EAN, ENETRAP, etc.) to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and views on E&T issues regarding E&T on RP.

Implementation of RPE and RPO concepts in EU Member States



- The concepts of the RPE and the RPO were introduced in the EU BSS.
- The requirements concerning their roles and responsibilities are set in articles 82 and 84 of the BSS.
- RPEs and RPOs are effectively involved in medical practices.




Implementation of RPE and RPO concepts in EU Member States



The HERCA WG on E&T in RP:

- Has already established a **guidance** to support the MSs in their efforts to implement the requirements for RPE and RPO in the EU BSS.
- **Collected information** from the MSs on the implementation of requirements concerning the education, training, and retraining as well as the related mechanisms for the recognition of the RPEs and where appropriate the RPOs.



HERCA
HEADS OF THE EUROPEAN RADIOLOGICAL
PROTECTION COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

HERCA Guidance
Implementation of Radiation Protection
Expert (RPE) and Radiation Protection
Officer (RPO) Requirements
of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom

November 2017

This document was approved by the Board of HERCA on 3 November 2017

Implementation of RPE and RPO concepts in EU Member States



Information paper:

Analysis of Country Fact Sheets (CFS) on the implementation of RPE and RPO concepts in EU Member States.



HERCA Working group on
Education and Training

Information paper:
Analysis of Country Fact Sheets (CFS)
on the implementation of RPE and RPO
concepts in EU Member States

June 2023

This document was approved by the Board of HERCA on 9 June 2023

Materials and method



For the collection of information concerning the implementation of the RPE and RPO requirements, the WG prepared appropriate Country Fact Sheets (CFS) to be completed by the MS representatives.

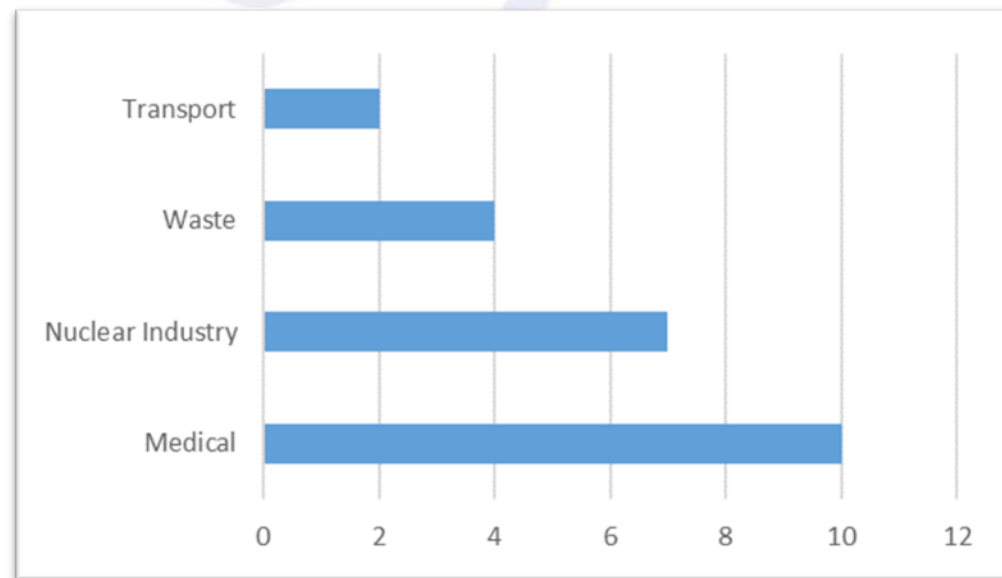
	A/a	Information
RPE	1	Implementation
	2	Related terminology
	3	Translation of the term
	4	Role
	5	Categories
	6	Recognition arrangements
	7	Initial recognition requirements
	8	Function covered by group of persons
RPO	1	Graded and/or practice specific approach in RPO assignment
	2	Company employee or external
	3	Training approved by PB/NA
	4	E&T requirements

Results



Implementation of the RPE concept

No of RPE categories	No of MS
0	1
1	7
2	4
3	4
6	1
7	2
8	2
13	1

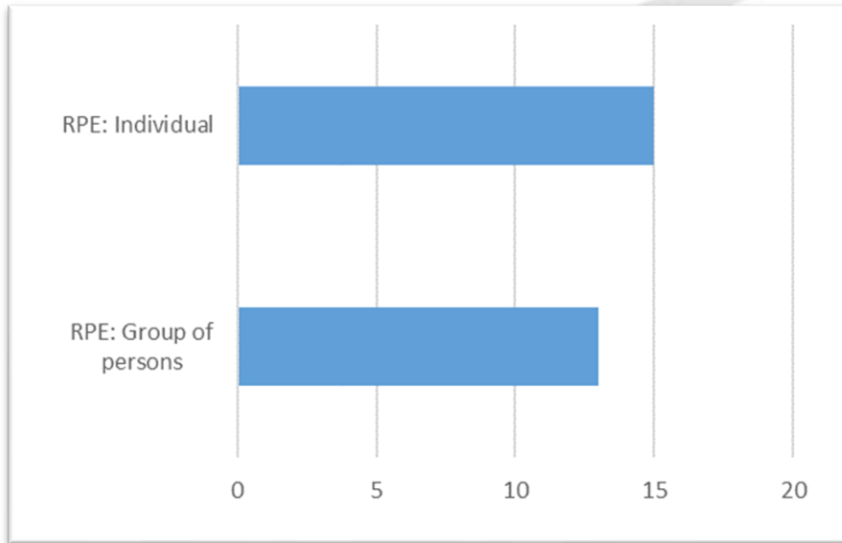


Specified RPE categories in MS

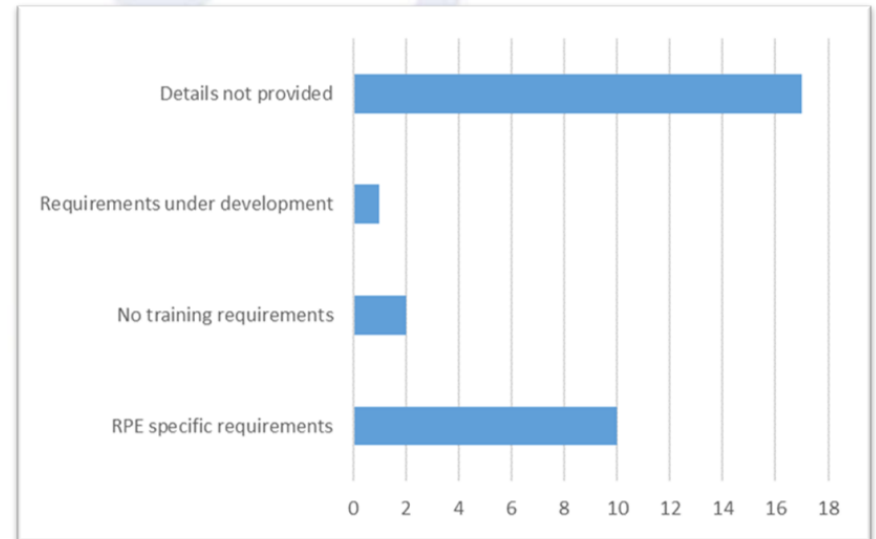
Results



Implementation of the RPE concept



Number of MSs where the role of the RPE is performed by an individual or group of persons



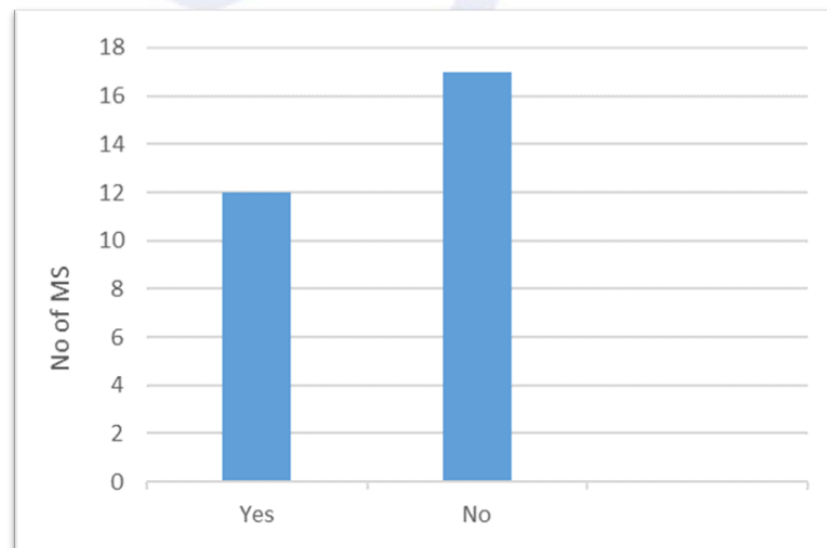
RPE training and re-training requirements in MSs

Results



Implementation of the RPO concept

No of RPO categories	No of MS
1	10
2	1
4	2
6	2
9	1
11	1
13	1

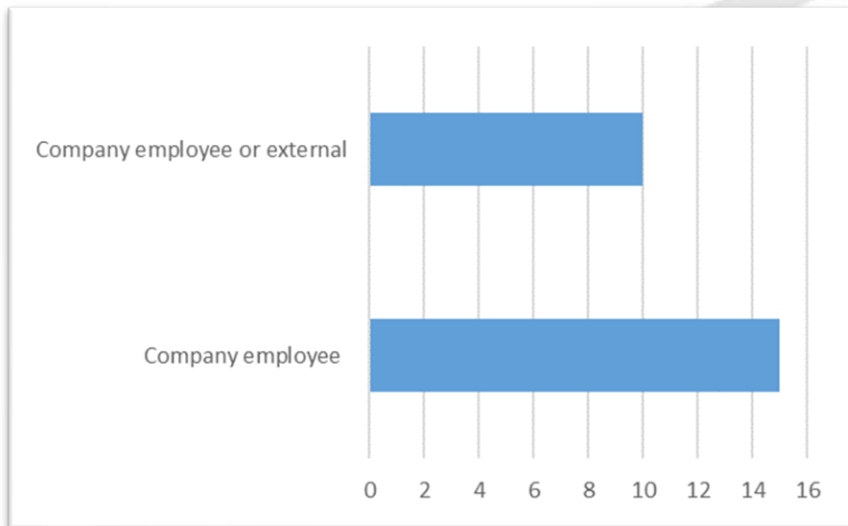


Number of MS applying a graded approach in the RPO assignment

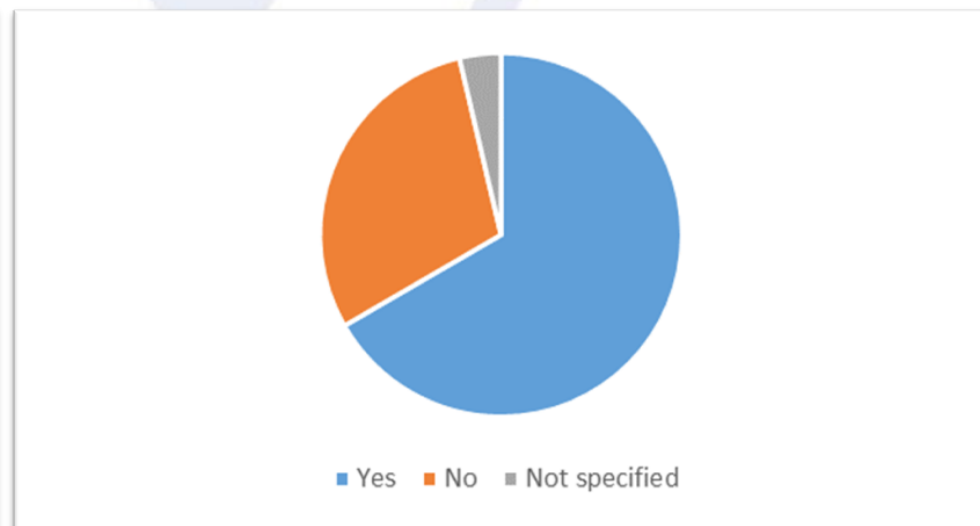
Results



Implementation of the RPO concept



Type of RPO employment among MSs



Requirements for RPO training approval in MSs

Conclusions



- The concepts of RPE and RPO, as defined in the EU BSS seem to be implemented in most of the European countries.
- There are many similarities among MSs in the way the concepts are implemented, as well as areas where different approaches are followed (e.g., qualification, training requirements).



Conclusions



- A step forward might be to search for a common ground based on the competences of the RPEs and RPOs.
- The HERCA WG E&T in RP will develop a guidance document to assist MSs in their efforts for the mutual recognition of the RPEs and where appropriate the RPOs regardless of their approach in implementing these two concepts.
- The full paper is available on the HERCA's website: <https://www.herca.org/documents/>





**Thank you for
your
attention!**