

Initiatives of the Belgian SCK•CEN Academy to attract young talent in nuclear research and technology

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Several studies and reports show a concern for future availability of high-level nuclear competences. Moreover, it is often mentioned that there might be a shortage of specialized high-educated personnel in the broad sector where ionising radiations is used (being the nuclear industry, healthcare, research and governmental organisations). Therefore, measures should be taken to support young students in their need to gain and maintain high-level nuclear knowledge and to provide attractive career opportunities.

The SCK•CEN Academy contributes to this tasks and supports education for students through (i) supervising young students from Bachelor to PhD level, (ii) contributing to academic courses like the ones of the Belgian Nuclear higher Education Network (BNEN), the Radiation Protection Expert course and others, and (iii) familiarizing high school pupils and their teachers with the state of the art of nuclear research and with the daily activities performed at our research centre.

Students are given access to our research laboratories to prepare their experimental work. We work closely together with Belgian and international universities, and with end-users such as the industry and the medical sector. This combination provides an exceptional learning opportunity: students stay in close contact with the academic world and at the same time they enjoy a unique international research environment, with advanced nuclear experimental facilities and top-level guidance from our experts.

This presentation discusses the latest developments of the SCK•CEN Academy in this field, it highlights collaborations with e.g. universities and industry, and gives an overview of the numbers of participation.

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