

Meeting challenges of professional development of EU Technical Safety Organisations experts

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The support provided by Technical Safety Organizations (TSOs) to Nuclear Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) in carrying out their designated functions, depends on highly qualified personnel who are competent in many disciplines. The development and maintenance of this workforce needs on-going attention from governments and stakeholders to ensure that adequately skilled and competent personnel are available at any time, taking into consideration retirements and the continuous need for personnel resulting from natural fluctuation, from new developments or national requirements.

In the European Union, this demand for skilled personnel set against a generally ageing workforce makes it very clear that it is high time to put in place a training mechanism that ensures the maintenance of the current skilled and competent personnel at NRAs and TSOs, and the flow of new recruits for long-term sustainability. In the light of the above identified need, and in the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi accident, the European Commission took action and launched a project for “Sharing & Growing Nuclear Safety Competences” (NUSHARE project). This project aims at strengthening nuclear safety and fostering a common nuclear safety culture in the EU-28. One out of three working packages of the NUSHARE project is dedicated to the development of a comprehensive training programme for new entrants, professional staff already working at NRAs or TSOs, or experts who wish to start a career in this field. This important task is coordinated by the European Nuclear Safety Training and Tutoring Institute (ENSTTI), an initiative of the European Technical Safety Organizations Network-ETSON. ENSTTI is a centre specialized in meeting the growing need for highly qualified personnel with adequate knowledge and skills in nuclear safety and security at NRAs and TSOs.

The paper provides a brief overview of the NUSHARE project with a focus on the development of a comprehensive training programme tailored to the requirements of NRAs and TSOs. In addition, the paper highlights one module of the training programme that is dedicated to the systematic development of entry-level skills necessary for employment at NRAs or TSOs. ENSTTI addresses also the above indicated issues by developing a comprehensive training catalogue implementing the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) which is already used in many other industrial sectors. The objective of the ECVET system is to promote mutual trust, transparency and mutual recognition of acquired learning outcomes in the form of ECVET credits.

Country or International Organisation

ENSTTI

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