

### Background

Under the name of the Belgian Nuclear higher Education Network ([BNEN](#)), five Belgian universities ([Katholieke Universiteit Leuven](#), [Université Catholique de Louvain](#), [Universiteit Gent](#), [Université de Liège](#), [Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#)) have established in 2002, in collaboration with the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK•CEN, a common Belgian Interuniversity Programme of the third cycle leading to the academic degree of "Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering".

Under the lead of the SCK•CEN a project to use and share the acquired experience of the Consortium BNEN - in order to support the realization of a common "European Education Programme in Nuclear Engineering" – has been accepted by the European Commission for funding under the EU's Sixth Research Framework Programme.

### Objectives

The project wants to contribute actively to the development of a more harmonised approach for education in nuclear sciences and engineering in Europe. It brings the European higher Education Area closer to realization and helps to safeguard the necessary competence and expertise for the continued safe use of nuclear energy and other uses of radiation in industry and medicine in Europe.

The project foresees input and participation from stakeholders from different countries of the enlarged European Union (EU-25) and will therefore contribute to the integration of the new member states into the European Research Area and thus to the enlargement of Europe. The set-up of the project foresees an active role for female experts with the intention to reinforce the place and role of women in science.

### Principal Results

First outcome of the project will be a complete *compendium*, describing the background, the objectives and achievements of the BNEN scheme.

Furthermore the project will provide a set of *evaluation criteria and corresponding evaluation methodologies* for a self assessment and external evaluation of the BNEN scheme and BNEN education programme. Through the input and participation of EU-25 experts these evaluation criteria and methodologies might form the basis for a commonly accepted assessment instrument for the evaluation of education and training programmes all over Europe.

At the end a report will combine the results from an extensive external evaluation of the BNEN scheme by EU-25 stakeholders, the conclusions of a self assessment, recommendations and suggestions how the BNEN scheme and experience can be used for the creation of the common "European Nuclear Education Programme", and in extension how the scheme can be useful for the set-up of European education programmes in general. Elements that are of particular importance to stakeholders of the new member countries and to women will also be integrated in the report.

### Future Developments

It is the intention to use the outcome of this project to reinforce the European Nuclear Education Network ([ENEN](#)) and to bring the "European Education Programme in Nuclear Engineering" closer to realization.

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### Main reference

Steven Simons, "Description of Work – Open Access to the Belgian Nuclear higher Education Network", 30 November 2004.

