



ERPAN survey on regulations / recommendations on medical physicists ?

A Isambert

Medical Physicist

Ionising Radiation and Health Department



Rationale

Current situation in France : lack of medical physicists

To cope with this situation (to be solved in the next years), some temporary dispositions were defined in France.

Existing regulations / recommendations in Europe regarding medical physicists ?



Survey

Sent on April, 1st

9 answers from ERPAN
(+1 by other mean) :

Belgium

Czech Republic

Finland

France

Ireland

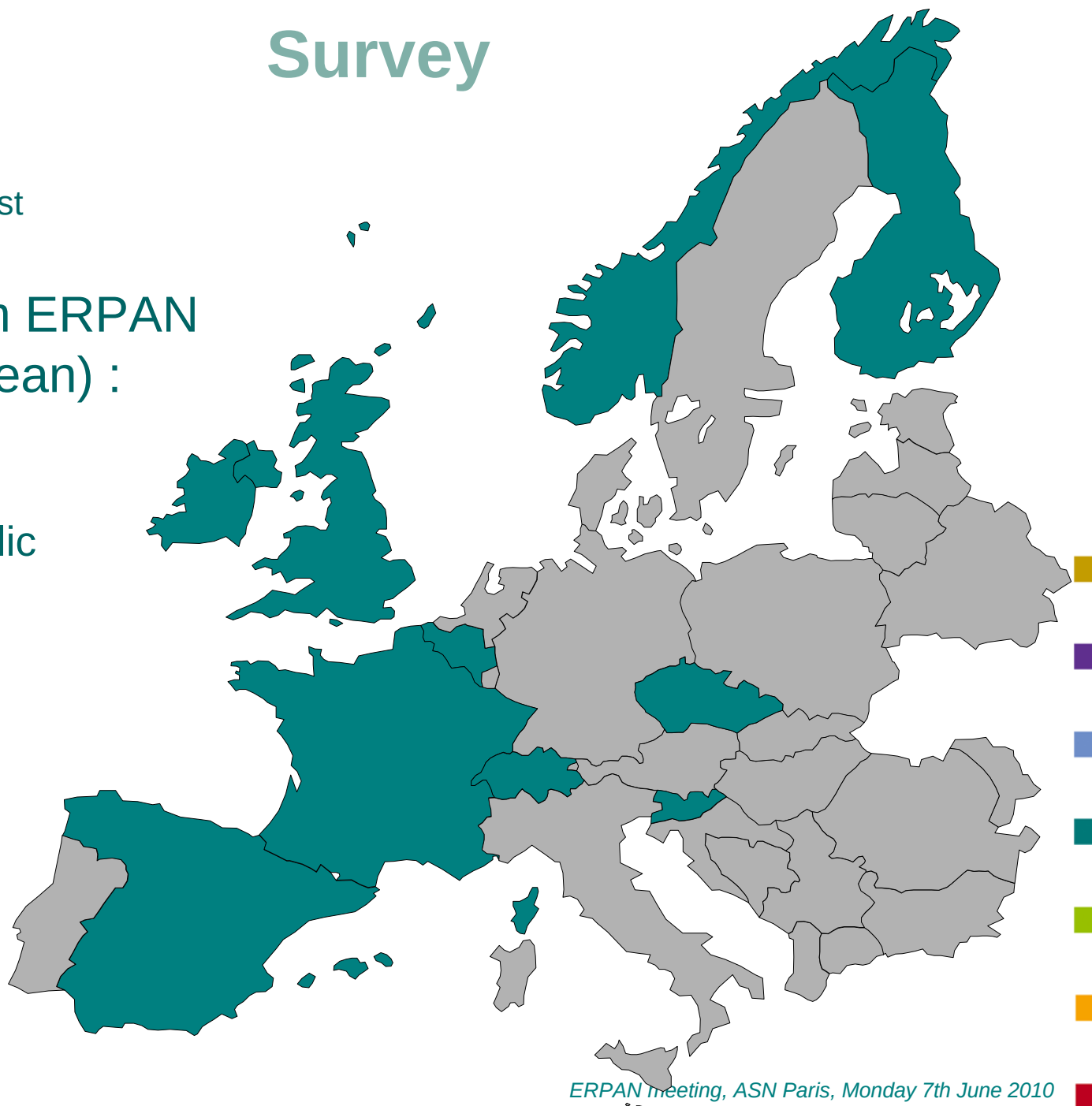
Norway

Slovenia

Spain

Switzerland

UK





Questions

1. What are the **existing regulations** in your country concerning medical physicists?
2. Are there **any quotas** to set the number of physicists needed:
 - in radiotherapy / brachytherapy: number of medical physicists per accelerator? by number of patients treated?
 - in nuclear medicine?
 - in radiology?
3. Does it exist an **obligation** for at least one medical physicist **to be present during the full duration of treatment** in:
 - external beam radiotherapy?
 - brachytherapy treatment?



Question 1 : existing regulations

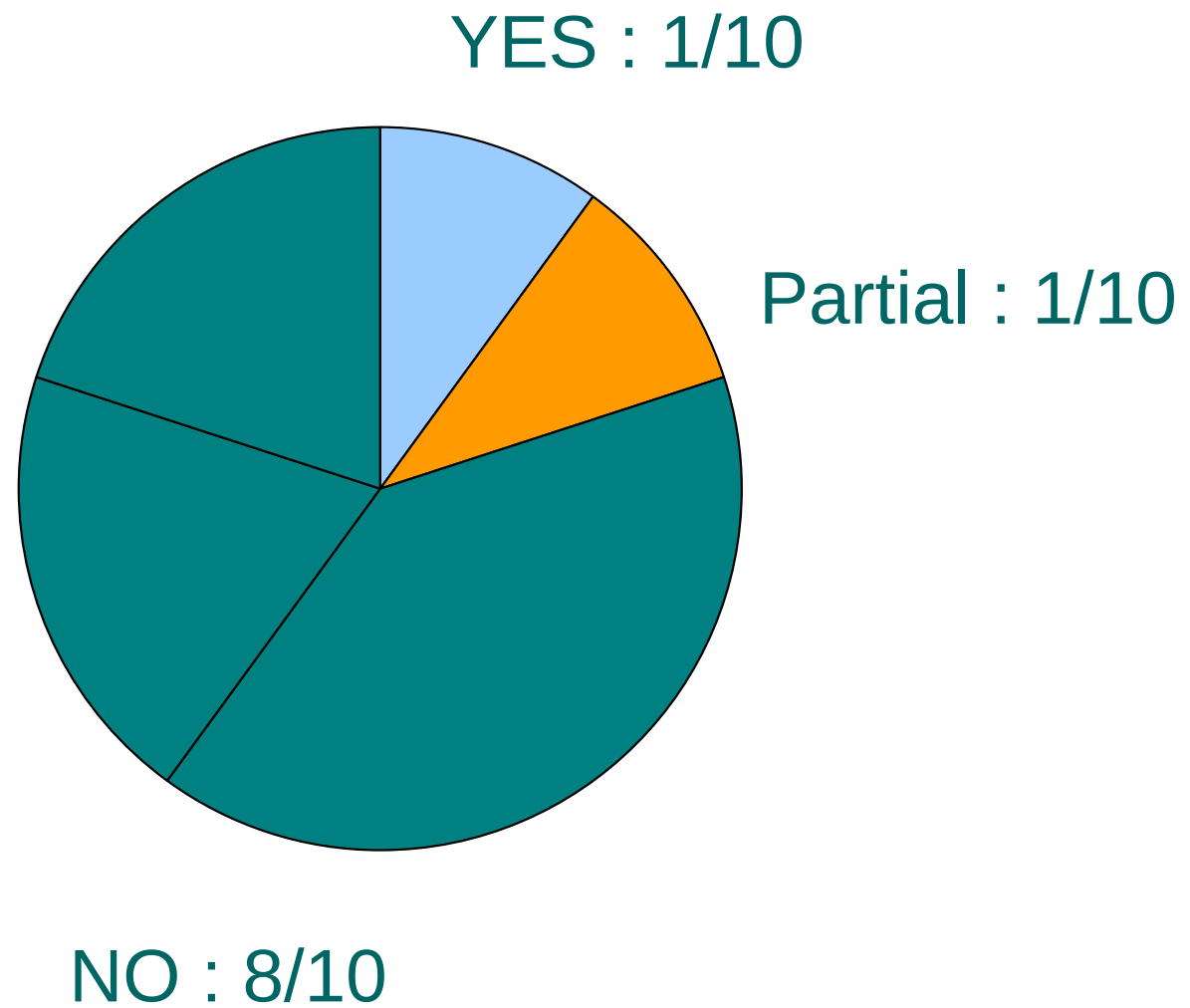
Belgium	Official recognition delivered by the FANC This recognition can be limited (in time or specific equipments) Holders of a recognition have to participate in a continuous training programme and to provide an extensive activity report (the first one after 3 years, consecutive ones every 6 years)
Czech Republic	System of education and training of medical physicists is the matter of the Department of Health Directive 97/43/MED was implemented by a Decree
Finland	
France	Arrêtés 19 November 2004 + 29 July 2009 : a medical physicist must be present on site during the full duration of EBRT treatment
Ireland	3 “types” of medical physicists : Radiation Protection Advisor (RPA, Qualified Expert, for RP of workers and public), Medical Physics Expert (MPE) and the medical physicist. All medical facilities must appoint one MPE and one RPA
Norway	Medical physicists are required in radiology (advanced use), nuclear medicine and therapy

Question 1 : existing regulations

Slovenia	1. licensed Radiation Protection Experts (RPE) for the medical field (separate licences for nuclear medicine and diagnostics/RT) 2. licensed Medical Physics Experts (MPE) (separate licenses for RT, NM and X-ray diagnostics) 3. regular medical physicists - All medical facilities have to appoint a RPE and MPE
Spain	1. Real decreto 220/1997 = creation of the specialty of medical physicist 2. Each hospital with RT, NM, and radiology must have a medical physics and radioprotection service ("SPR" since 1990 + RD for missions in 2001). For smaller centres (without RT), private units provide services on RP ("UTPR")
Switzerland	The Swiss regulations demand at least one medical physicist for each linear accelerator in use. For nuclear medicine applications and for fluoroscopy-guided interventional radiology and CT, the licence holder must periodically enlist the services of a medical physicist.
UK	The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations (IR(ME)R) (2000) provide a statutory requirement for the availability of MPE in addition to RPA

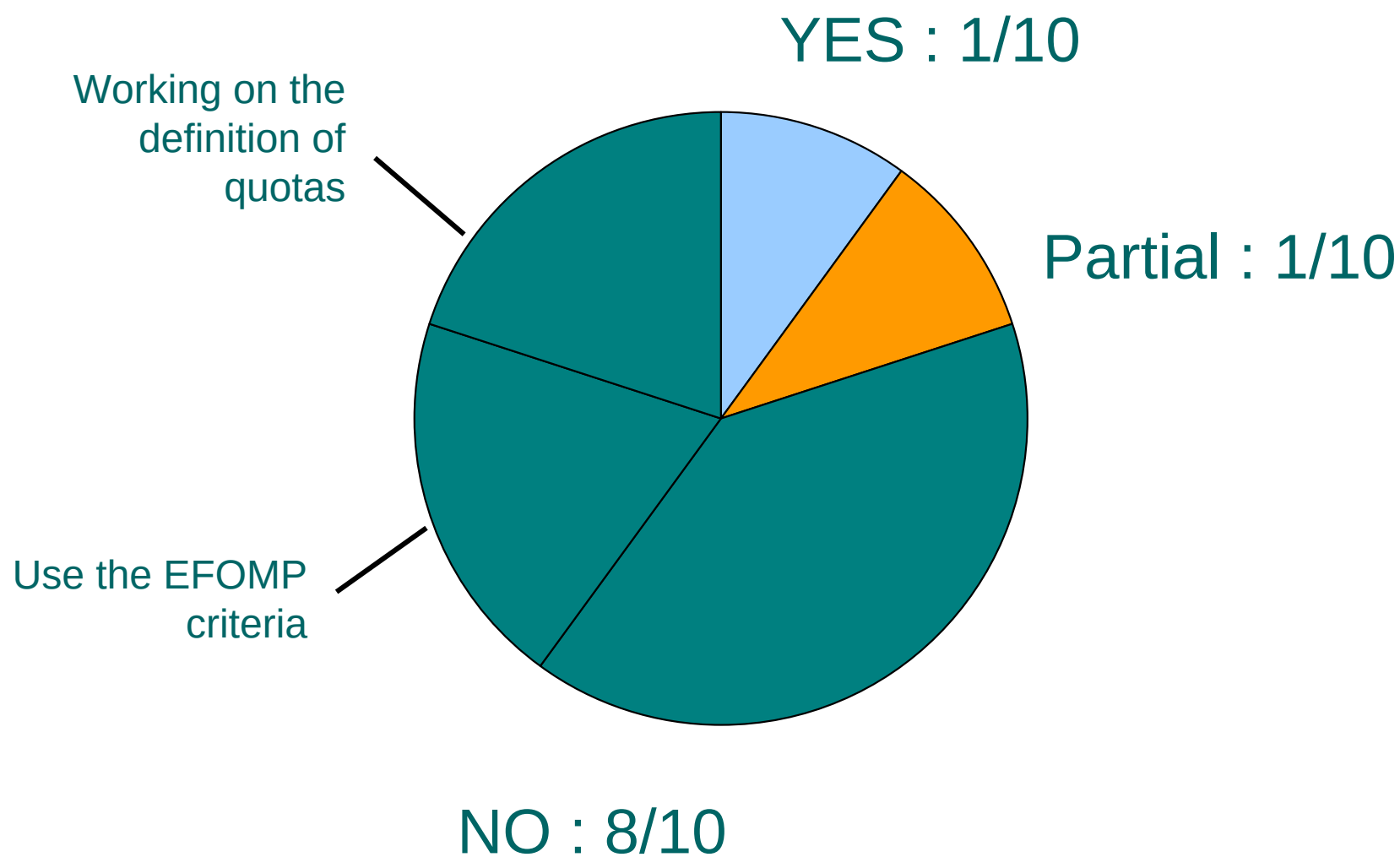


Question 2 : Are there any quotas ?





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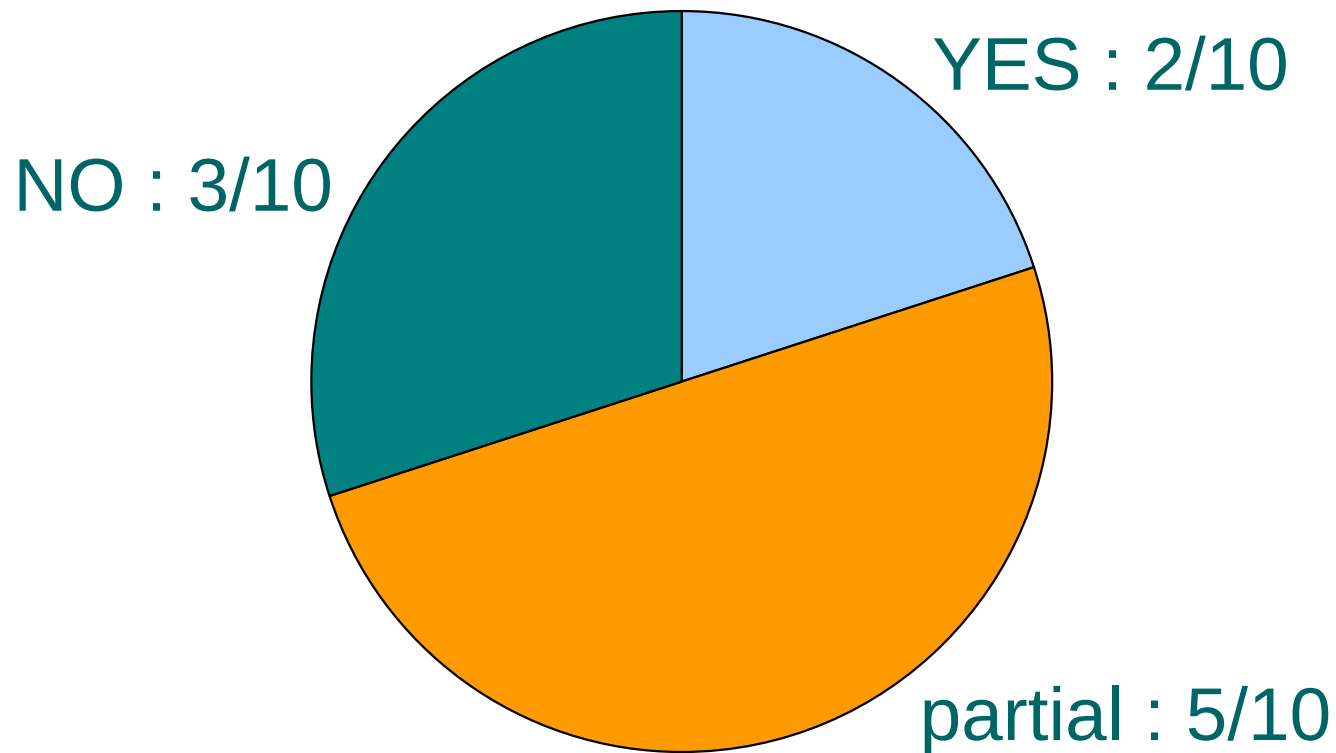


Question 2 : Are there any quotas ?

Belgium	partial	EBRT : the presence of at least one MP is full time required. As from 750 new patients per year, an additional full-time expert must be provided for.
Czech Republic	NO	Use EFOMP Policy Statement No.7 but the real number of medical physicists is the responsibility of CEOs of hospitals.
Finland	NO	At the moment STUK is discussing of a requirement for numbers of physicists per x hundred patients or treatments.
France	NO	
Ireland	NO	The Board of the RPII has adopted EFOMP Policy Statement No. 7 "Criteria for the staffing levels in a medical physics department" which the RPII uses when assessing a new licence application
Norway	NO	At present no quantitative requirements (i.e.quotas), but in the revised regulations there will be a general quantitative requirement
Slovenia	NO	Our legislation does not specify any quotas
Spain	NO	Two groups are currently working on the definition of a minimum number of required MP
Switzerland	YES	At least one medical physicist for each linear accelerator in use
UK	NO	MPE must be closely involved in all RT treatments



Question 3 : is there an obligation for the MP to be present during the full duration of treatment in RT?



NB : the limit between « partial » and « NO » is mostly subjective



Question 3 : is there an obligation for the MP to be present during the full duration of treatment in RT?

Belgium	YES	The presence of at least one MP is full time required
Czech Republic	Partial (NO in the law)	"In radiotherapeutic practices and therapeutical nuclear medicine practices, a certified medical physicist shall be closely involved." Our interpretation of this sentence is that at least one medical physicist must be there!!
Finland	Partial (NO in the law)	« A medical physics expert must always be personally involved in radiotherapy dose planning, quality assurance and functions pertaining to radiation protection » In practice : a medical physics expert must be in the service
France	YES	
Ireland	Partial (NO in the law)	For RT we require a medical physicist to be present on site



Question 3 : is there an obligation for the MP to be present during the full duration of treatment in RT?

Norway	Partial	In ordinary planned treatments a physicist will always be present, but allowances are made for unscheduled emergency situations during week-ends etc.
Slovenia	NO	In our legislation there are no requirement that a medical physicist should be present during treatment
Spain	Partial (NO in the law)	Requires a medical physicist to be present on site + a MP must be present at the beginning of each new treatment for patient positioning
Switzerland	NO	the medical physicist is expected to be on site during the daily treatments but there is no explicit rule for the presence during the treatments
UK	NO	MPE must be closely involved in all RT treatments



Thank you !

