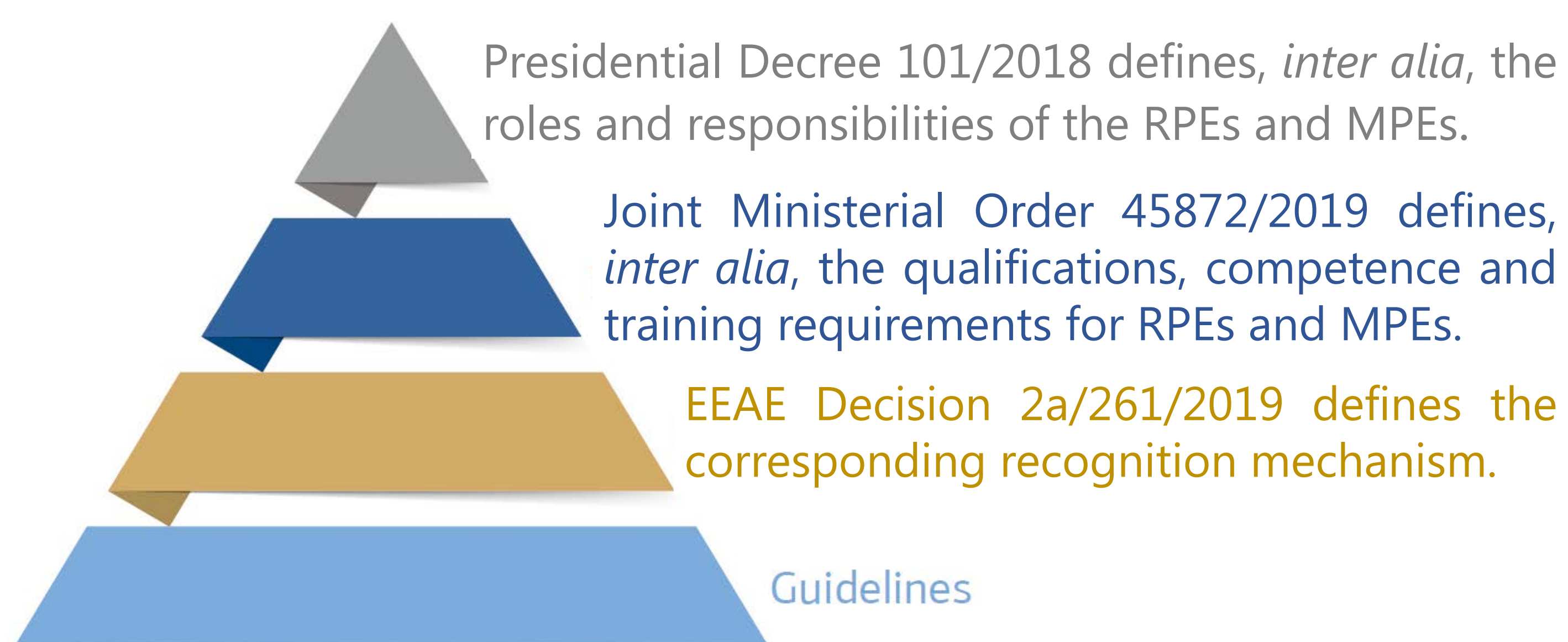


Introduction

This work presents the requirements and the related mechanism for the recognition of RPEs and MPEs, as well as the challenges encountered in the implementation of the associated legislative framework due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, it demonstrates the results of an analysis regarding the assessment of RPE and MPE needs at national level.

Legislative framework for RPEs and MPEs



Recognition mechanism

- Recognition requests are evaluated by three-member committees consisting of a University faculty member (chairman), a member of EEAE's scientific staff and a representative from a scientific, educational or professional body related to the field of recognition.
- The recognition is valid for seven (7) years.
- The renewal of the recognition requires a minimum of 60 h of non-formal training in radiation protection relevant to:
 - the field of recognition for RPEs
 - medical exposures for MPEs



Challenges

The main challenges in the implementation of the new legislative framework regarding the RPEs and MPEs concern:

- The large number of recognition requests submitted for evaluation.
- Limitations in the operation of the evaluation committees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Difficulties in verifying the validity of the electronically submitted certificates.
- The planning of activities in line with the requirements for the renewal of recognitions.

Conclusions

173 RPEs and 139 MPEs have been recognized in the last 18 months. The evaluation committees have efficiently overcome operational limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic using the advantages of teleconferencing. The results of an analysis carried out by EEAE based on data from the National Database showed that the number of recognised RPEs fully cover the needs of non-medical facilities.

Recognition requirements

The qualifications, competence and training requirements for the recognition of RPEs include:

- An academic degree
- Postgraduate formal education in a subject relevant to radiation protection
- Proven experience in providing advice for radiation protection issues related to the field of recognition
- A professional license of Medical Radiation Physicist for practices including medical exposures

The qualifications, competence and training requirements for the recognition of MPEs include:

- Professional license of Medical Radiation Physicist
- Proof of non-formal education on medical exposures by national or international bodies
- A proven 3 year work experience as a Medical Radiation Physicist

Identification of needs

- 136 RPEs and 139 MPEs for medical facilities and 37 RPEs for non-medical facilities have been recognised in the last 18 months.
- EEAE conducted an analysis based on data from the National Database to identify the national needs with respect to the RPEs for non-medical facilities.
- Table 1 shows that the number of the recognised RPEs is sufficient to cover the needs of non-medical facilities.
- A similar analysis is expected to be carried out with respect to the MPEs and RPEs for medical facilities.

Table 1: National needs concerning the RPEs for non-medical facilities

Type of facility	Type of activity	No of facilities	RPEs		
			Total needs	No of recognitions	
Industry and research	Industrial radiography	20			
	Irradiator facilities	1			
	Industrial gauges and well logging	18	32	34	✓
	Research	22			
Other	Isotope production	2	2	2	✓
	Waste Management	1	1	1	✓