

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING EDUCATION AT POLITECNICO DI TORINO AND IN ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES

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ABSTRACT

Programs in nuclear engineering are currently offered in six universities in Italy. Some courses in transport theory and reactor physics are taught also to physics and mathematics students in a number of universities where nuclear engineering programs are not active.

Nuclear engineering is suffering from many problems due to the particular situation regarding the use of nuclear energy in Italy. After a national referendum in the late eighties, the Italian government decided to stop all industrial activities in the field of nuclear energy production. This situation caused a sharp decrease in enrollment for nuclear engineering education.

The presentation will illustrate the present-day situation with particular emphasis on the Politecnico di Torino and it will give a general overview for other Italian universities. Some information on job opportunities within the country and the European Union will be given.

Recently, a restructuring of engineering programs has been undertaken at a national level. Possible consequences for nuclear engineering courses will be discussed.

It is strongly believed that international cooperation can play a very important role in preserving nuclear engineering education in Italy. Within this framework, some possible perspectives will be considered.