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PIANOFORTE Partnership

European Partnership for Radiation Protection Research

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D4.3 First report on the received applications, evaluation, consultation with PIANOFORTE beneficiaries and final decision of the calls, including financial reporting of task 1, 2, 3 and 4.1

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Abstract

In support for early career researchers and professionals in radiation protection (ECRP), various actions are initiated via the PIANOFORTE project. Complementing support for targeted training courses and initiatives in continuous professional development, dedicated support will go to networking activities between early career researchers and professionals. This document describes the received applications, evaluation, consultation with PIANOFORTE beneficiaries and final decision of the calls, including financial reporting of task 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Content

1. Introduction.....	5
1.1. Aim of PIANOFORTE'S WP4.....	5
1.2. Objectives of Tasks 4.1-4.4.....	5
1.3. Purpose and scope of this deliverable	5
2. Task 4.1: Support of targeted courses.....	5
3. Task 4.2: Support of mobility for MSc/PhD students and early career researchers.....	7
4. Task 4.3: Support of a continuous professional development programme for radiation protection professionals.....	11
5. Task 4.2: Development of sustainable early career researchers and professionals networking to facilitate training and career upgrades	13
6. Conclusions.....	14

1. Introduction

1.1. Aim of PIANOFORTE'S WP4

The overall objective of this WP is to maintain existing and develop new competences in radiation protection with focus on the following research areas: health effects of low-dose radiation, medical applications of ionising radiation, radioecology, emergency and recovery management, dosimetry and detection of ionising radiation, and social sciences and humanities in ionising radiation research, as represented by the European radiation research platforms ALLIANCE, EURADOS, EURAMED, MELODI, NERIS and SHARE.

1.2. Objectives of Tasks 4.1-4.4

4.1 To support targeted courses to promote knowledge, skills and competence of students, early career researchers and professionals in the broad field of radiation protection (RP) research and applications;

4.2 To provide financial support for students and early career researchers by mobility grants allowing research visits, field trips and participation in conferences;

4.3 To support continuous professional development (CPD) in the broad field of radiation protection applications;

4.4 To develop and implement sustainable early career researcher and professional networking: facilitating training and career upgrades.

1.3. Purpose and scope of this deliverable

This document describes the received applications, evaluation and final decision of the calls during the period of the first 12 months in 2022-2023, including financial reporting of task 1, 2, 3 and 4. These activities are intended to facilitate the development and implementation of a European early career researchers and professionals network with a sustainable character.

The evaluation of applications was based on rules developed during the first 3 months of PIANOFORTE that are described in deliverables D4.1 and D4.2 and published on the PIANOFORTE website.

2. Task 4.1: Support of targeted courses

A call for training courses was launched in November 2022 with application deadline of 2022-12-31: <https://pianoforte-partnership.eu/calls/training-courses>. The received course applications are listed in table 4.1 below. All were found to be eligible for funding.

Table 4.1. List of targeted courses approved for funding during 2023.

Name of applicant(s)	Employment	Country	Course title	Course dates	Budget €
Nina Chobanova	NCRRP, Sofia	Bulgaria	Emergency and recovery preparedness and response	13-17 March 2023	6988
Martin Bucher; Ursula Oestreicher	BFS, Munich	Germany	Application of Biological Dosimetry in Radiation Protection and Radiation Research - BIODORA	26th June - 14th July 2023	10000
1) Rui Gaspar 2) Isabel Paiva 3) Lina Vieira	1) Catholic University of Portugal 2) University of Lisbon 3) Politechnic Institute of Lisbon (IPL)	Portugal	A mental models approach to risk communication on health applications of ionizing radiation	26th June - 4th July 2023	7467
Kremena Ivanova	NCRRP, Sofia	Bulgaria	Building protection against radon: measurement, prevention and corrections measures	3-7 April 2023	7150
Giorgio Baiocco	University of Pavia (UniPv)	Italy	BioMod - "Models" in biomedical physics and radiation protection research: from in vitro cell systems to population studies	May 2023	10000
1) Siamak Haghdoost 2) Jaques Balosso	University of Caen	France	Cellular, molecular and organs effects of particle irradiation with focus on healthy tissue effects (CANTATA)	12-16 June 2023	7276
1) Protti Nicoletta 2) Yann Perrot 3) Lovisa Lundholm	1) University of Pavia 2) IRSN 3) Stockholm University	1) Italy 2) France 3) Sweden	PROtecting while TREATing: from the basic principles of the biological effects of ionizing radiations up to their use in neurodegenerative diseases (PRO_TREAT)	September 2023	7501
Zaccheus Gilpin	Zack Gilpin Education	United Kingdom	-	-	NA
Sum of granted funding				56382 €	

The total number of courses funded during 2013 is 7.

3. Task 4.2: Support of mobility for MSc/PhD students and early career researchers

A call for MSc/PhD students and early career researcher travel grants was launched in August 2022: <https://pianoforte-partnership.eu/calls/travel-grants-for-researchers>.

During the period June 1 2022 – June 30 2023 applications for travel grants could be submitted four times: 2022 09 30, 2022 12 31, 2023 03 31 and 2023 06 30. All applications were reviewed by the members of the task group.

Tables with lists of submitted applications are given below. Approved applications are **marked green**. Rejected applications are **marked red**. Not eligible applications are marked **grey**.

Table 4.2 List of applicants for the MSc/PhD students and early career researchers travel grants. Approved applications are **marked green**. Rejected applications are **marked red**. Not eligible applications are marked **grey**.

Application deadline: 2022 09 30

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
Milagrosa Lopez Riego	Stockholm University	Sweden	PhD student	1000
Erica Maremonti	NMBU	Norway	Post doc	1000
Omar Elsaed	BfS	Germany	PhD student	810
Sofie Apers	University of Antwerp	Belgium	PhD researcher	1000
Ana Vaniqui	SCK CEN	Belgium	PhD researcher	750
Tabassom Mohajer Shojai	Uppsala University	Sweden	PhD student	NA
Albena Staynova	National Centre of Radiobiology and Radiation Protection	Bulgaria	Post doc	NA
Carmen Tuca	National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering, IFIN-HH	Romania	Researcher	NA
Mehran Hariri	Uppsala University	Sweden	PhD student	NA

Mostafa Karimi Roshan	Stockholm University	Sweden	Post doc	NA
Rima SALMA	GANIL	France	PhD student	NA
Najeh Mohammed	Ministry of health of Moroco	Morocco	Medical Physicist	NA
Sum of granted funding				4560 €

Application deadline: 2022 12 31

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
Jannes Torfs	University of Hasselt	Belgium	Master's student	630
Stephen Ahenkorah	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	Belgium	Post doc	1000
Matthijs Sevenois	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Belgium	PhD student	1000
Nathalie Heynickx	University of Ghent / SCK CEN	Belgium	PhD student	1000
Zuzana Kocibalova	Stockholm University	Sweden	Post doc	1000
Mostafa Karimi Roshan	Stockholm University	Sweden	Post doc	NA
Lidya Hailu	Debre Tabor University	Ethiopia	Lecturer	NA
Anthony Waked	SCK CEN	Belgium	PhD student	NA
Sum of granted funding				4630 €

Application deadline: 2023 03 31

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
Dan Baaken	IMBEI, University Medical Center Mainz	Germany	PhD student	854
Margot Vanheukelom	SCK CEN	Belgium	PhD student	1000
Prabodha Kumar Meher	Stockholm University	Sweden	Researcher	1000
Martin Hjellström	Sahlgrenska University Hospital	Sweden	PhD student	1000
Nona Movsisyan	Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of NAS RA	Armenia	PhD student	1000
Cansu Özcan Kilcan	University of Tartu	Estonia	PhD student	NA

Angeliki Gkikoudi	National Technical University of Athens	Greece	PhD student	NA
Jessica Ribeiro	SCK CEN	Belgium	PhD student	NA
Stefan Schmidt	University Hospital in Heidelberg	Germany	PhD student	NA
Cristina Ratero	SCK CEN (trainee)	Belgium/Spain	Master's student	NA
Isabeau De Bie	SCK CEN/Ghent University	Belgium	PhD student	NA
Mostafa Karimi Roshan	Stockholm University	Sweden	Post doc	NA
Elia Prades-Sagarra	Maastricht University	Netherlands	PhD student	NA
Valeria Pascali	Pavia University	Italy	PhD student	NA
Daan Schoefs	Hasselt University	Belgium	Master's student	NA
Victor González González	Hospital Universitario Puerta De Hierro, Madrid	Spain	Resident in-house radiophysicist (master degree)	NA
Ghizela-Ana Maria Salagean	Topmed medical centre Targu Mures	Romania	PhD student	NA
Deepak Shamvedi	School of Science & Engineering, Univ. of Dundee	United Kingdom	Lecturer	NA
Christina Neofytou	Karolinska Institutet	Sweden	PhD student	NA
Rose Ile obase	Fortescue Future Industries	Cameroon	PhD student	NA
Abhisek Verma	Sorbonne University	France	PhD student	NA
Abdolrasoul Habibipour	Botnia Living Lab	Sweden	Senior lecturer	NA
Xiaoyong Yang	Uppsala University	Sweden	Post doc	NA
Sum of granted funding				4854 €

Application deadline: 2023 06 30

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
Anna Bianchi	Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro - INFN	Italy	Post doc	1000
Maria Karampereri	Lund University	Sweden	PhD student	880
Élia Prades-Sagarra	Maastricht University	Netherlands	PhD student	1000

Michelle Andersson	SCK CEN	Belgium	PhD student	995
Mostafa Karimi Roshan	Stockholm University	Sweden	Post doc	1000
Ibtisam Yusuf	County council Östergötland	Sweden	PhD student	NA
Eugeni Luca	Politecnico di Torino	Italy	Master's student	NA
Valeria Pascali	University of Pavia	Italy	PhD student	NA
Robert Frost	University of Uppsala	Sweden	Researcher	NA
Andruis Puzas	Center for Physical Sciences and Technology	Lithuania	PhD student	NA
Ivana Coha	Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb	Croatia	Post doc	NA
Abigail Miller	University of Canterbury	New Zealand	Master's student	NA
Cristina Ratero	SCK CEN	Belgium	Master's student	NA
Dawid Wiecki	University of Wroclaw	Poland	Master's student	NA
Eleftherios Papalannis	Uppsala University	Sweden	Research assistant	NA
Felix Lehner	National Metrology Institute, PTB	Germany	Doctoral Researcher	NA
Gabriele Auriemma	Politecnico di Milano, INFN	Italy	Master's student	NA
Johannes Enkono		Namibia		NA
Katherine Hardgrave	Trinity College Dublin	Ireland	Master's student	NA
Krunoslav Ilic	Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health	Croatia	PhD	NA
Mounia Messouli	National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Sciences and Technology, Rabat	Morocco	PhD	NA
Mustafa Najim	UK Health Security Agency	United Kingdom	Master's student	NA
Olympia Apokotou	Hellenic Pasteur Institute	Greece	Staff scientist	NA
Vianney Andrew Yiga	Royal Technical Institute - KTH	Sweden	Post doc	NA

Sum of granted funding	4875 €
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Financial summary table of task 4.2 during the period M1 – M12

Date of application deadline	Number of submitted applications	Number of funded applications	Budget in €
2022 09 30	15	5	4560
2022 12 31	8	5	4630
2023 03 31	23	5	4854
2023 06 30	24	5	4875
Sum of granted funding			18919 €

4. Task 4.3: Support of a continuous professional development programme for radiation protection professionals

A call for radiation protection professionals travel grants was launched in August 2022:

<https://pianoforte-partnership.eu/calls/travel-grants-for-early-career-radiation-protection-professionals>.

During the period June 1 2022 – June 30 2023 applications for travel grants could be submitted four times: 2022 09 30, 2022 12 31, 2023 03 31 and 2023 06 30. All applications were reviewed by the members of the task group.

Tables with lists of submitted applications are given below. Approved applications are **marked green**. Rejected applications are **marked red**. Not eligible applications are marked **grey**.

Table 4.3 List of applicants for radiation protection professionals travel grants. . Approved applications are **marked green**. Rejected applications are **marked red**. Not eligible applications are marked **grey**.

Application deadline: 2022 09 30 – no applications were received

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
-				

Application deadline: 2022 12 31

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
Pieter De Meutter	SCK CEN	Belgium	Researcher	1000
Tamara Lusa	Hospital Clínico Universitario of Valencia	Spain	Medical Physics Trainee	325

Francisco Mosquera-Pena Sánchez	University Hospital Vigo	Spain	Medical Physicist	1000
Ioannis Stathopoulos	University of Athens	Greece	PhD student	1000
Suryakanta Acharya	Assam Cancer Care Foundation	India	Consultant	NA
Mahmut Cüneyt Kahraman	İstanbul Technical University	Turkey	PhD student	NA
Tortorelli Francesco	-	Italy	Medical Physics Trainee	NA
Sum of granted funding				3325 €

Application deadline 2023 03 31

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
Francisco San Miguel	HOSPITAL CENTRAL DE LA DEFENSA 'GÓMEZ ULLA'	Spain	Medical Physicist	1000
Luljeta Disha	University of Tirana	Albania	PhD	830
Tönjes Koschine	BfS	Germany	PhD	1000
Eleftherios Tzanis	University of Crete	Greece	Post doc, Medical Physicist	1000
Ioannis Kaissas	Aristotle University Thessaloniki	Greece	Assistant professor	NA
Ana Milosevic		Serbia	Medical Physicist	NA
Sum of granted funding				3830 €

Application deadline 2023 06 30

Name of applicant	Employment	Country	Position	Budget in €
Birgit Seiler	BfS	Germany	MSc	1000
Giorgia Stendardo	Italian National Institute of Health (ISS)	Italy	Research fellow	1000
Mercedes Riveira Martín	Galicia Sur Health Research Institute (IISGS)	Spain	MSc	1000
Sotiria Triantopoulou	Institute of Nuclear & Radiological Sciences & Technology, Energy & Safety (INRASTES)	Greece	MSc, PhD student	600

Vineta Vanaga	Riga East Clinical University Hospital Oncology Centre of Latvia	Latvia	Medical physicist	784
Dafina Xhako	Polytechnic University of Tirana	Albania	Assoc. Prof.	NA
Edith Natalia Villegas Garcia	Trieste University	Italy	PhD student	NA
Laura Dupont	Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG)	Switzerland		NA
Niko Hyka	University of Medicine, Tirana	Albania	Medical Physics Lecturer	NA
Patricija Kalnina	University of Latvia	Latvia	MSc	NA
Salako Olatunji	Center for Countermeasures against Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents, CCACBWA	Nigeria	PhD	NA
Sum of granted funding				4384 €

Financial summary table of task 4.3 during the period M1 – M12

Date of application deadline	Number of submitted applications	Number of funded applications	Budget in €
2022 09 30	0	0	NA
2022 12 31	7	4	3325
2023 03 31	6	4	3830
2023 06 30	11	5	4384
Sum of granted funding			11593 €

5. Task 4.2: Development of sustainable early career researchers and professionals networking to facilitate training and career upgrades

A call for supporting European early career researcher and professional networking activities was launched in February 2023: <https://pianoforte-partnership.eu/calls/pianoforte-support-for-european-early-career-researcher-and-professional-networking-activities>. A meeting of task 4.4. members was held on March 2023. It was decided to send out the information about the call to selected organizations. By June 2023 two early career professionals have expressed the interest to

start networking activities. A new WP4 meeting is planned for September 2023 to proceed with this task. European early career researcher and professional networking activities will also be promoted during the upcoming European Radiation Protection Week in Dublin, 9-13 October 2023.

6. Conclusions

The number of applications for courses was lower than expected based on the experience of CONCERT (<https://www.concert-h2020.eu/deliverables/integrating-activities> - D7.16: Final report on the coordination and collaboration on Education and Training policy and strategy in radiation protection related themes). The possible reasons may include the COVID-19 pandemic that reduced peoples' willingness to meet, courses organised in the framework of the EURATOM funded project RadoNorm (<https://www.radonorm.eu/calls/call-for-courses/>) as well a commonly encountered slow activity at the beginning of a project. The coming, 2023 call for courses (<https://pianoforte-partnership.eu/calls/training-courses/>) will be advertised at the upcoming European Radiation Protection Week in Dublin, 9-13 October 2023. Moreover, inclusion of E&T activities is mandatory in PIANOFORTE-funded research projects that are expected to kick-off in 2024 and it can be expected that courses will be applied for in their frameworks.

With respect to mobility programs (travel grants), many more applications were submitted by early career researchers (Task 4.2) than professionals (task 4.3). The reason for this may be that researchers are familiar with travel grants offered by EURATOM-funded projects (CONCERT, RadoNorm) while this funding possibility is new for professionals. Following the lack of applications for the first call on 2022 09 30, radiation protection organisations were approached and their members encouraged to apply. This resulted in applications and funding. Continued active promotion of the funding tool will be pursued to ensure applications.

Regarding the development of sustainable early career researchers and professionals networking, active promotion of the funding tool will be pursued to ensure progress.