ECRad Meeting & Social Event 2026

The ECRad Network Meeting took place on 5 October 2026 during the European Radiation Protection Week (ERPW 2026) at AXICA Congress and Conference Center in Berlin. The event brought together around 40 early-career scientists in radiation protection, supporting cross-disciplinary exchange, professional networking and discussions on future career opportunities. The theme of the meeting was “Artificial Intelligence and the future of careers in radiation protection” and speakers explored how AI may influence professional roles, career pathways and future skills.

The Table 1 below shows the meeting agenda, that included perspectives on AI in government and regulatory work, research and innovation, emergency preparedness and response, and medical physics and healthcare. The session concluded with a open Q&A.

Table 1 - Meeting Agenda

Time	Speaker / Session	Focus
15:00–15:10	Welcome by the ECRad organisers	Welcome and introduction
15:10–15:40	Florian Rauser – BfS / PIANOFORTE	**Government and regulatory authorities:** How could AI change future roles, required skills, and career opportunities in the public sector?
15:40–16:00	Filip Vanhavere – SCK CEN / MEENAS	**Research and innovation:** How could AI influence research careers, collaboration, and future opportunities in radiation protection?
16:10–16:30	Anna Wawrzyńczak-Szaban – NCBJ	**Emergency preparedness and response:** How might AI reshape work in emergency preparedness, and what skills will future professionals need?
16:30–16:50	Mika Kortesniemi – HUS / EFOMP / ICRP	**Medical physics and healthcare:** What opportunities and challenges could AI bring for future careers in clinical radiation protection and medical physics?
16:50–17:00	Open Q&A	AI and the future of careers in radiation protection
19:00 onwards	ECRad Social Dinner	Sponsored by PIANOFORTE

From 19:00, a networking dinner sponsored by PIANOFORTE at the Restaurant NOLLE provided an informal setting for early-career participants to exchange experiences and establish professional contacts.

A survey conducted after the event received 14 responses (11 participants and 3 members of the organising team). Of these, 13/14 rated the event 4 or 5 out of 5, and 12/14 rated the relevance of the AI/careers topic 4 or 5 out of 5. The networking dinner was the most frequently selected valuable component (11/14), followed by informal exchange (9/14), invited presentations (8/14) and Q&A (6/14) (Figure 1).

This partnership has received funding from the European Union’s “EURATOM” research and innovation program under the 101061037 grant agreement.

For future ECRad activities, respondents show interest in networking meetings at conferences (13/14), technical visits (10/14) and career development workshops (10/14). Feedback also suggested allowing more time for discussion and improving advance communication about related activities. These results will help in the organization of future meetings and cross-platform collaboration.

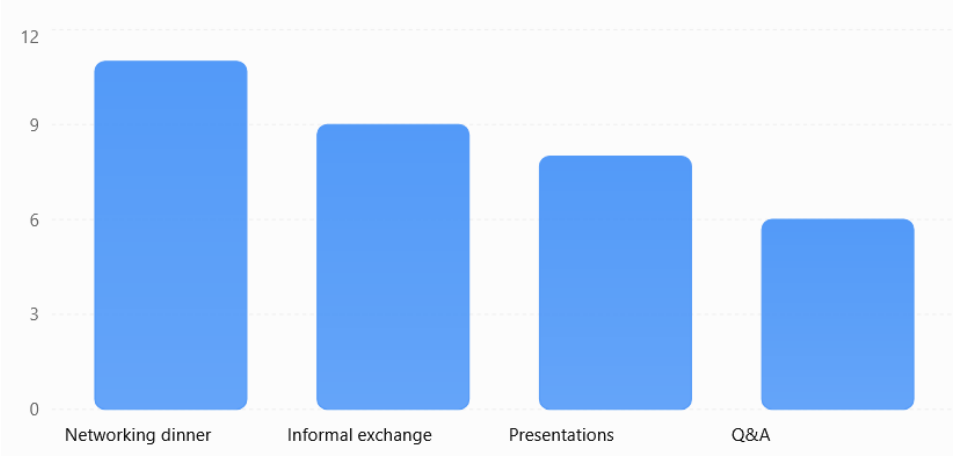

Figure 1 - What Participants Valued Most (Number of Respondents)

The financial support provided by PIANOFORTE was used to cover the networking dinner and the expenses of an invited speaker. A breakdown of the costs is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 - Breakdown of the costs

Budget item	Amount
Total support requested	€2,500.00
Networking dinner — actual expenditure	€1.017,98
Remaining amount / proposed ceiling for speaker expenses	€1.481,02

The ECRad Meeting reached its goal of bringing together early-career scientists and experienced professionals to discuss AI-related career challenges and opportunities. Participant feedback highlights the value of the PIANOFORTE-supported networking dinner in facilitating informal exchange and building connections within the European radiation protection community.

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