

NEWSLETTER

29th June, 2023

PIANOFORTE PARTNERSHIP NEWS

WP1: Management and coordination – PIANOFORTE INFODAY about 1st Open Call for proposals was organized as an online meeting and was held on May 10th, 2023, from 10:00 to 12:00 CET. Presentations from the online meeting covering general, legal, administrative and financial information can be downloaded from Pianoforte website. Activities of all work packages during the first year of the project and plans for the second year have been presented at the General Assembly meeting which took place online on 21st June 2023.

WP2: Prioritization of topics - The prioritization of topics for the second call has started. The starting point is the list of topics not chosen for call 1. The POMs and SAB have been asked for new topics to be added, and for possible reformulation of topics. Result will be sent to the platforms:

- to propose new topics (max of 2)
- to suggest merging of topics or to possibly reformulate topics
- to adopt new topics suggested by POMs and /or SAB
- to suggest criteria to be applied for prioritization of the topics.

Next steps of prioritization process will be that PIANOFORTE will select criteria for evaluating topics based on the suggestions from POM, SAB and platforms. The selected criteria will be used by PIANOFORTE to evaluate the topics. PIANOFORTE will shorten the list of the topics proposed by platforms, POMs and SAB to 6-8 topics based on the criteria suggestions. The shortlist will be presented and discussed with the platforms and SAB.

WP3: Stakeholder involvement - As part of the process to prepare the PIANOFORTE 2nd Open Call, the Stakeholder and Advisory Board (SAB) was invited to send feedback on several documents prepared by PIANOFORTE WP2, which included a shortlist of suggested research call topics. Further, the SAB was asked to propose new research topics as well as criteria for the prioritization of the research topics for the 2nd call. The meeting was held in May 2023 to discuss the documents and to reach a joint opinion in terms of topics prioritization and the suggestion of new research topics for the 2nd Call. The SAB-feedback was delivered to WP2 to be considered in the preparation of the research topics for the PIANOFORTE 2nd open call.

WP3 has also presented a poster on the aims of its partnership, stakeholder involvement approach and opportunities of the 1st Open Call at ConRad 2023 in May 2023 (Global Conference on Radiation Topics 2023). The poster abstract is available on the ConRad 2023 website.

WP4: Education and training – On PIANOFORTE website, you can find activity reports from travel grants for early career radiation protection professionals:

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

WP5: Infrastructures - Progress on integration activities related to infrastructures continues well. The WP and task leads held a meeting for all contributors at the end of March, at which OFFERR representative Stephane Gaillot presented on the OFFERR project and the links between PIANOFORTE and OFFERR were cemented. Following successful completion of the first two deliverables (the Terms of Reference for the International Oversight Committee (IOC) and the Data Management Plan, both available on the project website), work in year two is focused on establishment and classification of the key RP research infrastructures as well as development of training programmes of relevance for the key infrastructures. The first meeting of the IOC, who will have responsibility for helping design and administer the infrastructure funding streams for intercomparisons between key infrastructures and provision of training courses and exchanges for PIANOFORTE open call project participants and the wider community, will take place on the 6th July, and further WP 5 meetings are planned to take place as a satellite to ERPW in Dublin, in October 2023. For any questions or information about Infrastructures in PIANOFORTE, please don't hesitate to contact Simon.Bouffler@ukhsa.gov.uk or Liz.Ainsbury@ukhsa.gov.uk.

WP6: Communication and impact - The information about the 1st Open Call for projects together with all attached files has been updated to reflect postponed deadline for project proposal submissions. [The revised deadline for submissions is July 26, 2023, at 15:00 CEST.](#)

We start to analyze the first nine months of Pianoforte website existence:



WP7: Organization of Calls – Our first OPEN CALL for projects required considerable effort. The online submission system opened on June 6th, 2023, and we have extended the proposal deadline until July 26th at 15:00 CET. The updated documents, including the Call text, Guidelines for applicants, Auxiliary Proposal Template, Auxiliary Financial Excel Sheet, and CV template, can be easily downloaded from the Pianoforte website. Currently, our main focus is on building a pool of experts who will be responsible for evaluating the submitted projects. Given the specialized nature of the topic, we kindly request your assistance in providing us with contact details of potential candidates who may be interested and eligible to participate in the evaluation process. It is important to note that these experts should not be participating in the proposal writing themselves. Your help in identifying suitable individuals would be greatly appreciated. Please send your suggestions to CS.PIANOFORTE@ncbr.gov.pl.

EXECUTIVE BOARD – WHO WE ARE?



Hello everyone, my name is Liz Ainsbury and I have the pleasure of leading Work Package 5 on Infrastructure, together with Simon Bouffler. I am very happy to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

I have worked as a radiation protection scientist at what is now the UK Health Security Agency for over 15 years. I started life as a physicist (my PhD was on electromagnetics!) but I have chiefly worked in radiation biology in recent years, and my main research interests are in biological and physical retrospective dosimetry, the mechanistic and radiation protection aspects of non-cancer radiation effects, particularly radiation cataract, as well as radiation emergency preparedness and response. At UKHSA I now lead the Radiation Effects Department and I am also Deputy Head of the Science and Engineering Profession for the organization. In addition to research, I am passionate about leadership development: authenticity, values, and creation of a culture of happiness and joy in all aspects of working life.

Prior to PIANOFORTE, I was involved in leadership of a number of EU (and other) funded projects including the CONCERT funded LDLensRad collaboration looking at the mechanisms of low dose radiation cataract. I am a member of the RENE, BIODOSENET and REMPAN networks for dosimetry/radiation emergency response, the current chairperson of EURADOS Working Group 10 on Retrospective Dosimetry, a member of ICRP Committee 1 on Radiation Effects, and a contributor to ISO WG 18 and 25. I also regularly teach and lecture on various courses including at Oxford University, and am very proud of the PhD students I have supervised.

In my spare time (such as it is!) I spend time with my family including my husband and two children (12 and 9 years old), and I enjoy reading science fiction, cooking for or eating out with friends, and long distance running - I have run several marathons and in 2022 I completed my first ultramarathon (32 miles) which was fantastic!!

I love so many aspects of the work I do, not least travelling to interesting places and meeting people, but also encouraging and supporting early career scientists and seeing them flourish. Please do get in touch by email (liz.ainsbury@ukhsa.gov.uk) or say hello when you see me, I'll be very happy to talk about Infrastructures or anything else related to PIANOFORTE or otherwise. Looking forward to meeting you soon!

PIANOFORTE TRAINING COURSES

National Center for Radiobiology and Radiation Protection, Sofia, Bulgaria organized two training courses in March 2023: Emergency and recovery preparedness and response (13th – 17th March 2023) and Building protection against radon: measurement, prevention and corrections measures (27th – 31st March 2023). We share with you several photos from these successful events.





ERPW 2023 - EUROPEAN RADIATION PROTECTION WEEK 2023

European Radiation Protection Week (ERPW, <https://www.ucd.ie/ERPW2023/>) is an annual, multidisciplinary, event which brings together experts and addresses current and emerging topics related to radiation protection. Under the Consortium of European Radiation Research Platforms (MEENAS Group), ERPW aims to:

- promote the integration and the efficiency of European research and development in radiation protection to better protect humans (public, patients and workers) and the environment;
- advance scientific excellence in radiation protection;
- maintain and develop European radiation protection research capacity;
- encourage scientific education and training and foster key research infrastructures in the field of radiation protection;
- foster international collaboration, including collaboration with sister organizations and networks, in a non exclusive manner by open interaction with the wider radiation protection research community and stakeholders (inclusive of patients and the public).

ERPW 2023 will be hosted by the University College Dublin from 9th to 13th October 2023 and will have a strong focus on medical applications of ionizing radiation and the associated radiation protection of patients, staff, and the public. On Friday 13th October, Pianoforte WP meetings will take place.

We remind you EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE on 31st July 2023.

**ENJOY SUMMER AND LET US KNOW NEWS FROM YOUR
INSTITUTIONS, RESEARCH TEAMS AND PROJECTS.**