

NEWSLETTER

16th September, 2023

FIRST OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS

24 research projects have been submitted for the first Open call for projects of Pianoforte partnership. Project proposals address multidisciplinary and transnational research within one of following topics:

Topic 1: Developing a knowledge base for a better understanding of disease pathogenesis of ionizing radiation-induced cancer to improve risk assessment.

Topic 2: Individualized diagnostic as well as therapeutic procedures with regard to optimization of the benefit/risk ratio.

Topic 3: Development of risk assessment and risk management approaches and technological capabilities to cope with scenarios arising from threats due to war or armed conflicts situations or natural disasters taking into consideration social, ethical and legal issues.

Seven submitted proposals target topic 1, 10 proposals topic 2 and 7 proposals topic 3, respectively. More than 100 different organizations are represented. At the moment, all proposals are evaluated by Peer Review Panel. Funding decisions are expected before the end of the year.

We thank all for submission of your research projects.

PIANOFORTE MEETING 2023

All partners are invited to participate to the **PIANOFORTE meeting**, which will be held in Budapest from **December 5, 2023 at 14:00 to December 6, 2023 at 14:00**.

The first half-day will be devoted to a general assembly to discuss feedback from the first Open Call and topics for the second Open Call. The second half-day will be dedicated to the presentation of projects selected during the first Open Call.

The event will take place at the Mercure Budapest Castle Hill:

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/1688/index.en.shtml>. More practical information on accommodation and travel arrangements will be given soon. Please keep the date for now!

SECOND STAKEHOLDER TOPICAL ONLINE MEETING

We are delighted to let you know that a second open *Stakeholder topical online meeting* (TOM) will be place on Tuesday, **October 24, 2023, from 9:30 to 12:30**. The PIANOFORTE collaboration is committed to a systematic and transparent engagement of *stakeholders* in its operations and information exchange.

The following goals guide the organization:

- discussion of perspectives and opinions of interested parties on the chosen research areas and the order in which to prioritize them for funding projects under the PIANOFORTE partnership's open calls;
- presentation and discussion of the work of the other various stakeholders in the PIANOFORTE partnership,
- Reaching out to virtually everyone with a legitimate interest in PIANOFORTE, which will complement the direct and organized interaction with pertinent stakeholders in the Stakeholder Advisory Board and radiation safety platforms, which are handled independently inside PIANOFORTE.

The results of the TOM held in 2022 with stakeholders and the status of the 1st Open Call will be discussed at the TOM 2023 respectively, but the main emphasis will be on the list of prioritized research topics-proposals for the 2nd Open Call for R&I projects, which will hopefully happen early in 2024.

To ensure that the final Call topics support research projects that will advance knowledge, encourage innovation in the field of radiation protection, and thus best meet the needs of society, we will present the pre-selected research topics and then would like to thoroughly evaluate and discuss them with *stakeholders* from the different fields.

Please keep the date for now! More information and a registration link will be given soon on Pianoforte website <https://pianoforte-partnership.eu/>.

As the TOM2023 is only for stakeholders - POMs, platforms, and SAB will be involved separately - Please spread TOM2023 information to those who might be interested.

ERPW 2023 - EUROPEAN RADIATION PROTECTION WEEK 2023

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.

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).

EXECUTIVE BOARD – WHO ARE WE?

Hello to all Pianoforte participants! In this newsletter it is my turn to introduce myself – I am Simon Bouffler and have the privilege of leading Work Package 5 on Infrastructures with my colleague, Liz Ainsbury who introduced herself in the June Newsletter.



By training I am a biologist, having received a BSc and PhD from the University of Southampton. I had a spell as a postdoc in the Zoology Department at Cambridge University where I was researching mechanisms of DNA repair and mutagenesis. Back in the early 1990s I moved to the organization that is now the UK Health Security Agency. In the early days I was investigating mechanisms of radiation leukemogenesis in mouse models and aspects of individual radiosensitivity. I now have the role of Deputy Director, Radiation Protection Sciences that includes responsibility for all aspects of UKHSA's work in radiation protection, from front line services and emergency preparedness to the underpinning evidence on health risk.

I have been involved in EU-supported research projects for many years – I think from the ‘5th Framework’ EURATOM programme; contributing to the forerunners of Pianoforte: Concert, Operra, DoReMi and Risc-Rad. Under the 7th Framework I acted as coordinator for the RISK-IR project that considered stem cell responses to low dose ionizing radiation. I have also led the MELODI Strategic Research Agenda working group until recently. At the wider international level, I am vice-Chair and a Main Commission member of ICRP and am the UK representative to UNSCEAR. For UNSCEAR I was lead writer for the 2020/2021 Annex C: *Biological mechanisms relevant for the inference of cancer risks from low-dose and low-dose-rate radiation*. I am now contributing to the Committee’s work on Nervous System Effects.

While in my job I now have quite a wide remit, it is always clear to me that the underpinning scientific evidence base is critically important to ensuring radiation protection is adequate and proportionate. It is therefore great to see that the EU continues to invest in developing this evidence through Pianoforte. I am really looking forward to learning of the projects and areas that will be supported following the first call, and of course, seeing how Infrastructures can contribute to the success of these. Please feel free to contact me, simon.bouffler@ukhsa.gov.uk.