



Atoms for Peace

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية
国际原子能机构
International Atomic Energy Agency
Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique
Международное агентство по атомной энергии
Organismo Internacional de Energia Atómica

National Liaison Officer

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2015-03-09

Subject: Invitation to a Regional Meeting on Medical Physics in Europe: Current Status and Future Perspectives, Vienna, Austria, 7-8 May 2015

Dear National Liaison Officer,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the above-mentioned meeting under the framework of TC Project RER/6/031/ – Strengthening Medical Physics in Radiation Medicine. The purpose of the meeting and related information are outlined in the attached Prospectus.

For candidates who are selected by the IAEA, the IAEA will cover the cost of return international travel from the home country to Vienna, Austria and provide Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the meeting in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>.

Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Mr Ivan Videnovic (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail Official.Mail@iaea.org), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than 31 March 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Manase Peter Salema
Director
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Prospectus

International Atomic Energy Agency

Regional Meeting on Medical Physics in Europe: Current Status and Future Perspectives

PROSPECTUS

Project Number & Title: RER/6/031 - Strengthening Medical Physics in Radiation Medicine

Place (City, Country): Vienna, Austria

Dates: 7-8 May 2015

Deadline for Nominations: 31 March 2015

Organizers: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Language: English

Purpose: The meeting objective is to raise awareness of national authorities and to gain better understanding of medical physics, medical physicists (MP) roles, status, education, training, recognition, and accreditation, and staff shortages in European Member States. In particular, the meeting will discuss the need for medical physicists staffing provision to ascertain adequate physics services in radiation oncology, nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology in order to enhance the benefit of patient healthcare and safety in radiation medicine.

The meeting will gather high level officials representing Ministries of Health of European Member States and other relevant national authorities, and medical physics representatives. The World Health Organization, the European Commission and professional medical physics organizations will also be invited. Meeting participants will receive information regarding the IAEA requirements for roles, responsibilities, and education and training of medical physicists. The mechanisms for implementation of the European and international basic safety standards for safe use of ionizing radiation, in what concerns medical physics, will be discussed.

Expected Output(s): The participants will gain better understanding of importance of:

- Roles and responsibilities of medical physicists in radiation oncology, nuclear medicine and diagnostic and interventional radiology, and radiation safety in medicine;

- Adequate education and training frameworks including programme accreditation and continuous professional development programme as recommended by European and international organizations;
- Adequate medical physics staffing levels and corresponding organizational models (e.g. medical physics departments);
- Development of mechanisms for implementation of the European and international basic safety standards for safe use of ionizing radiation in what concerns medical physics, including certification and recognition of medical physicists as health professionals;
- Commitment to the 'Bonn Call for Action' to improve radiation protection in medicine.

The information gathered during the meeting will be utilized in defining best approaches of addressing issues concerning medical physics at national levels in European Member States, including adopting international recommendations and transposing European directives where appropriate into national levels.

Scope and Nature:

The meeting will include presentations by the representatives of international and European organizations and professional societies on medical physics topics of interest/concern. The results of an ongoing survey on medical physicists' roles, status, education, training, recognition, and accreditation, and staff shortages in European Member States will be presented. In this way the meeting will facilitate sharing of experience/information among Member States on the roles and responsibilities of medical physicists and the need for adequate medical physics coverage in radiation medicine. The examples from individual countries will be shown. The meeting will also review the European and international basic safety standards and recommendations such as:

- Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources;
- International Basic Safety Standards, IAEA (2014);
- European Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation;
- Roles and Responsibilities, and Education and Training Requirements for Clinically Qualified Medical Physicists, Human Health Series 25, IAEA (2013);
- European Guidelines on Medical Physics Expert, European Commission, Radiation Protection No 174;
- Bonn Call for Action' to improve radiation protection in medicine.

Input by the meeting participants will be sought to draft a statement and recommendations from the "Regional Meeting on Medical Physics in Europe: Current Status and Future Perspectives" including

encouragement to develop the strategies to comply with international recommendations in recognizing the status of medical physicists in European Member States.

The meeting statement and recommendations endorsed by the participants will be forwarded through NLOs to Ministries of Health of European Member States and other relevant national authorities.

Background Information:

Medical physicist is a health professional, with specialist education and training in the concepts and techniques of applying physics in medicine, and competent to practice independently in one or more of the subfields of medical physics: diagnostic and interventional radiology, radionuclide procedures, and radiation therapy and radiation protection in medicine.

Medical physicists must receive appropriate initial education in physical sciences, followed by a professional competency training (academic and clinical) at the postgraduate level and subsequent continuous professional development programme. The education and training of medical physicists should be recognized by a competent authority.

The essential responsibility of the medical physicist's clinical practice is to assure the safe and effective delivery of radiation to achieve a diagnostic or therapeutic result as prescribed in patient care.

Considering that medical physicists play an important role in the health sector utilizing ionizing radiation, this meeting will address concerns resulting from insufficient numbers of medical physicists, gaps in academic education and limited access to adequate clinical training in the Europe region. Compromised or sub-optimal health care can result in from inadequate medical physics support in radiation medicine. A number of incidents/accidents have been reported with root causes attributed to lack of and/or poorly qualified medical physics staff.

Mechanisms for implementation of the European and international basic safety standards for safe use of ionizing radiation in medicine, in what concerns medical physics, need to be developed in Member States.

Participation:

High-level representative of the Ministry responsible for Healthcare (Minister or Deputy Minister), a representative of relevant national authority responsible for medical physics field (e.g. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, the regulatory body, as relevant), and medical physics representatives, i.e. the project counterparts of RER/6/031 in individual Member States. Up to three participants per country will be sponsored under RER/6/031. The IAEA will also invite the World Health Organization, the European Commission and professional medical physics organizations as well as the representatives of the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO). The IAEA will also recruit international experts to facilitate the meeting.

**Nomination
Procedure:**

Nomination Procedure: Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Vienna, Austria (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail Official.Mail@iaea.org), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than 31 March 2015.

**Administrative
and Financial
Arrangements:**

Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will, at that time, be given full details of the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Vienna, Austria, and a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) at the prevailing UN Rate. Shipment of accumulated meeting materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the meeting do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the meeting, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.