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International Atomic Energy Agency
Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
Международное агентство по атомной энергии
Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

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National Liaison Officer

2017-04-20

Subject: Invitation to a Regional Group Scientific Visit on Use of Stable Isotope Techniques in Nutrition Status Assessment in the Context of Overweight and Obesity on Quality Control and Assurance, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, 6–10 November 2017

Dear National Liaison Officer,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the above-mentioned group scientific visit under the framework of TC Project RER/6/034 – Applying Nuclear Techniques to Design and Evaluate Interventions to Prevent and Control Obesity in Adolescents in South-Eastern Europe. The purpose of the group scientific visit 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 Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom and provide Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the group scientific visit in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Scientific Visit Nominations should be submitted to the IAEA through the Technical Cooperation Department InTouch system (http://intouch.iaea.org). Should this not be possible, nominations may be submitted on a standard IAEA Application for Scientific Visits (available on the IAEA website: https://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/As-Fellow-SV/index.html) with reference to RER/6/034. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Ms Ludmila Wiszczor (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 May 2017**.

Yours sincerely,

for Martin Krause
Director
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Prospectus

M-12/Rev. 8 (Sept 09)

International Atomic Energy Agency

Regional Group Scientific Visit on Use of Stable Isotope Techniques in Nutrition Status Assessment in the Context of Overweight and Obesity

PROSPECTUS

Project Number & Title:	C7-RER/6/034 – Applying nuclear techniques to design and evaluate interventions to prevent and control obesity in adolescents in south-eastern Europe
Place (City, Country):	Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom
Dates:	6–10 November 2017
Deadline for Nominations:	**31 May 2017**
Organizers:	The International Atomic Energy Agency in cooperation with the Government of the United Kingdom through the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre.
Host Country Organizer:	**Mr Thomas Preston** Stable Isotope Biochemistry Laboratory Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF Scotland, UK Tel: +44-(0)-1355-270108 Email: Tom.Preston@glasgow.ac.uk
IAEA Organisers:	**Ms Ludmila Wiszczor** Project Management Officer Division for Europe Department of Technical Cooperation International Atomic Energy Agency Tel: +43 1 2600 22419 E-mail: L.Wiszczor@iaea.org **Mr Victor Owino** Technical Officer Division of Health Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications International Atomic Energy Agency Tel: +43 1 2600 21657 E-mail: V.Owino@iaea.org

Language: The language of instruction will be English.

Purpose: The purpose of the Regional Group Scientific Visit is to gain knowledge on practical applications in the use of stable isotope techniques in assessment of nutrition status with a major focus on the use of deuterium dilution in body composition measurement in the context of overweight and obesity.

Expected Output(s): The expected outputs of the Institute are:

- Participants acquire first-hand experience on stable isotope and related techniques to measure nutritional status with specific attention to the deuterium dilution technique for body composition measurement.
- Participants visit a real field situation to experience field procedures for stable isotopes and to interact with target groups and relevant stakeholders.

Scope and Nature: The IAEA will support a Regional "Group Scientific Visit" by the primary counterparts from countries participating in RER6034 to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre to enable first-hand experience in an advanced laboratory and context in the application of stable isotopes in assessment of nutrition status:

- Technical lectures and guided tours of stable isotope laboratory and field will be led by academic and subject experts on stable isotope biochemistry and applications in nutrition.
- Hands-on experiments at the Stable Isotope Biochemistry Laboratory, to highlight key deuterium dilution technique theory, practice and safety concepts.
- Visits to field sites in Glasgow.
- Meetings with key stakeholders in the area of childhood obesity to share lessons learnt.

Background Information: Overweight and obesity represent a great public health problem in Europe. Rapid changes in dietary habits, lifestyle, and lack of physical activity have led to rising rates of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, blood lipid disorders and cardiovascular diseases in European countries. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of mortality throughout Europe. These negative health trends are not only attributable to high-income European countries, but represent a major burden also for developing European countries, including the middle-income countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

Younger population in these countries is also affected by unhealthy trends. According to the Health-Behaviour in School Aged Children Survey from 2009/2010, 33% boys and 20% of girls aged 11 were overweight and similar trends are expected in other countries. Obesity at younger age is a serious public health challenge as overweight and obese adolescents are likely to stay obese into adulthood and more likely to develop NCDs, thus putting a huge burden on the already overstretched health systems of these countries. In

summary, there is an urgent need for the development of strategies to prevent and restrain the growing problem of obesity and related health risks in South-Eastern Europe, as well as to evaluate existing strategies. Stable isotope techniques can be effectively used to provide accurate information on overweight and obesity. This project intends to guide the design of interventions to prevent and control obesity in these countries, where obesity represents a major public health problem and to evaluate existing programmes to contribute to the improvement of strategies.

The project is directly linked to regional WHO strategies on childhood obesity and on prevention of non-communicable diseases and aligns well with sustainable development goal 3.4 to reduce mortality related to NCDs

The IAEA has fostered the widespread use of stable isotope techniques in Member States to support their efforts to develop effective, evidence-based nutrition interventions. The unique characteristics of stable isotope techniques make these methods highly suitable for development and evaluation of interventions to address the urgent need to improve nutrition throughout the life cycle. For this project, stable isotope techniques will add value by increasing the sensitivity of measurements in assessing nutritional status (body fat and lean body tissue) in school children thereby providing much needed evidence-base to design interventions to prevent and control obesity and NCDs in participating Member States.

Participation: The Scientific Visit is open to 11 participants from Member States. The priority will be given to the primary counterparts from Member States that are currently actively participating in RER6034, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Montenegro, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

Participants' Qualifications: The participants should be the primary counterparts currently leading the project RER6034 in their respective countries.

The regional group scientific visit will be conducted in English and candidates must have sufficient knowledge of English to ensure their active participation.

Nomination Procedure: Scientific Visit Nominations should be submitted to the IAEA through the Technical Cooperation Department InTouch system (http://intouch.iaea.org). Should this not be possible, nominations may be submitted on a standard IAEA Application for Scientific Visits (available on the IAEA website: https://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/As-Fellow-SV/index.html) with reference to RER/6/034. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Ms Ludmila Wiszczor (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 May 2017**.
Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the

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.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements:

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 Glasgow International Airport (GLA). They will also be provided with a stipend sufficient to cover the cost of their accommodation, food, and minor incidentals. The Agency will also cover the scientific visit fees of the participants. Shipment of accumulated group scientific visit materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the scientific visit 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 group scientific visit, 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.

Upon notification of their selection by the IAEA, applicants should IMMEDIATELY start procedures for their entry visa to United Kington.