



RER 6042 “Building Capacities of Medical Physicists in Diagnostic Radiology to Support the Establishment of Quality Management Systems”

Second Regional Coordination Meeting

Hosted by

International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, Austria

17-19 January 2023,

Ref. No: ME-RER6042- EVT2306456

Information Sheet

A. Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to review the progress of the Technical Cooperation project RER6042 “Building Capacities of Medical Physicists in Diagnostic Radiology to Support the Establishment of Quality Management Systems” and discuss the needs and gaps at regional level and in participating Member States related to diagnostic radiology medical physics and medical physics education and training. The main topics that will be addressed include: professional matters, staffing levels in diagnostic radiology medical physics, quality management systems in place. During the meeting the project workplan for the third and fourth year of the project will be reviewed and updated with respect to the activities and related timelines.

B. Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

C. Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **30 November 2023** will not be considered.

D. Project Background

The region has been undergoing a gradual shift towards digital radiology. These changes are leveraging a renewed focus on medical physics professionals, who are expected to be competent in diagnostic radiology and its related dosimetry. Medical physicists have a major role to play in quality management systems (QMS), through enhancement of quality assurance (QA) methodologies and quality control (QC) practice.

The IAEA has successfully addressed various issues related to quality and safety through a number of regional and national projects, including RER6038 “Applying Best Practices for Quality and Safety in Diagnostic Radiology.” The project focused on developing and improving QA in participating countries from the Europe region, through training activities and expert missions. It highlighted the lack of medical physicists in the field of diagnostic radiology, especially those working in hospitals.

Two surveys were conducted under the RER6038 project. The first was focused on the professional status of medical physicists in diagnostic radiology, their roles and responsibilities in the healthcare system, training requirements, position in the organizational structure of hospitals, and regulatory framework. The second was focused on staffing levels, according to IAEA Human Health Series Reports 15: “Medical Physics Staffing Needs in Diagnostic Imaging and Radionuclide Therapy: An Activity Based Approach”. Both surveys revealed a lack of medical physics departments in hospitals, insufficient numbers of Clinically Qualified Medical Physicists (CQMPs) in diagnostic radiology and misunderstanding of their role in the majority of participating countries.

E. Scope and Nature

The purpose of RER6042 project is to:

- foster the establishment of the medical physics profession in alignment with international best practices (e.g. IAEA HHS25, IAEA TCS71);
- favour the implementation of IAEA standards and guidance documents related to diagnostic radiology medical physics and
- improve competencies of medical physicists involved in the medical use of radiation in diagnostic and interventional radiology.

The project also tackles relevant education and professional matters, such as education requirements to become CQMPs (academic programmes, clinical training) and recognition of the medical physics profession and related staffing levels, as well as the quality and safety in diagnostic and interventional radiology ensured through comprehensive quality management systems.

The activities of the project are rooted on the existing IAEA guidance documents. The current project builds on the findings and results of previous regional projects, including RER6028, RER6032 and RER6038.

The second regional coordination meeting will aim to prepare a plan at the regional level and by each participating Member State for the second half of the RER6042 and prepare a detailed work plan for implementing the remaining project objectives. The meeting will address the level of implementation of the project plan for the first two years and identify the challenges which Member States have been facing.

F. Expected Outputs

The Second Coordination meeting will consist of presentations and discussions related to the project activities, e.g. lessons learned from the first years of the project implementation and previous projects, identification of needs and gaps in participating Member States, review and update the project workplan and specific project activities.

The expected meeting output is a comprehensive report including baseline information on the following:

- a) current status of diagnostic radiology medical physics and relevant education and training opportunities in the participating Member States;
- b) medical physics aspects of quality management systems in diagnostic radiology;
- c) identified gaps and suggested actions to address them in the framework of the project;
- d) updated project workplan with indication of timelines for the activities.

G. Participation

The meeting is open to all designated national counterparts of the regional project RER6042.

The event is open to participants from all TCEU Member States.

The target countries are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Each country is invited to nominate **one participant** meeting the requirements described in the corresponding paragraph. If more than one nomination are submitted from one Member States, the order of priority shall be indicated. Applications failing to clarify compliance to the requirements will be automatically rejected.

H. Participants' Qualifications and Experience

Noting that the scope and objective of the project RER6042 "Building Capacities of Medical Physicists in Diagnostic Radiology to Support the Establishment of Quality Management Systems", the participant should be a project counterpart (in order of priority):

- a) a RER6042 project counterpart, preferably diagnostic radiology medical physicist working in a hospital; or
- b) a professional involved in education and training of diagnostic radiology medical physicist;
- c) a hospital medical physicist working in another specialty of medical physics (e.g. radiotherapy or nuclear medicine) also involved in diagnostic radiology activities; or
- d) a medical physicist representing of a medical physics professional society, i.e. national Medical Physics Societies.
- e) a professional involved in providing diagnostic radiology medical physics services to hospitals.

As the meeting will be conducted in English, participants should have sufficient proficiency to deliver and follow talks and participate in the discussions in this language without difficulty.

Applications failing to clarify compliance to the requirements listed above will be automatically rejected.

I. Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
 - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (**EVT2306456**) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the IAEA website and submit their applications to their National Authorities. The nomination forms once fully approved can be submitted by e-mail in a PDF format through the official channels via the IAEA Official E-Mail (Official.Mail@iaea.org) with copy to Mr Katukhov (A.Katukhov@iaea.org) and Mr Bru (Y.Bru@iaea.org).

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates for candidates over the age of 65.

J. Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station.

K. Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event 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 course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

L. Note for female participants:

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

M. IAEA Contacts

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