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International Atomic Energy Agency

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National Liaison Officers / National Coordinators

2023-12-28

Subject: **Regional Workshop on the Status of Paediatric Radiotherapy Services**

Dear National Liaison Officer / National Coordinator,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the **Regional Workshop** on the Status of Paediatric Radiotherapy Services within the framework of the IAEA technical cooperation project RER6043, "Supporting Member States in Enhancing Cancer Management through Rays of Hope".

The purpose of the event is to discuss and gain understanding about the status of paediatric radiotherapy services in the participating Member States and develop a work plan to address educational and training needs for radiotherapy professionals involved in radiotherapy for children and adolescents.

The attached information sheet provides further details, including technical and administrative aspects of the event. Selection of participants will be in accordance with the IAEA procedures. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

We would appreciate receiving your country's nominations by the deadline **30 January 2024** through the IAEA's InTouch+ platform (<https://Intouchplus.iaea.org>). Should this not be possible, applicants may download the Nomination Form for the course from the [IAEA's webpage](#). Completed forms must be endorsed by the relevant government authority and may be sent to the IAEA, preferably by email to Official Mail - IAEA Mail address Official.Mail@iaea.org, with copy to Ms Mayumi Yamamoto M.Yamamoto@iaea.org and Ms Angie Mieses a.mieses-concepcion@iaea.org. Please be advised that late nominations or replacements of participants after the closing date for nominations will not be accepted.

We look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Yamamoto', written in a cursive style.

Mayumi Yamamoto
Programme Management Officer
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Information sheet



**Regional Workshop on the status of Paediatric Radiotherapy Services
under the framework of TC project RER6043:
Enhancing Radiotherapy Delivery Through Improved Use of
Advanced Dosimetry and Radiotherapy Techniques**

Hosted by

Collaborating Centre-Anchor Centre for Rays of Hope

**Ege University Faculty of Medicine
Department of Radiation Oncology
Izmir, Türkiye**

15 – 19 April 2024

Ref. No.: ME-RER6043-2306853

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to discuss and gain understanding about the status of paediatric radiotherapy services in the participating Member States and develop a work plan to address educational and training needs for radiotherapy professionals involved in radiotherapy for children and adolescents.

Specific objectives include:

1. To map radiotherapy centres that are providing RT for paediatric patients in TCEU Member States (MSs) and to understand existing infrastructure, human resources, and radiotherapy service provision.
2. To exchange information about existing paediatric radiotherapy practices in TCEU MSs including advanced radiotherapy techniques and existing challenges, and to discuss the situation of access to paediatric radiotherapy, as well as sharing best practices and solutions.
3. To discuss educational and training needs for the teams of radiotherapy professionals (paediatric radiation oncologists, medical physicists and RTTs) involved in treatment of children and adolescents with cancer.
4. To inform about ongoing global efforts in improvement of paediatric cancer services, including WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer, early successes and challenges, and opportunities for integration of paediatric radiotherapy with paediatric cancer care.
5. To provide a platform for discussion on how to leverage existing paediatric radiotherapy professional networks in the European region to support strengthening of paediatric radiotherapy services in TCEU MSs.
6. To inform about existing IAEA mechanisms providing support for paediatric radiotherapy services capacity building in TCEU.
7. To facilitate creation of an informal network of paediatric radiotherapy professionals in the IAEA TCEU MSs and to discuss opportunities for providing continuous technical support through the IAEA international expert network.
8. To develop a work plan with prioritization of education and training activities that can be considered for implementation through RER projects.

Working Language(s)

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

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **30 January 2024** will not be considered.

Project Background

This project is built on series of previous regional projects in supporting MSs which require assistance in the development of radiotherapy centres to provide safe and effective treatment of patients. The projects in the past have provided various training opportunities to radiotherapy practitioners from basic to specialized courses, and it was confirmed that there exists high demand to continue to provide such opportunities to meet their needs, and possibly to use online platforms. Almost all MSs in the region have nowadays at least one radiotherapy facility in the country, and ongoing support to keep up with technology development and its safe use continues to be high priority for the region.

Recognizing the need for action to address this profound inequity, the World Health Organization (WHO), alongside with partners, including International Atomic Energy Agency, launched the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC) in September 2018. The Initiative brings together stakeholders across sectors towards a shared goal of improving the health and well-being for children with cancer using the *CureAll* framework as a shared operational approach. By 2030, the Initiative aims to achieve at least 60% survival from childhood cancers globally. Since its launching in 2018, the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer is now active in over fifty countries in the six WHO regions.

Paediatric radiation oncology is an essential component in the multidisciplinary care for children with cancer. It provides the opportunity to improve overall survival, to reduce the rate of mutilating surgeries in the treatment of many solid tumours and contributes to improving quality of life as a palliative approach. Unfortunately, access to high-quality radiotherapy is still limited in low and middle-income (LMIC) countries where more than 90% of children with cancer live. Inferior quality radiotherapy and lack of radiotherapy contributes to low survival from childhood cancers in LMICs. Integration of paediatric radiotherapy with paediatric oncology as part of implementation of the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer can contribute to optimization of existing paediatric radiotherapy services and systematically address common barriers and challenges.

Workshop on paediatric radiotherapy is included in the RER6043 work plan and is the first step in development a work plan to address educational and training needs of radiotherapy professionals involved in radiotherapy for children and adolescents as part of cancer care.

The event will be hosted by Ege University, which is a designated Collaborative Centre-Anchor Centre for Rays of Hope initiative of the IAEA.

Scope and Nature

The workshop will be a face-to-face 3,5-day event with a mixture of presentations and discussions.

Major topics to cover:

- i) Organization of existing paediatric radiotherapy services, including infrastructure and human resources. A presentation on country status will be requested from each participating country team.
- ii) Identification of common challenges in paediatric radiotherapy service provision and education and training needs, including for all members of paediatric radiotherapy team (radiation oncologists, medical physicist, RTTs).
- iii) Sharing of best practices and solutions.
- iv) Dissemination of information about global cancer initiatives, including GICC and Rays of Hope, and discussion on integration of paediatric radiotherapy.
- v) Creation of regional IAEA network and support by professional societies, international experts, and other partners.
- vi) Prioritization of educational and training activities for the region.

Participation

The workshop is opened to up to 3 participants per each Member State participating in RER6043.

Requirements:

1. Participants of the workshop must comply with requested profile. A questionnaire will be distributed for filling out and must be submitted alongside with each application.
2. Each country team will need to present on the status on national paediatric radiotherapy services (a template will be circulated in advance of the meeting).

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

Priority will be given to senior paediatric radiation oncologists, involved in clinical and managerial aspects of care and with good understanding of national situation. In countries with more than one radiotherapy department providing treatment to children, a senior radiation oncologist from the second biggest centre will be prioritized. In countries with only one radiotherapy department, second participant can be either a medical physicist involved in treatment of paediatric patients, or a radiation oncologist involved in global childhood cancer initiatives.

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. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2306853) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.
 - c. **Submit a filled-out questionnaire on qualifications and experience.**

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](#).

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 when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

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 regarding administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient 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 through the IAEA's travel agency American Express, or a travel grant, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

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.

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.

IAEA Contacts

Programme Management Officer (responsible for substantive matters):

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