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EJP-CONCERT

European Joint Programme for the Integration of Radiation Protection Research
H2020 – 662287

D4.2: Final ranking list and Joint selection list of the projects to be funded from the joint international peer review of full proposals for the CONCERT open RTD Call 1

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EJP-CONCERT

European Joint Programme for the Integration of Radiation Protection Research

H2020 – 662287

Report on the first CONCERT call 2016

Based on:

- Report on the response to the first CONCERT call
- Report on the evaluation procedure
- Report on LESSONS LEARNED - Evaluation of the call by the PRP

EJP CONCERT Joint Call Secretariat



This report responds to two deliverables of WP4:

- D4.2: Final ranking list and Joint selection list of the projects to be funded from the joint international peer review of full proposals for the CONCERT open RTD Call 1**
- D4.7: Report on the monitoring of the CONCERT open RTD Call 1 to gather suggestions for improvement for the process of the CONCERT open RTD Call 2**

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Objective of this document

This document aims to summarise the input on the first open transnational call of the European Joint Program CONCERT 2016 to fund multidisciplinary innovative research projects in radiation protection.

This report includes:

1. An analysis of the first calls input describing the participation of the radiation protection research community in the first CONCERT call;
2. A report on the evaluation procedure (including the Peer Review Panel meeting) and summary of the final funding decision;
3. An analysis of the three projects funded, based on the list of indicators developed in WP4;
4. A lessons learned report including a general evaluation of the projects submitted to the first CONCERT call and of the calls procedures by the members of the international Peer Review Panel (PRP);
5. The Evaluation Summary Report template for the second CONCERT call.

This report aims to determine whether the first CONCERT call has been efficient and relevant. Additionally, it will serve if necessary to ameliorate the procedures for the second CONCERT call in 2017.

Background information

The aims of the first open transnational call of CONCERT have been:

- To support transnational research projects that combine innovative approaches in the field of radiation protection in line with the research priorities of CONCERT;
- To actively integrate E&T activities and collaboration with universities in multidisciplinary research projects;
- To make optimal use of research infrastructures.

Project proposals had to address multidisciplinary and transnational research. The project proposals had to cover one of the following areas that have been equal in relevance for this call:

- **Topic 1:**
Improvement of health risk assessment associated with low dose/dose rate radiation;
- **Topic 2:**
Reducing uncertainties in human and ecosystem radiological risk assessment and management in nuclear emergencies and existing exposure situations, including NORM.



Due to its characteristic representing an open call, the following organisations have been eligible to be funded:

- Beneficiaries of CONCERT (see list of Beneficiaries in Annex A);
- Linked Third Parties of CONCERT (see list of Linked Third Parties in Annex A);
- Third Parties:
 - Higher education establishments and other academic research institutions, in particular:
 - Research oriented radiation protection institutions;
 - Clinical/public health sector organisations, in particular those employing research teams working in hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings. Participation of Medical Doctors in the research teams is encouraged;
 - Enterprises (all sizes of private companies). Participation of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) is encouraged.

Third Parties could participate in transnational projects if they have been able:

- to secure their own funding (without asking for any financial support);
- or to receive a financial support from a CONCERT Beneficiary organisation or one of their Linked Third Parties (See Annex A).

Such partners have been considered as full project partners.



Call preparation and general time schedule of the call

The call was launched about half a year later than planned on June 2nd in 2016. The submission website was open for 2 months and was closed on August 2nd. In total 12 proposals have been submitted. All were found to be eligible taking into account the following criteria:

- the number of partners per project;
- the number of countries (EU/EURATOM) involved per project;
- Duration of funding period;
- Upload proceeded before submission deadline.

After allocation of proposals to the group of 15 international experts and further remote evaluation of all proposals, the PRP met for 2 days in Paris on October 26-27 2016 to thoroughly discuss all 12 proposals and to rank them in the presence of André Jouve the EJP CONCERT EC Project Officer, invited as an observer and in the presence of the Call Steering Committee members (CONCERT's WP4). Two ranking lists – one for Topic 1 and one for Topic 2 – have been established by the PRP.

The Financial meeting of the Management board of CONCERT was prepared during a Work Package 1 (Coordination team of CONCERT) and Work Package 4 (Coordination of the CONCERT Calls) meeting on October 28th.

With the total budget of 10.5 M€ available, the first 3 proposals, according to the ranking list, are funded as decided during the Management Board meeting of CONCERT on the 17th of November 2016.

Discussions about cash-funding for Third Parties within the three winning consortia took place in close collaboration with the proposal coordinators, the CONCERT coordination team and work package 4 (coordination of the call). Reallocations and modifications within the projects (in preparation and presentation of adapted work plans) have been validated by the PRP.

The CONCERT Grant Contracts (CGC) are actually under preparations and will be finalized as soon as the actual amendment (AMD 57) for the inclusion of new CONCERT Beneficiaries (See Annex A) is completed.



Response to the first CONCERT call

In total 12 proposals were submitted by 147 partners from 85 different institutions in 26 countries. Thereof, 8 proposal responded to Topic 1, in the area of *Improvement of health risk assessment associated with low dose/dose rate radiation*, and 4 proposals to Topic 2, in the area of *Reducing uncertainties in human and ecosystem radiological risk assessment and management in nuclear emergencies and existing exposure situations, including NORM*. All 12 proposals were found to be eligible.

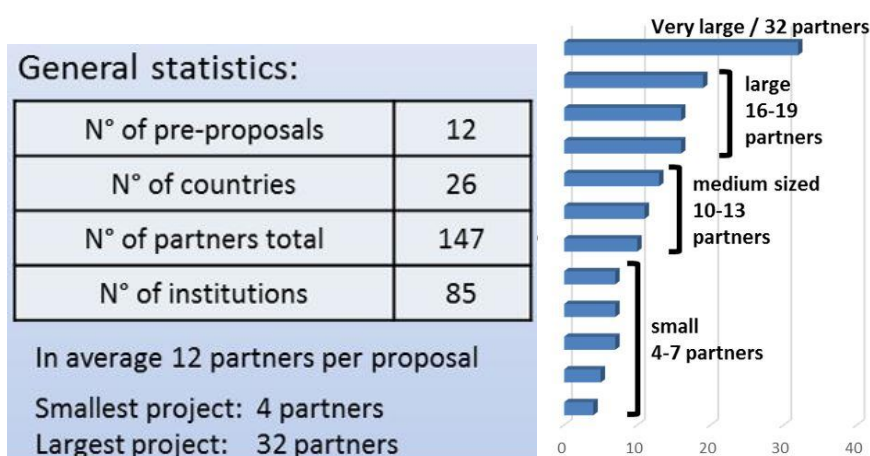


Figure 1: Consortium compositions and participants and number of partners per project

The size of the consortia varied from 4 partners within the smallest up to 32 partners in the largest project (Fig. 1), with an average of 12 partners per proposals. Besides the 20 EU/EURATOM countries, five third countries participated; Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway and Russia; and one EURATOM associated country; Switzerland.



Evaluation procedure and PRP meeting

The evaluation procedure comprised a remote evaluation and a physical PRP meeting in Paris on October 26-27 2016. The PRP consisted of 15 international experts. To avoid conflict of interest, experts have been originated mainly from USA, Japan, Canada, India, Australia and Russia.

As observer the EC Project Officer of the EJP CONCERT André Jouve as well as members of the Call Steering Committee (CONCERT's WP4) have been present during the PRP meeting.

Table 1 : List of international experts contributing in the evaluation process of the first CONCERT call

Topic	Name	Institution	Country
1	Mikhail Balonov	Ramzaev Institute of Radiation Hygiene	Russia
1	Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff	University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)	USA
1	Jonine Bernstein	Memorial Sloan Kettering, Cancer Center	USA
1	Amy Berrington	National Cancer Institute (NCI)	USA
1	Sudhir Chandna	Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS)	India
2	Harry Cullings	Radiation effects research foundation (RERF)	Japan
1	Lynn Hlatky (Co-Chair)	Center of Cancer Systems Biology, Tufts	USA
2	Michiaki Kai	University of Oita	Japan
2	Larry Kapustka	LK Consultancy Canada	Canada
1	Aleksei Konoplev	Institute of Environmental Radioactivity	Japan
2	Sheldon Landsberger (Chair)	Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation	USA
1/2	John D. Mathews	University of Melbourne, Melbourne	Australia
2	Nicholas Priest	Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Chalk River	Canada
2	Stephen Solomon	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	Australia
1/2	Lydia Zablotska	University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)	USA

The reviewers of the PRP carried out the evaluation according to specific evaluation criteria (see below), using a common evaluation form. The evaluation of submitted proposals has been aligned on the scoring system and criteria given in the European Commission's Work Programme.

A scoring system from 0 to 5 was used to evaluate the proposal's performance with respect to the different evaluation criteria. Scoring system: 0: fails or missing/incomplete information; 1: poor; 2: fair; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent.



Criterion 1: Excellence of the proposal:

a. Clarity and pertinence of the objectives; b. Credibility of the proposed approach and methodology; c. Soundness of the concept; d. Innovative potential; e. Competence and experience of participating research partners in the field(s) of the proposal

Criterion 2: Impact of the proposal:

a. Potential of the expected results; b. Added-value of transnational collaboration; c. Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results

Criterion 3: Quality and efficiency of the implementation

a. Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan; b. Complementarity of the participants within the consortium; c. Involvement of young scientists; d. Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management; e. Concept for sustainability of infrastructures initiated by the project; f. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the project

Remotely, each member of the PRP evaluated the submitted proposals (about four proposals per member). Each proposal was evaluated by at least three members (one rapporteur and minimum two readers). The proposals' grades given by PRP members before the evaluation meeting in Paris:

- Topic 1: three proposals were graded below threshold (threshold 10), but were thoroughly discussed within the meeting.
- Topic 2: none below threshold.

During the evaluation meeting, all PRP members met physically in Paris to discuss thoroughly the submitted proposals and to establish the ranking lists (Topic 1 and Topic 2) of projects recommended for funding. Each proposal was reviewed within the meeting by at least three members (one rapporteur and minimum two readers). During this meeting, the rapporteur introduced the proposal to the PR panel, and summarized the remote evaluations. The readers' task was to challenge the reporter, as well as the other PRP members who were asking questions during the meeting. Other PRP members also brought their complementary expertise/view on the proposal. Five proposals have been selected and ranked by the PRP, including 2 projects of Topic 1 and 3 projects of Topic 2 (Fig. 2). Two ranking lists – one for Topic 1 and one for Topic 2 – have been established by the PRP:

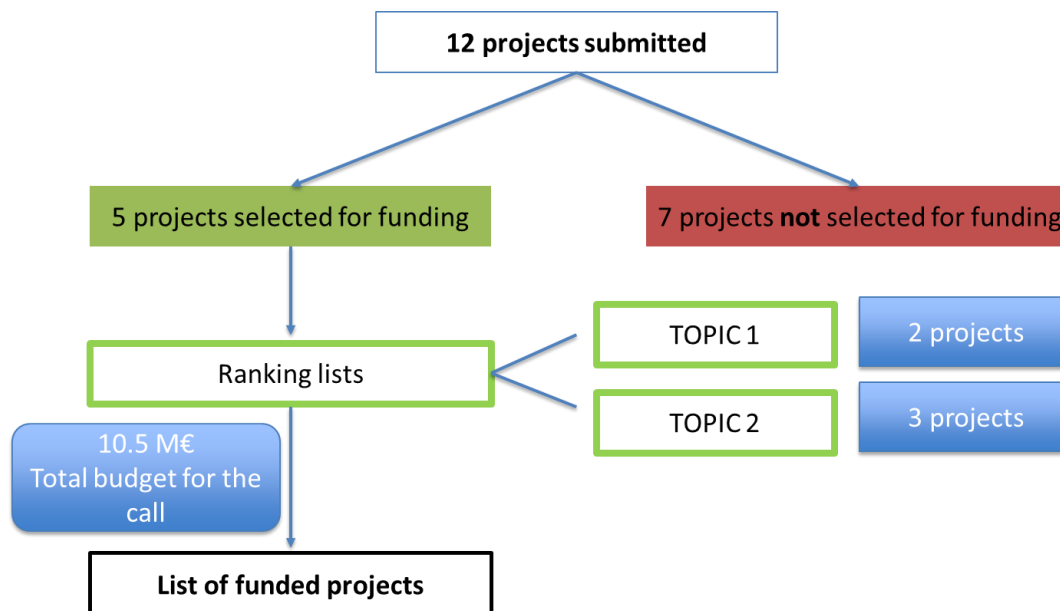


Figure 2: Scheme and result of the evaluation process

Both ranking lists have been merged, with one project of Topic 1 and one project of Topic 2 at the top and further listing of the projects according to the scoring. The three highest ranked projects that can be funded with the total budget of 10.5 M€ available in this first CONCERT call are listed in the further table:

Table 2: List of ranked projects selected for funding

ID	Ranking	Acronym	TOPIC
CONCERT2016-006	1	CONFIDENCE	2
CONCERT2016-004	2	LDLensRad	1
CONCERT2016-013	3	TERRITORIES	2

An Evaluation Summary Report for each proposal was written by the PRP at the end of the evaluation procedure. These reports have been sent on January 16th 2017 to the respective project coordinators.



Funding decision

The full budget of the three highest ranked projects CONFIDENCE, TERRITORIES and LDLensRad that have been selected for funding add up to approximatively 13 M€ in total (Fig. 3 left pie). From these costs, CONCERT is committed for 10.5 M€. The remaining 2.5 M€ are provided by partners/countries bringing to the project their own resources. Within this budget, 8 M€ are used to fund TERRITORIES and CONFIDENCE which are both in the Topic 2 “Reducing uncertainties in human and ecosystem radiological risk assessment and management in nuclear emergencies and existing exposure situations, including NORM.” Hence, 76% of the budget is dedicated to Topic 2, and 24% for Topic 1 (Fig. 3 right pie). The project LDLensRad falls into the Topic 1, “Improvement of health risk assessment associated with low dose/dose rate radiation” with a budget of 2.5 M€.

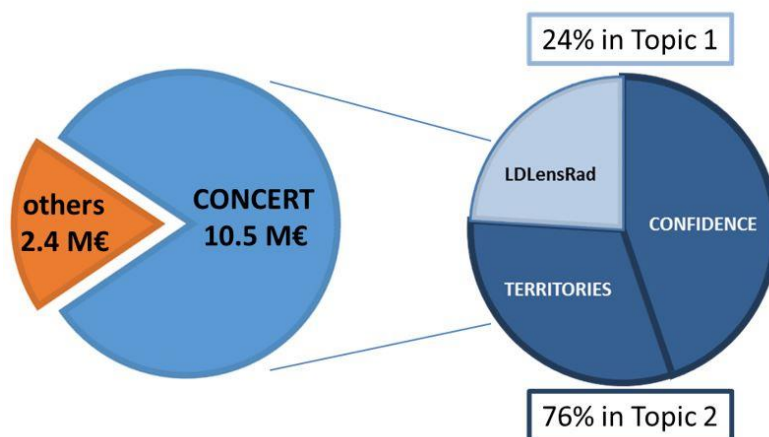


Figure 3: Allocation of budget within the first CONCERT call 2016



Analysis of the projects funded in the first CONCERT call

This part includes a first analysis of the three funded projects of the first CONCERT call, CONFIDENCE, LDLensRad and TERRITORIES, taking into account the initial submitted proposals. The report does not refer to the results of further amendments (change of the status of partners inside the CONCERT consortium) or other changes within the projects after submission of proposals. This chapter represents the first stage for monitoring of funded projects to evaluate their impact and contributions towards the development of radiation protection research in the European Research Area and the implementation of CONCERT objectives. The report is based in the selected output indicators (D4.8).

CONFIDENCE and TERRITORIES are projects falling within Topic 2 of the first call while LDLensRad is a Topic 1 project. Based on the initial applications, the 48 partners of the three projects are coming from 16 EU/EURATOM countries, one third country; Norway and one EURATOM associated country; Switzerland (Fig. 4A). The full budget of the three funded projects adds up to approximatively 13 M€ in total (Fig. 4B). While 10.5 M€ of these costs are committed to CONCERT, Norway and Ireland are bringing to the projects their own resources (2.5 M€ in total). The number of projects funded per country is presented in figure 4C.

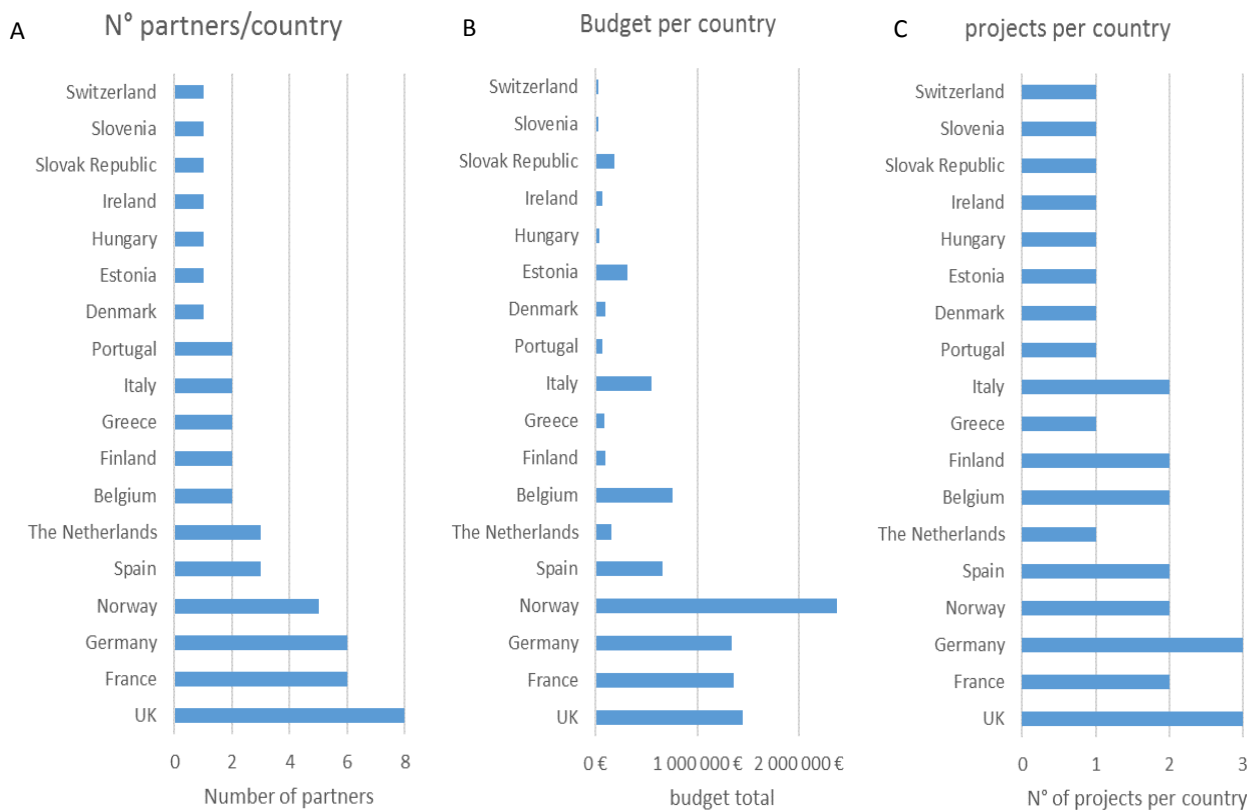


Figure 4: Visualisation of number of partners within and the budget distribution for the funded projects as well as the number of projects per country



The amount of partners within the three funded projects varies from 5 partners in LDLensRad, up to 11 in TERRITORIES and 32 in CONFIDENCE (Fig. 5). Except of TERRITORIES comprising only CONCERT Beneficiaries and Linked Third Parties, CONFIDENCE and LDLensRad are also including Third Parties.

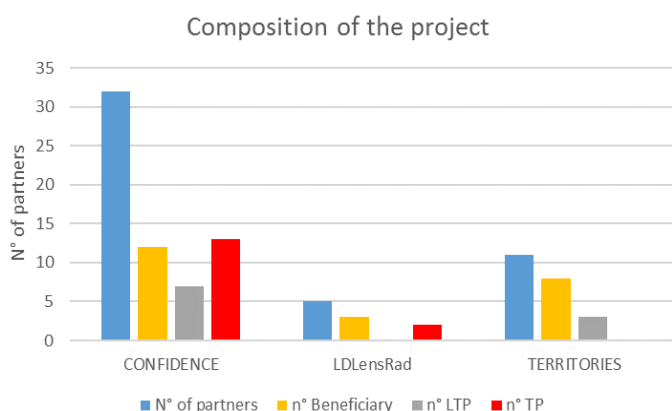
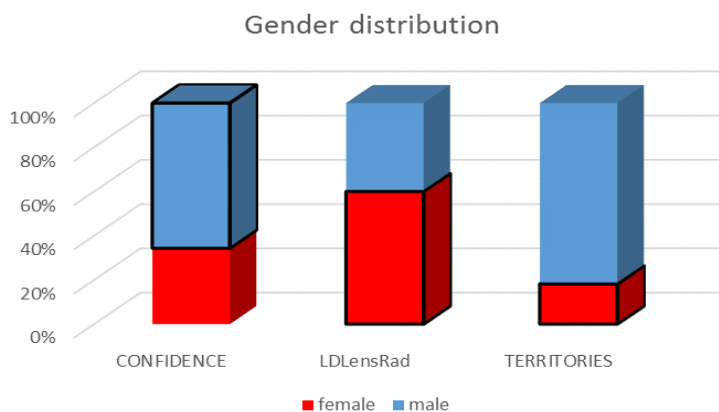


Figure 5: Number of partners within the funded projects and status of partners within CONCERT at the time of project submission

The gender distribution including the main contact person of each partner within the three funded projects is presented in the further picture (Fig. 6):



The gender of the coordinator is highlighted for every project (black frame). All three coordinators are coming from institutions having either the status of a Beneficiary or LTP within CONCERT and from the following countries: France, Germany and UK.

Figure 6: Gender distribution within the three projects funded. The gender of the respective coordinator is highlighted (black frame).

The majority of institutions within the funded projects are research oriented radiation protection institutions (30 in total) as indicated in figure 7. Furthermore, there are 14 partners coming from academic organisations, 3 coming from enterprises and 1 organisation of the clinical/public health research sector.

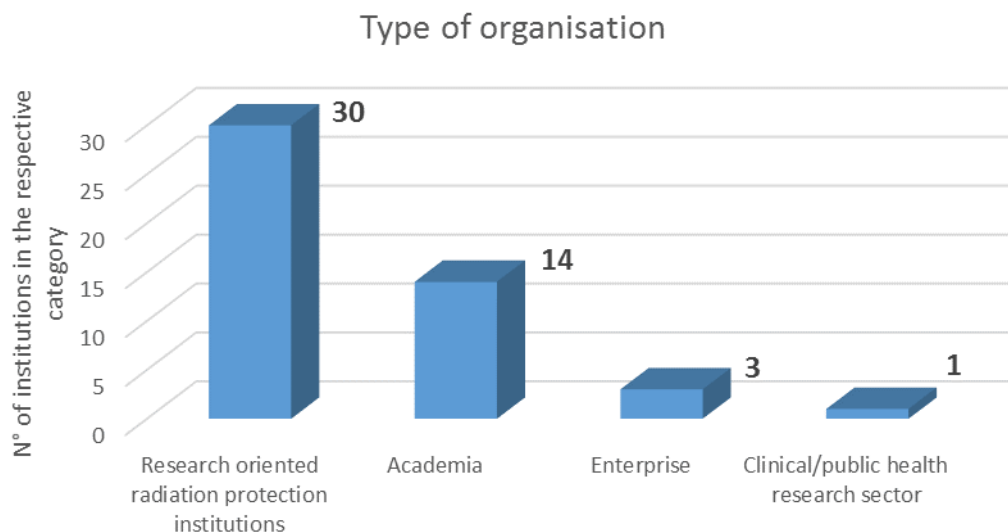


Figure 7: Analysis of the type of organisations participating in the funded projects.

The following graph illustrates the participation of the different types of organisation within the three funded projects:

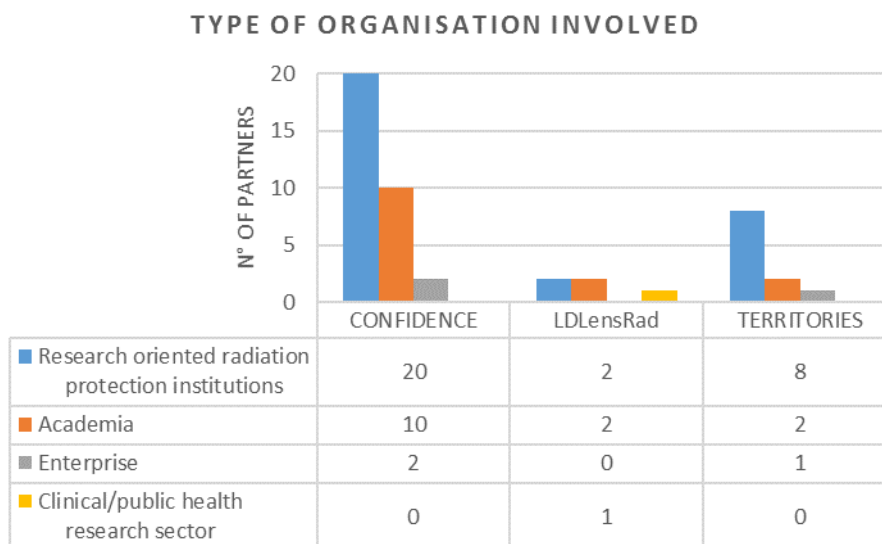


Figure 8: Analysis of types of organisation involved in the three funded projects.

The first report on the use of infrastructures during the project period will be available after the analysis of the mid-term reports of the funded projects. For now, the use of the further infrastructures is indicated in the proposals of the funded projects:

CONFIDENCE:

- ALLIANCE Chernobyl observatory



- ALLIANCE analytical infrastructure and existing datasets

LDLensRad:

- The use of the infrastructures available in the participating collaborating centres (not further indicated in more detail).

TERRITORIES:

- Contaminated sites and radioecology observatories
- Database (e.g. FREDERICA, Wildlife Transfer Parameter Database, etc.)
- Models and tools (for example SYMBIOSE, CROM, PC-CREAM, ERICA-Tool)

All projects consider STORE as an option for data sharing.

CONFIDENCE, LDLensRad and TERRITORIES are involving junior scientists, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students. Exchanges of students and young researchers is planned between the collaboration partners and students and young scientists are encouraged to participate in workshops or seminars as e.g. those included in CONCERT. In particular, the following E&T activities are planned in the three funded projects:

In CONFIDENCE there are several workshop and trainings planned including the following topics:

- Guidance on the use of uncertainty information by decision makers at the various levels within the decision making process;
- Derivation and application of 'process' based models to predict radionuclide activity concentrations in foodstuffs;
- Building of capabilities, trust and confidence in radiation protection issues;
- CONFIDENCE Dissemination workshop.

For LDLensRad the education and training commitment includes a PhD studentship at each participating organisation with general radiobiological training and different focus in the respective centres.

TERRITORIES indicated that E&T activities will be performed in the participating institutions covering areas of monitoring and sampling uncertainty, model uncertainty, and quality management to enhance robustness of radioecological models.

The methodology applied, the impact on Radiation Protection and the scientific community, the communication and dissemination activities (local, regional, national), interaction between researchers, mobility and training as well as the collaboration and consortia sustainability will be analysed on the basis of the mid-term and final report.



Report on LESSONS LEARNED - Evaluation of the call by the PRP

To complete the “Lessons learned” Report, a questionnaire was filled out by the members of the PRP after the meeting in October 26-27 2016.

In the first part the experts have been asked to evaluate the 12 proposals submitted to the call in terms of:

- a) **Quality of proposals and the individual teams**
- b) **Fitting of proposals to the aim of the call**
- c) **Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration**

The second part concentrates on the analysis of the evaluation procedure itself and the management of the call. Experts have been asked to evaluate:

- a) **The criteria for the calls evaluation have been clearly defined and formulated adequately;**
- b) **The organization of the PRP meeting;**
- c) **Was the number of proposals per expert adequate;**
- d) **Choice of experts for the evaluation of proposals;**
- e) **Assignment of proposals to individual experts during evaluation.**

The questionnaire was sent out to all 15 experts that participated in the evaluation process. The answers have been handled anonymously. Actually (January 2017), nine experts sent their feedback.

Besides the answers on the questionnaire, we received important general comments and input on the first CONCERT call:

General comments

The further additional comments have been stated by the experts.

- i. **Bios of the investigators.** These are too brief to be informative. In most cases they were not tailored to the work to be done and there were no PMCIDs listed. This meant that the reviewer had to do a lot of leg work to find out the specialty areas of the investigators, number of publications etc. One solution is to have investigators use the NIH style biosketch which includes a reference to all of the publications, a personal statement of contribution, as well as a selection of impactful articles.



- ii. **Statement of work.** With so many participating institutions and investigators, it is difficult to follow who is doing what. It would be helpful if each participating institution provided a statement of work which is a bulleted list of what work was to be done and by whom. The budget justifications were not adequate for this purpose, especially as each application provided different information.
- iii. **Budget justification and detailed budgets.** This section was much too brief. There was no way to figure out how the costs were derived. A more detailed budget plan would be helpful. I understand that reviewing the budget is out of the scope of what we were charged with, but it is an important aspect of the proposal.

The compiled result of the survey is listed subsequently:

Expert 1

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

All the criteria for the calls evaluation were excellently defined. There were no deficiencies.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

All the proposals fit the aim of the call for both topics.

c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

All proposals had excellent value for transnational collaboration.

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

All the criteria for the calls evaluation were excellently defined. There were no deficiencies.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

The meeting and all the pre information was very well organized.

c. Number of proposals per expert

The chair and the vice-chair had each 2-3 proposals to evaluate. The other PRP members did not complain about the fact that they had in average 4-5 proposals each.

d. Choice of experts

Choice of experts was excellent. A very strong diverse group of experts for both topics. All experts could have input for both topics which was very good.



e. Assignment of proposals to experts for evaluation

Expert 2

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

High quality proposals overall but difficult to assess given the limited space and diversity of questions addressed. The Reviewer found the organization of the proposals forced very abbreviated descriptions, that were sometimes telegraphic in their brevity, and cryptic to the reviewer.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

Most proposals were responsive.

c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

Very limited space to really address how collaborations would be executed or their added value.

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

Perhaps biology and epidemiology should be reviewed separately since they have different objectives and goals.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

Excellent

c. Number of proposals per expert

The reviewer proposes the same amount of proposals per expert.

d. Choice of experts

Excellent.

e. Assignment of proposals to experts for evaluation

Reasonable given the breadth of the projects.



Expert 3

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

Overall, the Reviewer was very disappointed with the quality of the proposals we reviewed. The Reviewer do not think any of the proposals would be funded using NIH standards of excellence for a scientific grant application. The Reviewer understand that there are special considerations here, such as the multi-national aspect of the proposals, but the science presented should be of excellent quality as the amount of money being requested is very high by any standard. None of the proposals even provided a power calculation, which is a basic measure of feasibility.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

The proposals did address the intention of the call, but in doing so, some stretched their science to make it work. Of course this is not unusual, but it did weaken the proposals.

c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

Yes, the Reviewer thinks most of the proposals were constructed so that there were transnational partnerships. These were both proposals that expanded on-going research as well as those that proposed new work. However, some proposals had so many partners it was difficult to discern which unit was to do what work on the project. More details pertaining to work flow, investigator expertise and institutional resources need to be provided in order for the reviewer to fully understand the work plan.

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

Yes, the criteria for evaluation were defined.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

The meeting was very well run.

c. Number of proposals per expert

Workload was fine.

d. Choice of experts

Experts had the appropriate level of expertise and specialties.

e. Assignment of proposals to experts for evaluation



Expert 4

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

The proposals varied from excellent to fair. The lesser quality proposal simply did not present concise and coherent explanations of the value of their proposed work. The lower tier proposals seemed to be cobbled together to meet the requirements of the call and not because the investigators had well-thought out complementary skills and interests. These proposals could have been improved substantially if they had emphasized expected synergies, they might have been able to make a compelling case for their proposed work. Instead, they appeared to take a few paragraphs from each institution and present them largely as independent studies.

The better proposals incorporated good coordination and management steps that were more responsive to the call that emphasized transnational efforts and building relationships that could have lasting benefits, much beyond the duration of the funding.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

Only a few of the proposals were fully responsive to the portion of the call that sought a lasting consortium. Even these proposals were silent on specific ways they intended to sustain the relationships. It should have been easy for the administrations of the different institutions to offer a conditional memorandum of agreement to sustain the programs post-funding.

From a technical perspective, the proposals did address the areas of the two topics. Some were quite narrowly structured and so in that sense only narrowly responded to the spirit of the call.

c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

This overall was the most disappointing of the proposals as most seemed to only give lip service to the synergy that might occur among the team institutions. The value-added aspects of the proposals generally were not described explicitly. Such obvious things as memoranda of agreement to establish exchanges of faculty, graduate students, and post-docs were not described

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

The criteria were expressed with sufficient clarity, while not being too prescriptive. The deficiencies noted above, might have been minimized had the proposers been given additional direction on the importance of forming lasting consortia – this might have required more explicit guidance on the sustainability of the group.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

Generally, the PRP meeting was run well.



c. Number of proposals per expert

The chair and vice-chair had less proposals than the other PRP members.

d. Choice of experts

Overall, the team of experts were highly qualified technically to conduct the reviews.

e. Assignment

The Reviewer thinks there should have been an equal number of reviewers for all proposals.

Expert 5

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

The teams had relevant expertise, and the proposals were generally of high quality.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

The proposals were generally tailored to suit the aims of the call. However, for some proposals, it seemed as if the work plans were formulaic, and driven by the interests of the applicants and the money available, rather than by exciting new ideas.

c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

As the collaborative requirements specified, proposal budgets were agreed in advance by the partners. This is good in the sense that the partnerships are less likely to be freight by arguments over resources. However, the complementary risk is that each partner will just take the money and work on their own interests, rather than participating in a wider collaboration that will test novel ideas.

On balance, the proposals should achieve enough transnational collaboration to ensure that the understanding and cooperation would continue beyond the current funding period.

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

Yes. Although some of the terminology (e.g. NORM) was not clear to the Reviewer at the start, as the Reviewer has not previously been involved with EU initiatives.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

The Reviewer thinks there should have been more transparency earlier on. *(see also comment from WP4 leader point 2c)*



c. Number of proposals per expert

Good in general. The Reviewer suggests to have specified the committee processes (including the role of the Chair) in more detail before the meeting.

d. Choice of experts

The reviewer states that it would have been better to tell the names and expertise of the other panel members before the meeting in Paris. This would have helped to concentrate the review comments on the aspects that were most appropriate to the field of expertise of each respective Reviewer.

Comment from the WP4 leader: The secrecy was maintained to preserve the confidentiality and integrity of the process and to avoid conflicts of interest and collusion.

e. Assignment

Generally good.

Expert 6

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

In NORM/EPR area of the Call, the quality of the proposals was all in range good to very good.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

All the proposals in the NORM/EPR area were assessed as relevant to the aim of the Call to varying degrees. No single proposal addressed all aspects of the call.

c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

All of the proposals in the NORM/EPR area of the Call included transnational collaborations, either between research groups or government agencies, or both.

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

In general, the criteria for the call evaluations were adequate. In the assessment against these criteria there was some variability and differences in interpretation between reviewers. The face to face discussion meeting provided an appropriate mechanism to even out these difference to provide an agreed grading.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

The meeting was organised very well, the logistics went smoothly and all communications were responsive and helpful. One area for improvement would be to consider providing the detailed



assessments of each proposal in the days before the meeting to allow time to read them in more detail.

c. Number of proposals per expert

The reviewer was requested to assess all proposals in the NORM/EPR area of the Call. While this took some time, there was adequate time leading up to the deadline for submission and it allowed for a comparison across all of the proposals.

d. Choice of experts

The reviewer was very impressed with the quality of the experts. In the course of the discussion they all demonstrated a high level of knowledge and experience, particularly in the assessment of strengths and deficiencies of each proposal.

e. Assignment of projects to experts

More difficult to judge, but on the basis of the written assessments and the discussion at the review meeting, the assignments of projects seemed appropriate. The best measure is the actual outcome, which appears sound.

Expert 7

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

Quality of the proposals was generally good, with some reservations regarding the proposals for the first topic, low-dose radiation epidemiology. Those proposals suffered generally from a lack of available follow-up time to accumulate cases, so that retrospective studies of previously accumulated cases were necessary, but this was an inevitable concomitant of the limited period of funding. Less understandable was why the proposals in this area (the first topic) commonly lacked any quantification of projected statistical power. The teams in general for both topics appeared reputable and suitable to the proposed work for most proposals.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

The proposals were generally relevant to the aim of the call. Some of the proposals for the first topic: low-dose radiation epidemiology, were questionable in terms of there being any expectation of seeing an effect at low doses.

c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

All the submitted proposals had at least several contributors from different countries, even up to large consortia. Although it seemed likely that a few contributors would be the drivers in each proposal, most of the proposals stood to foster a considerable amount of new transnational collaboration.



2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

The criteria were well defined and workable for the evaluation.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

Organization of the PRP meeting was handled well. For the integrity and confidentiality of the evaluation process, the PRP members were not allowed to take the meeting materials with them.

c. Number of proposals per expert

The number of proposals assigned for a priori evaluation was reasonable. More proposals would have created an excessive burden, since the prior assignment involved reading and digesting in detail the proposals, which naturally were on the order of 70 pages or more.

d. Choice of experts

The choice was excellent. A suitably wide array of relevant expertise was included, and all the experts were highly regarded in their fields. All the experts contributed to a lively and productive discussion at the PRP meeting.

e. Assignment

The Reviewer was comfortable with the nature of the proposals that were assigned to him and felt that they were within his expertise.

Expert 8

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

The Reviewer finds the quality of proposals very variable. Some proposals were very good with excellent scientific justification, appropriate methods and highly qualified collaborators. He reviewed only four proposals, but two of them were of comparatively low scientific quality. The overall requested budget was really high with no real justification and no plans for sustaining the project beyond 3 years.

The Reviewer wonders if asking for a letter of intent ahead of submitting a full proposal would be useful? Also, more space should be provided for scientific justification of the project as well as budget justification.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

One of the four proposals the Reviewer reviewed did not fit within the aims of the call. Individual tasks within the working packages made sense, but it was not clear how the projects fit together.



c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

Some proposals took this objective to mean that they needed to include as many European collaborators as possible. In reality, there was little coordination between the partners, no description how they will coordinate their work and build on each other's work.

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

Appropriate. The guidelines for evaluation were very clear and useful in my review.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

c. Number of proposals per expert

Reviewer reviewed 4 proposals.

d. Choice of experts

e. Assignment

Worked well.

Expert 9

1. Evaluation of the proposals submitted to the first CONCERT call

a. Quality of proposals/teams

The quality of proposals was generally medium, sometimes low, except of few proposals selected by Panel for funding. Lower quality of proposals is more relevant to Topic 1 of the call. In all Topic 1 proposals the attention was directed to the biomarkers of health effects as requested in the call. In the proposal texts sometimes biomarkers of health effects were confused with biomarkers of exposure, some of the latter are well known (chromosome aberrations in lymphocytes, etc.). As for biomarkers of health effects, especially for low dose exposure, in some proposals there was no clear understanding what they were. Currently, this is popular direction in radiation medicine; however, its practical application, especially in radiation protection area, remains questionable. Therefore, the Reviewer does not recommend to focus next calls on the issue of biomarkers of health effects. Most of the proposal teams were strong, composed of specialists from well recognized European research establishments and universities.

b. Fitting to the aim of the call

Most of the projects fit to the aim of the call. The best of them were recommended by Panel for funding. Topic 2 proposals were generally better fit to the aim of the call than Topic 1 proposals.



c. Value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration

The value of the proposals in terms of transnational collaboration was very high. All the proposal teams were composed of specialists from well recognized European research establishments and universities located in various EU countries. Within each proposal teams were composed from experts with different scientific background, various field of specialization. That allowed for suggestion of different experimental and analytical methods to be applied in a proposal, to make it multifaceted. Another useful aspect of transnational collaboration is the opportunity to use infrastructure located in different organisations and even various EU countries.

2. Analysis of the evaluation/management of the call

a. Criteria for the calls evaluation (adequate/clearly defined)

The criteria for the calls evaluation seem to be quite clearly defined and technically adequate.

b. Organization of the PRP meeting

The PRP meeting was organised in really excellent way.

c. Number of proposals per expert

Taking into account that proposal review is mostly voluntary activity it should not substantially detract reviewers from their regular duties. That means it should not take more than few days. Detailed analysis of a project and drafting a review may take from half a day to one working day. Thus, number of proposals per expert should not exceed three to five.

d. Choice of experts

The choice of experts and their assignment were basically good. All the aspects of call proposals were covered by relevant expertise, all the experts were actively involved in the discussion and decision making. Good geographical balance and various kinds of expertise were maintained. It was especially important to have in the expert team the US experts actively involved in similar studies conducted overseas. The Panel chair moderated discussion quite successfully.

e. Assignment

The choice of experts and their assignment were basically good. All the aspects of call proposals were covered by relevant expertise, all the experts were actively involved in the discussion and decision making. Good geographical balance and various kinds of expertise were maintained. It was especially important to have in the expert team the US experts actively involved in similar studies conducted overseas. The Panel chair moderated discussion quite successfully.



Establishment of the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) template of the second CONCERT call

For the second CONCERT call a template for the ESR has been established in WP4 (see Annex B). Besides information about the scores given for the individual criteria and the mean score attributed to the proposal, the report includes:

1. A comment about the relevance of the respective proposal to the call.
2. Separated comments on the three evaluation criteria.
3. A section for an overall comment regarding strengths and weaknesses of the respective submitted proposal.

It was decided during the extraordinary Executive Board meeting on February 16th 2017 that the ESRs will be sent to the coordinators of the submitted proposals after the approval of the Minutes of the Financial meeting. During this Financial Meeting, the Management Board of CONCERT is taking the final decision about the funding of ranked proposals in the second CONCERT call according to the ranking list and the total budget available for the second call.



Annex A. CONCERT BENEFICIARIES AND THEIR LINKED THIRD PARTIES

Consult also in CONCERT website (<http://www.concert-h2020.eu/en>) for the list of CONCERT Beneficiaries and their Linked Third Parties.

CONCERT Beneficiaries:

- BUNDESAMT FUER STRAHLENSCHUTZ, BfS, Germany, the Coordinator
- SATEILYTURVAKESKUS, STUK, Finland
- STUDIECENTRUM VOOR KERNENERGIE/CENTRE D'ETUDE DE L'ENERGIE NUCLEAIRE, SCK CEN, Belgium
- AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE, ANR, France
- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DH-PHE, United Kingdom
- COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE ET AUX ENERGIES ALTERNATIVES, CEA, France
- UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA, UNIPV, Italy
- ASSOCIATION MELODI, France
- ALLIANCE EUROPEENNE EN RADIOECOLOGIE, ALLIANCE, France
- NERIS PLATFORM ASSOCIATION, NERIS, France
- EUROPEAN RADIATION DOSIMETRY GROUP E.V., EURADOS, Germany
- INSTITUT DE RADIOPROTECTION ET DE SURETE NUCLEAIRE, IRSN, France
- STRALSAKERHETSMYNDIGHETEN, SSM, Sweden
- CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIONES ENERGETICAS, MEDIOAMBIENTALES Y TECNOLOGICAS, CIEMAT, Spain
- ORSZAGOS KÖZEGÉSZSÉGÜGYI KÖZPONT, OKK-OSSKI, Hungary
- MAGYAR TUDOMANYOS AKADEMIA ENERGIATUDOMANYI KUTATOKOZPONT, MTA EK, Hungary
- NATIONAL CENTRE OF RADIOBIOLOGY AND RADIATION PROTECTION, NCRRP, Bulgaria
- HELMHOLTZ ZENTRUM MUENCHEN DEUTSCHES FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM FUER GESUNDHEIT UND UMWELT GMBH, HMGU, Germany
- MEDIZINISCHE UNIVERSITAET WIEN, MUW, Austria
- AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE, L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO SOSTENIBILE, ENEA, Italy
- ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITA, ISS, Italy
- NORWEGIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITY, NRPA, Norway
- RIJKSINSTITUUT VOOR VOLKSGEZONDHEIDEN MILIEU*NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENTEN, RIVM, Netherlands
- FUNDACAO PARA A CIENCIA E A TECNOLOGIA, FCT, Portugal
- INSTITUT ZAMEDICINSKA ISTRAZIVANJA I MEDICINU RADA, IMROH, Croatia
- STATNI USTAV RADIACNI OCHRANY, SURO, Czech Republic
- INSTITUTUL DE FIZICA ATOMICA, IFA, Romania
- GREEK ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, EEAE, Greece
- VUJE AS, VUJE, Slovakia



- TARTU ULIKOOL, UT, Estonia
- RADIATION PROTECTION CENTRE, RPC, Lithuania
- LATVIJAS UNIVERSITATE, UL, Latvia
- ITA-SUOMEN YLIOPISTO, UEF, Finland
- GŁÓWNY INSTYTUT GÓRNICTWA, GIG, Poland
- MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA Y COMPETITIVIDAD, MINECO, Spain
- AGÊNCIA PORTUGUESA DO AMBIENTE IP, APA, Portugal
- INSTITUT JOZEF STEFAN, JSI, Slovenia
- Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern, FOPH, Switzerland

CONCERT Linked Third Parties:

- STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET (SU), affiliated or linked to MELODI
- MUTADIS CONSULTANTS SARL (MUTADIS), affiliated or linked to NERIS
- DANMARKS TEKNISKE UNIVERSITET (DTU), affiliated or linked to NERIS
- UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO (UMIL), affiliated or linked to NERIS
- RUDER BOSKOVIC INSTITUTE (RBI), affiliated or linked to EURADOS
- INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TECNICO (IST), affiliated or linked to EURADOS
- SEIBERSDORF LABOR GMBH (SL), affiliated or linked to EURADOS
- PHYSIKALISCH-TECHNISCHE BUNDESANSTALT (PTB), affiliated or linked to EURADOS
- THE HENRYK NIEWODNICZANSKI INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS, POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IFJ PAN), affiliated or linked to EURADOS
- EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SAFETY TRAINING AND TUTORING INSTITUTE (ENSTII), affiliated or linked to IRSN
- CENTRE D'ETUDE SUR L'EVALUATION DE LA PROTECTION DANS LE DOMAINE NUCLEAIRE (CEPN), affiliated or linked to IRSN
- FUNDACIO CENTRE DE RECERCA EN EPIDEMIOLOGIA AMBIENTAL - CREAL (CREAL), affiliated or linked to CIEMAT
- KARLSRUHER INSTITUT FUER TECHNOLOGIE (KIT), affiliated or linked to HMGU
- HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM DRESDEN-ROSSENDORF EV (HZDR), affiliated or linked to HMGU
- FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM JULICH GmbH (Juelich), affiliated or linked to HMGU
- GSI HELMHOLTZZENTRUM FUER SCHWERIONENFORSCHUNG GmbH (GSI), affiliated or linked to HMGU
- NORGES MILJO-OG BIOVITENSKAPLIGE UNIVERSITET (NMBU-IMT), affiliated or linked to NRPA
- UJV REZ, a.s. (NRI), affiliated or linked to SURO
- CESKE VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V PRAZE (CTU), affiliated or linked to SURO
- INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE -DEZVOLTARE PENTRU FIZICA SI INGINERIE NUCLEARA "HORIA HULUBEI" (IFIN-HH), affiliated or linked to IFA-MG



[Annex B. Template of the Evaluation Summary Reports for projects submitted in the second CONCERT call in 2017](#)



EJP-CONCERT

European Joint Programme for the Integration of Radiation Protection Research
H2020 – 662287

Evaluation Summary report Open transnational CONCERT call 2017

Project: (ID)
Acronym: (short)
Project title: (long)

Scoring:

Project ID	Acronym	TOPIC	Scores per Criterion			Final score
			1	2	3	

Each criterion received a score between 0 and 5:

0: fails or missing /incomplete information. The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

1: Poor. The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2: Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.

3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.

4: Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.

5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

For final ranking, the threshold of 10 was used, by summing up the scores of the three criteria. When below threshold, proposals were not ranked.

Relevance to the call

Yes No

If **NO**, please give further comments.

1) Excellence of the proposal

a) Clarity and pertinence of the objectives; b) Credibility of the proposed approach and methodology; c) Soundness of the concept; d) Innovative potential; e) Competence and experience of participating research partners in the field(s) of the proposal (previous work in the field, specific technical expertise)



2) Impact of the proposal

a) Potential of the expected results to add to the scientific evidence base to improve radiation protection and, consequently, its regulation; b) Added-value of transnational collaboration: gathering a critical mass, sharing of resources, harmonization of data, sharing of specific know-how and/or innovative technologies, etc.; c) Added-value for competence building in the European radiation protection research community and the European radiation protection regulatory system; d) Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of intellectual property rights - IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant

3) Quality and efficiency of the implementation

a) Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, resources and time-frame; b) Scientific competence and complementarity of the participants within the consortium; c) Involvement of young scientists (MSc, PhD, Post-Doc...), when applicable; d) Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management; e) Concept for sustainability of infrastructures initiated by the project, when applicable; f) Budget and cost-effectiveness of the project (rational distribution of resources in relation to project's activities, partners' responsibilities and time frame)

Overall Comment with strengths and weaknesses