Administrative organization of EU Project Proposals

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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DOREMI - A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE ON LOW DOSE RISK

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DoReMi Network of Excellence funded by the European Commission via the Euratom program played an important role in the establishment of the operational structures and functions of the MELODI platform during 2010-2015. The aim of the DoReMi consortium was to promote the sustainable integration of low dose risk research in Europe, in order to facilitate efforts to resolve the key policy questions identified by the 'High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Low Dose Risk Research' (www.hleg.de). The research activities of DoReMi have focused on the research areas identified by the HLEG as being the most promising in terms of resolving the stated key policy questions. DoReMi has provided an operational tool to continue the development of the MELODI platform that represents the major national bodies and research programmes with a long term commitment to low dose radiation risk research in Europe. The Joint Programme of Activities of DoReMi included: (i) a Joint Programme of Research covering the research priorities (key questions) outlined above and including the sharing and updating of existing infrastructures; (ii) a Joint Programme of Integration to promote sustainable integration between the key players in Europe; and (iii) a Joint Programme for the Spreading of Excellence, covering in particular knowledge management, training & mobility and the communication of significant DoReMi findings to stakeholders and policymakers.

Since the beginning of the DoReMi Network of Excellence in January 2010, there has been rapid progress in establishment of a European research platform to focus on questions of low dose risk. DoReMi continued the initial work of HLEG by contributing to the development of the long-term SRA of MELODI, and by establishing the more detailed shorter-term DoReMi Transitional Research Agenda (TRA). The research agendas provided by MELODI and DoReMi have helped to identify priorities for low dose risk research not only by the organisations involved but also in national, European and global contexts. The planned enhancement of the DoReMi network through the calls for partners with new expertises resulted in the inclusion of 24 new beneficiaries. This enhanced the competence of the consortium in several key areas, by integrating research experts in biomarker identification, immunological/inflammatory pathways, and the effects of chronic low dose exposures, cataractogenesis, vascular effects, stem cells, epigenetics, novel mechanisms of genome reorganisation, as well as retrospective dosimetry. The three DoReMi competitive calls attracted proposals from 89 different organisations in 25 countries (including 21 European Member States).

DoReMi implemented research programs addressing the three key research areas: shape of dose-response curve for cancer, individual radiation sensitivity for cancer and non-cancer effects. All RTD activities also addressed the cross-cutting issues of radiation quality, tissue sensitivity and internal emitters. Several workshops were convened to develop strategies that focused on the most promising lines of research for the three areas. Experimental programs were launched and amended in all three areas and a total of 27 new tasks were amended in the project portfolio via the calls. The RTD approaches have been closely coordinated through discussions on needs for research infrastructures and analytical platforms, as well as targeted stimulation of training and education of next-generation researchers at the European level.

The availability of suitable infrastructures for performing low dose risk research was specifically addressed by DoReMi. Experimental radiation research is highly dependent on the availability of appropriate radiation sources that are reliable, capable of delivering a range of radiations, are robust and accurate. Low dose research also needs access to well defined epidemiological cohorts, reliable databases and biobanks and as well the appropriate platforms for analysis. After the initial mapping of infrastructures and their availability, DoReMi has provided access to several new infrastructures that will enhance the European capabilities in addressing scientific questions relevant for low dose risk. Prospects for molecular epidemiologic studies in the European scale were addressed by reviews on potential biomarkers for ionizing radiation and considering strategies for cardiovascular studies. More information on DoReMi activities and references to more than 100 publications can be found at the DoReMi's website (www.doremi-noe.net), which is still operational for some time after the end of the project.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH FUNDING: A SERBIAN PERSPECTIVE

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The status of the associated country which the Republic of Serbia received, ensures that all legal entities from Serbia have equal opportunities and obligations as legal entities of an EU Member State who apply at the open calls for funding the projects in EU Framework Programmes. Through participation in FP6, the Republic of Serbia had achieved a good level of research and innovation capacity to become associated to the Seventh Framework Programme on research, development and demonstration activities (FP7). Participation in FP7 resulted in 319 Serbian successful applicants in 236 projects in total. Out of that number Republic of Serbia was the coordinator of 42 projects. One of these was the project REGPOT-SERBORDISinn (Strengthening the research potential of IMGGE through reinforcement of biomedical science of rare diseases in Serbia - en route for innovation) , assigned to the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE) of the University of Belgrade. The main achievement of the project was that IMGGE became the most widely recognized centre for molecular genetics in the Balkans. SERBORDISinn supported the study of molecular markers for rare diseases (RDs) and established RD-specific databases and biobanks in both Serbia and the Balkans. Together with the upgrade in research potential, IMGGE has become an outstanding centre in the field of molecular genetics of RDs and a role model for the Serbian scientific community. SERBORDISinn helped Serbia join the EU leaders in rare diseases research. Having demonstrated a very good administrative and scientific capacity resulting in a successful participation in FP7, Republic of Serbia continued to participate as an associated country in the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020).

A HUNGARIAN PERSPECTIVE ON EURATOM RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

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Before the start of the EURATOM supported OPERRA project it was found that the so called new Member States of the European Union are underrepresented and inadequately integrated in the EURATOM research and training activities. One of the main goals of the OPERRA project was to remove the barriers of participation (e.g. lack of cooperation partners, poor preparation for collaborative activities, inadequate research & training opportunities, and infrastructures) that inhibit the involvement of the new EU Member States in radiation protection research, and to provide opportunities for those countries to begin to dismantle the blockades.

The research lab led by me successfully participated in FP6 NOTE, FP7 CEREBRAD, DoReMi, OPERRA, RENEB and H2020 CONCERT programs. It was not an easy road to get the possibility to join these EURATOM grant winning proposals. It was a very long ride to establish relationships with Western European scientists, with efficient proposal writers. At the beginning I continuously followed grant application opportunities and approached scientists potentially involved in applications. In most of the cases my letters was unanswered or politely rejected, but finally we succeeded. In my talk I would like to share my experiences how to get into winning proposals.

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