



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

European
Research Area

PROJECT PRESENTATION (PP)

Open Project for European Radiation Research Area OPERRA

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Introductory paragraph

The OPERRA project aims to build up a coordination structure that has the legal and logistical capacity to administer future calls for research proposals in radiation protection on behalf of the European Commission. Among OPERRA's initiatives are the set-up of a sustainable organization to manage radiation protection research in Europe; the involvement of key partners in radiation protection as well as national and international funding agencies; and the enrollment of universities and academic partners, notably from new EU Member States, major stakeholders and authorities as well as other technical platforms inside and outside Euratom.

1. Nature and scope of the project

The final objective of the OPERRA proposal is to build up an innovative mechanism for the joint programming and implementation of radiation protection research in Europe. The joint programming instrument that will be proposed to the European Commission will be designed as a tool that may be applicable to all fields of research in radiation protection. OPERRA will lead to the implementation of joint programmes, based on public-public partnerships with increased efficiency and consistency, as well as better visibility and attractiveness at the world level.

The OPERRA consortium includes members of the European High Level Expert Group and the DoReMi network of excellence that set the policy goals, formulated with a number of experts the initial strategic research agenda on low-dose risk research and led the initiative of establishing the MELODI Association for the long-term and sustainable integration of low-dose risk research in Europe. Also, most of the OPERRA's partners are members of sister associations involved in radiation protection research, for example Alliance for radioecology or NERIS for nuclear emergency management.

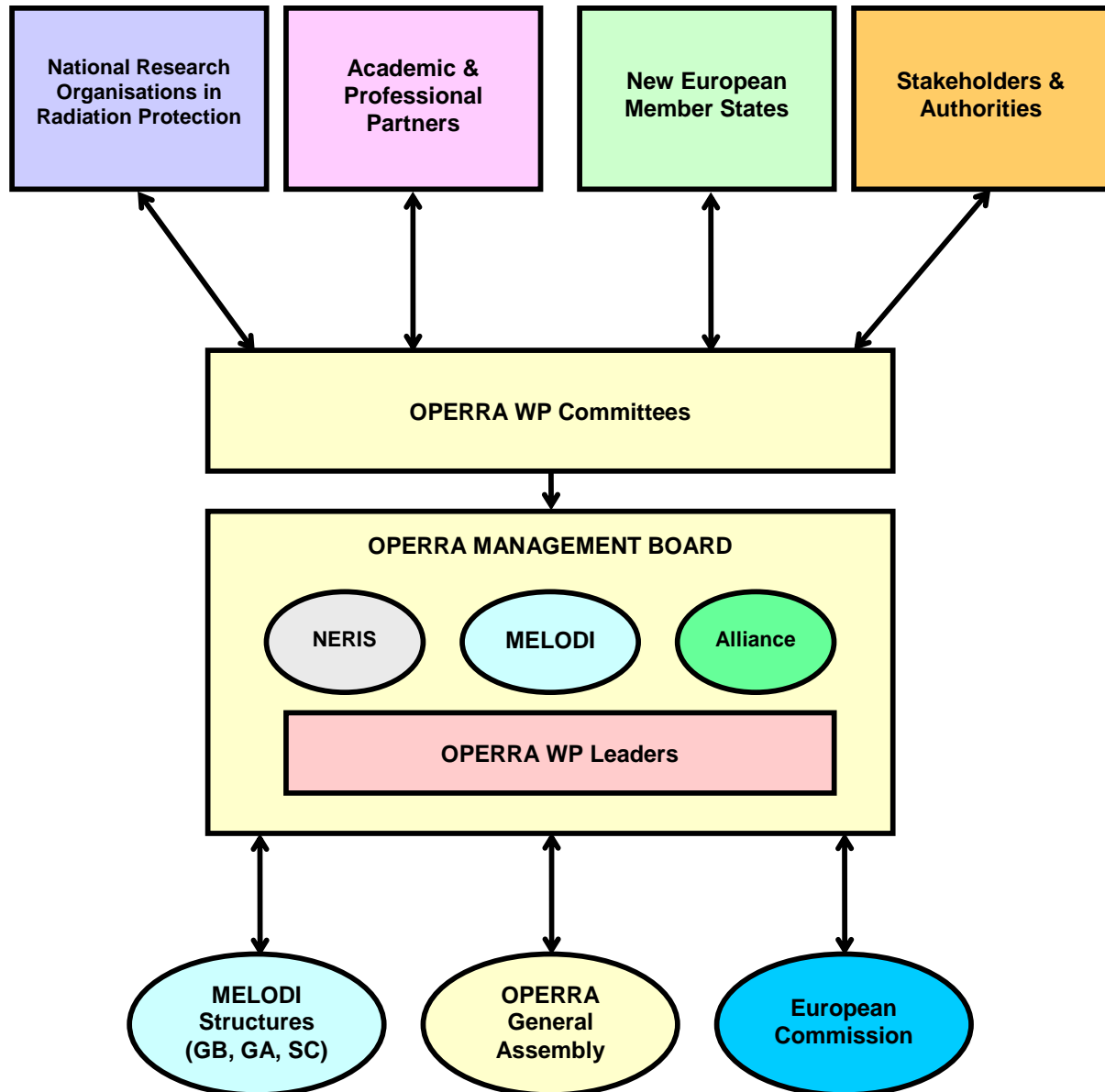
2. Activities

In the context of the future Horizon 2020 approach, the European Commission is looking for umbrella structures (legal entities/associations) to delegate some of the tasks related to the management of Community research programmes to third parties. Tasks to be performed by these umbrella structures include managing all or some of the phases in the lifetime of a launched project in Horizon 2020, budget, implementation, gathering and collating information required by the Commission and preparing recommendations for the Commission. The outsourcing of these management tasks will allow Community programmes to become more effective by simplifying procedures and optimising costs of research coordination.

OPERRA will exploit the synergies of Euratom and other EC programmes considering the most relevant joint program areas and mechanisms for funding joint activities. The project will also strengthen the links with national funding programs as well as the European education and training structures. It will take steps towards a greater involvement of new Member States who could benefit from increased participation in the radiation research programmes. OPERRA will serve as an example on how to integrate research activities in Europe and in the rest of the world within the radiation research community and other scientific areas. The provision of the results from OPERRA will help the integration of European-funded research activities from various funding schemes, thus widening the European Research Area.

3. Expected results

At the end of the OPERRA project, a federating body with an appropriate legal and financial structure and scientific advisory board will exist to organise joint programming of radiation protection research and education and training in a number of domains (low-dose risk research, radioecology, nuclear emergency management, medical and occupational radiation protection, dosimetry, etc.). To ensure the success of the OPERRA project, the consortium will involve and be in close contact with major bodies active in radiation protection, as shown in the figure below.



Joint programming of radiation protection research and E&T, though respecting the specificities of each particular domain and related SRA, will help in the clarification of priorities for research over the entire scope of radiation protection, taking into account stakeholders, societal needs, and decision-makers on the one hand, and researchers on the other hand. Advantages of this joint programming are multiple:

- Enhanced visibility of European radiation protection research and education and training at the global level, facilitating cooperation with countries affected by past accidents or having a legacy of former activities.
- Enhanced cooperation between research institutes and academic institutions, and extension towards the new Member States, with the aim of consolidating a European Research Area in the field of radiation protection.
- Creation of synergy between national and European-funded research activities.
- Enhanced cooperation between third countries such as Japan and USA and the MELODI Association, as European Member States research representative on low-dose risk.
- A single point of contact for the other European Technology Platforms that have activities touching upon issues of radiation protection such as IGD-TP (radioactive waste management) and SNE-TP (nuclear technology).
- Optimal use of existing and new infrastructures, also outside of the radiation protection field, aimed at creating operational and financial synergies.
- Enhancement of output by merging international and national research funds.
- A more common vision on the needs and implementation of radiation protection legislation.
- A joint effort to maintain and transfer knowledge and expertise in the field of radiation protection by linking with networks active in the domain of education and training.

4. Societal impact

Given the limited resources available in Europe and globally for research on radiation protection, every opportunity should be taken to develop synergies between research in different areas and to ensure that research is relevant to the common concerns of researchers, authorities and other stakeholders. The OPERRA consortium will bring together many of the major European players in radiation protection research and related research platforms to maximise coordination of research efforts, identify research methodologies and techniques/approaches that have not been effectively applied and to provide strategic direction and leadership in this area of importance in energy production, medicine and a range of other uses beneficial to the European population. Radiation workers, patients and the public are rightly concerned that their health and the environment are not compromised unduly by the various uses (or indeed misuses) of ionising radiation and radioactive materials. OPERRA aims to address these concerns by promoting research that will ensure that health risks are better understood and quantified, and that identifies improved approaches to radiation protection in relation to occupational, medical, environmental and accidental exposures.

Project information

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4	Säteilyturvakeskus	STUK	FI
5	Association Melodi	MELODI	FR

6	Jihočeská Univerzita v Českých Budějovicích	JU	CZ
7	Országos Frederic Joliot-Curie Sugárbiológiai és Sugáregészségügyi Kutató Intézet	OSSKI	HU
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11	Istituto Superiore di Sanità	ISS	IT
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