



Memorandum Of Understanding for an integrative approach to European Radiation Protection research

The undersigned European organisations, duly represented by their respective officers,

Considering that:

- MELODI was founded as a European Association aiming at a progressive integration of national and European research in the field of radiation protection, and that in particular MELODI develops and maintains a European SRA (Strategic Research Agenda) for the field of low-dose risks,
- ALLIANCE was founded as a European Association aiming at a progressive integration of national and European research in the field of radio-ecology, and that in particular ALLIANCE develops a European SRA for the field of radio-ecology,
- NERIS was founded as a European Association aiming at progressive integration of national and European research in the field of radiological emergency and recovery preparedness, and that in particular NERIS develops a European SRA for the field of emergency and recovery preparedness,
- EURADOS was founded as a European Association aiming at the promotion of research and development and European cooperation in the field of the dosimetry of ionizing radiation, and that in particular EURADOS develops a European SRA for the field of dosimetry,
- The implementation of some EU FP7 research projects in the field of radiation protection, and notably the OPERRA and COMET projects, will in effect require the development of operational cooperation between the signatory organisations,
- The inception of the future EURATOM Horizon 2020 framework programme will further call for a closer cooperation across the field of radiation protection, and the strengthening of integration with national R&D programmes on the basis of strategic research agendas drawn up at the European level,
- Such integration of research at European level must be designed and operated in such a way as to maintain a high level of operational effectiveness of research processes, including for the operation of funding procedures,
- Other European organisations active in the field of R&D coordination in disciplinary, scientific or technical fields of interest to radiation protection research may wish to adhere to the present memorandum.

Decide to cooperate on the following issues according to the principles set hereafter, in order to promote the integration and the efficiency of European research and scientific education and training in the field of radiation protection.

Art 1: The signatory organisations decide to establish a Joint Radiation Protection Research Roadmap Committee, in order to coordinate as necessary their respective SRA's and priority roadmaps in order to ensure completeness and to avoid overlaps, and to establish a common radiation protection research roadmap, to be updated and made publicly available on a yearly basis, setting out coherent priorities for the whole field of radiation protection research. This committee will comprise two senior experts designated by each signatory organisation.

The chair of the committee will be chosen for three-year periods by consensus among the members. The committee's secretariat will be provided by the MELODI association.

Art 2: In the framework of the OPERRA project funded by the European Commission¹ under FP7 program, MELODI will be responsible for the administration of open calls for research projects of European-wide dimension and added value in the area of radiation protection; the first call covering the whole scope of radiation protection research is being planned for 2014. For this purpose, the signatories will cooperate in order to optimize and coordinate their respective actions, particularly for the organisation of the call, the promotion of the information about the call, and the provision of suitable technical information needed for the call preparation process, which will be performed in a confidential manner, separate from MELODI's or the other signatories own processes.

Art 3: The signatories agree to set up as necessary joint working groups (JWG) in order to elaborate a joint vision in areas of common concern, for the benefit of European radiation protection research. The Chairs and Secretaries of these JWG's will be appointed by consensus between the signatory organisations for three year periods. The detailed mandate of each JWG will be agreed by the signatory organisations, and regularly reviewed as long as the need exists to operate such a JWG. The operations of these JWG's will in addition be closely coordinated with activities in the corresponding fields generated by EC/EURATOM funded projects.

- JWG1 will aim for the progressive development of a permanent network of universities and specialised radiation protection institutions, for the implementation of education and training, and the dissemination of research results, for the benefit of the radiation protection community in industry as well as in public agencies and research institutions,
- JWG2 will aim to coordinate information about infrastructures relevant for radiation protection research (irradiation facilities, databases, tissue banks, cohorts...), including the conditions for access to such infrastructures for the benefit of the radiation protection community, in public agencies and research institutions, in health services and in industry,
- Other JWG's may be set up by consensus between the signatory organisations.

Art 4: Each signatory organisation invites the other signatories to appoint an observer to participate in their respective Board and General assembly meetings, in order to ensure adequate transparency and quality of communication.

Art 5: This MOU is open to adhesion by other European organisations active in the field of R&D coordination in disciplinary, scientific or technical fields of interest to radiation protection research, subject to prior information and unanimous agreement of the signatories.

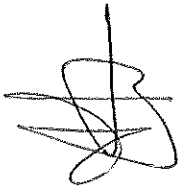
Art 6: The signatories agree to inform the European Commission of the signature of this MOU and of results achieved through the above initiatives, and where needed to invite EC responsible officers to participate in joint meetings.

¹ European Commission, Directorate General Research and Innovation

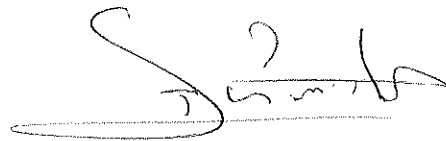
Art 7: This MOU, of which each signatory organisation holds an original copy, is concluded for a period of 4 years. It may be prolonged by tacit agreement, or amended by consensus agreement between the signatory organisations. A signatory may withdraw from the obligations set forth in this MOU subject to prior notice to other signatories at least six months in advance. At the initiative of MELODI, acting as coordinator for the implementation of this MOU, the officers representing the respective signatory organisations meet at regular intervals in order to jointly oversee the implementation of their above mentioned common undertakings.

Brussels, 5 December 2013

For MELODI:

A handwritten signature consisting of several overlapping loops and a vertical line, appearing to be a stylized 'M' or 'B'.

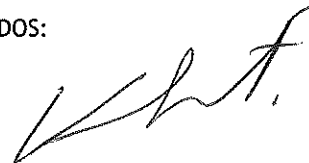
For NERIS:

A handwritten signature with a large, sweeping initial 'S' followed by several smaller, connected letters.

For ALLIANCE:

A handwritten signature with a long, horizontal, sweeping stroke at the end.

For EURADOS:

A handwritten signature with a large, sweeping initial 'V' followed by several smaller, connected letters.