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D 6.1–Recommendations for Infrastructure related topics for the 1st CONCERT call and recommendations for funding schemes to support infrastructure use for the 1st CONCERT call input to WP3

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Abstract

This deliverable deals with the recommendations for the first Concert Call about Infrastructures. Infrastructures that can be used for CONCERT projects include: (1) exposure platforms, contaminated sites and observatories, (2) databases, sample banks and cohorts, (3) analytical platforms, particularly omics platforms, models and tools.
Going beyond infrastructures, the recommendations are enlarged to the Quality Management and Open Access processes including all data obtained within CONCERT.

The document comprises three sections:
-First section: For insertion in the call text,
-Second section: For insertion in the Annex of the call text,
-Third section: To be included in project proposal template.

The first section provides an abstract of the recommendations to be included in the first CONCERT call text. Further details and guidelines for applicants are given in the sections 2 and 3.

Introduction

Research infrastructures are committed to provide access to the most advanced, unique, and large-scale resources, instruments and expertise in Europe. These services enable European scientists to conduct competitive and cutting edge research. The necessity to focus on research infrastructure in Radiation protection has been highlighted in the HLEG report of 2009. Since then, large EURATOM projects like DoReMi, OPERRA, STAR… include specific WPs and tasks dedicated to infrastructures.

Surveys performed in former projects have revealed that the prevailing opinion is that most necessary infrastructures are already available although not on the bench of each user. Indeed, besides the funding of experiments, the access to state of the art infrastructure is a major bottle-neck. It will be the major concern of CONCERT-WP6: Access to Infrastructures.

Infrastructures include so-called large infrastructures such as exposure facilities including those for animal and plant experiments (both laboratory and field facilities), epidemiological cohorts, biobanks, databases and analytical platforms (including e-infrastructures). This deliverable contains recommendations for infrastructure related topics for the 1st CONCERT call, which result from work tasks completed within WP6. The MELODI meeting in Munich hosted scientific discussions of the WP6 members and the Management Board, which allowed us to re-focus the scope of our WP in a very effective way. Going beyond infrastructures, we enlarged the Quality Management and Open Access processes to include all data obtained within CONCERT. Also, in order to keep the field as open as possible to new infrastructures, we decided to abandon the selection of "recommended infrastructures" and adopt instead "recommended criteria" that infrastructures must fulfil. The document comprises three sections:

-First section: For insertion in the call text,
-Second section: For insertion in the Annex of the call text,
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For insertion in the call text

Proposals must demonstrate the appropriateness of the approaches, techniques or infrastructures that they plan to use, in terms of feasibility, reliability, quality assurance and traceability of the results to be generated in relation to the objectives of the project (e.g. reliable dose quantification, common standards for omics…). A Data Management Plan (DMP), and if applicable a Sample Management Plan (SMP), should be included in the proposal.

Research data (post-publication) should be made available via open access in STORE (www.storedb.org) or in another open, searchable database (unless there are legal restrictions on data sharing).

Infrastructures that can be used for CONCERT projects may include: (1) exposure platforms, contamination sites and observatories, (2) databases, sample banks and cohorts, (3) analytical platforms, particularly omics platforms, models and tools.

The cost of infrastructure use (including Sample banking costs) should be included in the proposal.

Full details of the call text are provided in annex.

For insertion in the Annex of the call text

Article 1: Quality assurance

Proposals need to describe carefully the envisaged approaches of the research project. This description should include the quality assurance of the results to be generated, as well as their feasibility and reliability. For example, the use of models or tools for reliability of the received dose, the use of common standards for omics analysis, etc… It should also include a Data Management Plan (DMP) and if applicable a Sample Management Plan (SMP).

CONCERT recommends to use partners who are involved in a process to guarantee the quality of their results.

Projects which require external (traceability to SI unit system) or internal dose/radioactivity assessment must demonstrate proper quality assurance in radioactivity or dosimetry measurements.

CONCERT funded projects using analytical platforms, such as proteomics, genomics, chemical and radiological analysis, will agree to include common standards in the same protocols used to generate the results of the project, to ensure their potential re-use.

The costs of Quality Assurance processes including DMP, SMP, SOPs, traceability, intercomparisons, and standards for testing or checking references, should be included in the project budget.

Article 2:Open Access

Research data generated during the project is subject to the principles of Open Access as a condition of obtaining funding, unless there are legal restrictions on data sharing, as stipulated in Article 29.3 of the H2020 open access policy http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf). A Data Management Plan (DMP) is requested. It should include how and where data will be stored and how it can be accessed. The costs of these activities should be included in the project budget, together with a Sample Management Plan (SMP) if applicable. Research data will preferably be housed in the STORE database (www.storedb.org), which offers four options for storage: (1) unlimited open access; (2) access only to a pre-defined group of users; (3) access only upon demand; (4) access via a link to a database containing the data. For those partners who do not wish to house their data in STORE, the data must be stored in a secured, searchable, clearly identified database with long-term access, and the partners must agree to provide access to the database via a common portal that will be managed by CONCERT. CONCERT funded projects using observatory sites will agree to provide all resulting data, together with clear supporting metadata, in order to ensure the potential re-use of the data generated and to harmonize field practices as far as practicable (field sampling protocols …).

CONCERT recommends the re-use of archived material and/or data if possible. Applicants will be required to indicate whether some or all of the proposed work can be carried out using archived material and/or data. Justification must be provided for those projects which intend to generate archived material and/or data which are already available in open databases such as STORE. Where

appropriate, the creation of an open sample bank is highly encouraged and should preferably be localized on the site of one partner in the proposal. It is strongly recommended that the data and information describing the sample should be housed in the STORE database, which will be further developed to meet the needs of all platforms during the course of CONCERT. It is also recommended that this material be made available for re-use in the future.

The costs of these sample banking activities should be included in the project budget.

Article 3: Infrastructures

The open approach of CONCERT involves use of infrastructures which fulfil recommended criteria. Infrastructures will be integrated into a searchable database that can be updated to include new candidates. The database may not be available for the first Call, however at list of infrastructures fulfilling the recommended criteria will be accessible on the CONCERT website (http://www.concert-h2020.eu/en/Concert_info/Infrastructures). If the infrastructure to be used in the project is not yet on the list, an extensive description of the infrastructure and its selection criteria should be provided in the proposal.

In order to provide to evaluators sufficient information to critically assess the feasibility of the proposed studies, proposals must demonstrate the appropriateness of the approaches, techniques or infrastructures that they plan to use, in terms of feasibility, reliability, quality assurance and traceability of the results to be generated in relation to the objectives of the project.

The cost of infrastructure use in the project should be included in the proposal.

To be included in project proposal template

Check-list for Infrastructures

- Did you check to see if some or all of the proposed work can be carried out using already archived material (STORE, www.storedb.org) (https://era.bfs.de)?
  - ☐Yes
  - ☐N/A (not applicable)
  - If yes, will some or all of the proposed work be carried out using already archived material
    - ☐Yes
    - ☐No, Explain why: Click here to type text.
- Is the infrastructure to be used in your project proposal on the database/list which fulfil the recommended criteria?
  - ☐Yes
  - ☐No
  - ☐N/A (not applicable)
  - **If Yes,** only a brief description of the infrastructure is required
    Infrastructure identifier: Click here to type text.
  - **If No,** provide an extensive description of the selection criteria for the proposed infrastructure:
    Click here to type text.
- Do you have authorization to use the aforementioned infrastructure?
  - ☐Yes, experiments are scheduled, and formal acceptance letter obtained.
    Click here to type text.
  - ☐No
  - **If Yes,** but you do not yet have the formal acceptance letter, please provide an explanation or document indicating agreement in principle; otherwise provide an explanation on the status of your negotiations with the infrastructure: Click here to type text.
  - **If No,** Give average waiting period to access the infrastructure and explain how this fits with your work plan: Click here to type text.
- For omics analysis, describe the relevant standard to be used in your experiments and the associated procedure as recommended by CONCERT:
  Click here to type text
- Is your Data Management Plan (DMP) included?
  - ☐Yes
  - ☐N/A (not applicable)
- Is your Sample Management Plan (SMP) included, if applicable?
  - ☐Yes
  - ☐N/A (not applicable)
    Explain why: Click here to type text.