

The European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

Guidelines on the Participation of EFOMP in Projects

Approved by EFOMP Council on

Introduction

Although EFOMP's aims and mission statement do not explicitly call for EFOMP to be involved in projects, one way of satisfying a number of these aims and help in EFOMP's mission is to be involved in projects that lead to the publication of reports and scientific journal articles that support these objectives. Publications will be particularly pertinent when they contain a strong European dimension. Previous publications, having such a perspective, in which EFOMP has been involved, include reports that are sponsored and published by the European Commission.

EFOMP's involvement in projects is overseen by the Projects Committee. The terms of reference of the Projects Committee are to be found in the EFOMP [Manual](#).

The Projects Committee is responsible to the Council of EFOMP for participating in the implementation of projects and supporting the participation of Medical Physics institutions for improving research in Medical Physics and the professional status of Medical Physicists in Europe and internationally.

Most of the key points of the terms of reference are quite specific and have little need for guidelines. Guidelines are required, however, to identify what constitutes suitable content or tasks in projects.

Guidelines

Only projects that either have no ethical dimension or have, or will apply to have, ethical approval will be considered. However, since EFOMP was founded to serve as an umbrella organisation for NMOs, the various cultural and national characteristics and sensitivities of different members of the NMOs must also be considered. These qualities are not always satisfied by ethical considerations, or the perception that there are no ethical dimensions. To ensure these qualities are respected, and also that the reputation of EFOMP is maintained, EFOMP will not be involved in projects, or support the participation of medical physics institutions in projects, where such involvement could bring the reputation of EFOMP into question. Projects that EFOMP will not support include those involving:

- experimentation on live animals or the sacrifice of animals purely for the purposes of the research,
- any form of discrimination implied or otherwise perceived,
- denigration of medical physics as a profession or of any person living or dead.

Notwithstanding the above exclusions, and these will always take precedence, projects that the Projects Committee will actively pursue to engage in and support include those that:

- improve the status of the medical physicist in Europe and internationally
- improve the education and training of the medical physicist; e.g. the Medical Physics Expert and the Radiation Protection Expert,

- improve the education and training of medical and other healthcare professionals in medical disciplines involving ionising and non-ionising radiation,
- pursue scientific research that could have a positive impact on healthcare,
- advance the radiological safety of patients, staff and members of the public.

It is recognised that the above list of exclusions and inclusions are not exhaustive and they may develop further if new insights are brought to the attention of EFOMP.

Engagement in projects, on behalf of EFOMP, is undertaken by members of the Projects Committee who consist of EFOMP Officers, or past Officers, and delegated representatives from NMOs. Other expert specialists, known to the Projects Committee and agreed by the chairperson of this committee, may also be appointed to join a project team, particularly where there is a perceived gap in the experience required of the team to be most effective in pursuance of any project tendering process. It is also recognised that women bring many positive advantages to the workforce such as different insights and values, motivation and methods of working. Furthermore, their involvement in the workplace is important for human rights and social justice. Positive encouragement for women to work on projects is therefore strongly supported by EFOMP. The financial implications to EFOMP for engaging in a project will also be considered and the Treasurer and President of EFOMP will be consulted before agreeing to the terms and conditions of a project.

EFOMP Projects Committee