Social sciences and Humanities in ionising radiation REsearch

Draft 6.Mol

<div align="right">

Stuttgart / Mol, 11th of August, 2016
Oxford, 19 – 23rd Sept., 2016
Exeter 24th Oct. 2016
Mol 10 – 12th January, 2019

</div>

Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research relating to Ionizing Radiation (IR)

SHARE Platform

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Contents

I. Founding and Guiding Principles of the SHARE platform

While SSH research on multiple aspects of ionising radiation (IR) has been conducted for many years, there is widespread acceptance that this research is fragmented and is often circumscribed by input from actors beyond the SSH community. This situation means that vital knowledge from SSH work can go unrecognised and the opportunity for sharing insight, providing added-value across the ERA, and promoting impact, is limited. It is only by enabling SSH research to play a fuller and stronger role through a Platform mechanism that societal perspectives on research relating to IR will be realised. The convictions that motivate the establishment of the SHARE platform are that:

- existing and future research, policy and practice, in all areas relating to IR, can better take into account the concerns, values and needs of a wider range of stakeholders, including citizens and communities;
- the findings of social sciences and humanities (SSH) research can be better co-ordinated and be integrated in European research and development on IR;
- research relating to IR should be conceived as transdisciplinary and inclusive, integrating citizen, science and stakeholder input from the start.

With these principles in mind, SHARE will support and maintain the development of an SSH research agenda and provide a source of research capability, methodological input and expert advice on questions relevant to technical research platforms as well as to policymakers, citizens and other stakeholders, across all fields and applications of ionizing radiation.

II. Concept and Objectives of the Platform

The integration of social sciences and humanities research in the wider research endeavour responds to the many calls for more inclusive and transdisciplinary approaches to science, as exemplified by the SSH mainstreaming agenda of Horizon2020; the responsible research and innovation agenda; and other research policies. This implies moving across the divides between disciplines dealing with ionizing radiation, as well as between academic science, professional knowledge and lay expertise, in order to better respond to public demands and engage with policy makers. There is a need to enable productive synergies, stimulate contact and promote exchange across the SSH fields; stimulate interaction between the SSH communities and technical communities; and to foster exchange among different types of professional and stakeholders. We acknowledge that there is a diversity of SSH perspectives and methodologies that must be recognised and be mobilised in an inclusive manner in order to promote learning and enable innovation.

The mission of SHARE is to stimulate the integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH) in research, practice and policy related to ionizing radiation, including, for example: radiation protection, low dose risk, radioecology, emergency preparedness and response, dosimetry, medical applications, radioactive waste management, nuclear energy production, safety, NORM, site remediation etc. To this end, SHARE will structure and enhance dialogue at the European level and beyond, among the different stakeholders, fostering the sharing of knowledge and information among various disciplines working on aspects of ionizing radiation.

SHARE will develop and promote a strategic perspective on research needs, including topics that require to be integrated to the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of other European Platforms. The SHARE research agenda has been developed in relation to the existing technical platforms in the field and will be open to the incorporation of relevant topics in response to demands at different levels: for example, citizens; policy makers; and governmental and non-governmental bodies. Multiple modes of collaboration are available and can be deployed as relevant.

Interaction with the technical platforms is foreseen at several levels:

1. SHARE will **promote and organise dialogues** with members of all relevant platforms and other stakeholders (e.g. technical professionals, governmental authorities, regulatory bodies, etc.);
2. SHARE will **develop mechanisms for feedback** on the SRAs of technical platforms at regular intervals;
3. SHARE will **support establishment of reciprocal arrangements** for members of the SSH and the technical platforms to engage in the events and activity of platforms.
4. The organizational structure (see below) will **foster inclusive governance** and comprise membership from relevant stakeholders (technical actors, NGOs, public sector).

In addition, SHARE will address **SSH-focussed topics** through a set of Working Groups, some of which will align with technical concerns and enable direct interaction between participants in diverse platforms. Working Groups are envisaged to include topics on the social dimensions of: for example, radioactive waste management and disposal; nuclear energy production; decommissioning processes; medical, industrial and research applications; natural radioactivity; etc.

Two overarching objectives of SHARE are, therefore:
▪ to stimulate, and increase the impact of, SSH research relating to ionizing radiation through integrative approaches that take into account different scientific disciplines, differing worldviews and perspectives of stakeholders;
▪ to support the development and maintenance of an SSH research agenda and through this become a source of scientific expertise, methods and advice on SSH matters relevant to technical research platforms, policymakers and stakeholders, across all fields of ionizing radiation.

III.   Remit and Scope of Activities of the Platform

SHARE has been built upon a strong foundation of past events, dialogues, funded research activity and an existing network of social science and humanities scholars and researchers. This existing work and network will be further developed and the scope of activity expanded. SHARE will provide a means to integrate existing knowledge and lessons learned from projects and other platforms and will use this to identify research gaps and a forward-looking research agenda. Dialogue will form a key mode of working, with 'internal' dialogues among the diversity of SSH perspectives represented in the platform and external engagements with a diversity of stakeholders. The aim is to build a 'mutual learning' approach among the range of groups and perspectives involved in platform activity. Forward plans, target setting, timelines, priorities and budgets will be elaborated during the early phases of operation and open for discussion among the relevant stakeholders.

From the point of establishment, and building up over time, SHARE will:
• cohere a European network of SSH related researchers and organisations working in areas relating to the domain of ionizing radiation;
• build capacity for SSH research relating to all fields relating to ionising radiation;
• bring together SSH researchers with researchers in technical domains, policy bodies etc. to develop strategies to address societal concerns and needs related to ionising radiation;
• formulate and subsequently implement an SSH SRA for ionizing radiation research in Europe;
• instigate dialogues with key European bodies such as H2020, Euratom, technical associations;
• host dialogues with stakeholder groups;
• promote opportunities for international collaboration and seek funding opportunities for members;
• maintain, improve and share SSH expertise and experience among all interested stakeholders in Europe;
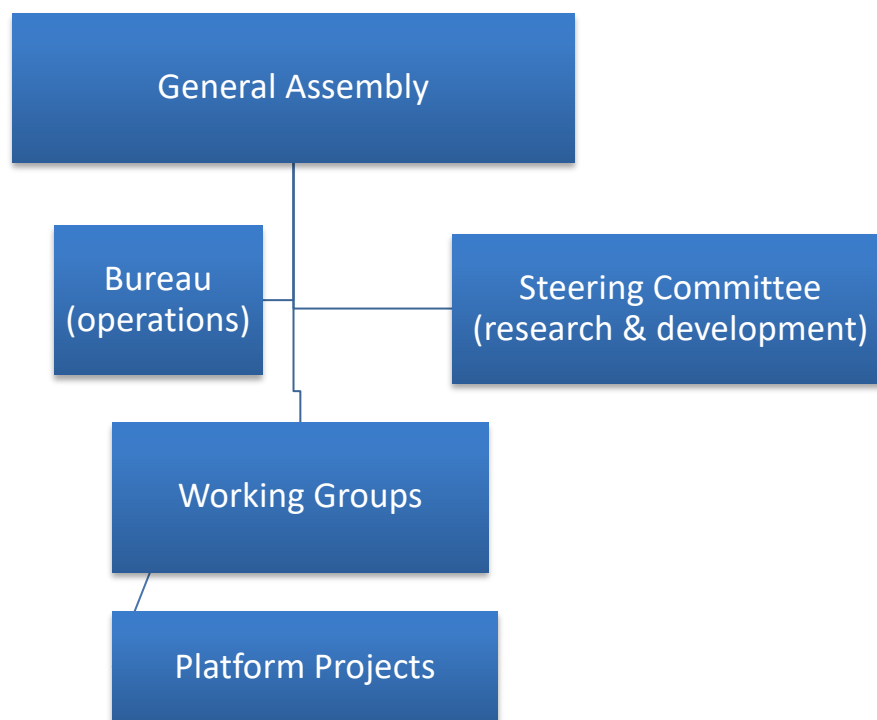
- provide a forum for SSH theoretical and methodological developments and promote opportunities to apply these developments;
- attend to existing as well as new and emerging challenges related to SSH research relating to ionizing radiation;
- offer advice on the integration of social sciences and humanities in to the SRA's, projects and activities of other relevant European platforms and projects;
- improve the awareness and understanding of societal issues and concerns related to ionizing radiation and its applications, among all stakeholders;
- put forward advice to policymakers and other organisations in all fields of ionizing radiation.

IV. Organisation and Governance of the Platform

SHARE will adopt a structure to ensure transparent and efficient operation and be designed to support the platform goals and ethos. The structure will facilitate membership from those with a strong social science and humanities research background and an interdisciplinary outlook, regardless of disciplinary training, as well as the inclusion of relevant stakeholders and non-SSH disciplines.

SHARE will engage representatives from academia and the main European R&D organizations active across multiple disciplines and domains, as well the existing platforms concerned with topics relating to ionizing radiation (e.g. MELODI, EURADOS, NERIS, ALLIANCE, EURAMED, SNE-TP, IGD-TP and EUTERP). Additional stakeholders will be integrated over time to ensure a sustainable structure for SSH research.

Figure 1: Structure of SHARE governance and operation

SHARE is formally constituted as an Association under Belgian Law with an administrative Bureau composed of four positions, namely, President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer.

The **General Assembly** (GA) will be constituted by the entire body of membership of SHARE. It will be a general governing body and will assemble every two years. Through the adoption of the ToR and statutes of SHARE at their foundation meeting, the platform becomes legally effective and will be registered under Belgian law. After the founding of SHARE, the general assembly may be held virtually.

The **Bureau** consists of the Officers of the association consisting of: President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer and Administrator. The Bureau will coordinate the activities of the Platform. It will ensure the smooth day to day running of the Platform; ensure timely and efficient financial and administrative coordination; manage application queries; prepare agenda and minutes for meetings; provide decision making to support the Platform and its evolution; facilitate exchange of information between Parties; represent the Platform in relevant forums.

     President and Vice President are responsible for the following activity: coordination and implementation of the Platform. The Vice President assists when requested to do so by the President and can substitute for the President when mandated. Jointly, they coordinate Platform activities in line with the scientific objectives defined in the MoU and Statutes and toward fulfilment of the Strategic Research Agenda. They convene and chair Steering Committee meetings and validate meeting minutes. Post-holders will need support from their institutional positions.

     Secretary is responsible for the following activity: maintenance of membership records and management of application queries; circulation of information for Steering Committee, General Assembly and other relevant meetings.

     Treasurer is responsible for the following activity: authorise payments, approve and review costs associated with Platform activity; sign and date association financial documents; manage Steering Committee approvals/decisions concerning expenditures; report on accounts to the General Assembly.

The **Steering committee (SC)** is a group of up to 15 individuals elected by the General Assembly. The principles of eligibility, (self-)nomination, overall composition, balance of individual and institutional representation, term of office, limits on re-election, etc. will be defined in the statutes. The SC ensures that the platform conforms to its objectives and performs the activities identified in Part III. The SC will promote new ideas, stimulate initiatives and provide guidance to the platform on specific research objectives. It will oversee Working Group plans and monitor their progress; develop a conflict resolution process and implement this in case of need; and will fulfil other governance duties as specified and as required. The president and vice-president of the platform will be eligible to Chair steering committee meetings. Steering committee members are expected to be recognised researchers from the social sciences and humanities fields and membership of SC will reflect the diversity of platform membership perspectives and equality imperatives. Members of the steering committee will seek funding opportunities for the platform. The SC decides on membership applications. SC prepares the annual meeting and biennial SHARE conference; proposes decisions and items to the agenda of the General Assembly; is responsible for proper execution of decisions of the General Assembly, monitors the effective and efficient implementation of SHARE activities and advises the General Assembly on necessary modifications in the work plan.

Persons appointed to the Steering Committee will be required to take on specific Platform roles to ensure efficient functioning of the steering committee and Platform, for example, **funding resources officer, research integrity officer, outreach coordinator** and **web manager**.

The **stakeholder roundtable** will play a key role in platform governance as stakeholder integration is a fundamental part of the platform ethos. The roundtable will invite representatives from a diversity of NGOs, industry, non-affiliated citizens and public sector bodies as well as technical platforms to debate and discuss issues of concern. The goal is to institute a co-production approach to the

generation and regular updating of the platform research agenda. The stakeholder round-table will formulate research needs based on their knowledge and experience and with the support of the steering committee. Participation in the roundtable will occur through several routes including, nomination by platform members, and will be subject to a transparent approval process by the steering committee.

Working groups will be identified by the members' needs and the Steering Committee. Each group will be organised around a specific research topic / issue / methodological approach, as appropriate, and will develop on behalf of SHARE a relevant aspect of the strategic research agenda (including: position statements, policy advice, project proposals, etc.). An 'incubator group' devoted to generating, identifying or assessing emergent ideas for new working groups will be established.

Working groups may be proposed in a bottom-up way by a subset of at minimum five platform members, or, in a structured way when a topic has been identified as a priority by the steering committee or the general assembly. Each group's work plan and structure are submitted for validation by the steering committee. The working groups will report back to the steering committee on a regular basis to monitor progress and validate the output (internal or public report, position statement, submission of evidence, research note etc.). In principle, published WG outputs are in the name of SHARE; in emergency contexts when time is of the essence (policy advice in case of radiological incident, etc.) a statement can be published under the name of the working group and is then subject to review by the steering committee to become a platform publication. The working groups will have an organised dialogue with the stakeholder round table. The General Assembly agenda will include an overview of work done and to be done by WGs.

Platform projects are carried out within the network of members and partners. They will be inspired by the working groups and /or SC and targeted at agreed priorities within the SHARE SRA.

Membership

Given the scope of activities proposed and the inclusive character of the platform, several modes of membership are proposed:

- Institutional members
  o Universities; research organisations, represented by a maximum of 2 members for voting purposes
- Individual members (full voting rights)
- Associate members (no voting rights)

Members are anticipated to hold a strong social science and humanities research background and an interdisciplinary outlook.

Fees

Members are encouraged to pay the following membership fees which confer voting rights and other benefits (e.g. reduced conference fees)

Research Organisation membership   400euro
University membership   200 euro
Individual membership   50 euro
Students / Associate Membership - free

V. Resolution

These Terms of Reference of the SHARE platform will be discussed and validated on the occasion of the first General Assembly on 4-5th July 2019 held in Barcelona, Spain.