

RAYS OF HOPE ANCHOR CENTRES

SELECTION CRITERIA

Technical criteria

The applying institution shall:

- Possess strong record as a lead institution in the region in providing training services in the thematic area of interest.
- Possess the required expertise, human capacity (qualified and skilled staff), well-established quality management system and adequate physical infrastructure (teaching premises, research infrastructure, equipment, as well as other relevant facilities) to provide training services at the regional level.
- Have sufficient staff and organizational structure dedicated to training activities, such as residency and post-graduate programmes in the relevant areas.
- Have demonstrated experience and managerial capacity in providing training services at the national and regional level, particularly by hosting fellows and organizing training events.
- Be engaged in a working relationship with other relevant institutions within the Member State, in relevant regional cooperation, as well as in appropriate regional/international knowledge exchange and networking activities.
- Demonstrate capabilities and results in research and innovations through, for example, publications, organization of conferences, participation in or leading clinical research projects.

Sustainability criteria

The applying institution shall:

- Have demonstrated long term commitment (decades rather than years) through self-supporting mechanisms and local financial support to maintain the continuity of training activities, research and innovations, and to ensure sustainability.
- Enjoy adequate and continuous local support and funding as part of a well-supported national programme.
- Have links to national universities with recognition/accreditation of relevant educational and training programmes.

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Quality Assurance criteria

The applying institution shall:

- Have a well-established and documented quality assurance programme in line with IAEA guidelines.

The IAEA can help the applying institution review its established quality assurance programme by providing the relevant check lists and self-assessment forms (in radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, radiology and training) to identify areas of improvement, which can be included in IAEA support.

Logistics criteria

The applying institution shall:

- Maintain adequate infrastructure and ensure access to facilities as required for the training and research and innovations.
- Be able to provide the required materials and tools for training.

Anchor Centre governance criteria

Radiotherapy

The applying institution shall:

- Have well-established and documented procedures and protocols for QA/QC of equipment and instruments.
- Have documented procedures and assigned responsibilities for radiation/clinical oncologist, medical physicists and radiation therapists (RTTs).
- Discuss the majority of cases in a multidisciplinary setting as outlined in IAEA human Health Series 14, Planning National Radiotherapy Services: A Practical Tool.

Radiology and nuclear medicine

The applying institution shall:

- Have standard operating procedures.
- Have referral guidelines for medical imaging implemented in daily practice.
- Have documented procedures and assigned responsibilities for radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, nurses, medical physicists, radiographers/technologists, radiopharmacists/radiochemists and nuclear medicine technologists.
- Have well-established and documented procedures and protocols for QA/QC of equipment and instruments.
- Have multidisciplinary settings established for patient-management decision making processes.

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Education and training criteria

The applying institution shall:

- Have a training programme providing balanced education in the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviours required for safe diagnostics and treatment of cancers.
- Have training programme qualifications that follow IAEA curriculum recommendations or similar, insofar as available.
- Have a complete training programme, of which the minimum duration for clinical/radiation oncologists, radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, RTTs, radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists, radiopharmacists/radiochemists, sonographers, medical physicists, and/or nurses have to be consistent with IAEA guidance documents or similar, insofar as available.
- Make sure that, at the end of the training, the trainees are able to demonstrate the ability to independently provide high quality care to patients in the area of training.
- Support the trainees to demonstrate soft skills such as interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.

Organization of training programme

- Institutions and trainers taking part in training programmes need to be able to provide broad-based opportunities that include both clinical and academic experiences.
- There needs to be one trainer (Programme Director) with the primary responsibility of overseeing the whole programme, monitoring training delivered by staff and ensuring adequate assessment of trainees.
- There needs to be a trainer (Educational Supervisor) with the primary responsibility of meeting regularly with each trainee, to provide mentorship and educational support.
- All trainers have to demonstrate commitment to the programme in terms of clinical, educational and academic support.
- The training capacity of the programme will be determined by the number, qualifications and commitment of the faculty and the workload of the various departments.
- Trainees will have the opportunity to give regular feedback to the IAEA on their training experience.