

Enabling Research Access for Multi-parametric Molecular Imaging Technologies: the ERAMMIT proposal

Marco Paganoni - Univ. of Milano

Abstract

The aim of the ERAMMIT proposal is to establish a Starting Community for Multi-Parametric Molecular Imaging Technologies (MMIT) by setting up a European Research Infrastructure (RI). In Europe the MMIT community comprises thousands of medical physicists, hardware and software engineers, and clinicians, who daily work in the clinical environment of radiotherapy, radiology, and nuclear medicine hospital departments as well in industrial R&D laboratories. To date this diverse community lacks efficient coordination at European level, which hampers a satisfactory exploitation of important research achievements. ERAMMIT will address this by a series of integrating activities comprising trans-national access, networking and joint research. ERAMMIT will establish a top level Research Infrastructure, then provide coordinated trans-national user access to a set of Pillars and services with the aim of exploiting complementary skills to increase the international competitiveness of the European MMIT community. It will furthermore implement joint research activities that are tightly integrated with the four RI Pillars and target a further improvement of the access provided. Networking activities will be transversal to the whole project, fostering a culture of co-operation between the relevant RIs, public researchers, industrial manufacturers, and healthcare stakeholders. Additionally, a business model will be prepared for the long term sustainability of the RI. The interest in ERAMMIT is widespread in academia and industry and a considerable number of Letters of Interest stresses the need for its implementation. Industry will use the ERAMMIT Research Infrastructure as a test bed and pay for the service whereas researchers will be subsidized by funding agencies.