

## Guidelines of the OpenRiskNet Associated Partner Programme

The OpenRiskNet project aims to develop an e-infrastructure providing data sources and software tools as services for predictive toxicology and risk assessment in a harmonised and interoperable way. To ensure the usability of the infrastructure, alignment with the community needs, and pursuit of complete coverage of important tools, OpenRiskNet works with a network of partners, organized into the Associated Partners Programme.

### What is in there for me?

We envision two types of associate partners: 1) partners willing to include their services into the OpenRiskNet infrastructure and 2) individual partners or partner projects interested in using the infrastructure to support their daily work in predictive toxicology and risk assessment. Non-exclusive lists of benefits for these groups are:

**Service providers:** greater visibility of their tools by being listed in the OpenRiskNet discovery service, infinite additional features by combining with other tools, support for emerging techniques like API development and containerization/deployment.

**Early adopters:** easy access to an increasing number of tools using their preferred access route (web, workflow tools like knime, scripts) without the need to manually download of data and convert files when moving from one tool to another, harmonized access for comparison of different approaches.

### Who can become an Associate Partner of OpenRiskNet?

The Associated Partner Program aims at strengthening the working ties between the OpenRiskNet Consortium members and other organisations within the scientific community. An organisation such as a university, institute, consortium, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) or large commercial companies can become an Associate Partner of OpenRiskNet.

### How to become an Associate Partner?

An organisation interested in the Associated Partner Program can informally contact the coordinator of OpenRiskNet or any other member of the consortium. Additionally, the OpenRiskNet consortium members will actively search and approach organisations, which have been identified as providers of relevant services. Negotiations will be started between the coordinator and the organisation aiming at signing an Associated Partner Programme Agreement, which will cover the roles and responsibilities of both parties, as well as basis for exchange of information. On acceptance, the partnership will be publicly communicated and put onto the OpenRiskNet website. In addition to becoming an Associated Partner, the organisation can also apply for the Implementation Challenges of the OpenRiskNet project, which provides financial support in the form of in-kind work to selected organisations. In

this challenge, external tools especially in areas of risk assessment not completely covered by the OpenRiskNet consortium will be selected for prioritized integration partial financially and strongly technically supported by researchers of OpenRiskNet partners. The exact conditions will be negotiated individually with the winners of these challenges.

## What are the obligations of an Associated Partner providing services?

The first of the primary aims of the Associated Partner Programme is to extend the number of services available in the OpenRiskNet e-infrastructure by integration of data source and software tools provided by the Associated Partners and, in this way, make the OpenRiskNet e-infrastructure more attractive to all stakeholders. This integration will include the following steps:

- Development and harmonisation of APIs for accessing the data and tool services
- Service containerisation for easier deployment
- Integration of the tools in workflows for defining standard approaches for predictive toxicology and risk assessment in research and regulatory settings

To achieve these goals, the Associated Partner is responsible for:

- providing interfaces to their services, which can be accessed by other OpenRiskNet services and
- providing a containerized version of their services or all information needed to containerize the service by an OpenRiskNet partner and
- providing information on licensing and access rights to the services.

The OpenRiskNet Consortium is responsible for:

- providing detailed technical documentation on the OpenRiskNet infrastructure and the harmonisation and interoperability communication layer and
- providing access to the OpenRiskNet reference instance of the virtual environment for testing of the functionality and usability of the Associated Partner's tool / service and
- providing premium user and integration support and
- trying to adapt the infrastructure according to any requirements and shortcomings identified by the Associated Partner.

## What are the obligations of an Associated Partner as early adopter?

The second primary aim of the Associated Partner programme is to increase the stakeholders involvement in the layouting of the infrastructure by including feedback from early adopters. Associated Partners will be given access to the reference virtual instance and all provided services allowing them to apply these tools for work related to publically funded projects, case study work of OpenRiskNet and internal projects.

Similar to the task described above for service providers, the OpenRiskNet Consortium is responsible for:

- providing detailed technical and scientific documentation on the OpenRiskNet infrastructure and the harmonisation and interoperability communication layer and
- providing access to the OpenRiskNet reference instance of the virtual environment, OpenRiskNet services and workflows resulting from the case studies for testing of the functionality and usability and
- providing premium user and integration support.

The Associated Partner will:

- provide feedback on the usability and fitness of the e-infrastructure for risk assessment and predictive toxicology applications and
- suggest additional features for the core infrastructure as well as important data sources and services to be included and
- contribute to the case study work by providing alternative approaches or even suggesting additional case studies.

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