



SAFE EUROPE study: Safe And Free Exchange of EU RadiOgraphy Professionals across Europe

McFadden, S., Mc Clure, P., Couto, J., & Hughes, C. (in press). *SAFE EUROPE study: Safe And Free Exchange of EU RadiOgraphy Professionals across Europe*. 1. Poster session presented at ISRRRT 2021, Ireland.

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Publication Status:

Accepted/In press: 20/08/2021

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Introduction

Education of radiotherapy professionals/Therapeutic Radiographers (RPs/TR's) IS not regulated at European Union (EU) level,

* This may hinder mobility of professionals and compromise patient safety

National training of staff—not standardised across Europe

Different skills and competencies

Need to ensure safe practice is maintained with movement of professionals across Europe

ERASMUS+ funded research, under Sector Skills Alliance Key Action 2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

- 499,736 Euros funded over 3 year period
- 7 partners across Europe

2 Universities

Ulster University **UK**, University of Malta, **Malta**

3 National professional associations

Associação Portuguesa dos Radioterapeutas (ART), **Portugal**

Society of Medical Radiographers (SRM), **Malta**

Polskie Towarzystwo Elekroradiologii (PTE), **Poland**

1 European Federation

European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS), **Holland**

1 public hospital (IPOP)

Instituto Portugues de Oncologia Porto (IPOP), **Portugal**

Aim

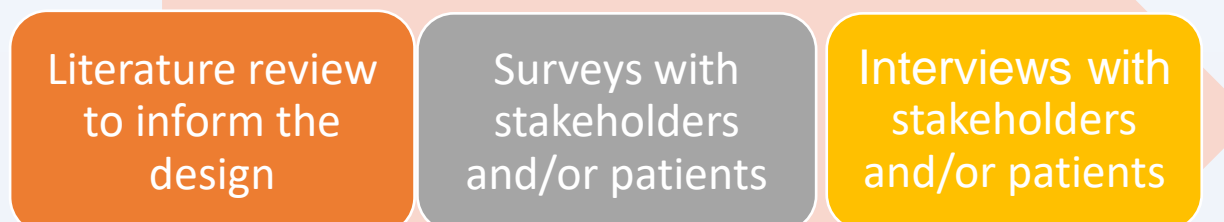
To identify the educational gaps in the competencies of TRs across Europe and implement educational actions to close these gaps.

- Administration of radiotherapy treatments
- Digital skills of the TRs
- Circular Economy in Radiotherapy
- Advanced roles of the TRs

12 Work packages (WP):- specific to TR's working in the **linear accelerator**

1. Preparation and management
2. Quality assurance

Methodology WP 3-8- - Common approach



3. Assessment of competencies developed during education.
4. Stakeholders perception of the competencies required.
5. Assessment of patients' perceptions of requirements of TR's.
6. Investigate the applicability of circular economy.
7. Assessment of the digital skills required by TR's
8. Assessment of Advanced Practice for TR's

Results WP 3-8- inform WP 9-12


9. Dissemination of results (conferences/meetings)
10. Webinars
11. Submission of research results into European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO)
12. Dissemination of results to stakeholders

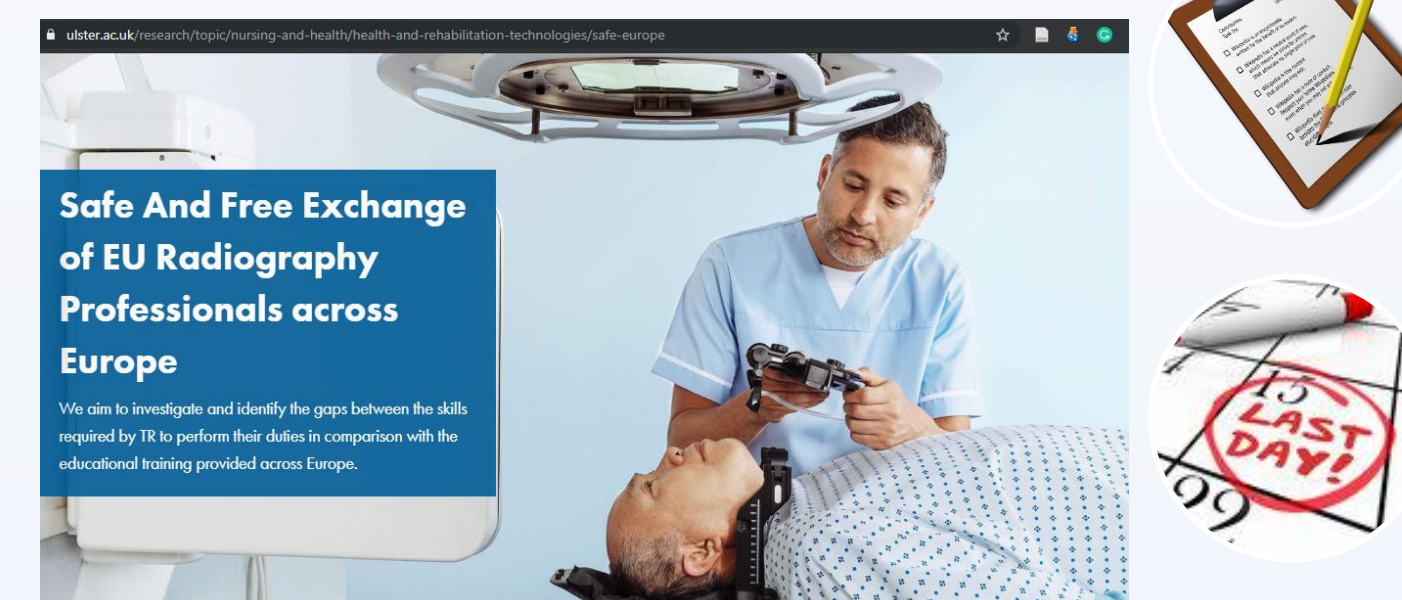
Ongoing results

WP 1 and 2 Preparation and management/QA

 @Safe Europe Project

 @SAFEurope1  SAFE EUROPE CONSORTIUM

 WWW.SAFEEUROPE.EU

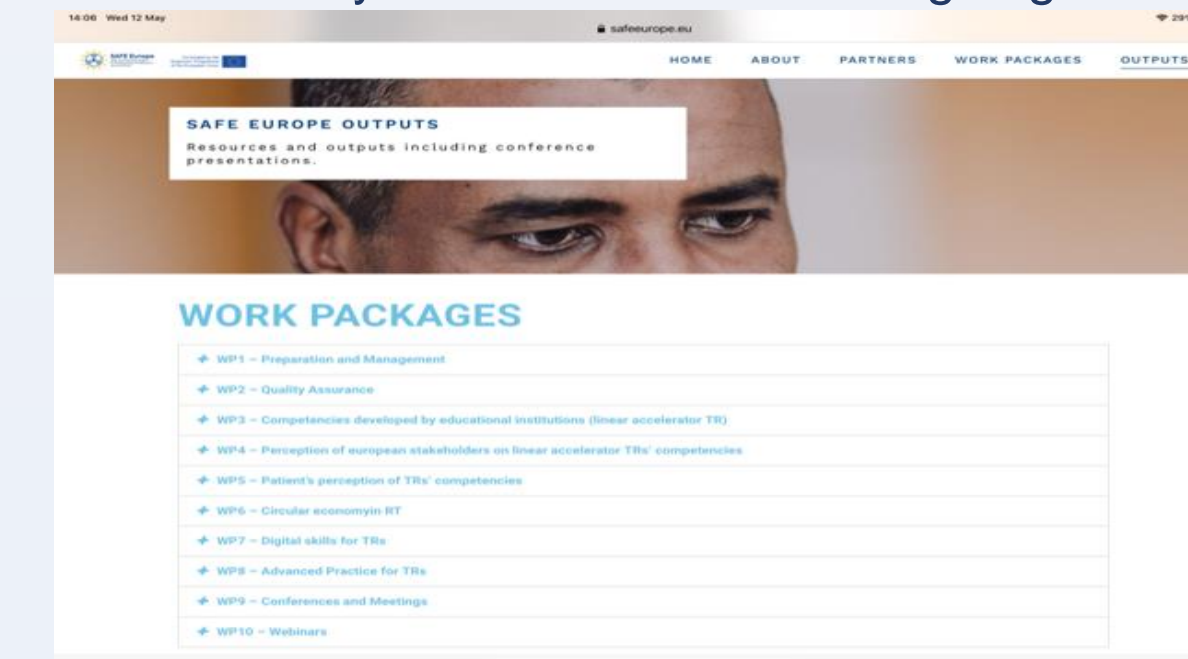


Outputs to date on website @ www.safeurope.eu

Results

WP 3 and 4 completed showing great variation in practice across Europe. Evaluation of radiotherapy education and a list of competencies required with links to publications, factsheets and webinars are available on the website. ^{1,2,3}

WP 5 – 8 surveys and interviews are ongoing.



Freely available online webinars are available to inform and educate staff on the skills that are less developed in different countries

Conclusions

- ✓ Standardisation of practice is required
- ✓ TRs should have competencies that match the European market needs
- ✓ This standardisation will increase employability, staff mobility and knowledge transfer
- ✓ Ultimately, we aim to enable the same standard of care across the EU, regardless of where staff were educated

References

- [1] Couto JG, Mc Fadden S, Bezzina P, Mc Clure P, Hughes C (2018) An evaluation of the educational requirements to practise radiography in the European Union. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radi.2017.07.009>
- [2] Couto JG, Mc Fadden S, Bezzina P, Mc Clure P, Hughes C (2019) Competencies of therapeutic radiographers working in the linear accelerator across Europe: A systematic search of the literature and thematic analysis. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radi.2019.06.004>
- [3] Couto JG, Mc Fadden S, Mc Clure P, Bezzina P, Camilleri L, Hughes C (2021) Evaluation of radiotherapy education across the EU and the impact on graduates' competencies working on the linear accelerator <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radi.2020.08.010>

Acknowledgements

The EC support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects only the views of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.