SAFE EUROPE project: management, implementation and quality assurance

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Background

- Incidence of cancer increasing
- 52% of cancer cases undergo RT
- Education of radiotherapy professionals (RPs) not regulated at European Union (EU) level,
- * This may hinder mobility of professionals and compromise patient safety.

Training not standardized across Europe

Different skills and competencies

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

- 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 (Nov 18-Oct 21)

- 7 partners

- 12 Work packages (WP)
7 partners

- Led by Ulster University, Belfast, UK
- Includes six other partners
  - three national professional associations (ART, SRM, TNTMR)
  - one European federation (EFRS)
  - one other university (UoM)
  - one public hospital (IPOP)
12 Work packages

WP1. Preparation and management

WP2. Quality assurance
12 Work packages

WP3. Assessment of the RP competencies developed in education institutions.

WP4. Perception of stakeholders on the competencies required.

WP5. Assessment of patients’ perceptions of requirements of RP’s.

WP6. Investigate the applicability of circular economy.

WP7. Assessment of the digital skills required by RP’s.

WP8. Assessment of Advanced Practice for RP’S

(specific to RP’s working in the linear accelerator)

(relevant aspects to include in RP’s education)
12 Work packages

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
Overall aim

- To assess the market needs, identify the educational gaps and implement educational actions to close these gaps in regards to the competencies of RPs across Europe.

- Specifically in
  - Administration of radiotherapy treatments
  - Digital skills of the RPs
  - Circular Economy in Radiotherapy
  - Advanced roles of the RPs
Methodology

Common methodology across work packages

- Literature review to inform the design
- Surveys with stakeholders and/or patients
- Interviews with stakeholders and/or patients

Freely available online webinars on the skills that are less developed
Management, implementation and quality assurance
Setting up the consortium....

- Added value for the project (tick the boxes)
- Experience in the tasks assigned to them
- Experience in European Projects
- Good geographic distribution
- Commited to the project

- (MUST be able to contribute to the application)
- (we contacted more organisations than the minimum required)
WP 1. Preparation and management

Organisation of project meetings:
- Initial meeting, 2 steering meetings and 1 final meeting + monthly online

Promote inter-group communication and establish a communication system (shared access)

Scheduled deadlines and construct table of performance indicators

Realistic division of the responsibilities
WP 1. Preparation and management

Setup website + social media

Safe And Free Exchange of EU Radiography Professionals across Europe

We aim to investigate and identify the gaps between the skills required by TR to perform their duties in comparison with the educational training provided across Europe.

@safeeuropeproject

@UUSAFFEEurope
Management

Several dimensions:
- scientific coordination,
- financial management,
- dissemination/exploitation
- quality control

Monthly online meetings via skype
Contract developed across all partners
Monthly timesheets
Intellectual property agreement
Website + Social Media
6 monthly progress reports
Six-monthly Progress reports

• By all partners:
  • time-line assessment (identification of the phase of achievement on the WP, the next phase and the next deliverable and expected achievements of these checkpoints)
  • quantitative and qualitative indicators of progress
  • methodological evaluation (including changes in methodology)
  • financial report

• This will be fed into WP 2 → quality assurance
WP 2. Quality assurance

Expert review processes as an integral part of the project.

- Independent **external quality assessment** @ mid-term and end of project,
  - Mid-term & final project progress report submitted to the European Commission

- The **internal assessment** → always

- **Bi-annual reports** from each partner

- Financial management → budget according to plan.

- **Scientific management** → project in accordance with application

- **NB can be audited at any time up to 2026!**
Preliminary results @ end of first year

WP3 – Lit Review: List of competencies on the linear accelerator

WP3 – Questionnaire: Competency across European education institutions

WP7 – Pilot questionnaire: Digital skills
Preliminary results. Available:

SAFE EUROPE WEBSITE

SOCIAL MEDIA

CONFERENCES
Conclusions

✓ Competencies that match the European market needs
✓ Increase employability and knowledge transfer
✓ Same standard of care, regardless of where they were educated
Thank you for listening.

Questions?

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