

LISTOPAD 26-27 2021 | HYBRYDOWO ONLINE I ON-SITE

X OGÓLNOPOLSKIE WARSZTATY Z OKAZJI ŚWIATOWEGO DNIA RADIOLOGII

Wydarzenie Towarzyszące i SAFE Europe ERASMUS +



Current state of Advanced Practice amongst Therapeutic Radiographers/Radiation Therapists

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PhD student @ University of Vigo, SPAIN

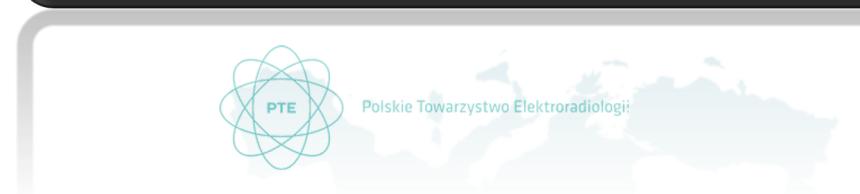
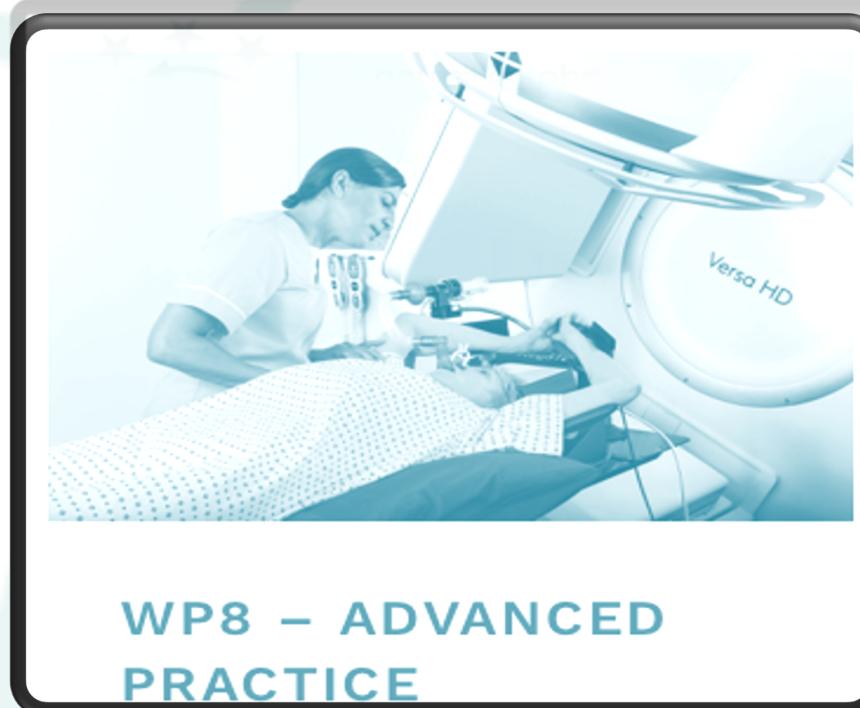
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**Co-funded by the
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Context



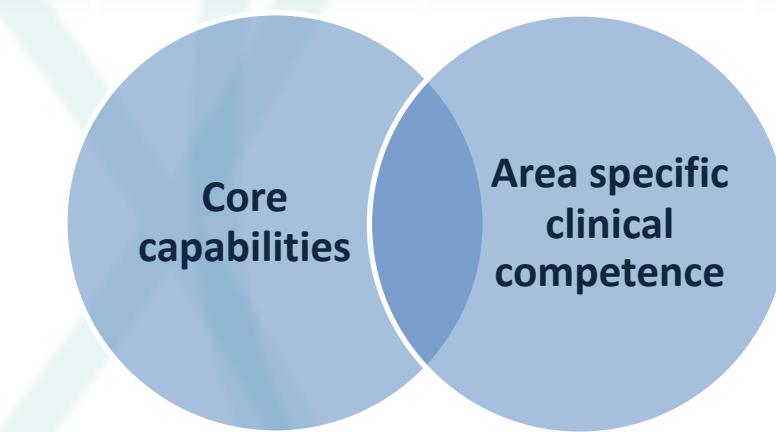
Assessment of Advanced Practice (AP) for Therapeutic Radiographers/Radiation Therapists (RTTs) in the National, European and International context

- ✓ Systematic literature review (International)
- ✓ Survey (national level: Poland, Malta, Portugal, UK & European level)
- ✓ Interviews (European stakeholders)



Adopted definition of Advanced Practice

Health Education England 2017³



Systematic Literature Review



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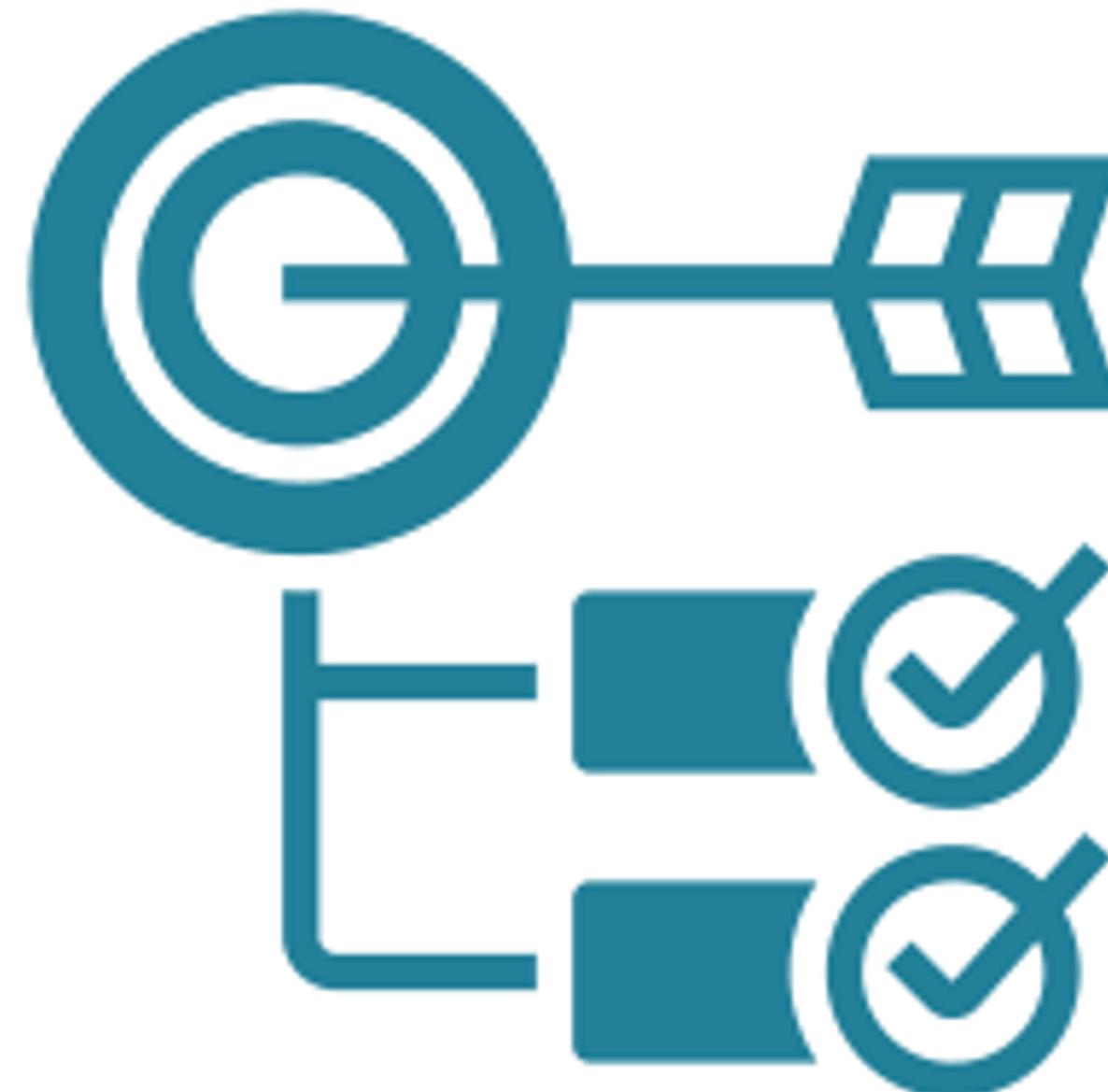
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Polskie Towarzystwo Elektrodiologii



Aim & Specific Objectives



- ✓ To establish an international baseline of evidence on AP roles in RT

- ✓ To identify AP roles, activities/tasks amongst RTTs

- ✓ To capture its perceived impact on clinical, organizational and professional outcomes.

Methods

✓ Review question

Which AP roles have been developed by RTTs?



✓ Search strategy

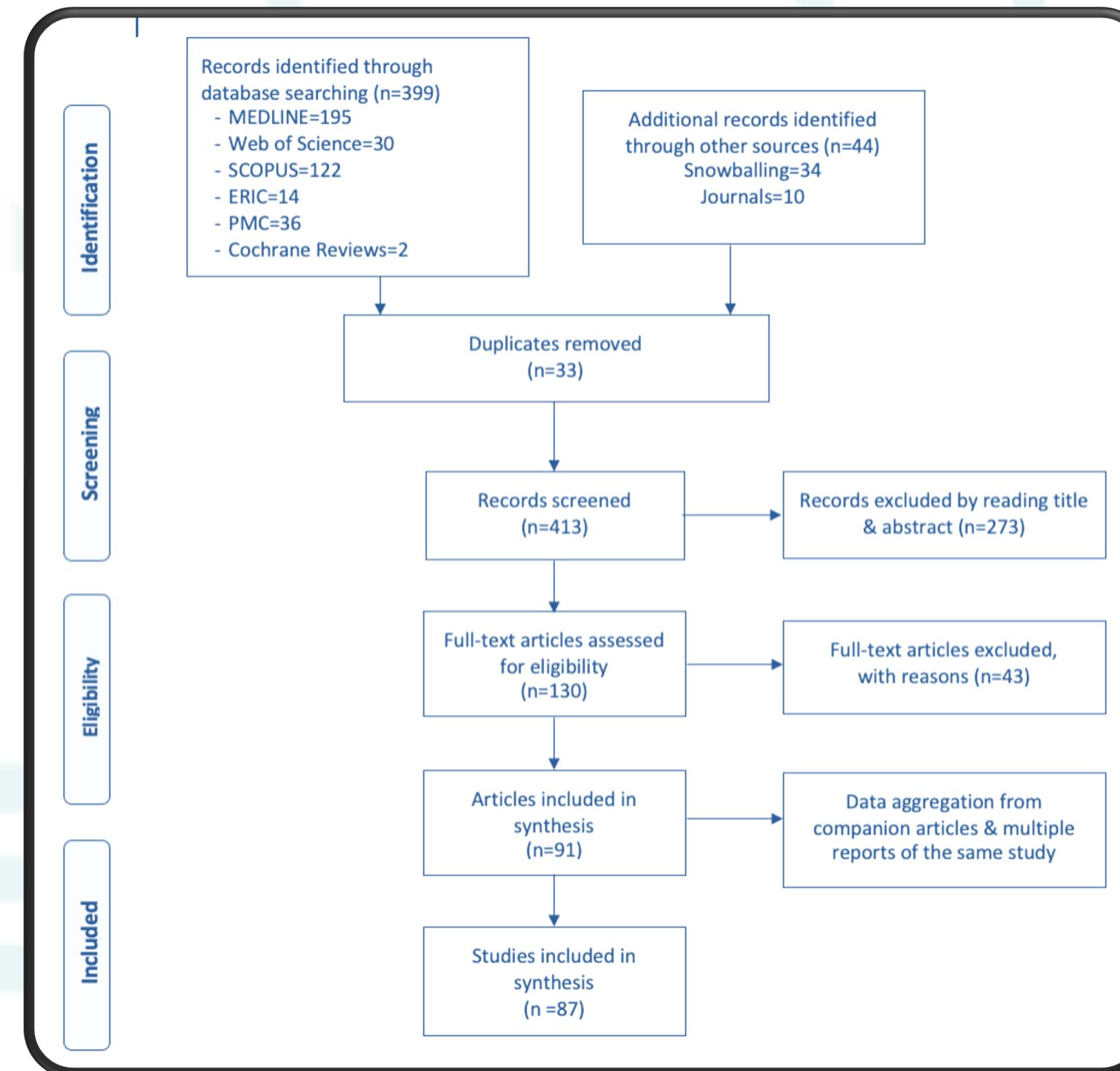
PRISMA protocol⁴

| Section/topic | # | Checklist item | Information reported | Line number(s) |
|----------------------------|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION | | | | |
| Title | | | | |
| Identification | 1a | Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Update | 1b | If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Registration | 2 | If registered, provide the name of the registry (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number in the Abstract | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Authors | | | | |
| Contact | 3a | Provide name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Contributions | 3b | Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Amendments | 4 | If the protocol represents an amendment of a previously completed or published protocol, identify as such and list changes; otherwise, state plan for documenting important protocol amendments | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Support | | | | |
| Sources | 5a | Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sponsor | 5b | Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Role of sponsor/funder | 5c | Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| INTRODUCTION | | | | |
| Rationale | 6 | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Objectives | 7 | Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PRISMA Flow Diagram



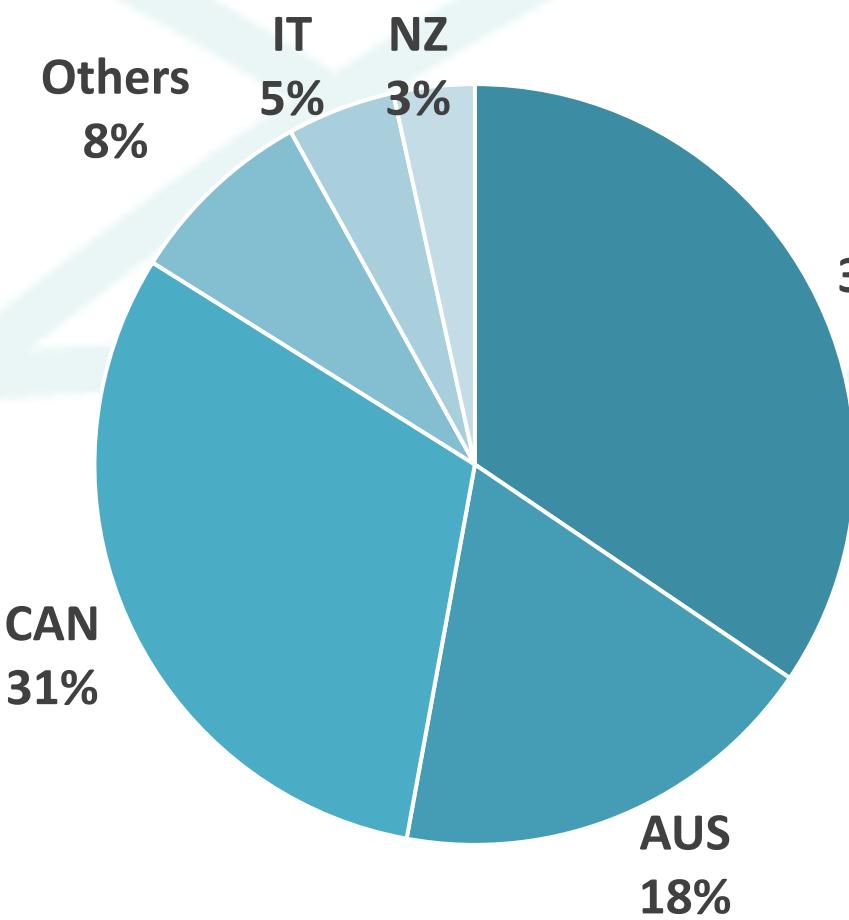
87



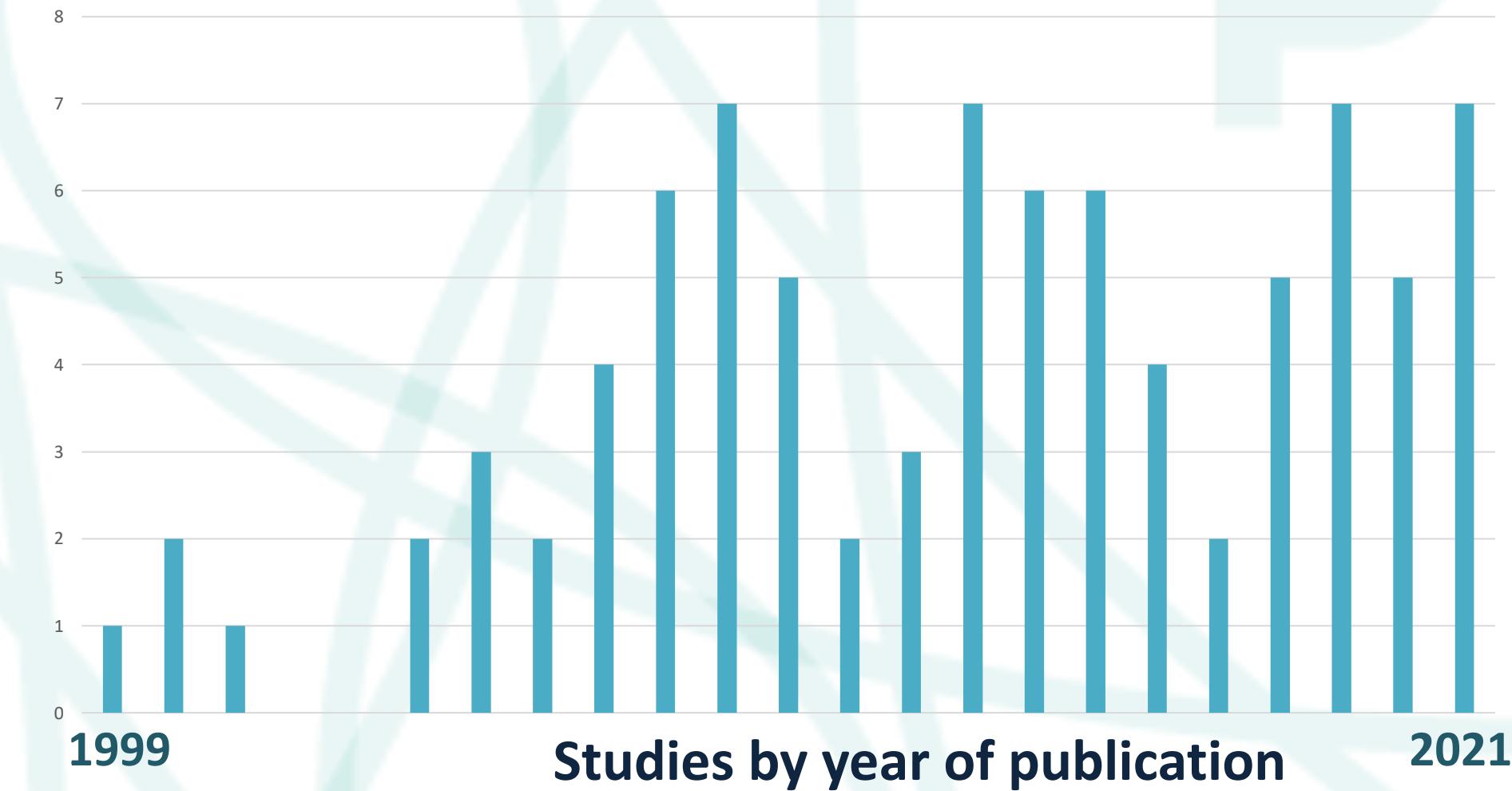
- ✓ Data extraction & synthesis
- Thematic analysis
 - Validation by RT expert panel



Results



Studies by country



Studies by year of publication

5

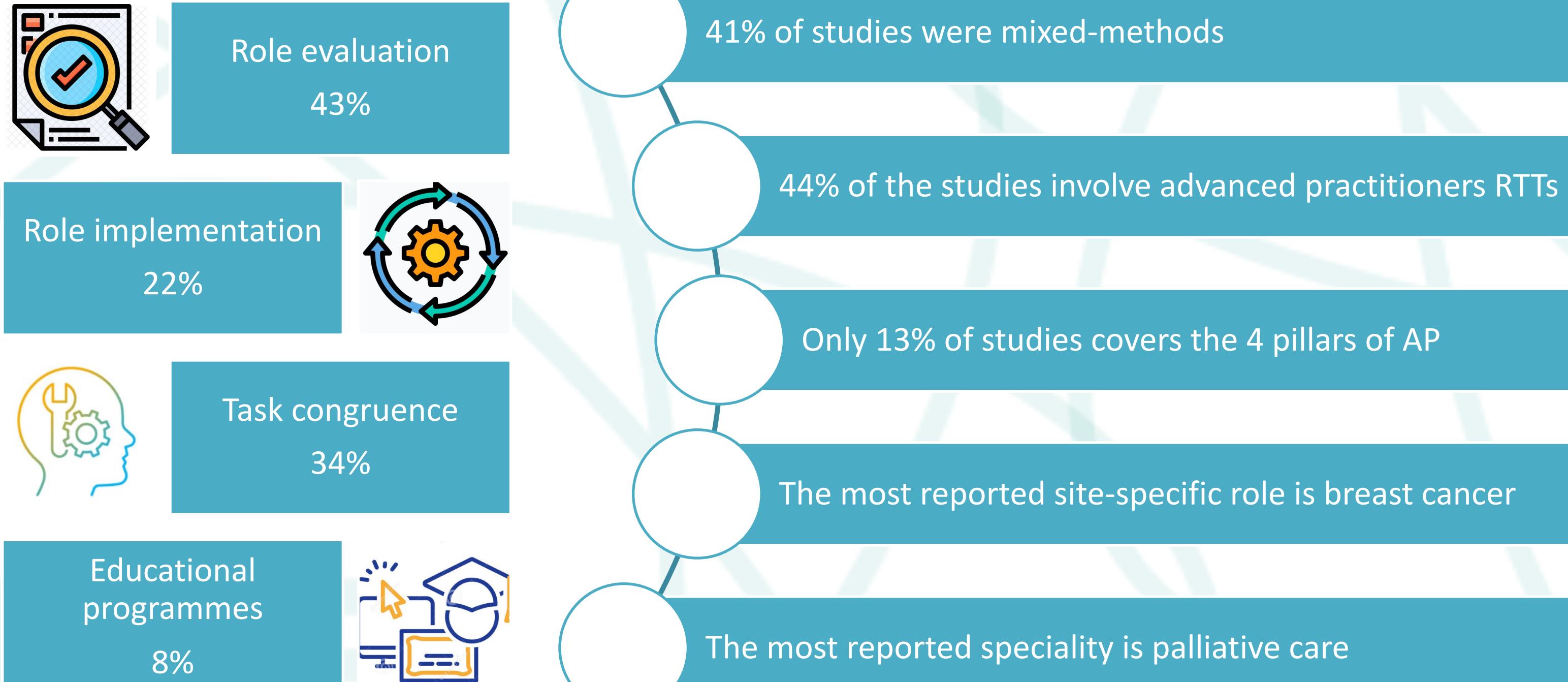


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Results



Results

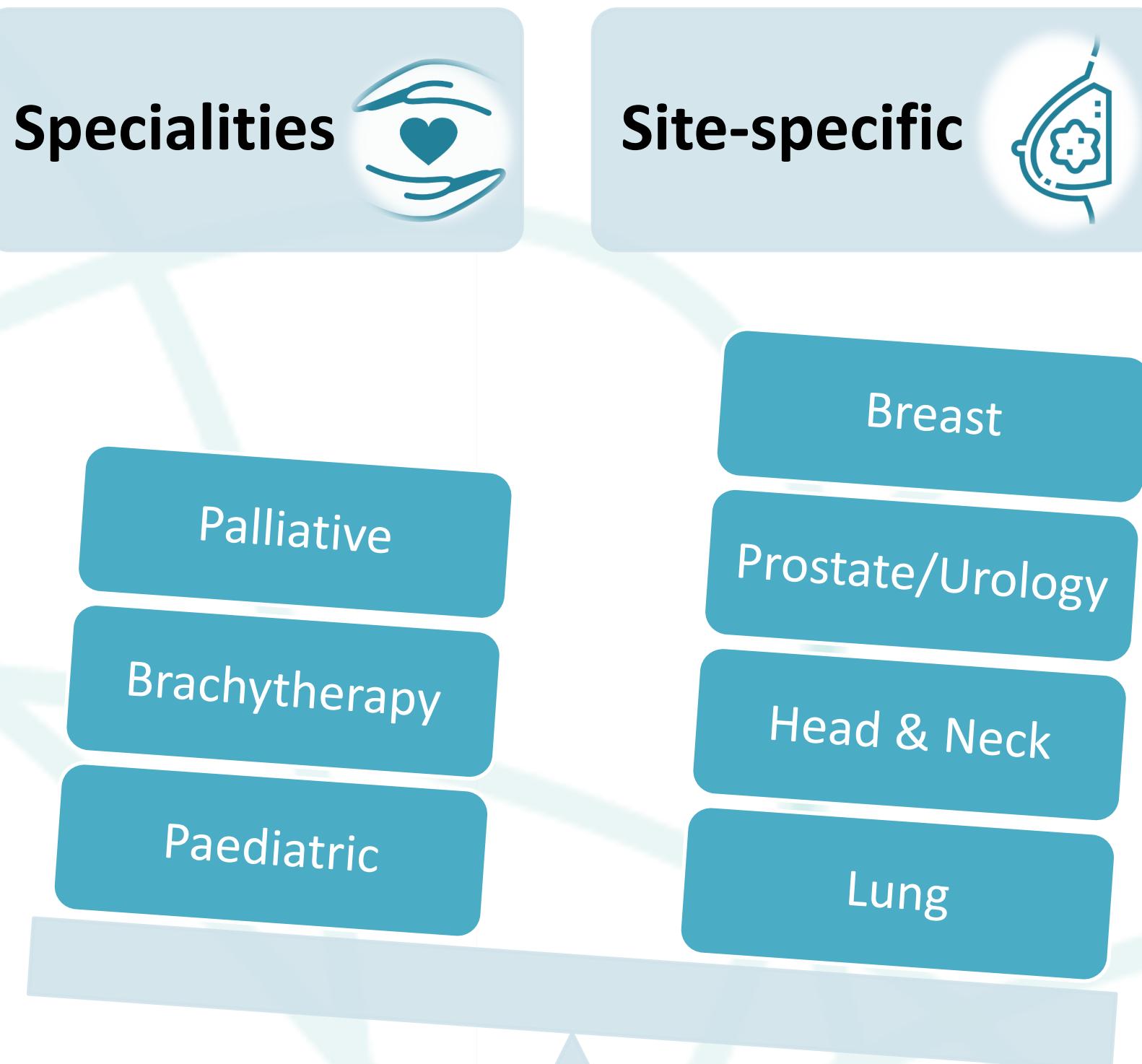
7 dimensions



27 groups of advanced activities
Example of Patient Care dimension:



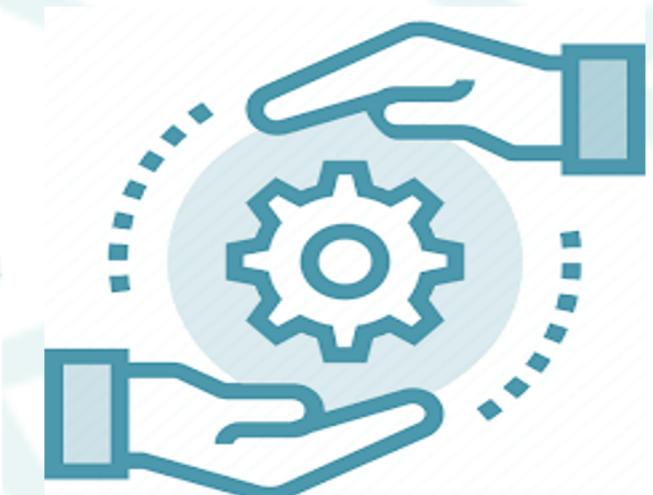
Results



Results



| IMPACT of Advanced Practice | Examples | Studies (n) |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Higher service efficiency | patient throughput, workflow optimisation | 30 |
| Maintain quality standards | low observer variability - tasks performance | 28 |
| Improved patient satisfaction | quality of patient review, patient comfort | 24 |
| Enhanced patient experience | patient empowerment, patient reassurance | 19 |
| Increased job satisfaction | career progression, team working | 18 |



Discussion

AP roles performed by RTTs meet patient care demands with:

- ✓ High level of autonomy and complexity,
- ✓ Advanced education and professional experience,
- ✓ Positive impact on service efficiency, quality of practice, patient care, staff satisfaction...

Two decades of evidence supports AP roles amongst RTTs, but more studies are required:

- ✓ With robust design methods,
- ✓ With impact assessment on treatment outcomes & cost-effectiveness,
- ✓ In multi-centre & multi-practitioners setting.

Advanced Practitioners in RT should embrace the four pillars in their professional practice for “future proofing”!



European Survey



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Survey "Advanced Practice Roles amongst Therapeutic Radiographers in Europe"

✓ Aims

To assess the current RT AP roles across Europe

To identify the educational gaps for this advanced level practice

✓ Self-design questionnaire

- based on literature review (SLR + grey literature)
- with validated list of groups of advanced activities



Socio-demographics



Professional profile



Training needs

Survey "Advanced Practice Roles amongst Therapeutic Radiographers in Europe"

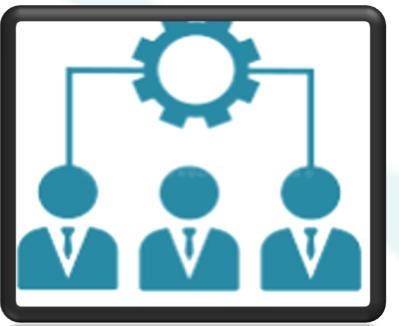
✓ Ethics approval

- Ulster University (Project Number: FCNUR-21-080)



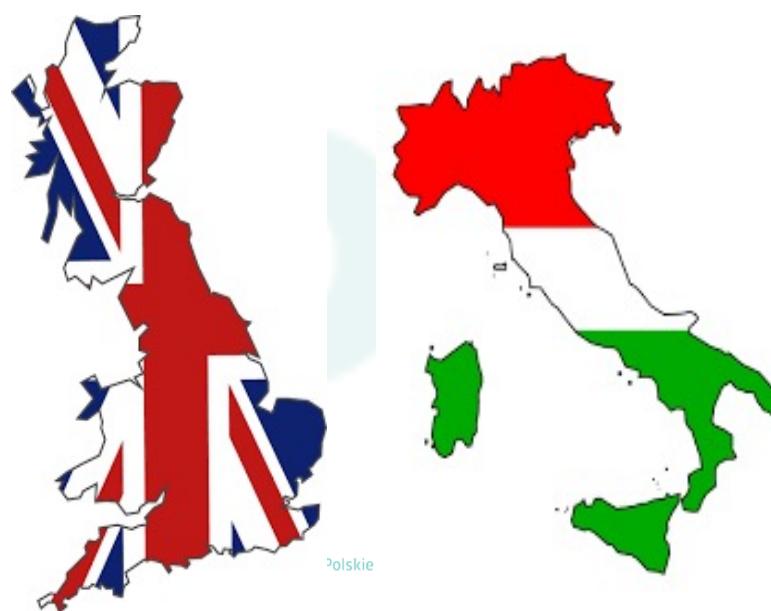
✓ Pre-test: content validity

- 5 RT experts from SAFE EUROPE Project



✓ Pilot study: test-retest reliability

- 5 RTTs/ Advanced practitioners from different countries



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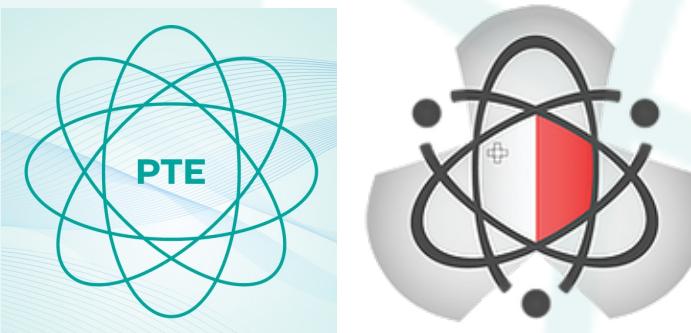


Please participate in our survey...

(if in your professional practice you perform advanced practice roles/tasks)



<https://forms.office.com/r/HZde2NTz5K>



<https://www.safeeurope.eu>



The smartphone screen shows a Microsoft Forms survey. At the top, there's a logo for 'SAFE Europe' and other partners. Below it, the title 'Advanced Practice Roles amongst Therapeutic Radiographers in Europe (Pilot Study)' is displayed. The survey begins with a question about gender: '3. Gender: *'. It offers three options: 'Female' (selected), 'Male', and 'Prefer not to state'. Next is a question about current work: '4. Are you currently working in Radiotherapy? *'. It has two options: 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'. The final visible question is '5. In which country do you work? *', with a dropdown menu showing 'Poland'.



The smartphone screen displays an 'Invitation and Information Letter' for the 'Advanced Practice Roles amongst Therapeutic Radiographers in Europe (Pilot Study)'. At the top, logos for 'SAFE Europe', 'Ulster University', 'EFRS', 'art', and 'IPO PORTO' are shown. The letter starts with 'Dear colleague,' and invites the reader to participate in the survey if they perform advanced practice roles in their professional practice. It explains that advanced practice is characterized by autonomy and complex decision making, delivered by experienced TRs/RTTs underpinned by training. The survey encompasses four pillars: clinical practice, leadership and management, education and research with demonstration of core capabilities and area specific clinical competences. The study is part of the SAFE EUROPE project (www.safeeurope.eu), co-funded by the ERASMUS+ Sector Skills alliances programme of the European Union. It is also part of the PhD study entitled "Assessment of Advanced Practice Roles amongst Therapeutic Radiographers in Europe". The aim of the survey is to assess the current radiotherapy advanced practice roles across Europe and identify the

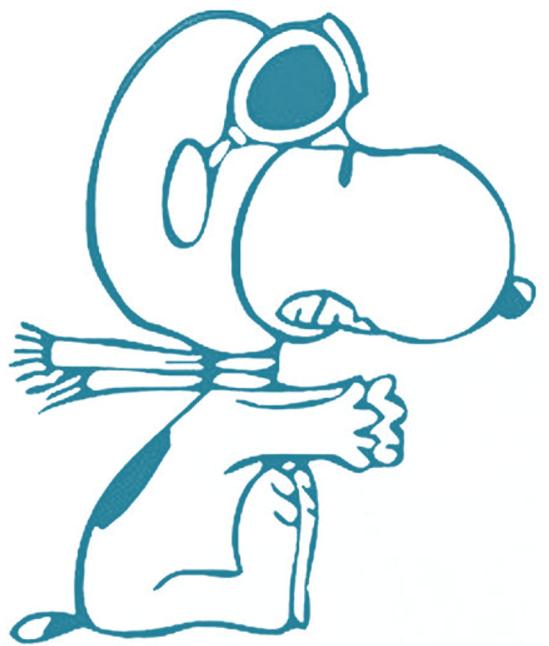
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What next?



➤ Online interviews

- AP representatives: RTTs, advanced practitioners...
- Professional practice representatives: managers, professional associations...
- Education representatives: lectures, students, head of departments...
- Regulation representatives: professional bodies, agencies...



References

- 1. European Federation of Radiographer Societies. European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 7 Benchmarking Document: Radiographers 2017.
- 2. Coffey M, Leech M. The European Society of Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) European Higher Education Area levels 7 and 8 postgraduate benchmarking document for Radiation Therapists (RTTs). *Tech Innov Patient Support Radiat Oncol* 2018;8:22–40.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tipsro.2018.09.009>.
- 3. Health Education England. Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England 2017.
- 4. PRISMA-P Group, Moher D, Shamseer L, Clarke M, Ghersi D, Liberati A, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. *Syst Rev* 2015;4:1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/2046-4053-4-1>.

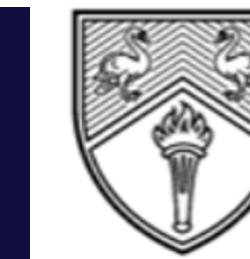
Acknowledgements

Research team: Bárbara Barbosa (PT), Guilherme Couto (MT), Supervisors: Isabel Bravo (PT), Ricardo Khine (UK), Helen McNair (UK) Support: Sonyia McFadden (UK), Ciara Hughes (UK), Jonathan McNulty (IRL)



Safe Europe RT experts: Ana Luísa Soares (PT), Bartosz Bak (PL), Charlotte Beardmore (UK), Isabel Lobato (PT), Filipe Moura (PT), Kyle Muscat (MT), Marco Caetano (PT)

External RT AP experts: Filipa Sousa (BE), Francesca Cavallo (IT), Kate Laverty (NIR), Philipp Scherer (AT), Rita Simões (ENG)



Thank You! Questions?



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