



Advanced Practice: Current and Future Challenges

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SAFE Europe

Safe And Free Exchange of
EU Radiography Professionals
across Europe

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(Project Coordinator)



L-Università
ta' Malta



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Polskie Towarzystwo Elektoradiologii



Advanced Practice in Healthcare

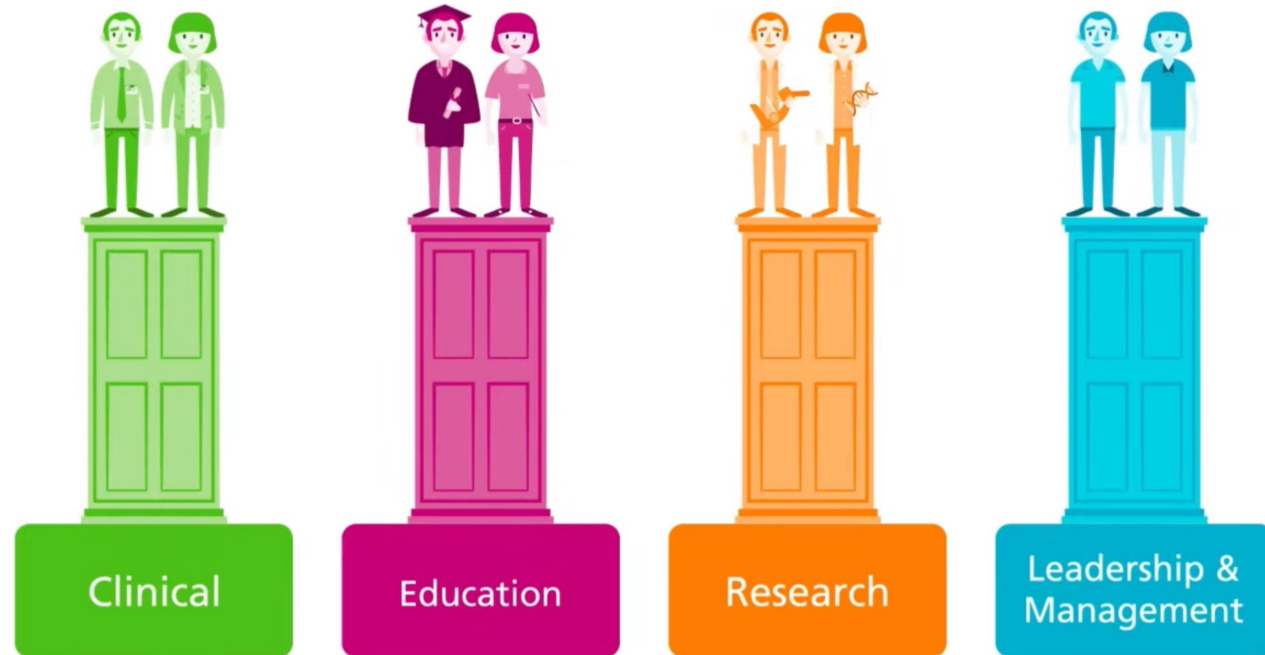
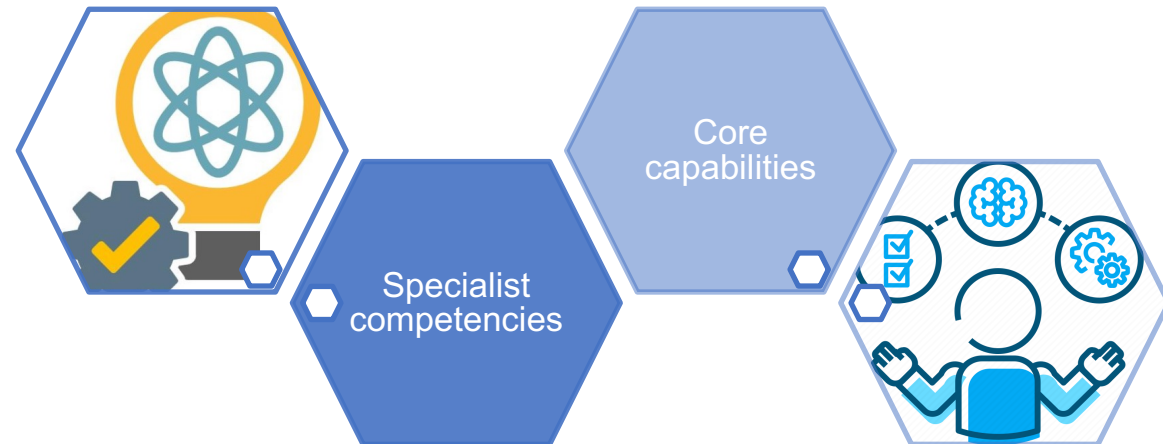
- ✓ **Autonomy**
- ✓ **Responsibility**
- ✓ **Accountability**



Advanced Practice definition



Advanced Practitioners

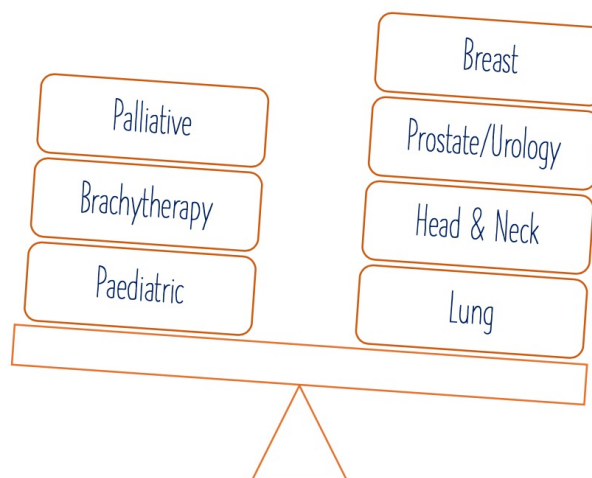


Advanced Practice roles in Radiotherapy

Scope of practice



Clinical area



Site-specific



Aim

- To assess Advanced Practice among RTTs across Europe
- To identify educational & training gaps to underpin Advanced Practice roles in Radiotherapy





Data collection



Self-design survey

- Pre-test
- Pilot study

Online (Microsoft Forms)
Convenience sampling
Dec 2021–March 2022



Semi-structured interviews

- 2 pilot interviews

Online (TEAMS)
Convenience & purposive
sampling
June-Sep 2022



Data analysis



Descriptive statistics

- Excel
- SPSS



Thematic analysis

- NVivo
- Full verbatim independently transcription
- Member checking by interviewees
- Cross-coding (1vs 3 coders)





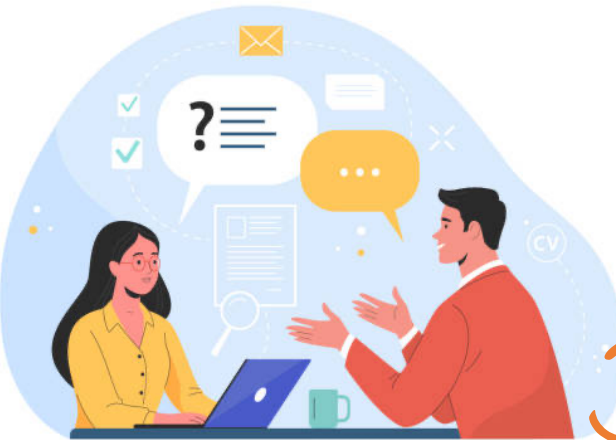
Survey & interview engagement



189



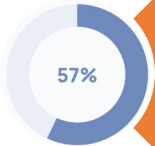
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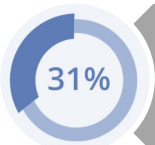
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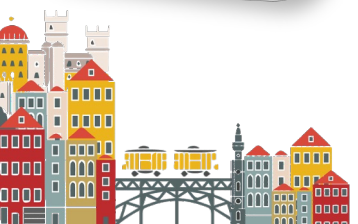


RTTs working AP roles/tasks

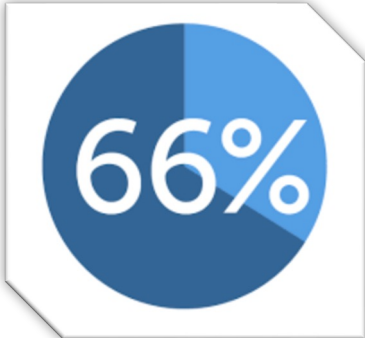


Advanced RTT

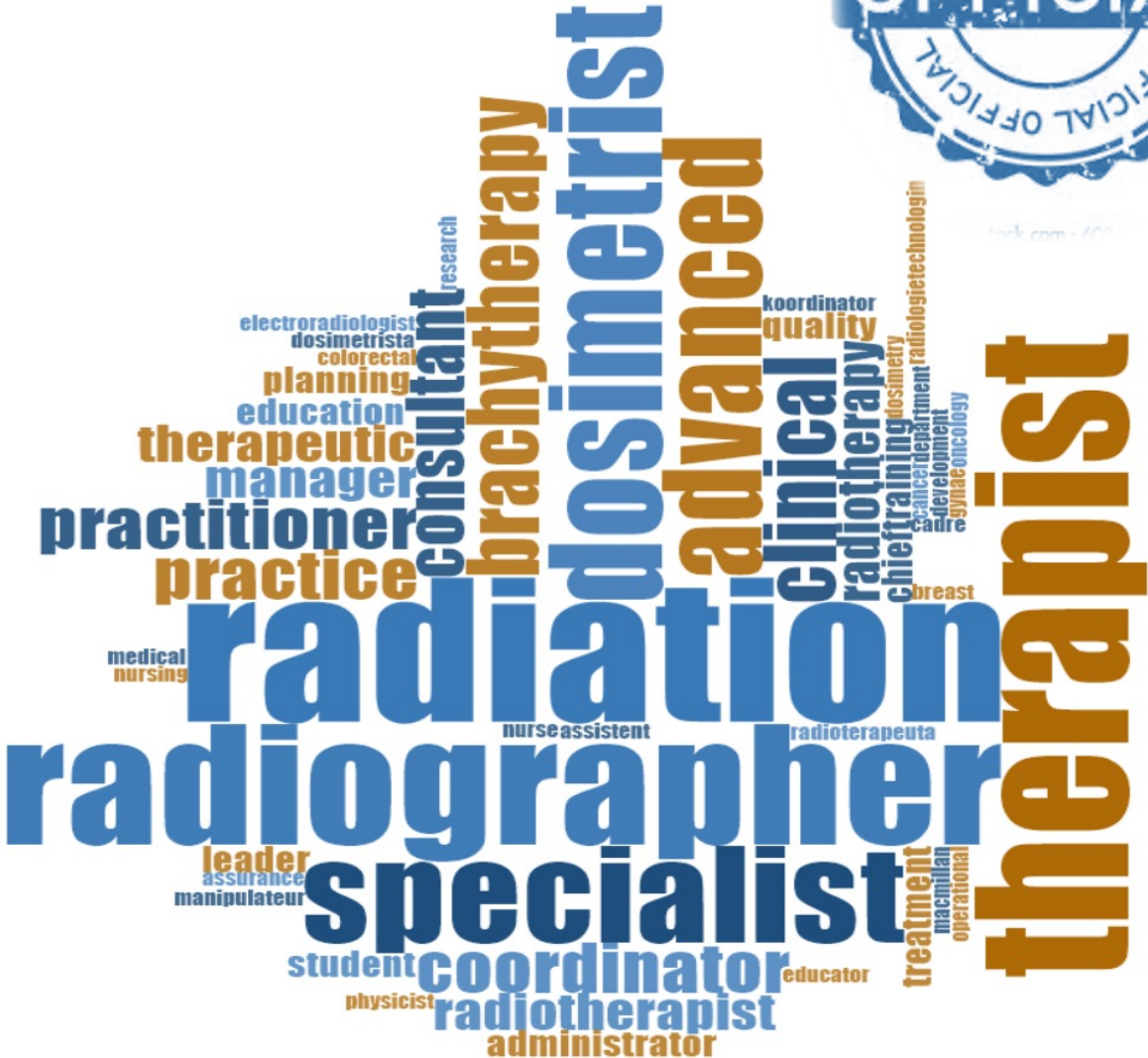
- 14 Advanced Practitioners/RTT working in AP roles
- 6 Managers
- 7 Educators/Students
- 4 Professional bodies
- 2 Regulatory bodies



Survey findings



**NON
OFFICIAL**



Survey findings



Tumour-site



- ☐ Prostate
- ☐ Breast
- ☐ Head & Neck



Clinical areas



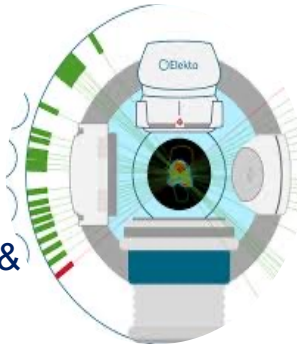
- ☐ Palliative care
- ☐ Practice development
- ☐ Brachytherapy



Activities



- ☐ IGRT/ART
- ☐ Patient information
- ☐ Patient assessment & management



Survey findings



Knowledge areas



☐ IGRT/ART



☐ Multimodal imaging & technologies

☐ Advanced treatment planning

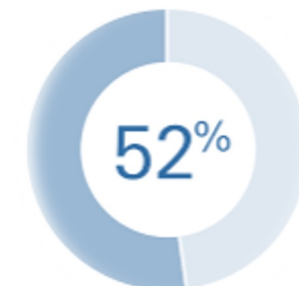
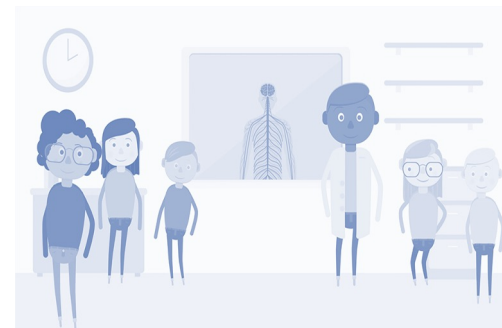
Advanced skills



☐ Leadership

☐ Management

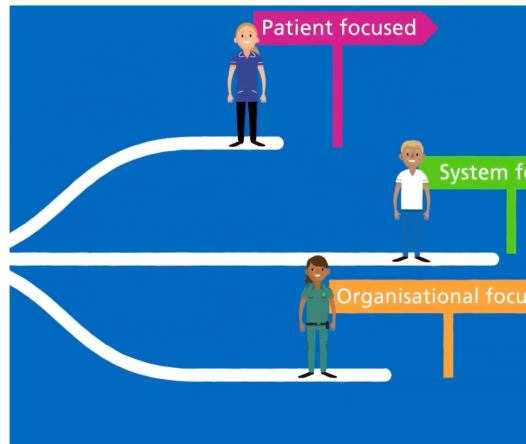
☐ Clinical-site/specialty expertise



Gaps

Interview findings

AP drivers & outcomes



- Clinical
- Professional
- Organizational

AP challenges & enablers



- Governance & role development
- Workforce & organization
- Practice across 4 pillars
- Education & training

Current vs future AP



- Clinical practice
- Education
- Leadership & management
- Research

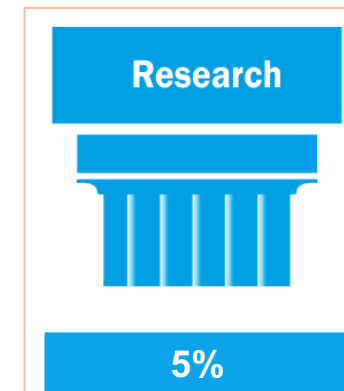
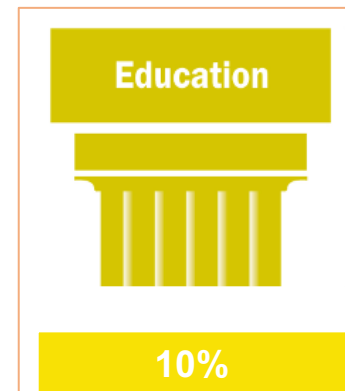
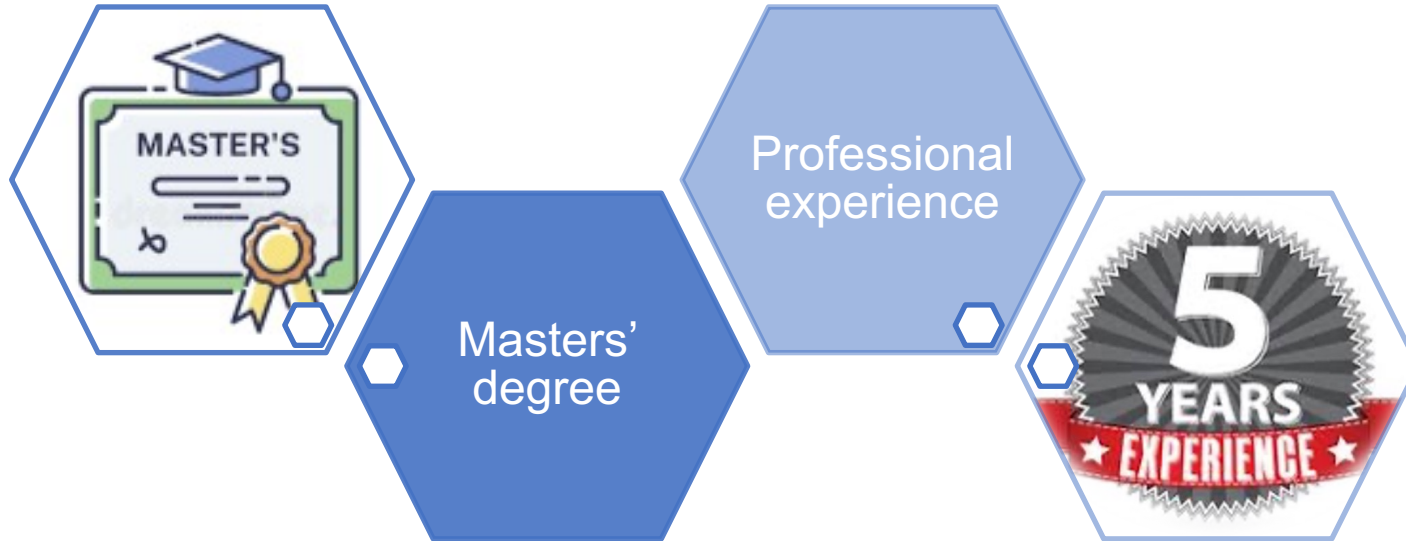
Becoming & being advanced practitioner



- Development of competence & capability
- Professional maturity
- Challenging professional boundaries
- Pioneering innovation



Mix findings



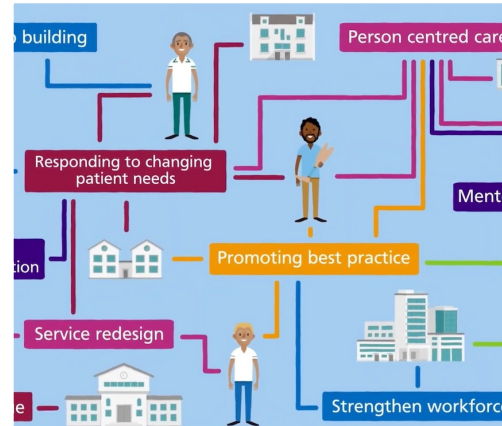
Current challenges

Governance & role development



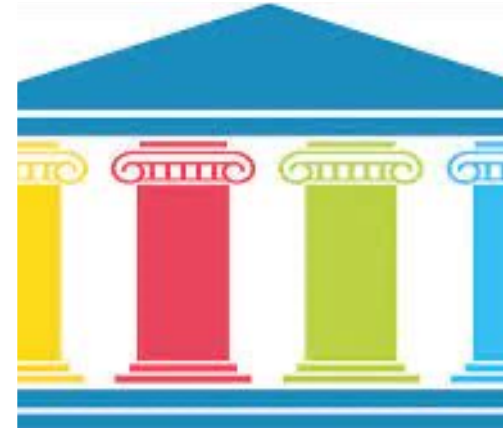
- AP roles clarity
- Job titles & job descriptions
- Job plan
- Recognition & compensation
- Appraisals & AP impact

Workforce & organization



- Role acceptance
- Professional boundaries
- Task-shifting
- Recruitment & retention
- Staff motivation

Practice across 4 pillars



- Awareness of importance 4 pillars
- Time for non-clinical pillars
- Staff confidence
- Research skills & culture
- Management support
- Workload

Education & training



- Education harmonisation
- RT-specific masters
- Leadership training
- International barriers:
 - Geographical & linguistic
 - Costs & study leave
 - Unawareness



We didn't decide if the therapists are going to be an extension of the machine or an extension of the doctor. And I think that when you want to be an advanced RTT, you need to be an extension of both.
AP13 CH



Our roles as RTTs will probably change... from bench to bedside...from research to practice. That's where an advanced practitioner can help out.
S1 BE

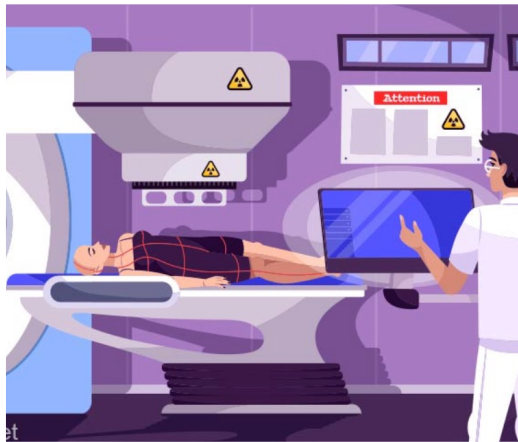


I worked many years like dosimetrist, but I wasn't recognized, and I wasn't evaluated.
PB4 IT



Future challenges

Clinical practice



“Adapters”
Holistic care &
community

Leadership & management



Case/care
manager
Radiation
protection officer

Education



Clinical
academic

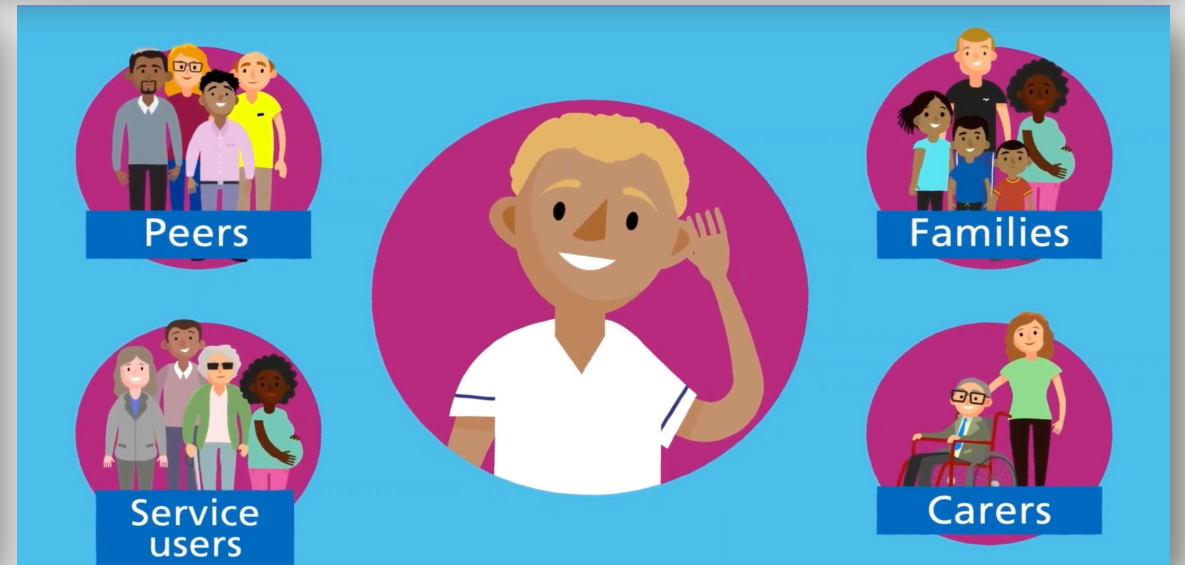
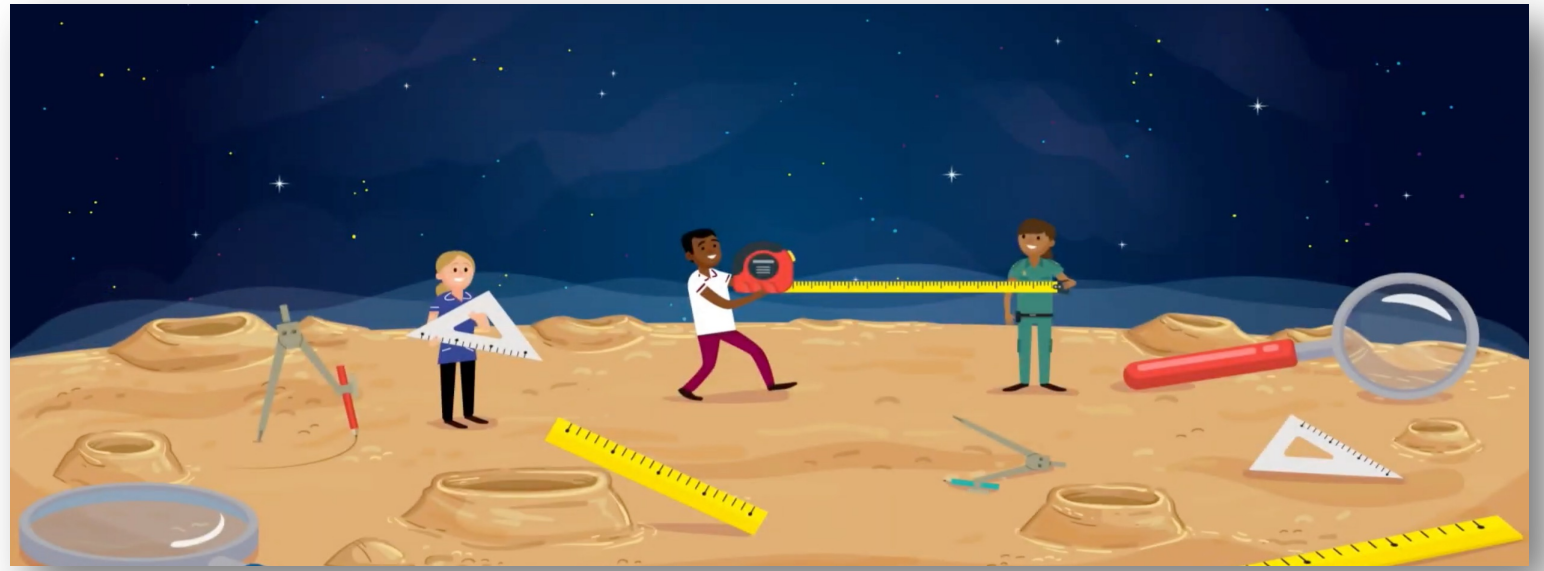
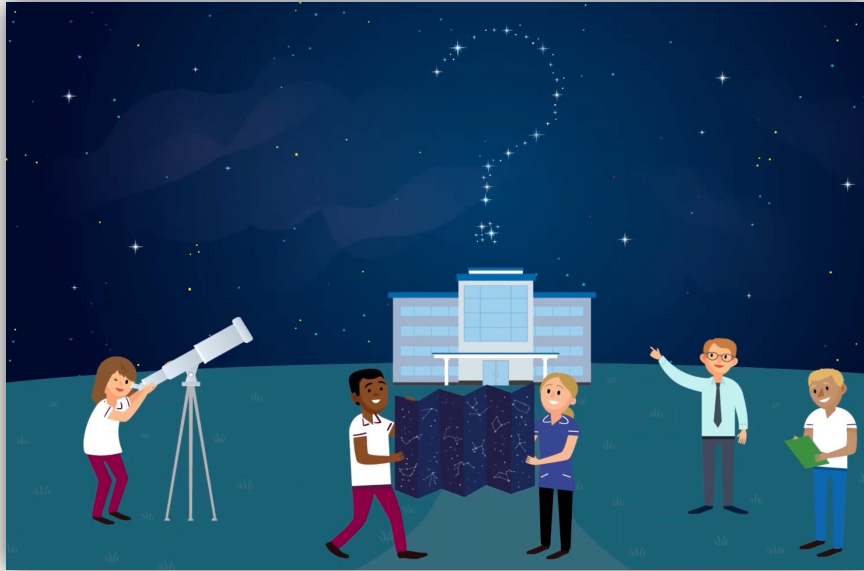
Research



AI expert



Future research





Take home message

- ❑ Importance of AP regulation to protect patients & professionals.
- ❑ Educational & training gaps exist across Europe.
- ❑ All pillars should be included in masters' programmes (including leadership).
- ❑ An advanced RTT should work across all 4 pillars (including research).





All participants!!!

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Philipp Scherer (AT), Rita Simões (ENG), Jéssica Rodrigues (PT)***

SAFE EUROPE consortium (partners & experts) & SoR





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