EFRS SURVEY 3 - JUNE 2015
RADIOGRAPHER SOCIETIES IN EUROPE

Published June 2015

This is the official report of the third EFRS Member Survey with the results reported by the member societies. These results were correct at a date of February 2015.

Content

Dear Members, Dear Friends,

We all know that the foundation of our profession and of medical imaging in general is everlasting, however, we appreciate that the complexity of our profession, driven by the advancements in science is in a continuous phase of change. These changes not only affect the technical aspects of our profession, but have an impact on education aspects and organizational aspects as well. Therefore EFRS is committed to have an overview of our profession and of radiographers across Europe.

The information found in this report is invaluable for the EFRS Board as it not only aids us in ongoing projects, but will help shape our future strategies. I trust that this report will prove to be useful for all members too.

I would like to thank all who helped make this survey possible. I thank all the responding members as well as those colleagues who actively helped in the data collection, analysis and writing up the report.

Sincerely,
Csaba Vandulek
EFRS President

All 35 EFRS Member Societies were invited to complete this survey in January 2015. Responses were received from 32 representing a response rate of 91.4%. Three of the responding EFRS Member Societies did not complete all survey questions. Responses were received from in the countries listed besides.

Responding Countries	
Austria	Lithuania
Belgium	Macedonia
Croatia	Malta
Cyprus	Netherlands
Denmark	Norway
Estonia	Poland*
Finland	Slovakia
France	Slovenia
Germany	Spain*
Greece*	Serbia
Hungary	Sweden
Ireland	Switzerland
Italy*	Turkey
Latvia	UK

**indicates a country where responses were received from two EFRS Member Societies*

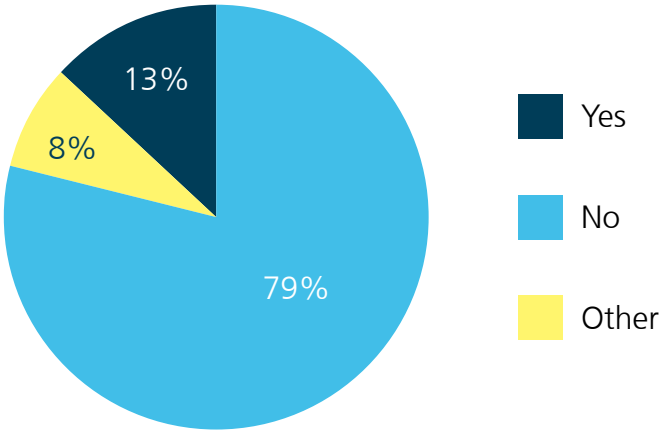
Member Societies

Q1. Areas of professional practice represented by each EFRS Member Society:

Respondents from 78.1% (n=25) of the responding EFRS Member Societies indicated that there society represented Medical imaging, Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine. This can be further broken down as follows: 93.8% (n=30) of respondents represented Medical Imaging, 84.4% (n=27) represented Radiotherapy and 81.3% (n=26) represented Nuclear Medicine. Other areas represented by the societies specified under 'Other' in the responses included: '*ultrasound*', '*biomedical analytics and physiological measurement technologists*', '*interventional radiology*', '*audiology*' and '*electrophysiology*'.What is the duration of the initial (basic) radiography education programme?
The majority of institutions (n=22) indicated that their programme was 3 years in duration, 6 institutions indicated that their programme was 3.5 years in duration and 12 institutions indicated that their programme was 4 years in duration. One institution answered 'Other' and indicated that they only offered postgraduate Masters programmes

Q2. If you do not represent all above mentioned areas of professional practice are there separate independent societies for these in your country?

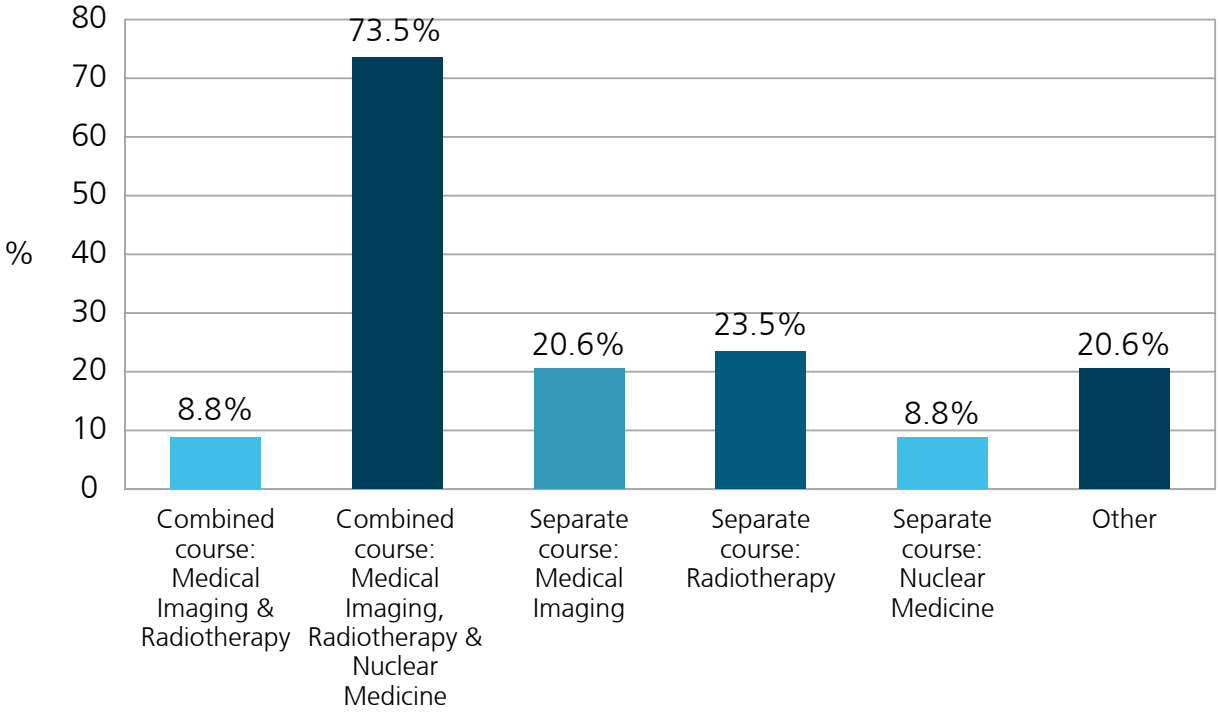
Responses to this question were received from 24 of the 32 respondents. 'Other' responses included: '*we have a national umbrella organisation covering all subject-specific areas rather than a separate independent society*' and '*Radiotherapy are represented by ESTRO and Nuclear Medicine by another national society*'.



Education

Q3. Please specify the areas of professional practice included in the initial radiographer education curriculum in your country (medical imaging includes basic knowledge of ultrasound, CT, MR).

Responses were received from all 32 respondents for this question. Responses from two countries that did not respond to the EFRS Member Societies Survey (Czech Republic and Portugal) but did respond to the EFRS Education Survey which contained the same question were merged for completeness.

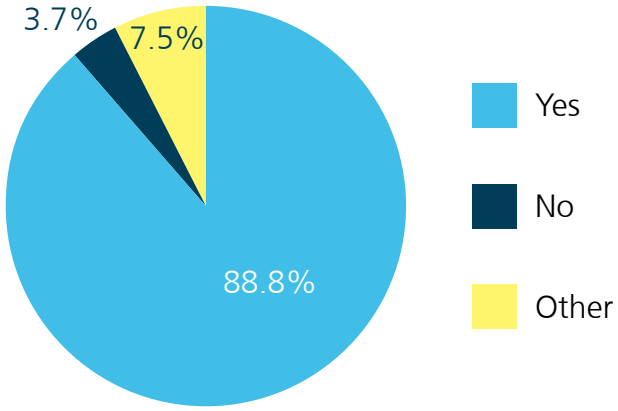


'Other' responses included:

- *'All three programmes, Medical Imaging, Radiotherapy and nuclear Medicine are separate; however, all three are largely based on a core Medical imaging programme'*
- *'Nuclear Medicine is combined with Medical Imaging'* x 2
- *'Audiology and electrophysiology are also part of the programmes'*
- *'Professional meetings for radiographers provide the education in CT, mammography, and management'*
- *'Professional education is only 2 years for each programme'*
- *'Some nuclear medicine is included in initial qualification for imaging'*

Q4. Are graduates fully qualified to start practice in all the areas that are included in the combined curriculum?

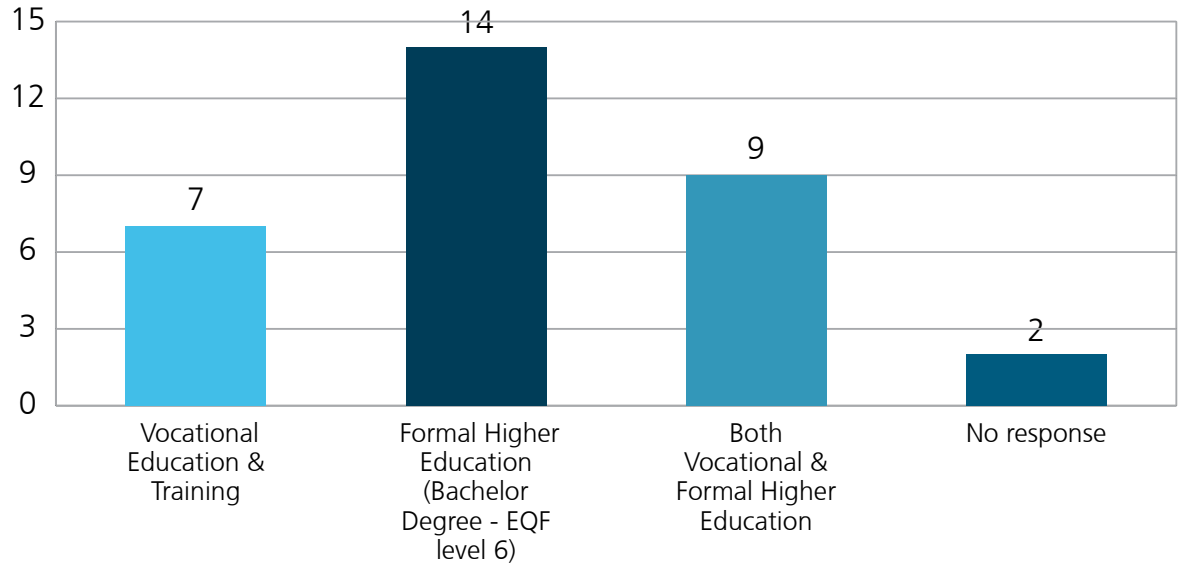
Of the 27 EFRS Member Societies who indicated that they had some form of combined programme 88.8% (n=24) indicated that graduates are fully qualified to work in all of the areas covered in their combined programme whereas 3.7% (n=1) indicated that their graduates were not able to work in all areas covered upon graduation.



The responding society indicating 'No' stated that '*compulsory additional courses are required for Radiotherapy and nuclear Medicine*'.

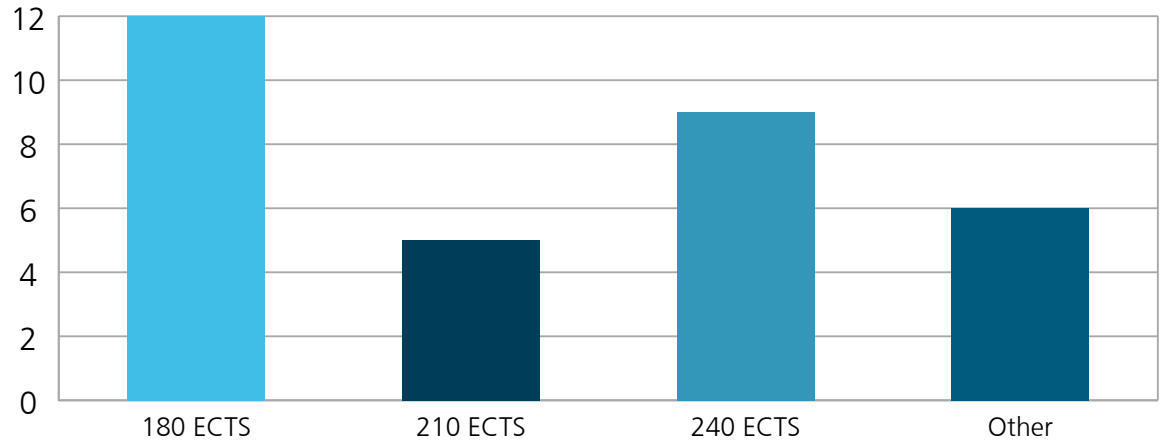
Q5. Indicate the structure of the initial radiographer education curriculum in your country:

30 of the 32 responding EFRS Member Societies completed this question with 46.7% (n=14) indicating that they only had formal higher education provided by universities or universities of applied science at Bachelor degree (EQF level 6), 23.3 % (n=7) only had vocational level education and training, while 30% (n=9) had both formal and vocational training programmes.



Q6. Indicate the number of ECTS of the initial radiographer education curriculum. (If you do not use the European credit transfer system (ECTS), please translate the number of hours into ECTS. One credit generally corresponds to 25 hours of study load, including all study activities/assessments).

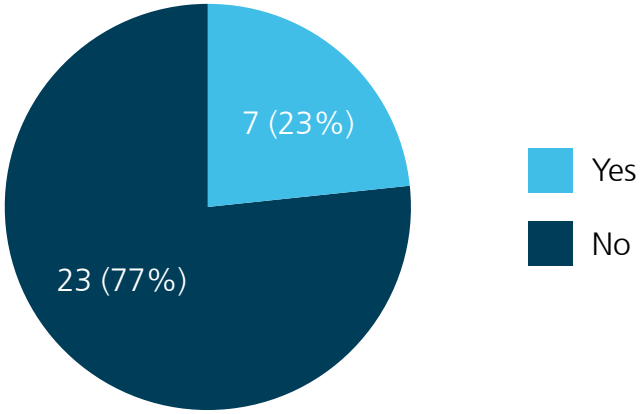
Responses for this question were received from 30 of the 32 responding EFRS Member Societies. Responses from two countries that did not respond to the EFRS Member Societies Survey (Czech Republic and Portugal) but did respond to the EFRS Education Survey which contained the same question were merged for completeness. 37.5% (n=12) of respondents indicated that their initial radiographer education programmes were 180 ECTS in total, 15.6% (n=5) indicated that their initial radiographer education programmes were 210 ECTS in total, and 28.1% (n=9) indicated that their initial radiographer education programmes were 240 ECTS in total. 18.6% (n=6) indicated 'Other' to this question with responses as follows: '*176 ECTS*', '*270 ECTS*', '*there are two programmes - one in the university which is 240 ECTS and one in the college which is 180 ECTS*', '*credits are not defined but possibly 180 ECTS*', '*80 ECTS*' and '*120 ECTS*'.



Radiographer Assistants and Other Staff

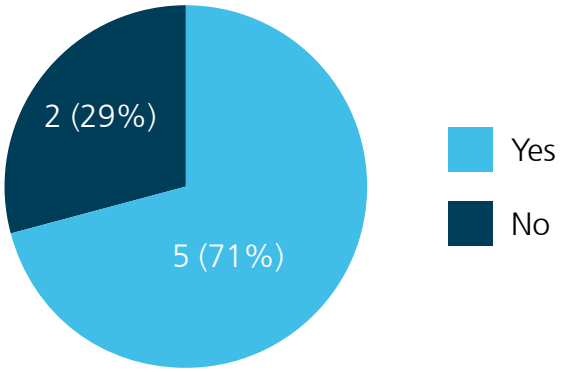
Q7. Is there a separate education programme in place for radiographer assistants in your country?

Respondents from 23% (n=7) of the responding EFRS Member Societies indicated that there was a separate education programme in place for radiographer assistants in their country while 77% (n=23) indicated that there was not a separate education programme in place for radiographer assistants in their country.



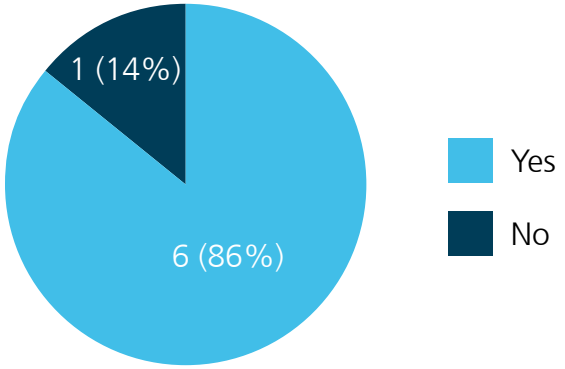
Q8. Are radiographer assistants allowed to apply ionising radiation to patients?

Of the 7 respondents who identified that there was a separate education programme for radiographer assistants, 71% (n=5) indicated that radiographer assistants could expose patients to ionising radiation.



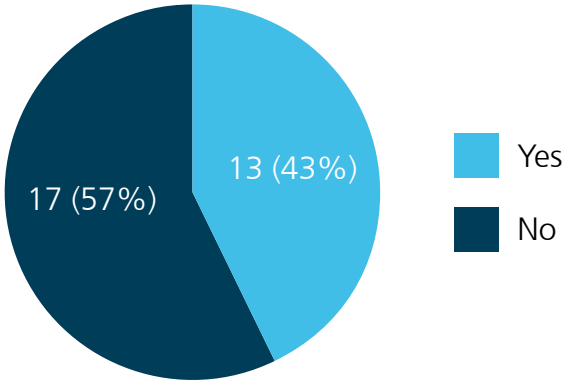
Q9. Do radiographer assistants constantly work under the supervision of a radiographer?

Of the 7 respondents who identified that there was a separate education programme for radiographer assistants, 86% (n=6) indicated that radiographer assistants do constantly work under the supervision of a radiographer.



Q10. Are other staff members in the department allowed to carry out simple procedures using ionising radiation?

Of the 30 EFRS Member Societies who responded, 43% (n=13) indicated that there were other staff members in the department allowed to carry out simple procedures using ionising radiation.

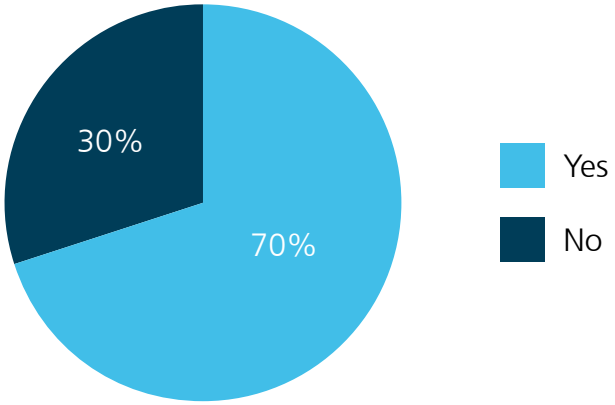


Those who responded 'Yes' gave further details as follows: *'Nurses'*, *'Doctor's Assistants'*, *'Illegally by non educated people (few) / operators of medical imaging devices 2yr Vocational Training Course'*, *'Hospital doctors who have completed a course in radiation protection can use image intensifier for procedures'*, *'A midwife is allowed to perform bone density examinations but only after she successfully pursued a course that included aspects of radiation safety'*, *'Radiologists'*, *'Nurses for DEXA'*, *'Nurses / Some Hospitals employed nurses without any radiology education'*, and *'Nuclear medicine technologists, DEXA practitioners'*.

Continuous Professional Development

Q11. Does your Society have a programme to support continuous professional development (CPD) for radiographers?

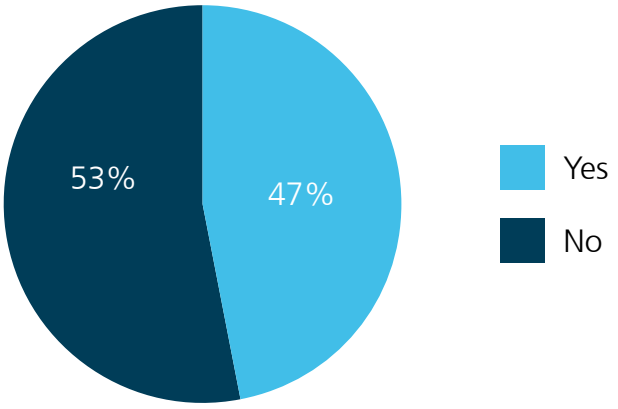
Responses from 30 of the EFRS Member Societies were received for this question. 70% (n=21) stated 'Yes' their society does have a programme to support CPD whereas the remaining 30% (n=9) stated 'No' that their society does not have a programme to support CPD.



All those indicating 'Yes' to this question provide a range of examples of activities employed to support CPD for radiographers.

Q12. Is CPD obligatory for radiographers to exercise the profession in your country?

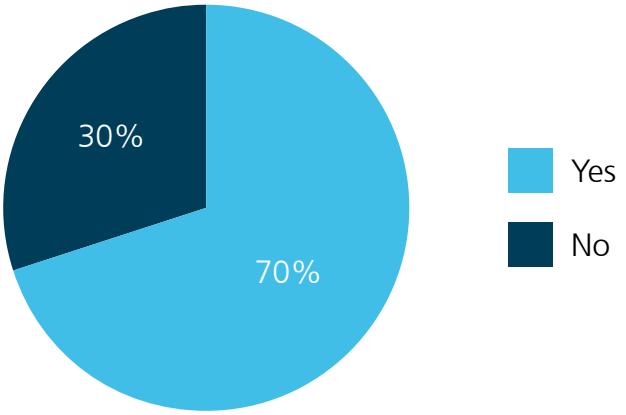
47% (n=14) respondents indicated that CPD was obligatory in their country whereas 53% (n=16) indicated that CPD was not obligatory in their country.



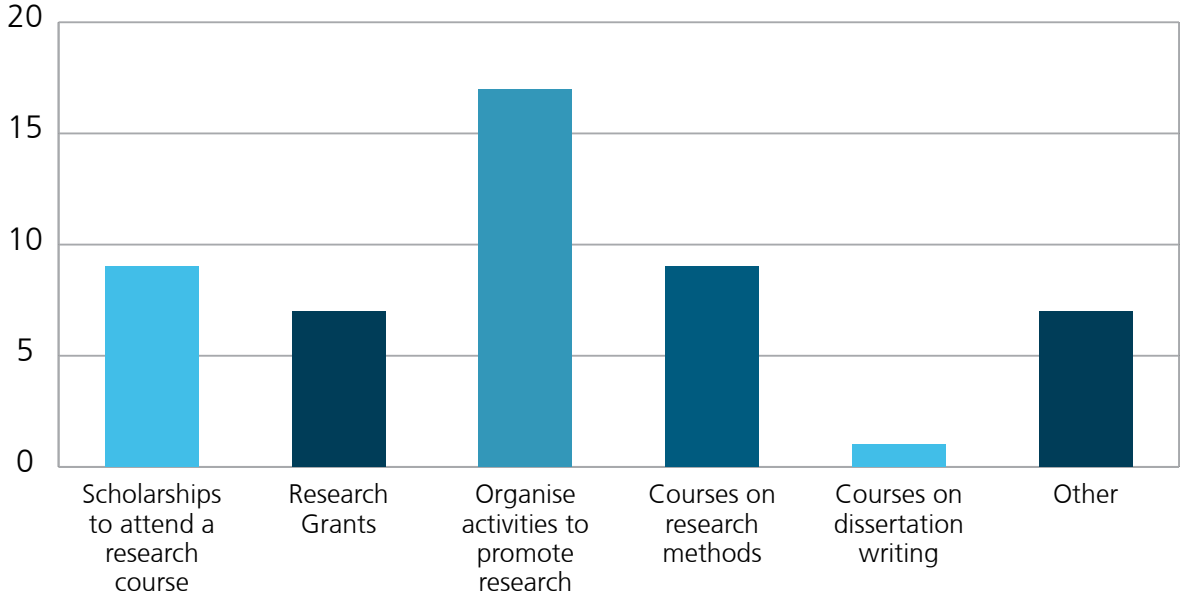
Radiographer Research

Q13. Does your Society actively support Research to be carried out by radiographers?

Again responses from 30 of the EFRS Member Societies were received for this section. 70% (n=21) stated 'Yes' their society does actively support radiographer research whereas the remaining 30% (n=9) stated 'No' that their society does not actively support radiographer research.



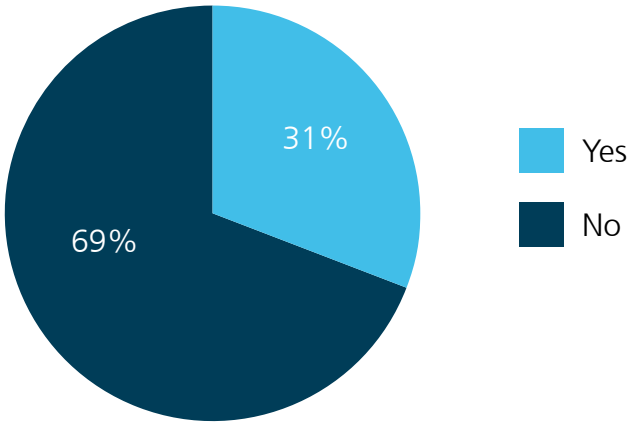
Those societies who responded 'Yes' were asked to identify how they support radiographer research and these responses are displayed below.



Responses in the 'Other' category included: *'scientific sessions during annual congress'*, *'support radiographers PhD study'*, *'organise lectures about research'*, *'supporting scientific publications by radiographers'*, *'conferences and workshops'*, *'support to prepare and develop presentations and electronic poster'*, and *'helping to distribute research questionnaires to target places or people'*.

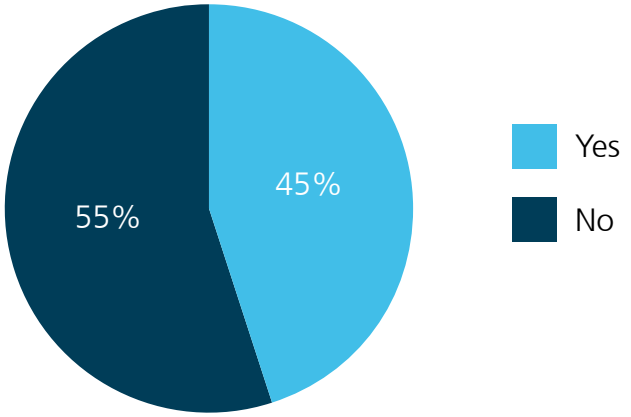
Q14. Does your Society publish a peer reviewed professional journal to publish radiographer research?

Responses were received from 29 of the responding societies. 31% (n=9) indicated that their society does publish a peer reviewed professional journal whereas 69% (n=20) indicated that their society does not publish a peer reviewed professional journal.

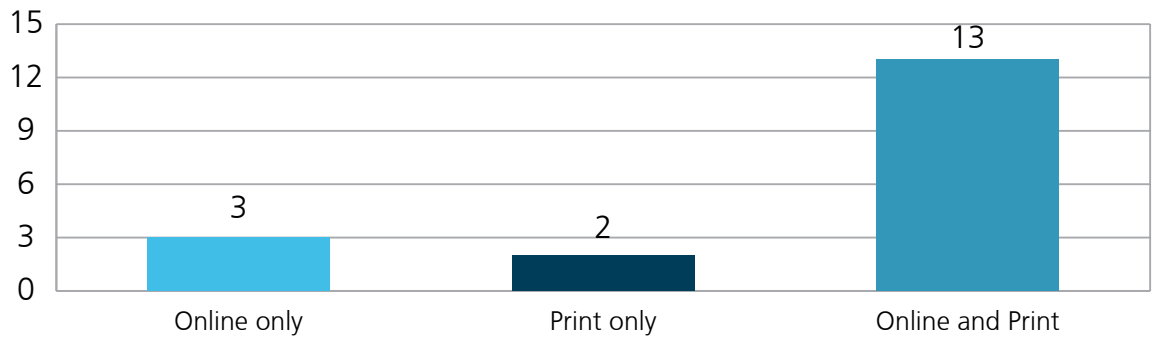


Those who responded 'No' were asked if the if society publishes another form of informative journal (non-peer reviewed). 45% (n=9) stated 'Yes' that they do publish another form of journal whereas 55% (n=11) stated 'No' that they do not publish any other form of journal.

If 'No' does your society publish another kind of informative journal?



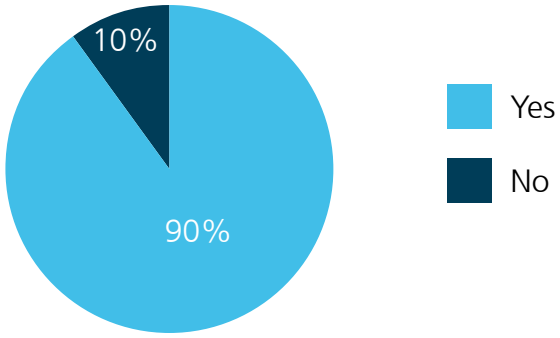
Finally, in this research section, the mode of distribution for either type of journal was investigated and 18 of the 19 respondents with one form of journal responded. The overwhelming majority, 72.2% (n=13) published their journal both online and in print.



Role Development

Q15. Does your Society promote role development by radiographers?

Responses were received from 29 of the 32 responding EFRS Member Societies for this question. 90% (n=26) of respondents stated 'Yes' that their society did promote role development whereas 10% (n=3) stated 'no' there society did not support role development for radiographers.



Most of those indicating 'Yes' to this question provide a range of examples of how they promote role development along with areas of role development including: 'intravenous cannulation and administration', 'radiation protection responsibilities', 'image processing', 'ultrasound', 'research', and 'teaching roles'.

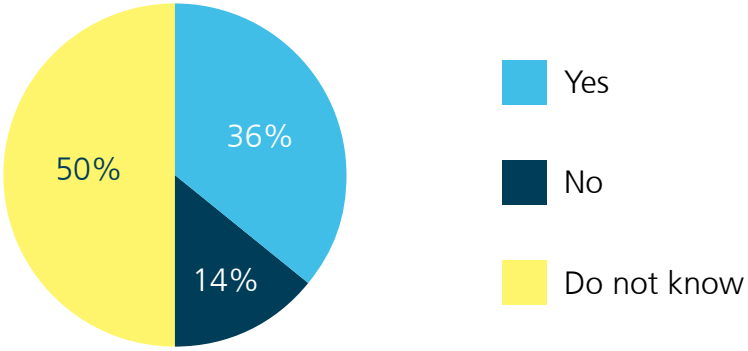
Those who responded 'No' gave a number of reasons why they do not support role development. These included: 'we are planning on doing this in future', 'because of the law', and 'this is a future plan as we are a young organisation'.

All respondents who answer this question indicated that their societies were planning on organising role development activities in future.

Clinical Audit

Q16. Is your country currently in a position to comply with the European Commission Guidelines on clinical audit for medical radiological practices (RP159 - 2009)?

Responses were received from 28 of the 32 responding EFRS Member Societies for this question. 36% (n=10) stated 'Yes', 14% (n=4) stated 'No', while the remaining 50% (n=14) of responding societies 'do not know' if their country is compliant with the guidelines.

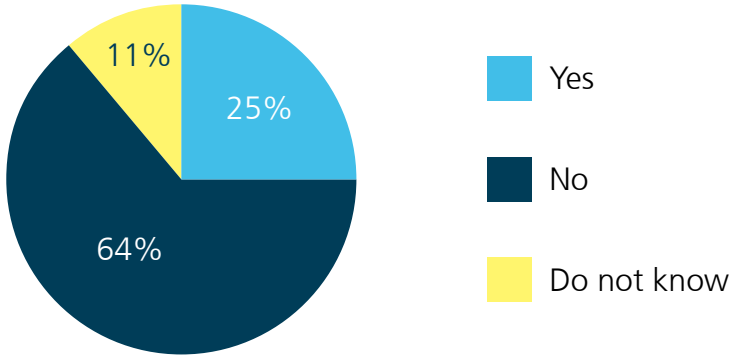


Q17. Are radiographers in your country actively involved in clinical audit?

All 10 who answered 'Yes' to Q16 along with 2 respondents who answered 'do not know' to Q16 responded to a follow-up question asking if radiographers in their country were actively involved in clinical audit. 8 respondents indicated that radiographers were actively involved, 2 indicated that radiographers were not actively involved, and 2 indicated that they did not know if radiographers were actively involved.

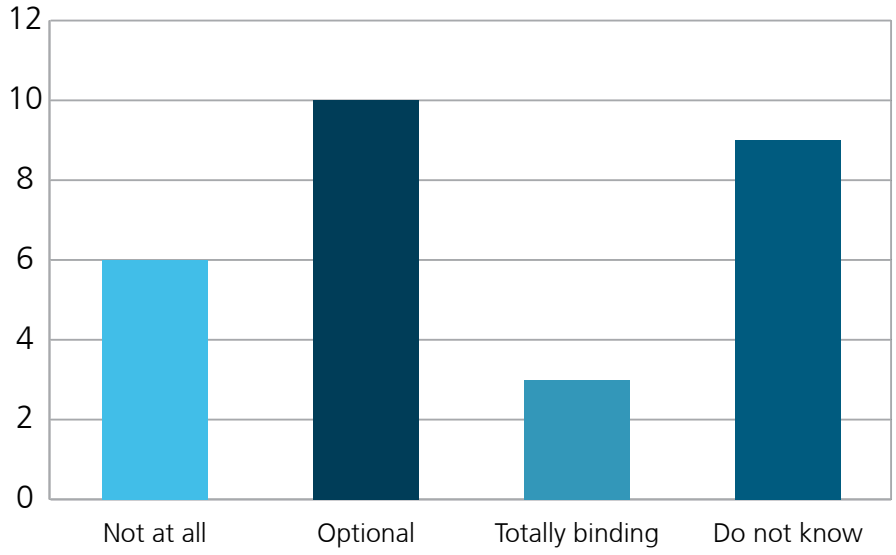
Q18. Are there special courses in clinical audit that radiographers could attend?

Of the 28 responding societies 25% (n=7) indicated that such courses did exist, 64% (n=18) indicated that no such courses existed, and 11% (n=3) indicated that the 'did not know'.



Q19. How binding is this EC Guideline on clinical audit considered to be in your country?

When asked how binding the EC Guideline on clinical audit was only 10.7% (n=3) indicated that they were 'totally binding', 35.7% (n=10) indicated that they were 'optional', 21.4% (n=6) indicated that they were 'not at all binding', and 32.1% (n=9) indicated that they 'did not know'.



National Labour Market

Q20. Availability of radiography jobs for new graduates in 2014.

39.3% (n=11) of the 28 respondents to this question indicated that there were enough vacancies for all graduates in 2014 whereas 60.7% (n=17) indicated that there were not enough vacancies for all graduates in 2014.

Responding Countries	
Enough Jobs	Not Enough Jobs
Austria	Croatia
Belgium	Denmark
Cyprus	France
Estonia	Greece*
Germany	Italy*
Hungary	Lithuania
Ireland	Macedonia
Latvia	Netherlands
Malta	Norway
Turkey	Poland*
UK	Slovenia
	Spain*
	Serbia

*Indicates a country where responses were received from two EFRS Member Societies

Appendix 1

National societies participating in the survey	
Austria	Verband Radiologietechnologen /-technologinnen Österreichs
Belgium	Vereniging Medisch Beeldvormers VMBV
Croatia	Hrvatsko društvo inženjera medicinske radiologije
Cyprus	Cyprus Society Of Registered Radiologic Technologists And Radiation Therapy Technologists
Denmark	Radiograf Raadet
Estonia	Eesti Radioloogiatehnikute Ühing
Finland	Suomen Röntgenhoitajaliitto ry
France	Association Francaise du Personnel Paramedical 'Electroradiologie
Germany	Dachverband für Technologen/-innen und Analytiker/-innen in der Medizin Deutschland e.V.
Greece	The Panhellenic Society of Radiotechnologists
Greece	STRAEPT Greek Society of TEI's Medical Radiological Technologists
Hungary	Magyar Radiográfusok Egyesülete
Ireland	Irish Institute of Radiography and Radiation Therapy
Italy	Federazione Nazionale Collegi Professionali Tecnici Sanitari di Radiologia Medica
Italy	Associazione Italiana Technici di Radiologia Interventistica
Latvia	Latvijas Radiologu Asistentu Asociacija
Lithuania	Lietuvos radiologijos laborantų asociacija
Macedonia (Fyrom)	Association and Chamber of Radiological Technologist of Macedonia
Malta	Society of Medical Radiographers - SRM
Netherlands	Nederlandse Vereniging Medische Beeldvorming en Radiotherapie
Norway	Norsk Radiografforbund
Poland	Polskie Towarzystwo Elektroradiologii
Poland	Polskie Stowarzyszenie Techników Elektroradiologii
Slovakia	Spoločnosť Rádiologických Asistentov Slovenskej republiky
Slovenia	Društvo Radiloških Inzenirjev Slovenije
Serbia	The Society of Radiological Technicians and Nuclear Medicine Technicians of Serbia
Spain	Asociacion Española de Tecnicos en Radiologia
Spain	Sociedad Española de Graduados en Radiología
Sweden	Svensk Förening för Röntgensjuksköterskor
Switzerland	Schweizerische Vereinigung der Fachleute für medizinisch technische Radiologie
Turkey	Tüm Radyoloji Teknisyenleri ve Teknikerleri Derneği Başkanı
United Kingdom	College of Radiographers

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