

Summit and AGM EFRS report 2024

Switinder Singh Ghotra

The 17th Annual General Assembly and the 2nd Summit of the European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS) took place in Athens from the 15th to the 16th of November 2024. The SVMTR is a founding member of the EFRS and was represented at the General Assembly by Switinder Singh Ghotra. This meeting was an opportunity to discuss and reinforce the relationships within the various European Associations (*Figure 1*) as well as the Board and committees of the EFRS.



Figure 1: 17th AGM and Summit of the EFRS

During the Summit and AGM a detailed overview of ongoing activities and a comprehensive update on efforts to enhance the professional development and recognition of radiographers across Europe was provided. A major focus was the revision of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for radiographers. This initiative aims to harmonize education and training standards, ensuring radiographers possess the skills necessary to meet contemporary healthcare demands. Patient-centered care was emphasized as a cornerstone of the radiographer professional, with plans to incorporate communication, empathy, and patient advocacy into training programs to ensure radiographers are well-equipped to deliver individualized, compassionate care.

Continuous education and networking in radiology

To further support professional growth, the development of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities was highlighted. Webinars and virtual training sessions have been implemented to make CPD more accessible, addressing diverse topics such as technological advancements, clinical best practices, and patient experience in imaging. Additionally, the creation of a European-wide radiography network (Rad-docs) was showcased as a platform for sharing expertise, fostering collaboration, and providing ongoing updates for professionals. This expert network aims

to keep radiographers informed about new practices, research findings, and innovations within the field, enhancing their ability to adapt to emerging challenges.

Research and Collaboration: Drivers of Progress

The AGM also stressed the importance of research and collaboration in advancing the profession. Radiographers are being encouraged to engage in multidisciplinary research, focusing on patient-centered care innovations, safety improvements, and efficiency in imaging services. The importance of publishing and disseminating research was highlighted through discussions about the Radiography Journal (the official journal of the EFRS), which has seen a growing interest across Europe and internationally. The journal is becoming an interest platform for high-quality, impactful research, providing radiographers with opportunities to contribute to the global body of knowledge and showcase advancements in the field.

Overall, the meeting demonstrated a commitment to elevating radiography as a dynamic, patient-centered profession through enhanced education, CPD, research, and collaboration. These efforts aim to empower radiographers to adapt to evolving healthcare needs, drive innovation, and maintain their critical role within multidisciplinary healthcare teams while supporting a culture of lifelong learning and excellence.

During the AGM and Summit, it was highlighted the ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with other European professional associations within healthcare and ISRRT. Recognizing the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration, EFRS has been actively engaging with organizations representing radiologists, medical physicists, and other healthcare professionals to promote a unified approach to advancing patient care. These partnerships aim to address shared challenges, such as patient safety, technological innovation, and the optimization of healthcare services. By reinforcing these links, EFRS is fostering a collaborative environment that enhances interprofessional understanding and facilitates the development of joint initiatives, including educational programs, research projects, and policy recommendations. This integrated approach not only elevates the role of radiographers within the broader healthcare landscape but also ensures that patients benefit from a cohesive, well-coordinated, and high-quality care experience.

The next AGM will be held in Italy on the 14th and 15th of November 2025.

The EFRS boards and committees reported the activities planned and finalized for 2024. A list is available here below. For further information feel free to contact the SVMTR

1. Executive Board Report

A brief summary of the significant activity plan for 2024 and the main activities are listed below:

The EFRS participated, remotely or onsite, in different events:

- **2024 Executive Board Member:** Andrew England, Patrizia Cornacchione, Francis Zarb, Shane Foley, Rute Santos, Nejc Mekis, Karoliina Paalimäki-Paakki,
- **Congress, presentation, roundtables:** AITRO, North Macedonia, Israel, Bosnia, Albania and Croatia.
- **Stakeholder's event/collaboration:** European Society of NeuroRadiology (ESNR), European Society of Cardiovascular Radiology (ESCR), EANM 2024, EFSUMB
- **European projects:** ECSO-MRI, MARLIN and EU-REST
- **Other initiatives:** EFRS Educational Wing series, EURAMED and CLAUD-IT

2. Educational Wing Report

A brief summary of the significant activity plan for 2024 and the main activities are listed below:

- **Board members:** Karoliina Paalimäki-Paakki, Joana Santos, Carst Buissink, Alexandra Partner, Mark McEntee, Karen Brage, Malene Roland Vils Pedersen
- **Monthly meetings**
- **Contribute to working groups/committees**
- **Educational summit**
- **ECR 2024: sessions**
 - *EFRS European Diploma's*
 - *Impact of simulation in education*
 - *Collaboration and shared resources EFRS*
 - *EFRS EW in the Future*
- **Webinars**
 - Simulation webinar
 - Student webinar «AI tools used in clinical practice»

3. EFRS Committees Report

a. Nuclear Medicine Committee

A brief summary of the significant activity plan for 2024 and the main activities are listed below:

- **Board members:** Ana Geão, Karen Borg Grima, Shauna Murphy, Pedro Costa Mélanie Champendal, Christina Baun, Camilla Andersson, Daniela Ribeiro, Apostolos Karangelis
- **Monthly online meetings, onsite meetings** at ECR24 and EANM (informal), EFRS-EANM meetings
- **Strength collaboration with EANM** (EFRS-ENAM webinars, EQF7, ECR2025)
- **Scoping review** regarding PCC in NM, focus group regarding PCC
- **Webinars**
 - Advanced practice in NM
 - Theranostics practicalities
 - NM sustainability
 - Mental health first aid

b. Radiotherapy Committee

A brief summary of the significant activity plan for 2024 and the main activities are listed below:

- **Board members:** Ainars Bajinskis, Gianfranco Brusadin, Guilherme Couto, Jesse Clarjjs, Ricardo Khine, Eric Sundqvist, Theresa O'Donovan, Valerio Pisoni, Anastasia Sarchosoglu
- **Input to EFRS EQF revision, MARLIN project, ECR2024, ESTRO 2024, AITRO 2024, position Statement on sustainability, IGRT project**
- **Webinars and 6 episodes**
 - Modern RT technique and technologies
 - Advanced practice
 - Patient safety
 - Risk management & Real incident cases analysis
 - Person Centered Care

c. Research Committee

A brief summary of the significant activity plan for 2024 and the main activities are listed below:

- **Board members:** Christina Malamateniou, Helle Precht, Mark McEntee, Jonathan Portelli, Moreno Zanardo, Pericles Papavasileiou, Elona Dyble, Cláudia Sá dos Reis, Fernando Costa, Aurika Vanckavičienė
- **EFRS involvement** in research projects, Research HUB, Webinars, EFRS Research awards, Promote radiographer led research, driving engagement with Radiography journal, industry partnership, mentorship
- **Supporting consortia** ECR and EuSoMII
- **Development and leadership of EFRS research network:** Rad-docs, AIMIROE, R-AI-diographers studies
 - Developed a standardised application and review process for surveys to be supported by the EFRS
 - 7 projects reviewed in 2023 and approved (11 this year 2024)
 - EFRS-endorsed European AI identity survey (translated in 8 languages): 2258 respondents (2 papers submitted for review, 2 more to follow)
 - ECR 2024 attended by most RC members (strong EFRS-ESR partnership)
 - EusoMII conference Pisa, attended by 20+ Radiographers and 2 members of RC (strong EFRS-EusoMII partnership)
 - RAldiographers(endorsed by EFRS and SCoR) (EFRS award at ECR 2024)
 - Expected to yield 4 publications, currently 2 submitted papers
 - AIMIROE study (endorsed by EusoMII, EFRS and ESR)
 - Expected to yield one publication
 - Building external partnerships
- **Webinars**
 - Research basics

- Research basics 2
- Sustainability
- Making research happen

4. EFRS Committees Report

- **New full members**
 - *Association of Medical Radiographers of the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina)*
 - *Association of Professional Medical Radiographers Vojvodina (Serbia)*
 - *Association of Professional Medical Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (Montenegro)*
- **New affiliate members**
 - *German Society of Medical Technologists in Radiography (Germany)*
- **Termination of full membership**
 - *APIM Association des Professionnels en Imagerie Médicale (Belgium)*
- **Termination affiliate members**
 - *Humanitas University (Poland)*
 - *University of Bologna (Bologna)*
 - *Haute Ecole de la Province de Liège (Belgium)*
 - *Semmelweis University (Hungary)*

5. Activity Plans

The activity plan highlight the current and future strategies of the EFRS

Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025 profession

- Promote and support research and evidence-based practice
- Promote and support CPD
- Professional standards
- Supporting the development of individual radiographers
- Understanding the needs of the radiographer workforce
- Raising the profile of and understanding of the profession

Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 Patient at the heart of our work

- Patient and public engagement
- Person-centred care
- Patient safety

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2025 Education

- To increase student engagement in the work of the EFRS EW Education
- Standards, quality, and harmonisation
- Students (engaging them with the EFRS / securing the future of our profession)

Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 Organisation

- Strengthening the organisation for the future
- Building partnerships
- Influencing policy at European level
- Communication approaches, networking and exchange of information

6. EFRS New Members and Committees

Several changes were decided at the General Assembly, with the changes to the Board of Directors certainly being among the most important and new committees' creation:

New EFRS president: Patrizia Cornacchione (old Andrew England)

New EFRS vice-president: Mark McEntee (old Patrizia Cornacchione)

New EFRS member: Mark McEntee and Anastasia Sarchosoglu (old Francis Zarb and Shane Foley)

New Committees:

- Medical imaging committee
- CPD committee

7. Ongoing Documents

Update on progress with critical organizational or policy documents (e.g., guidelines, position papers).

- Statement on simulation in radiography education
- Ultrasound standard of practice

8. EQF Level

Updates on alignment and compliance with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) of the EQF level 6 bachelor benchmarkin document

- EQF level 6 is defined as equating igher education programme designed to provide participants with intermediat academic and professional knowledge, skills and competecsm leading to a first degree or equivalent qualification
- Represents an academic guidange document
- Normally equates to a bachelor degree level
- It is not a professional scope of practice
- Revision
 - EFRS RERP white paper
 - New definition of a radiographer
 - Emphasie the profession as a whole

9. Rad Docs

Overview of recent developments in Radiography with doctoral degrees

- Need of central network/database to increase potential collaborations, enhanced research opportunities and networking
- Interesting for PhD and PhD candidate → Contact Shane Foley

10. Next AGM

Next Summit and AGM of the EFRS will be held in Italia the 14th and 15th of November 2025