

7. The HENRE 2 project

Rationale and background to HENRE 2

HENRE has already made a valuable contribution to the recognition and development of the Radiography profession in Europe by providing a forum for a Europe-wide proactive response to the education and training of radiographers within the Higher Education sector. However, despite the valuable work accomplished so far by the HENRE Network, particularly in the areas of professional recognition, initial mapping of the profession throughout Europe and the development of common understandings and definitions of practice, much work remains to be done.

At a time of enlargement of the European Union (EU), and in light of the many developments currently taking place within the EU, e.g. the Bologna Process, the Lisbon Strategy and Tuning III, it has been recognised that the HENRE network needs to continue as it is ideally placed to enable the Radiography profession to contribute fully to these important developments. Within Tuning III, for example, the proposed HENRE 2 network is the ideal vehicle through which to interpret and map the widely differing current training of radiographers throughout the European Union, using the tried and tested Tuning methodology.

Much work also remains to be done in areas of: removing barriers to professional and student mobility within the profession; the standardisation of training and professional recognition of radiographers; the development of commonly structured two cycle degrees based on the Bologna Process recommendations; and the development of new high quality Masters courses for possible utilisation within the ERASMUS MUNDUS programme.

In addition, it has been recognised that HENRE 2, working with the ISRRT and its other member organisations, has a valuable contribution to make in the field of radiological protection. Here, within a field of widespread importance to the population of the European Union as a whole, HENRE 2 will have the capability of mapping current training throughout the EU, identifying training needs and developing new training programmes.

HENRE 2 aims to build on the work achieved in the first phase of the project by continuing to encourage communication and cooperation between professionals, educators and researchers throughout the wider Europe. Through the further development of the HENRE website, the development of a database of current research, and close monitoring and possible cooperation with the EU Framework programme, HENRE 2 aims to support isolated researchers, facilitate the sharing of knowledge throughout the profession and enable the development of integrated, research-based education programmes at both initial and advanced levels as well as supporting the development of lifelong learning. Highly skilled radiographers are experienced in the delivery of radiation for high, medium and low dose examinations whilst protecting and communicating the dangers of ionising radiation to their patients. As such, they are closely linked to current research and the development of new public awareness courses and publications in this field. HENRE partner organisations therefore have a major contribution to make in the field of radiological protection.

Summary of the HENRE 2 network aims

1. Aid the development of the radiography profession throughout the wider Europe therefore increasing the professional recognition and status of radiographers, attracting more individuals into the profession and enabling increased professional and student mobility.

2. To improve communication between educators and radiography practitioners throughout partner countries in order to harmonise current education
3. Contribute towards the development of radiological protection through a raising of public awareness with the possibility of the development of a range of education and training programmes to meet these needs.
4. To aid the Bologna and Lisbon processes through the mapping and description of all areas of current radiography practice and specialist radiography training throughout Europe
5. To address the problem of shortage of radiography professionals and the developing role of the radiographer by the development of lifelong learning opportunities to enhance retention and maximise evidence-based practice.

These aims will be achieved via the following objectives:

- To build on the work of the original HENRE Thematic Network, initially utilising and expanding it's current membership to further represent both trainers and radiography practitioners throughout the countries involved in the Socrates Programme, and where possible, to work with other interested parties throughout the world.
- To continually publicise and disseminate materials and knowledge generated by both the HENRE and HENRE 2 networks, specifically targeting educators, practitioners and researchers operating within or alongside the radiography profession.
- Utilise the methodologies developed by Tuning I and II and make a significant contribution to the success of the Tuning III project.
- Develop further modules, courses and higher qualifications to aid the harmonisation and further development of the profession and its members' lifelong learning. In so doing, to aid the Bologna process by fully utilising the development of ECTS and a general acceptance of three cycle qualifications.
- To facilitate the sharing of knowledge and to support the development and dissemination of research findings amongst both educators and professionals through the development of the HENRE website and associated databases.
- To positively contribute to the development of radiological protection through an identification of risks, a raising of awareness and the development of initial and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses.

An effective approach to meeting the above aims and objectives will be based on the development of four specific working groups:

Sub Group I: Tuning Radiography programmes

Sub group themes and objectives:

- To provide recommendations regarding the nature of radiographic education programmes across Europe within the Higher Education sector
- Identify and recommend minimum learning outcomes of radiographic programmes of study at first cycle level

- Identify descriptors and benchmarks for radiographic education in order to develop academic and professional profiles
- Facilitate interaction and integration for the Eastern and Central European region

Sub Group 2: Research and Teaching & Learning

Sub group themes and objectives:

- To consolidate the work undertaken by Sub Group 2 in HENRE I
- Research projects related to teaching and learning in medical imaging and radiation therapy
- To develop a database of current research in medical imaging and radiation therapy plus other related Health Care Professions including teaching and learning
- Identify how research is integrated into the curriculum and the type of learning strategies used
- Identify ways in which HENRE 2 can support research based education programmes

Sub Group 3: Life Long Learning

Sub group themes and objectives:

- To provide and encourage life long learning courses for Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Explore the potential for the development of a HENRE CPD endorsement/accreditation system
- Initiate the development of appropriate European level modules including a possible Masters course designed for entry into the Erasmus Mundus programme
- Facilitate interaction and integration for the Eastern and Central European region

Science & Society: Radiation Protection

- Linking science and society – to the support and further the development of radiological protection measures

Radiation Protection issues will be addressed by all 3 subgroups ensuring that this important subject is tackled from different angles of Radiography education and training.