

Updated European Core Curriculum for Radiotherapists (Radiation Oncologists)  
Recommended Curriculum for the Specialist Training of Medical Practitioners in  
Radiotherapy (Radiation Oncology) within Europe

**Abstract:**

**Aim:** To produce updated state-of-the-art recommendations for harmonised medical specialist training in radiotherapy within Europe.

**Material and Methods:** The Minimum Curriculum for the Theoretical Education in Radiation Oncology in Europe from 1991 was updated under consideration of new developments in medicine in general, and in radiotherapy and its basic sciences in particular. Recent medical developments, national guidelines and training programmes from European countries, as well as equivalent documents from the USA and Australia were reviewed by an expert panel jointly appointed by the European Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology and the European Board of Radiotherapy. A draft document prepared by this group was circulated among the national and professional societies for radiotherapy in Europe for review before a European consensus conference took place in Brussels in December 2002.

**Results:** The updated European Core Curriculum for Radiotherapists (Radiation Oncologists) was endorsed by representatives of 35 European nations during the Brussels consensus conference on December 14, 2002. Compared to the earlier version the updated document contains specific recommendations not only for the 5 year training curriculum but also for organisational and infrastructural aspects of teaching departments, and for supplementation of the training by formal teaching courses.

**Conclusion:** The updated European core curriculum is an important step on the way to fully harmonise medical specialist training in Europe and to guarantee equal access for all European citizens to highest quality medical care. The responsibility for the implementation of the standards and guidelines set in the updated Core Curriculum for radiotherapy (radiation oncology) will lie with the local and/or national training bodies and authorities.

**Key words:** Radiotherapy, Radiation Oncology, Specialist Training, Curriculum, Infrastructure; Europe, European Harmonisation, Mobility in Europe, Equal Access To Medical Care, Quality Assurance, Evidence Based Medicine.