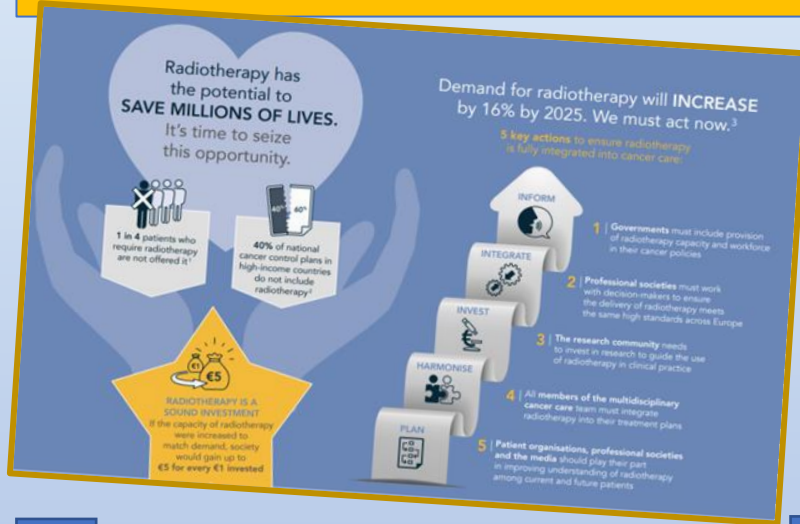


Using ESTROs five key actions to develop radiation oncology in Sweden

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Introduction: Several reports, the latest a Nordic benchmarking study, have revealed a challenging situation in Swedish radiotherapy. From a former position as a front runner in scientific and technical development, Sweden today has few clinical oncologists specialised in radiotherapy and accordingly a decreased activity in research and development. Furthermore, decreasing numbers of radiation therapists (RTT) create difficulties in providing timely radiotherapy for all patients. The multiprofessional Swedish association of Radiation Oncology (SSOF) was formed in 2021, aiming to turn this negative trend.

Method: Based on the five key actions presented by ESTRO in “the white paper” (left) several actions have been planned and executed by the society.

1. With grants from the government a professional taskforce has been created to enhance usage of new technology and increase research and development.

3. The Swedish cancer association have assigned more than 11 million EURO for clinical research in radiation oncology in 2021 and 2022.

5. **Patient groups** take part in lobbying for a national strategy to form the future for radiotherapy in Sweden. **Media** has helped to set focus on the needs in Swedish radiotherapy.

2. So far 270 Swedish professionals (clinical oncologists, medical physicists, RTT:s and others) with an interest in developing radiotherapy have joined SSOF. Their work has achieved an increasing interest from stakeholders and several activities, including scientific meetings, has been launched.

4. Integrating radiotherapy in all multidisciplinary cancer teams in hospitals as well as guidelines is in progress, but hampered by the shortage of radiation oncologists.

Conclusion: Multiprofessional collaboration based on a framework like ESTRO:s five-point action plan is a powerful tool to enhance national collaboration and create a focus on joint actions from several stakeholders



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