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.

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.