After participating in all these projects, the vision of the EFRS has broadened into a new paradigm: MEDRAPET. We would like to highlight two of the most relevant EU projects for radiographers: EMAN and MEDRAPET.

**Participation in Radiation Protection projects**

Over the past few years the EFRS has participated in most of the relevant EU projects, either as a consortium partner or external stakeholder advisor.

**Current work**

- To disseminate, through its members, the most up-to-date information related to all the fields of the profession and, specifically the topics related to radiation protection, as this is one of the main priorities of the EFRS, in line with our European Professional Code of Ethics: “I must keep to a minimum the radiation exposure to the patient, myself and other persons present at the time of the examination or treatment”.
- The EFRS, together with the ISRR (International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists), held a workshop on radiation protection in CT and interventional radiology at the Kaunas Clinics, the Hospital of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Several participants from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia attended this workshop and developed their knowledge, skills and competencies in radiation protection.
- The EFRS is collaborating with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Initiative on Radiation Safety in Health Care Settings; specifically in developing a tool for healthcare providers to communicate radiation benefits and risks associated with paediatric diagnostic imaging procedures.
- This tool will provide the end-users with information, resources and advice on communication strategies, as well as key messages for supporting the benefit/risk dialogue during the process of paediatric healthcare delivery.

Since the publication of the EURATOM 97/43 Directive, a new paradigm has been created regarding radiation protection issues in Europe: The majority of EU radiation protection projects developed over the past five years have based their development on the ‘voice of the radiographer’ (something that is encouraging the EU Commission and regulators to increase their focus on justification and optimisation).

**The way forward**

- It is essential to emphasise that the EFRS highlights the importance of having a core team (radiographer, radiologist and medical physicist) to implement, on a regular basis, quality assurance and quality control, as a pathway to optimisation of specific protocols, regarding pathology, patient size, pregnant woman and paediatric patients.
- This teamwork approach has resulted in raising awareness amongst health professionals about radiation risks, focusing on two major pillars: justification and optimisation. Data from some of the projects show the number of radiological procedures is increasing within the EU (something that is encouraging the EU Commission and regulators to increase their focus on justification and optimisation).
- A new EU project to develop European Guidelines on Diagnostic Reference Levels in Paediatric Imaging will be initiated by the major stakeholders: radiologists, radiographers, medical physicists and regulatory authorities.
- The EFRS will actively contribute to the EuroSafe imaging campaign, not only by disseminating the campaign initiatives, but also by providing data of evidence-based practice from radiographers research in the field of radiation protection.
- In daily practice, radiographers play a key role in medical imaging procedures, acting as an interface between patient and technology.
- Radiographers are the pivot between referrers, patients, radiologists and therefore a key player in justification and optimisation.
- Radiographers, being the final point of contact for the patient, are responsible for ensuring that the correct procedure is used for the right patient, while ensuring maximum optimisation and effective use of equipment.

**Final message**

As the ‘voice of radiographers’ in Europe, the EFRS plays an essential role, in promoting and developing the radiography profession, by participating, as an important stakeholder, in all the fields that contribute to improved healthcare for EU citizens.

Health systems are one of the most important pillars of the EU, since they are considered to be a central component of social protection and contribute to social cohesion and development.