ESR EUROSAFE IMAGING – TOGETHER FOR PATIENT SAFETY

G. Frija, European Society of Radiology, Paris/FR
IAEA CN-255, INDICO ID 296

Introduction
ESR EuroSafe Imaging was launched at the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) 2014 as an umbrella campaign to lead the European Society of Radiology’s (ESR) radiation protection and quality & safety initiatives.

Its mission is to support and strengthen medical radiation protection across Europe following a holistic, inclusive approach.

EuroSafe Imaging is collaborating with radiological subspecialty societies and related disciplines, international organisations as well as patients and industry. The campaign is led by a multi-stakeholder steering committee.

EuroSafe Imaging Call for Action
In September 2014, EuroSafe Imaging translated its mission into concrete projects by launching the EuroSafe Imaging Call for Action, focusing on justification, optimisation, education, research and professional and international collaboration.

Focus on clinical practice
Establishing a clinically-driven approach to radiation protection is one of EuroSafe Imaging’s overriding objectives, prioritising the clinical practice perspective in its activities to make sure that regulatory measures are implemented to optimise the quality of daily practice and patient outcomes. This approach focuses on the four steps of clinically oriented radiation protection:

• Justification
• Clinically guided protocols
• Clinically evaluated image quality
• Disease/symptoms-oriented (local) DRLs

Activities
• EuroSafe Imaging was involved in the European Commission tender projects PIDRL (European Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging) and BSS Transposition in the medical sector (Evaluation of national actions regarding the transposition of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom’s requirements), and is now supporting the new project EUCLIID (European Study on Clinical Diagnostic Reference Levels for X-ray Medical Imaging) under the ESR’s lead. In addition, EuroSafe Imaging contributes to and supports the European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED) as well as the Horizon 2020 MEDIRAD project on implications of medical low dose radiation exposure.
• EuroSafe Imaging supports the development of the ESR Audit Tool as well as the ESR iGuide (Clinical Decision Support tool).
• EuroSafe Imaging offers different education and training opportunities, in particular webinars, short educational material called Tips & Tricks and e-learning modules.
• EuroSafe Imaging has been invited to several WHO and IAEA technical meetings to present its views. Moreover, EuroSafe Imaging was represented at over 50 conferences worldwide in 2017.
• EuroSafe Imaging Stars was launched in 2016, creating a voluntary network of imaging departments committed to best practice in radiation protection. 56 departments have been accepted as Stars so far (status: November 2017).
• EuroSafe Imaging has an increasing number of Friends, with currently over 51,300 registered individuals and more than 70 organisations.

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Partly taking EuroSafe Imaging as a role model, a number of campaigns have been launched in recent years.

Together with the US campaigns Image Gently and Image Wisely, a new global alliance was established at RSNA in December 2016: the International Society of Radiology Quality and Safety Alliance (ISRQSA).

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