



# YOUNG

## Interview with Simone de Ioanna, Governance & Education Project Manager

### *What is your name, where are you from?*

My name is Simone De Ioanna. I am half Italian and half Belgian. I was born and raised in Rome, but I moved to Brussels when I was 19 and I have been living here ever since.

### *What are your responsibilities at ESTRO and how long have you worked with ESTRO?*

I have been working for ESTRO for almost three years. I started as a project manager within the ESTRO School, but after one year, my role shifted towards Society Affairs. I am now responsible for ensuring the effective functioning of ESTRO's governance.

### *What is your background?*

I hold an undergraduate degree in Translation (EN-FR-IT) and a postgraduate degree in European Studies. After a short experience in Policy and Lobbying, I worked for two years in a small consulting firm, where I developed a solid skillset in Project Management. My main focus is on EU projects, especially Horizon 2020 and calls for tenders.

### *Where did you work before ESTRO?*

I worked for White Research, a boutique consulting firm that managed projects for the European Commission and a portfolio of high-profile corporate clients. We provided a wide array of services, ranging from project development and implementation to market research, innovation management, communication strategies and policy studies. Before White Research, I worked as Liaison Officer for Fondazione Child, an NGO focusing on children's rights, and before that I was an intern at the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

### *How did you end up working for ESTRO?*

I came across a vacancy advertised by ESTRO through a former colleague, who had been working with the Society for about one year. The advertisement was for an education project management position, which I found very interesting and seemed to be a good fit with my profile.

### *What did you know about radiation oncology before starting at ESTRO?*

Like many non-specialists approaching the topic, I first came to know about radiation oncology (RO) through personal experience. A close relative was struggling with non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and radiotherapy was key in preserving their quality of life during treatment. The short answer is that I didn't know much about RO at the time, and I still have a way to go before gaining a clear understanding of such a complex topic. However, I got to see how it can affect patients' well-being, which was a great motivation to join ESTRO and still gives purpose to my day-to-day work.

### *What are the exciting new developments and projects that you are looking forward to at ESTRO?*

Over the past year, I have been facilitating the reignition of ESTRO's governance review. After nearly nine months of work, we managed to present an updated model to all ESTRO Committees and Councils. We will begin implementing the new model in autumn 2022. This is a new and exciting phase in the Society's life and I am looking forward to being a part of it.



**Simone de Ioanna**  
Governance & Education Project Manager

