

New translations of GRADE Informative Statements

GRADE Nordic Network is happy to announce that the GRADE informative statements to communicate the findings from systematic reviews of intervention effectiveness have been translated into Norwegian, Swedish and Danish.

[The translations are available here](#). The translations into Finnish will soon be added.

[Read more about GRADE Informative Statements](#)

Nordic GRADE webinar: Update from GRADE on developing good practice statements in guidelines

Welcome to join us in the first Nordic GRADE Network webinar of 2025 which will focus on the latest guidance from the GRADE Working Group on developing Good Practice Statements in Guidelines.

Date: 18 February 2025 from 14h00 - 15h00 CET (Norway time)

Registration: [Please register for this zoom meeting here](#)

Focus of the webinar: Not all guideline questions can be addressed with a graded recommendation. In some cases, guideline developers may issue a statement with high certainty in net positive consequences to a degree where the opposite course of action would be clearly inappropriate. These are known as good practice statements or good practice recommendations. This webinar, led by Omar Dewidar, will present the latest guidance from the GRADE Working Group on identifying and developing these statements appropriately.



Omar Dewidar is a researcher at the University of Ottawa with a Master's in Clinical Epidemiology and a medical student at the University of Toronto. He led the first evaluation of good practice statements from COVID-19 recommendations and is the lead author of the new GRADE guidance on good practice statements.

Opinion paper: Do not discriminate against researchers working with systematic reviews

A few of the coordinators of the Nordic GRADE Network has posted a letter in the Swedish Medical Journal (Läkartidningen). Here is a brief synthesis. Over the past five years, Swedish universities have made significant strides in recognizing the value of systematic reviews (SR) as a crucial element of research. Notable progress has been made at institutions like Karolinska Institutet, Gothenburg University, and Uppsala University, where SRs are now more fully appreciated as rigorous, impactful research methodologies. However, this positive momentum hasn't yet reached all universities in Sweden, leaving room for improvement across the academic landscape. Ensuring fair recognition for researchers dedicated to SR is critical for advancing evidence-based science and fostering innovation.

Read more about the current state of this issue and the need for equity in academia [here](#)

- What's the status of systematic reviews at universities in other Nordic countries?

Please contact us at <mailto:scandigrade@gmail.com> if you are available to share the policy at your institution. We would like to include this information in our next newsletter.

Research study: Recognition of systematic reviews in Swedish universities

Cochrane Sweden staff has recently published a cross-sectional study of Swedish universities regarding inclusion, characteristics and methodological limitations of systematic reviews in doctoral theses. Duplicate assessors independently searched local and national repositories for doctoral theses published in 2021 within all seven medical faculties in Sweden, and categorized identified reviews based on review type, topic, and methodological quality using AMSTAR-2. 5.4% (45/852) of all doctoral theses included a review, and 1.3% (45/3461) of all included studies were reviews. Of these, two thirds (31) were SRs and the rest (14) were broader 'big picture' reviews. The most common topics were interventions (42%) and exposure/etiology (32%), with no reviews of diagnostic tests. The majority of the SRs had very low (71%) or low (19%) quality, and few reached a high (7%) or moderate (3%) quality. The most common issues were limitations with protocols, limited search strategies, and failure to account for risk of bias in drawn conclusions. Few doctoral students included SRs in their theses, and the few SRs included in doctoral theses generally had a low quality. There is no consensus on the appropriate proportion of doctoral thesis including a SR. We argue that conducting a SR within a doctoral thesis can reduce redundant, harmful and unethical research, identify knowledge gaps, and help the doctoral student obtain important skills to conduct and use research.

Read the article in Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cesm.70015>

EBM education for medical students at the University of Southern Denmark

At the University of Southern Denmark, which is the host institution of Cochrane Denmark, all medical students must pass a four-hour written exam in Evidence Based Medicine, following a course (8 ECTS points) held by the Cochrane centre. This course includes an introduction to GRADE and clinical guidelines. The idea is that, no matter which specialty the students will end up with, their practice should be evidence-based and it is increasingly a requirement to be able to interpret and assess clinical guidelines from the Danish Health Authority and assessments of interventions from the Danish Medicines Council and Danish Treatment Council, all of which use Cochrane- and GRADE methodology. The University of Southern Denmark has also exceeded its stated target of 25% of PhD-theses containing at least one systematic review. Systematic reviews are a great introduction to the scientific method and provide PhD-student with a systematic overview of the evidence in their field, which is a good starting point for further research.

Open Call for a methodologist to assist with ESO Guidelines – Apply by 12 February 2025

Exciting opportunity for people with expertise in research methods, evidence synthesis and guideline development to join a guideline team. European Stroke Organisation (ESO) is looking for a candidate, who will lead the methodologist team and collaborate with the ESO junior methodologists and working groups during the development of ESO Guidelines.

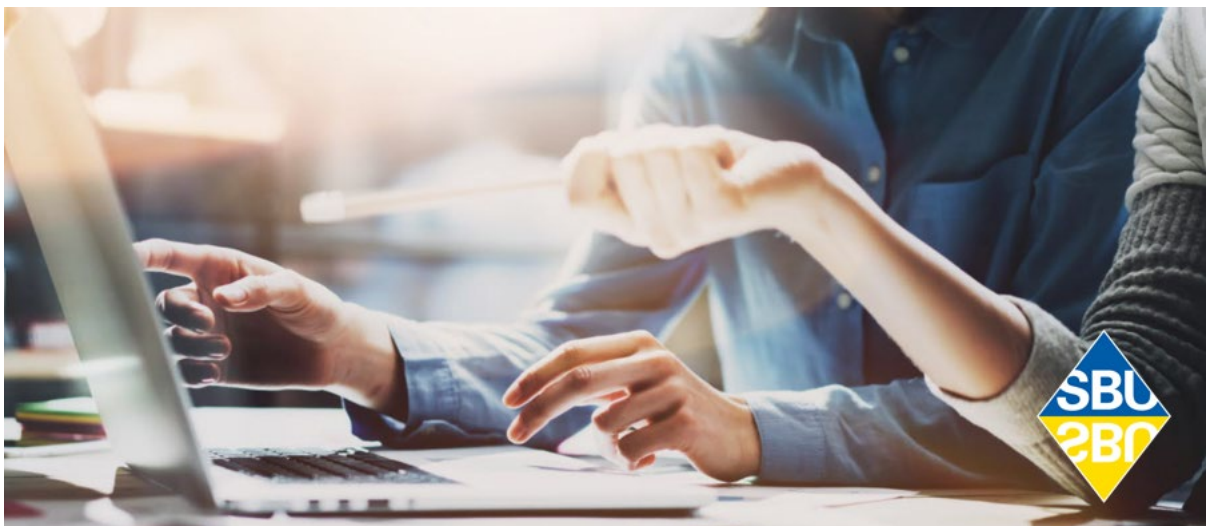
ESO will provide:

- Adequate financial remuneration
- Free registration to the European Stroke Organisation Conference (held annually)
- Technical equipment (on a case per case basis)
- Administrative support
- Authorship on publications

The deadline for applications is 12 February 2025. For info: <mailto:guidelines@eso-stroke.org>

Courses on systematic review methods at the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (all in Swedish language and free of charge)

- *Att granska en systematisk översikt* – 1-day course on 10 March, on-site at SBU in Stockholm, in Swedish language: [Read more](#)
- *Introduktion: att göra en systematisk översikt* – 2-days course on 31 March and 1 April, on-site at SBU in Stockholm, in Swedish language: [Read more](#)
- *Vikten av sammanställd forskning* – 2-hours webinar given at two occasions, in Swedish language:
 - [11 March, 9.00 – 11.00](#)
 - [22 May, 9.00 – 11.00](#)
- *Workshop för bibliotekarier och informationsspecialister – litteratursökning för systematiska översikter* – 1-day workshop on 7 May, on-site at SBU in Stockholm, in Swedish language: [Read more](#)
- *Introduktion: att göra en kvalitativ evidenssynes* – 2-days course on 14 – 15 May, 9.00-16.00, on-site at SBU in Stockholm, in Swedish language: [Read more](#)



Workshop on Meta-analysis at Cochrane Sweden, 28-29 April

Cochrane Sweden is pleased to announce that registration is now open for a two-day workshop on conducting and interpreting meta-analyses. The workshop will take place on 28-29 of April 2025, on campus in Lund, Sweden. We have invited a statistician with special interest in meta-analysis (Chris Rose), and the developer/product owner of RevMan Web (Rebecka Hall), to guide the participants through the steps in planning, performing, and interpreting meta-analyses. The workshop will cover theory and practice. For the practical application and exercises with forest plots, we will use the software RevMan Web (the updated browser-based version of RevMan 5). The workshop will be conducted in English. [Read more](#)

Introduction to Cochrane Methodology, 19 - 23 May

5-day course on systematic review methods, 19 to 23 May at Cochrane Sweden, Lund: [Read more](#)
The course will be conducted in English.



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Courses on systematic review methods at Cochrane Denmark & Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense (CEBMO)

1-day course on systematic review methods, 27 may, at SDU, Odense: [Read more](#)
4-day course on systematic review methods, 16 to 19 June at SDU, Odense: [Read more](#)



CEBMO
Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense