



Joint Action on Networks of Expertise

Deliverable number 13.1

Recommendation to support national healthcare systems interconnection with EU networking

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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Work Package	WP13
Task	T3.1- T3.3
Deliverable type	R — Document, report
Due delivery date	September 30, 2024
Actual delivery date	September 27, 2024
Dissemination level	PUBLIC
Annex version	2

Deliverable 13.1 is part of the Joint Action "JANE", GA 101075328, which has received funding from the European Union under the EU4Health programme



1 RECIPIENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is addressed to the whole JANE consortium. It is an official deliverable for the project and shall be delivered to the European Commission and appointed experts.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JANE represented a significant collaborative effort across EU Member States. The aim of the initiative was to establish seven new NoEs that will focus on critical areas within cancer care. The project had two primary objectives. The first (1) was to prepare everything needed to launch the NoEs, from defining their missions and objectives, studying their design and working out selection criteria for participants, to providing all items to set up calls for expressions of interest. The second (2) was to critically evaluate existing models of current EU networking, research infrastructures and platforms, future networking among comprehensive cancer centres, as well as technologically relevant aspects for optimal functioning of networking in general, in order to properly shape the new NoEs.

The seven NoEs concentrated on several key areas of cancer care. These included personalised primary prevention, survivorship, palliative care, omic technologies, high-tech medical resources, complex and poor-prognosis cancers, and the specific needs of adolescents and young adults aged 15-39 who are diagnosed with cancer. In terms of operational structure, each NoE was assigned a specific Work Package. Additionally, five Transversal Task Forces, along with another work package, had operated across all Work Packages. These task forces addressed crucial aspects such as the integration of EU networking with Member States, the incorporation of information technology infrastructures and artificial intelligence, the integration of healthcare and research, the European Reference Networks (ERN) model, patient involvement, and sustainability.

To ensure transparency and maximise its impact, JANE shared findings and consensus from the Task Forces with the European oncology community and Member States. This was achieved through the preparation of the Green Paper and the organisation of a dedicated European conference. Ultimately, JANE aims to establish highly effective NoEs that build on existing EU networking experiences and drive solutions created by the European oncology community. By fostering expertise, knowledge sharing, and innovation, JANE seeks to improve outcomes and enhance the quality of life for individuals affected by cancer across Europe.



OBJECTIVES OF TTF 2 – INTEGRATION BETWEEN EU NETWORKING AND MEMBER STATES

The big challenge was to establish specific solutions for each Member State, sticking to general principles while considering all those features which are unique to Member States' health systems vis-a-vis the specificities of each NoE on the other. TTF 2 focused on all solutions potentially able to improve the interplay between national health systems, including their possible networking facilities, and the EU networking systems, such as the new NoEs, the new network of CCCs, existing ERNs.

Methods

The team sought to identify key similarities and differences between Member States' health systems, providing the basis for tailor-made, principled solutions. Efforts included mapping existing solutions within the JANE Consortium to identify effective policy implementation and strengthen links between Member States, building on the knowledge and insights gained from the project. This crucial step has laid the foundation for developing solutions that consider the unique characteristics of each MS while aligning with overarching principles.

Extensive efforts were made to map existing solutions within the JANE project. This involved identifying beneficial solutions for policy implementation and fostering connections between MS. The aim was to leverage knowledge and experiences gathered within the JANE project to inform and enhance the integration process

A research study was carried out to address cancer-related challenges, systemic issues and country-specific differences in 16 countries, including Italy, France, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Spain, Greece, Czechia, Slovenia, Belgium, Norway, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Germany and Croatia. This comparative documentation can be instrumental in improving decision-making processes and supporting the creation of effective NoEs. The activity explored the challenges of health networking within the EU, focusing on legal and policy barriers, aiming to improve understanding and propose solutions for better integration and collaboration.

The TTF2 members also analysed healthcare networking in the EU and its constraints given the EU Treaties and threats to integration between the EU and Member States. The goal was to foster a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved in EU healthcare policies and to propose solutions for enhanced integration and networking.

Result and conclusions

The results and conclusions of the TTF2 activities can be found at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KrWXdYBXI8poFF6mhQhICDGbeC-xM-93/view>