

## Shaping Inclusive Networks of Expertise on Cancer

*Newsletter June 2023*

*Seven new Networks of  
Expertise in the cancer  
field through the EU  
Joint Action*

The “EU Joint Action on Networks of Expertise” (JANE, <https://jane-project.eu>) aims at shaping seven new Networks of Expertise (NoEs), over a 2-year period, in the cancer field, in the following domains: Personalized primary prevention; Survivorship; Palliative care; -Omic technologies; Hi-tech medical resources; Complex & poor-prognosis cancer(s); Adolescents and young adults with cancer.

The ambition of JANE is to pave the way for new NoEs able to function effectively, building on previous and ongoing EU networking experiences, and finding solutions rooted in the European oncology community. Problems facing current EU healthcare networking models are discussed within the five transversal task forces. Healthcare networking can be a privileged hallmark of the EU, having the potential to provide for the health of its citizens in a highly coordinated fashion.

The Joint Action is coordinated by Fondazione IRCCS, Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori di Milano, Italy. Sixteen European countries, represented by 16 beneficiaries and 20 affiliated entities, participate and it is funded by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency, EU4Health Programme (Grant Agreement:101075328).

It started last October, and the kick-off meeting was held on 14-15 November, 2022 in Milan. During the first semester of its implementation, considerable progress was made, setting the basis for the achievement of its goals.



The main developments so far are presented below:

- WP2 - Dissemination: Dissemination strategy plan has been drawn up for the Joint Action.
- WP3 - Evaluation: Advisory Board setup and elaboration of the evaluation strategy.
- WP4 – Sustainability: Mapping and analysis of existing networks has been completed. Main concept and operating procedures of the Policy Board and Dialogues of JANE as well as Stakeholder Matrix and Stakeholder Forum have been defined.

In the context of WPs 5-11 considerable progress has been made in terms of defining the relevant experts and objectives to aim for, matched with stakeholders that can impact their achievement, specifically:

- WP5 – Complex and poor prognosis cancer: Definition of scope and expertise needed for the Poor prognosis cancer NoE, focus on pancreatic cancer as the pilot case.
- WP6 – Palliative care: List of leading experts who will explore gaps in palliative care in Europe and definition of NoE objectives.
- WP7 – Survivorship: Identification of leading experts on 4 different aspects of survivorship: cancer; adverse events; psychological distress; social aspects.
- WP8 – Personalized primary prevention: List of key stakeholders on health (European Commission and others), encapsulating health representatives from each Member State and keynote speakers on cancer prevention.
- WP9 –Omics: Identification of partners' resources and survey of technological readiness of the different omics.
- WP10 - Hi-tech medical resources: Identification of resources, criteria and definition of the objectives.
- WP11 - Adolescents and young adults with cancer: Creation of the core group, involving key people from different existing European projects dedicated to Adolescents and young adults with cancer (AYAs), and definition of the experts and objectives for the NoE.

The five Transversal Task Forces (WP12-16), namely:

- TTF1 - Integration between health care and research
- TTF2 - Integration between EU networking and Member States
- TTF3 - Integration between IT infrastructures and AI tools
- TTF4 - The ERN model
- TTF5 - Patient involvement

cutting across WPs 5-11 corresponding to the NoEs, have initiated discussions on all issues related to: current challenges in research portfolios and integration between health care and research; identification of the commonalities and differences between MSs, including in terms of digital culture and capability; current functioning of ERNs concerning ongoing problems and challenges; mapping of existing patient engagement mechanisms.

Finally, the JANE Coordination team recently participated in European Week against Cancer (25-31 May 2023), organized by the European Commission, in the framework of the European Week against Cancer Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, where a page dedicated to JANE [https://health.ec.europa.eu/jane\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/jane_en) was previewed.

Progress is being made to lay the foundations to achieve JANE's ambition of shaping new inclusive Networks of Expertise on Cancer (NoEs). As different from Comprehensive Cancer Centres and European Reference Networks - both linked directly to patients - their mandate is to provide services and tools to European health care cancer institutions and networks for cancer-care related issues.

### Upcoming meetings

The next **Annual Meeting of the JANE Consortium** is scheduled for November 2023 and will be held in Barcelona.

The next WP and TTF leader meetings are scheduled for:

- 10 July, 2023 at 10:00-12:00 CEST
- 21 August, 2023 at 10:00-12:00 CEST

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