

Building inclusive Networks of Expertise on Cancer through JANE EU project

The Joint Action on Networks of Expertise (JANE) was launched by the EU Commission to pave the way to the creation of “Networks of Expertise” (NoEs), a new kind of healthcare networks devoted to cover several items assumed to be worth addressing through healthcare networking.



The achievements of the EU Joint Action on Networks of Expertise on cancer (JANE) were presented in a Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) info day on European funding programs for health and digital transformation, held in Athens on May 14th 2024, in a section dedicated to the impact of Joint Actions (JAs) on the daily lives of European citizens. Furthermore, during the 2nd Policy Dialogue focused on legal and funding dimensions in the healthcare networking, which was held online on June 27th 2024 with participants from 10 European countries, the Coordination team provided an update on the status of the JANE Joint Action and the rationale for the follow-up JANE-2, which is expected to start in the last quarter of 2024.

Building on JANE’s experience and achievements so far, a follow-up proposal (JANE-2) has been approved to continue and integrate all current JANE activities. The proposal, coordinated also by the Fondazione IRCCS, is expected to begin in October 2024; it will last for four years and will encompass an enlarged consortium including 121 partners from 30 countries all over Europe. JANE-2 is aimed at establishing the “Networks of Expertise” (NoEs) already initiated in the context of currently ongoing JANE, in the following domains: 1. one or more complex & poor-prognosis cancer(s), 2. personalized primary prevention, 3. survivorship, 4. palliative care, 5. omic technologies, 6. hi-tech medical resources, 7. cancer in adolescents and young adults.



As JANE is currently in the last semester of its work, its final deliverable, namely the Green Paper, is currently under preparation to be delivered by the end of September 2024. The JANE Green Paper, discussed during a devoted meeting on July 1st -2nd in Milan, is being prepared as a tool to foster discussion within the European oncology community on items pertaining to the functioning of healthcare networking in the EU. The document will describe thoroughly the context of the NoEs to be developed and comment on main issues regarding the integration of EU networking in Member States; the sustainability of networking; the integration between healthcare and research; IT interoperability and AI; patient involvement.

The final plenary meeting of JANE-1 will be held in Brussels on 24th-25th September 2024, where all the achievements and the reflections made within the Joint Action will be presented, setting the basis for the successful implementation of JANE-2 and the establishment of functional NoEs which is of great importance for European health care and policy. NoEs should be able to provide services mainly to health care providers directly reaching out to patients. This also implies that NoEs have to incorporate additional stakeholders such as scientific and professional societies, patient advocacy groups, research institutes devoted to cancer related fields such as etiology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment and health economics. Synergies with other EU networks (i.e. CCIN and ERNs), scientific and professional societies at the European and national level, may pave the way for the establishment of sustainable European, national and regional networks. **JANE has envisaged these NoEs; JANE-2 will meet the challenge to build them!**