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EU'S HEALTH COLLABORATION STRENGTHENED WITH THE LAUNCH OF 7 NEW EU NETWORKS ON CANCER

New EU health networks will merge innovation and expertise to comprehensively impact cancer patient needs across the EU

Milan, Italy – 29th January 2025

The second **Joint Action of the EU on Networks of Expertise on Cancer** (JANE-2) was launched in Milan, Italy, on January 28-29, 2025. JANE-2 will be coordinated by Italy through the **Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan, Italy**, with 121 partners from 29 European countries. It is co-funded by the European Union (EU) with more than **40 million Euros** dedicated to the project. Its mission is to create **seven Networks of Expertise on cancer in the EU**, on:

- **complex and poor-prognosis cancers;**
- **palliative cancer care;**
- **survivorship;**
- **personalized primary and secondary prevention;**
- **omics technologies;**
- **hi-tech medical resources;**
- **adolescents and young adult patients with tumours.**

These are among the most crucial items of today's oncology. They require greater harmonization in the EU, cooperation among health and research institutions, and a high degree of scientific and technological sharing. These challenges would be exceedingly facilitated by functioning health networks.

In particular, poor-prognosis cancers pose a difficult challenge by definition (special attention will be given to pancreatic cancer); palliative care and survivorship, together, will focus on all cancer patients, though addressing problems on opposite sides of the disease spectrum; primary and secondary prevention could benefit from the ability of omics to help "personalize" approaches (e.g., by moving from a population-based screening to early diagnosis based on individual risk); omics and hi-tech resources share all challenges of technology transfer (namely within the stage where they are no longer a research subject but are still not standard of care, timely availability of innovation, as well as inequitable access to innovation); adolescents and young adult patients with cancers pose special psychological and social problems.

The new Networks of Expertise will provide services to the whole European oncology community, such as: clinical practice guidelines and recommendations; quality of care criteria; health care and economic models; educational support; research promotion; support to patient advocates; support to political advocacy; and most importantly – everything with patients at the centre.

European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare Olivér Várhelyi said: 'This is one of the biggest Joint Actions on cancer, with 40.5 million Euros in funding from the EU4Health Programme. Seven Networks of Expertise were conceived under its first phase. Now, the second phase will bring them to life. These Networks gather the best minds and expertise and drive progress in areas that matter to patients. They will add an array of services and tools, help empower through education and promote research.'

The deployment of these Networks of Expertise will parallel the creation of the **European Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (EUnetCCC)**, through another Joint Action, coordinated by France. All these networks will add to the European Reference Networks on rare cancers which were created in 2017 (along with the European Reference Networks on non-neoplastic rare diseases).

The creation of these Networks of Expertise will implement the recommendations of **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, launched in 2021. They are a highly ambitious objective of the EU, as long as they will entail the presence, by the end of 2028, of **twelve active permanent health networks** in the area of oncology in the EU.

For this reason, JANE-2 will also try to highlight all the difficulties which might prevent health networks in the EU from expressing their huge potential. In fact, the previous Joint Action on Networks of Expertise (JANE-1) has just ended its activities with the preparation of a "green paper", [Health networking on cancer in the European Union: a 'green paper' by the Joint Action on Networks of Expertise \(JANE\)](#), recently published in the scientific journal *ESMO Open*, including 13 questions to the European oncology community about the functioning of health networks in the EU. These questions were translated into a [political document](#), which was presented in a public meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels on September 25, 2024. One of the main questions has to do with the interplay between the European and the national level, e.g. with the implementation of European networks of national health networks.

Paolo G. Casali, the Coordinator of JANE-2, stated: 'Health networking is a vital tool for us all to provide the best healthcare services to all patients at lower costs. We hope that at the end of the four years, we would have created solid EU health networks, which would in turn improve health outcomes.'

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<https://jane-project.eu/>**About Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Italy**

The National Cancer Institute of Milan (INT), a government-designated treatment and research centre (IRCCS), has been treating cancer patients and carrying out clinical and basic research in cancer, since its formation in 1928. It is recognised as a leading cancer centre in Italy. The INT is designated a Comprehensive Cancer Centre by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI).

About the second Joint Action on Networks of Expertise on cancer (JANE-2)

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###ENDS###

Note to editors: For interviews, additional information, or access to supporting materials, please contact the JANE-2 Coordination Team at: Jane_Coordination@istitutotumori.mi.it