



# CraNE

European Network  
of Comprehensive Cancer Centres

# Newsletter

April 2024

## Welcome to the 5th Newsletter of the CraNE JA

*With these Newsletters we aim to keep you informed about the progress of CraNE Joint Action (JA) and all current affairs. Keep scrolling to find out more about us!*

*In this issue, get informed about the 6th Steering Committee online meeting organized on 15 January 2024, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Joining Forces meeting held on 31 January 2024 in Brussels, the German Local Stakeholder Forum (LSF) conducted on 21 February 2024 in Berlin, as well as the Introductory Webinar of the WP4 Mature Model Testing Activity that took place on 27 February 2024. Furthermore, know more about the World Cancer Day which is organized annually every 4 February and the International Childhood Cancer Day which was celebrated on 15 February 2024. Additionally, be aware of March being recognized as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.*

### ● CraNE JA 6th Steering Committee meeting 15 January 2024

The CraNE JA 6th Steering Committee meeting took place online on 15 January 2024, focusing on several important issues regarding different certification schemes.

### ● Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Joining Forces 31 January 2024, Brussels

On 31 January 2024, at the Charlemagne Building in Brussels took place the high-level event “**Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Joining Forces**”, organized by the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, **Stella Kyriakides**. It was attended by more than 400 delegates in per-



son and the agenda included speakers from different countries across Europe and beyond.

The role of the host had **Jan Geissler**, Patient Advocate and social entrepreneur, who kept the audience engaged and maintained a lively atmosphere throughout the event. The introductory speeches were given by **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission and **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament, who both participated with video messages. **Stella Kyriakides** set the tone from the beginning, highlighting the progress made in the field of cancer across EU and the impact of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan on the lives of those touched by cancer.

**Oriana Sousa**, a patient advocate from the European Network of Youth Cancer Survivors and **Loucas Fourlas**, Member of the European Parliament, spoke about their personal experience with cancer, the first about her own journey through diagnosis and treatment and the second about the loss of his son to cancer. Both speeches were emotionally charged and touched deeply the audience.

The session continued with the presentations of the views of scientists across Europe in the fields of pediatric oncology (**Dr. Rob Pieters**), cancer screening (**Dr. Ondrej Majek**)



and psycho-oncology (**Dr. Luzia Travado**). **Dr. Tit Albreht**, Scientific Coordinator of CraNE JA from the National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia concluded the session with his speech about the importance of Comprehensive Cancer Centres in every country of the EU and how they bridge the gaps in the expertise needed for personalized cancer treatment.

Speaking about eradicating inequalities, Commissioner **Stella Kyriakides** mentioned the **EU Cancer Inequalities Registry**, a flagship initiative of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, which provides data on cancer prevention and care to identify trends, disparities and inequalities between Member States and regions. Under the same topic there was an interesting chat between **Dr. Alberto Costa**, Scientific Advisor on strategies against cancer and **Carina Schneider**, a representative of the European Network of Youth Cancer

Survivors, who both underlined the role of EU in smoothing out the inequalities in cancer treatment and diagnosis and ensuring equal access to preventative care, diagnosis and targeted treatment.

In the last sessions, **Margaritis Schinas**, Vice President of the European Commission, gave a keynote speech about the contribution of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to a fair-for-all treatment system and top executives from national and international organizations (**Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli**, NIH-United States, **Dr. Javier Padilla**, State of Health-Spain, **Dr. Hans Kluge**, WHO, **Dr. Cary Adams**, UICC) referred to the aligned vision for cancer on both sides of the Atlantic, the vaccine-preventable cancers and the sharp inequalities in cancer care across Europe.

At the end of the day, **Frank Vandenbroucke**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health in Belgium, underlined the importance of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan in the field of cancer and beyond.

During the event, the attendees had the chance to enjoy the performance of the **Sea of Change choir**, a group of women from across Europe, most of them being cancer survivors.



● **The German Local Stakeholder Forum (LSF)**  
21 February 2024, Berlin

The **German Local Stakeholder Forum** of CràNE JA was held on 21 February 2024, within the framework of the **German Cancer Congress** which took place from 21 to 24 February 2024, in Berlin. The event, hosted by the German Cancer Society and German Cancer Aid for the 36th time, attracted health care providers, patients, representatives from German stakeholders in health policy, scientific societies and health industry representatives.

The session **“Tackling challenges in cancer care and improving its governance in the European Union - working towards high quality of cancer care in all Member States”** aimed to present European initiatives to support the fight against cancer, addressing high quality of cancer care and bridging the gap between care and research. The session was moderated by **Dr. Antonius Helou** (Federal Ministry of Health) and **PD Dr. Simone Wesselmann** (German Cancer Society). Speakers included **Matthias Schuppe** from the European Commission team leader for preparing DG SANTE's work on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP), **PD Dr. Hubert Misslich**, German Aerospace Center Project Management Agency (DLR-PT), **Dr. Ellen Griesshammer** from the German Cancer Society (deputy-leader of CràNE JA Work Package 6) and **Dr. Peggy Richter**, Technical University of Dresden (responsible for CràNE JA Task 2.3).

**Matthias Schuppe** presented a summary and status quo of

the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan implementation, offering insights into upcoming initiatives like the Joint Action EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (EUNetCCC JA) and Joint Action Networks of Expertise on Cancer (JANE2 JA) scheduled to be launched in November 2024.

**Hubert Misslich** also provided an overview of the project ECHoS which aims to support the implementation of Cancer Mission activities in all Member States and Associated Countries through the establishment and development of National Cancer Mission Hubs (**NCMH**).

**Ellen Griesshammer** presented CràNE JA including its overarching objective and structure, as well as the four thematic Work Packages. A more detailed overview was given of Work Package 6, which focuses on developing the access and availability of comprehensive high quality of care in Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCCNs) to all Member States.



Finally, **Peggy Richter** discussed the CCI4EU project, focusing on the “Definition of criteria for Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures (CCIs) using a CCI Maturity Model (MM)”. The goal of Work Package 2 is to develop a joint understanding of CCIs and agree on criteria, including quality indicators. A MM and a digital data platform will be developed to assess CCIs and identify capacity building interventions.

Overall, it was emphasized that the presented European projects should ensure to promote collaboration and synergies in order to improve oncological care in European Member States. A more detailed report can be downloaded [here](#).



● **WP4 Mature Model Testing Activity Introductory Webinar**  
27 February 2024

The **Mature Model Testing Activity Introductory Webinar** was held on **27 February 2024**. This first meeting introduced members to the Maturity Model Testing activity for the CrāNE JA and covered all the necessary points including general information about the CrāNE JA as well as the concept and purpose of the Maturity Model.

● **Informative monograph development of Joint Actions CrāNE and EUNetCCC**  
12 March 2024, Madrid

This online event was arranged by the General Subdirectorate of Quality Care D.G. of Public Health and Health Equity Ministry of Health and was conducted on 12 March 2024 in Madrid. The meeting focused on updating the latest information regarding the development of CrāNE JA and EUNetCCC JA.

**CANCER AWARENESS DATES**



▶ **World Cancer Day**  
4 February 2024



**World Cancer Day** serves as a poignant reminder of the immense impact cancer has on individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

It's a day to honor the courage and resilience of those battling cancer, as well as to remember those who have lost their lives to this disease.

Cancer has touched nearly everyone in some way, whether through personal experience or the experience of a loved one, friend, or colleague. This shared connection underscores the importance of raising awareness, fostering understanding, and promoting action to combat cancer effectively.

- **Symptoms and Detection:** Symptoms may not manifest in the early stages, making regular screenings crucial for early detection.
- **Decreasing Incidence Rates:** Early detection through screening allows for timely intervention and improved outcomes.
- **Prognosis and Treatment:** Timely diagnosis, appropriate treatment, and regular follow-up care are crucial for improving survival rates and quality of life.

▶ **March: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**



Colorectal cancer, affecting the colon or rectum, is a significant global health concern.

- **Prevalence and Mortality:** It ranks as the third most common cancer worldwide and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally.
- **Age and Risk Factors:** The risk increases with age, predominantly affecting individuals over 50 years old.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CraNE JA Final Conference: Brussels, 18-19 September 2024**

▶ **International Childhood Cancer Day**  
15 February 2024

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is a global collaborative campaign aimed at raising awareness and garnering support for children and adolescents affected by cancer, as well as their families and caregivers. ICCD highlights the unique challenges faced by pediatric cancer patients and emphasizes the importance of a collaborative approach involving various stakeholders.



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Co-funded by the European Union

June 2024

**Our Next Newsletter**