



CraNE

European Network
of Comprehensive Cancer Centres

Newsletter

July 2024

Welcome to the 6th 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 7th CraNE JA Steering Committee (SC) Meeting on 19 April 2024, as well as the HaDEA Info-Day held on 14 May 2024 in Athens. Furthermore, learn more about the successful Audit for the Lung Center Comprehensive Cancer Care Network (CCCN) that took place at the Lower Silesian Oncology, Pulmonology and Hematology Center on 27-28 May in Wroclaw and the 3rd GB Meeting in Brussels on 20 June. The joint Slovak and Czech Webinar for Mission on Cancer was organized on 16 April 2024 in Slovakia. Additionally, read more about communication activities of CraNE JA during July: the 4th WP6 and 3rd WP8 Meetings on 1-2 July 2024 in Warsaw, the ELLOK Forum on 1-2 July 2024 in Athens, the Greek Local Stakeholder Forum on 9 July also in Athens, the 8th Steering Committee meeting on 11 July 2024. Moreover, we would like to announce the 9th SC Meeting which will be conducted online on 27 August 2024, as well as the CraNE JA Final Conference that will take place on 18 September 2024 in Brussels along with the CraNE JA final SC Meeting on 19 September 2024. Finally, be informed about the World Health Day which was celebrated on 7 April 2024.

● 7th CraNE JA Steering Committee Meeting 19 April 2024

In the 7th CraNE online Steering Committee (SC) Meeting, the Work Package (WP) Leaders presented the work of each WP so far and discussed minor still open issues. In addition, the CraNE JA Coordination Team announced the Final Conference of the project which will be held in Brussels in September (venue, participants, e.tc.) and concluded with the finalization of the project's deliverables from all WPs.

● HaDEA Info-Day EU Funding Programmes for Health and Digital Transformation 14 May 2024, Athens

The HaDEA Info-Day held in Athens, was a significant conference organized by the Ministry of Digital Governance, the National Documentation Centre (EKT), the Ministry

of Health and the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). Over 400 people attended the event, in which the European programs for health and digital transformation in Greek organizations have been presented. **Prof. Demosthenes Anagnostopoulos**, Secretary General for Information Systems and Digital Governance, highlighted Greece's digital advancements and emphasized the importance of public and private sectors. Senior representatives from HaDEA and the **Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)** of the European Commission presented the European funding programs, such as Digital Europe, Horizon Europe, Connecting Europe Facility and EU4Health, providing explanatory details. Then, **Dr. Antonis Stasis**, General Director of Digital Governance discussed Greece's commitment to the "Digital Decade" Program by 2030, outlining the action plan and addressing the challenges involved. Furthermore, **Marina Zanchi**, Director of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency presented the structure of HaDEA, the key characteristics and the budget of the Digital Europe, the Horizon Europe and the Connecting Europe Facility programs. Representatives from the National Contact Points shared the progress achieved by the Digital Europe Program (DEP), Horizon Europe and EU4Health programs, highlighting the improvements achieved for the Greek organizations. The **HaDEA Info-Day** served as a crucial meeting for fostering collaboration and sharing knowledge on EU funding opportunities and specifically focusing on Greece.



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● **CraNE JA WP6 - Setting up Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCNs) – Successful Audit for the Lung Cancer CCCN at the Lower Silesian Oncology, Pulmonology and Hematology Center**
27-28 May, Wrocław

We are thrilled to share the information that the **Lung Cancer CCCN Team** of the Lower Silesian Oncology, Pulmonology and Hematology Center (LSOPHC), one of our WP6 pilot CCCNs passed the audit, which took place from 27-28 May 2024 in Wrocław, Poland successfully. The two experienced lung cancer auditors congratulated the CCCN on an excellent and high performance and additionally recommended that the LSOPHC should be awarded with the **CraNE JA CCCN Lung Cancer certificate**.

During the 1.5-day audit, the implementation of the requirements in the Set of Standards for Lung Cancer as well as the results of the set of quality indicators were reviewed and jointly discussed. All documents were forwarded to the Certificate Awarding Committee, which reviewed the certification process and ultimately took the decision that the certificate will be awarded.

The certificate awarding ceremony took place on 1 July during the 4th WP6 meeting in Warsaw, at the **National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene - National Research Institute**.



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● **3rd CraNE JA Governmental Board (GB) Meeting**
20 June, Brussels

CraNE JA GB convened for its 3rd (hybrid) Meeting, with the goal of reviewing the WP4 outcomes, including the **Maturity Model** and the **CraNE JA Blueprint**, while offering suggestions and analysis regarding their structure and content. The CraNE JA Coordination Team, led by **Prof. Tit Albrecht**, highlighted the importance of the GB and the European Commission in coordinating healthcare in Member States (MSs). Representatives of all WPs discussed thoroughly the organization of comprehensive, high-quality cancer care in Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCNs), equitable access to high-quality care and research, as well as the framework and criteria for implementing Comprehensive Cancer Centers within an EU Network. Moreover, the **Maturity Model** was presented, along with the **CraNE Blueprint** and the upcoming **European Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centers JA (EUnetCCC JA)**. The closing remarks included the next steps of CraNE JA, regarding the Final Conference, the dissemination of the project to the broader community and the next GB Meeting in September.

● **Joint Slovak and Czech Webinar for Mission on Cancer**
16 April 2024, Slovakia

A Slovakian-Czech webinar was organized by the **Horizon National Office** in cooperation with the **Prague Technology Center**, aiming at both the scientific community of oncology and general public. This informative event focused on discussing the upcoming calls of **Mission Cancer** and **Horizon Europe**, crucial initiatives for advancing cancer research and treatment across Europe. Key topics included selected initiatives under EU4Health and the **Mission on Cancer**, highlighting the involvement and contributions of Slovakia in these projects. The discussion provided insights into the next steps and opportunities for researchers and stakeholders in the fight against cancer, promoting collaboration and innovation in oncology. The event was intended for universities, research institutions, non-profit organizations, industry representatives and members of the innovation ecosystem.

● **4th CraNE JA WP6 Meeting**

1-2 July 2024, Warsaw

At the 4th WP6 Meeting which took place at the National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene – National Research Institute (Warsaw, Poland), DKG, Leader of WP6 of CraNE JA, presented the results of the **WP6 “Organisation of comprehensive, high-quality cancer care in Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCCN)”** together with the project partners. Main topic of discussion was the updated definition of CCCNs and requirements for the interfaces between CCCN



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and Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCC) with a total of 50 participants from 19 European MSs. The CCCN training handbook, which is intended to support future CCCNs in setting up quality-assured oncological care structures as well as the Lung Cancer Patient Pathway Template and the Patient Centredness Toolbox developed by the partners from the **Technical University of**

Dresden (Research Group Digital Health) were presented. A highlight of the meeting was the awarding of certificates to the two pilot centres that successfully implemented a Lung Cancer CCCN during the course of the project, an outstanding achievement in such a short time! The work of WP6 of CraNE JA will continue in EUnetCCC JA WP9, so...stay tuned!

● **3rd CraNE JA WP8 Meeting**

2 July 2024, Warsaw

The 3rd **WP8 Hybrid Meeting** took place right after the 4th **WP6 Meeting**, at the National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene – National Research Institute (Warsaw, Poland). The agenda topics focused on presenting multiple case-study based on lung care pathways implemented in a context of CCCs and associated providers, the comparative assessment of molecular tumor boards (MTBs) implemented at a regional or national level and the results of the systematic review of predictors of return to work among European cancer survivors. The meeting concluded with a discussion about the finalization of the WP8 deliverables.

● **ELLOK Forum**

1st Greek Forum on Cancer: Policy, Research & Funding Strategies

1-2 July 2024, Athens

The **ELLOK Forum** aimed to highlight challenges and opportunities in cancer research and care in Greece, by inviting representatives from various sectors, including state, public health authorities, research institutes, health economics experts, academic institutions, healthcare professionals, healthcare industry representatives, digital technologies and patient organizations to engage in a fruitful conversation. The focus of the discussions was Greece’s National Cancer Plan implementation that requires the adoption of policies and funding strategies for effective cancer management, research promotion and healthcare service improvement. At the same time, since 2021, the European Commission’s “**European Cancer Plan**” and “**EU Mission on Cancer**” program has focused on the need to better understand cancer and support its proper management by MSs. This forum served as a testament to the importance and urgency of implementing an operational strategy to support the development of the national plan and accelerate procedures that will lead in positive developments in the field of cancer in Greece.



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● **CraNE JA 8th Steering Committee online Meeting**
11 July 2024

The **8th Steering Committee Meeting** focused mainly on the overview of the activities until the end of the project. The Coordination Team informed participants about the Final Conference, entitled **Paving the Way to the EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres**, which will be held on 18 September in Brussels and announced another SC Meeting in late August. In addition, all WP leaders presented their work so far, while a timeline for final reporting and the finalization of deliverables was set, as well. Finally, the meeting concluded with a discussion about the transition of activities to the next project - EUnetCCC JA.

● **Greek Local Stakeholder Forum - CraNE JA**
9 July 2024, Athens

The Greek Local Stakeholder Forum of the European JA “Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres: Preparatory activities on creation of National Comprehensive Cancer Centres and EU Networking” (CraNE JA) was held in Athens, at the Golden Age Hotel of Athens, under the organization of 1st Regional Healthcare Authority of Attica (1st YPE), the Greek Competent Authority of CraNE JA. The aim of this hybrid forum was to bring together key Greek stakeholders in the field of oncology, in order to discuss the perspective of Greek Oncology Hospitals and General Hospitals who run Oncology Units, to become Comprehensive Cancer Centers (CCCs) or to participate in Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCCNs). The forum was opened by



the **Secretary General of Public Health of the Greek Ministry of Health, Ms. F. Kaliva**, who was present during the whole event that was moderated by **Ms. Anastasia Balasopoulou** (1st YPE), Leader of the WP2-Dissemination. More than 50 participants attended the Greek Local Stakeholder Forum, including prominent representatives of the field of oncology, such as professors of oncology and surgical oncology as well as patient advocates, health care professionals (nurses, dieticians, pharmacists, social workers, radiotherapists), health journalists and pharmaceutical sales representatives. At the beginning of the event, the CraNE JA main topics and WPs were presented, including the projection of the project’s potential for the Oncology Centres in Greece, followed by the presentation of Hospitals in Athens with Oncology Departments. In the following presentation, **Dr. Ellen Griesshammer**, from the German Cancer Society (leader of CraNE JA WP6), focused on the quality of care and the setting up of Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks. **Dr. Dorota Dudek-Godeau**, from the **National Institute of Public Health NIH-National**



Research Institute of Poland, analyzed the example of the WP6 Pilot Hospital Lower Silesian Oncology, Pulmonology and Hematology Center (LSOPHC) in Wroclaw, which was recently certified as a CCCN. After the presentations, a very productive panel discussion took place between all the participating stakeholders about reflections on Greek Oncology Centres and quality improvement in cancer care.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **CraNE JA Final Conference: Paving the Way to the EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres**
18 September 2024, Brussels

The event is set for 18 September 2024, starting at 9 AM in TownHall Europe, Brussels.

- **CraNE JA 9th Steering Committee Meeting**
27 August 2024

The 9th Steering Committee Meeting will be held online on 27 August 2024.

- **CraNE JA final Steering Committee Meeting**
19 September 2024, Brussels

CraNE JA final SC Meeting will take place on 19 September 2024, starting at 9 AM (CET), in the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union, Brussels.

CANCER AWARENESS DATES

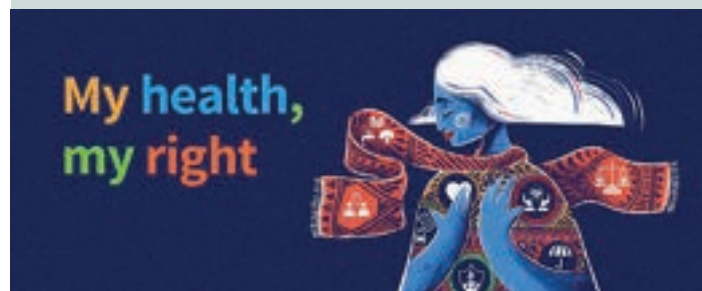


- ▶ **World Health Day**
7 April 2024

World Health Day, celebrated annually on 7 April, is an annual event to raise awareness of global health issues and promote healthy living habits. WHO selects a theme each year, highlighting a current health priority. Past themes include mental health, universal health coverage, diabetes and climate change impact.

At least 140 nations have constitutions declaring health a fundamental human right, but many fail to implement legislation ensuring citizens' right to healthcare. In 2021, over half of the global population, or 4.5 billion individuals, lacked

complete access to basic healthcare services. World Health Day 2024 aims to address these issues by focusing on the motto "My health, my right", which brings attention to high-quality healthcare, education, information, clean water, healthy food, adequate housing, respectable working and environmental conditions and freedom from discrimination.



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Our Final
Newsletter