



# CraNE

European Network  
of Comprehensive Cancer Centres

# Newsletter

September 2024

## Our last newsletter is out!

### Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> and Final Newsletter of the CraNE JA

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

In this last issue, get informed about the high-level CraNE JA Final Conference held on 18 September in Brussels, the 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee (SC) online Meeting on 27 August, as well as the CraNE JA final SC meeting which took place on 19 September 2024 also in Brussels. Furthermore, learn more about the Roundtable “European Network of comprehensive cancer centers and patient Involvement and empowerment in comprehensive cancer care” held on 20 September in Slovakia and the CraNE JA Governmental Board online Meeting. Moreover, we would like to announce the upcoming Spanish conference on CraNE and EUnetCCC Joint Actions that will be conducted on 30 September onsite in Barcelona, as well as the Spanish Meeting about ongoing cancer Joint Actions that will occur on 12 November in Madrid.

## ● CraNE JA Final Conference 18 September 2024, Brussels

The FINAL Conference of CraNE JA was held in Brussels on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, under the title “Paving the way to the EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres”. This Conference, by the end of CraNE’s journey after two years, focused not only to the results and conclusions that have been worked out in all Work Packages (WPs) but also to the remarkable work done to achieve common understanding, which set the basis and led to the next JA “EUnetCCC”.

Tit Albreht, scientific coordinator of CraNE JA from the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) of the Republic of Slovenia, opened the conference by presenting the “Wrapping up the work on the preparation of the EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centers (CCCs)”. He explained the objectives of CraNE JA as well as the challenges met during the process, in order to highlight the concept of comprehensiveness and focus on the way CraNE JA met its objectives and achieved consensus on critical issues that is the concrete basis for the next EUnetCCC JA. Following this structure, he managed to bridge the currently ending JA to the new one, which will proceed to the implementation of CCCs and Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCCNs).

Five Panel Discussions followed accordingly to the WPs content and results; they included both presentations by WP Leading Team as well as discussion by specialists and participants. The Panel Discussions were the following:

**#1** Panel Discussion: “Framework and criteria to enable the implementation of Comprehensive Cancer Centres within an EU net-



work” presented by Thomas Dubois (the French National Cancer Institute) and Per Magnus Maehle (Oslo University Hospital, Norway)

**#2** Panel Discussion: “Road to EU CCC capacity - the role of the maturity model tool” by Dorota Dudek-Godeau, (the National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene, Poland)

**#3** Panel Discussion: “Paving the way of care pathways in CCC/Networking” by Josep Maria Borrás, Catalan Institute of Oncology, Spain, and Ellen Griesshammer (German Cancer Society)

**#4** Panel Discussion: “The EU Network of CCCs: Joining Process, Governance Model and Networking” by Paolo de Paoli and Elena Preziosa

**#5** Panel Discussion: “Sustainability of CraNE JA: identification of challenges and opportunities for building capacity” by Regine Kiasuwa Mbengi, Sciensano, Belgium.

The speakers also served as moderators for the Discussions which followed each presentation (the full catalog of the participants as well as their CVs can be found on the CraNE’s website).

The representative of DG SANTE, Mr. George Margetidis, attended the whole conference and contributed to the discussion by bridging the Cancer Flagship to the ending JA and to upcoming EUnetCCC JA, transferring the experience and the challenges for the future.

The whole process gave the opportunity to an overview of the road the CraNE JA run as well as to a deeper understanding regarding either tools or the final conclusions in critical topics. These cover respectively for CCCs and EUnet of CCCs: the criteria and framework, the Quality and pathways of Care and the governance. Additionally, the Maturity Model and the exploring of capacity building for the sustainability of the project supplement the whole work, towards the cohesion of the next JA.



● **9<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee online Meeting**  
27 August 2024

The 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee (SC) Meeting which was held online with the aim to review the progress of ongoing activities as the CraNE JA approaches its conclusion.

The Coordination Team provided important updates regarding the Final Conference and the final SC meeting scheduled for September in Brussels. The meeting also established a clear timeline for the financial reporting phase. Additionally, Work Package (WP) leaders summarized the progress of each work package and emphasized their importance in achieving the project’s overall objectives.

● **CraNE JA final SC Meeting**  
19 September 2024, Brussels

CraNE JA final SC meeting took place on 19 September 2024, in the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union, Brussels. During this meeting, the Coordination Team presented the final report which summarized partners’ obligations till the end of the project, including JA’s financial aspects.

Partners also discussed the various dissemination activities that have taken place throughout the project, emphasizing the importance of meeting deadlines as the project wraps up. At the end of the meeting there was an open discussion about the transition of activities to the forthcoming project, EUnetCCC JA, ensuring that there is a seamless continuation of efforts and objectives in the scope of comprehensive cancer care.



● **CraNE JA Governmental Board Meeting**  
23 September 2024

CraNE JA Governmental Board Meeting was held online. The meeting featured several presentations and the agenda focused especially on the **Sustainability Report** and the **Blueprint**.

● **Roundtable “European Network of comprehensive cancer centers and patient involvement and empowerment in comprehensive cancer care”**  
20 September 2024, Slovakia

Key stakeholders from Slovakia gathered at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic to discuss the topic: **“European network of Comprehensive Cancer Centers and patient involvement and empowerment in comprehensive cancer care in Slovakia”** which is currently highly relevant in Slovakia with the planned accreditation of the first Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) and the establishment of a Comprehensive Cancer Care Network (CCCN) to ensure that every eligible patient has access to it.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic, **Zuzana Dolinkova**, along with the coordinators of CraNE JA project activities in Slovakia, **Sona Ciernikova** and **Maria Reckova**, both from the National Oncology Institute. Invited international speakers shared their valuable expertise during the presentations.

The expert roundtable brought fruitful discussions between all relevant stakeholders and outlined specific steps for patient voice implementation in the development of oncology health policies, with the next opportunity being during the update of the National Oncology Program’s action plans for 2026-2030.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**● Spanish conference on Crane and EUnetCCC Joint Actions**

30 September 2024, Barcelona

During the upcoming meeting in Barcelona, key stakeholders from the Spanish Ministry of Health, the Health Departments of Regional Governments and 11 Affiliated Entities, primarily University Hospitals, will convene to discuss significant outcomes from the Crane JA. The focus will be on presenting the Set of Standards developed through the project and participants will engage in collaborative discussions aimed at aligning their views and expectations regarding the implementation of these standards and the transition to the EUnetCCC framework.

This alignment is crucial for ensuring effective cooperation and integration of practices across the entities involved. The meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to share insights, address any concerns, and establish a unified approach moving forward in the context of cancer care and control initiatives.

**● Spanish Meeting about ongoing cancer Joint Actions**

12 November 2024, Madrid

The upcoming meeting hosted by the Minister of Health (MoH) of Spain in Madrid is an important opportunity to foster collaboration and align efforts regarding the ongoing Joint Actions in cancer care. By bringing together representatives from scientific societies, patients' organizations, and health authorities, the meeting aims to discuss the significant impact that initiatives such as Crane JA, EUnetCCC JA and JANE JA 1 and 2 are having on the Spanish National Health System (NHS).

**Wrapping Up**

As we reach the conclusion of our newsletter journey, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support and engagement over this time. It has been a pleasure to share insights, updates, and affairs with you, and we greatly appreciate the time you've taken to read our content and connect with us.

While this chapter may be ending, the spirit of our community continues to thrive, especially in the frame of the forthcoming project, EUnetCCC JA. We hope the knowledge and information shared throughout our publications have added value to your lives and increase awareness about cancer. We encourage you to carry forward the insights you've gained, remembering that the information shared here can live on in your interactions with one another.

Thank you once again for being a part of our community.  
We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

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