



## **JANE-2 Joint Action on Networks of Expertise on Cancer** **EU funded Joint Action**

**Building new Networks of Expertise (NoEs) in oncology:  
An Ambitious Vision for Tackling Healthcare at EU level**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter-May 2025**

The EU Joint Action on Networks of Expertise on cancer (JANE-2) (<https://jane-2.eu/>) was launched on November 1st, 2024, with the signature of the Grant Agreement (GAP-101183265) between the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) and 29 beneficiaries from 25 Member States and 4 Associated Countries. The consortium includes 121 partners, competent authorities and their associated entities, and is coordinated by Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT), Italy. The duration of the Joint Action is four years (2024 – 2028) and it is co-funded by the European Union with 40.5 million EUR dedicated to the project.

Based on the outcomes of JANE, JANE-2 is aiming at building seven Networks of Expertise (NoEs) that will cover the cancer areas of:

1. complex and poor-prognosis cancers
2. palliative care
3. survivorship
4. personalized primary and secondary prevention
5. omic technologies
6. hi-tech medical resources
7. adolescents and young adults with cancer

JANE-2 will provide NoEs, already envisaged in the context of JANE, the means to develop and fulfill their mission to the benefit of European citizens.



The Kick-off meeting of JANE-2 entitled, **“Building EU networks of expertise on cancer together”** was held in Milan, Italy, on January 28-29, 2025 with more than 300 participants, members of the consortium and representatives of government, European Commission and scientific societies (ESMO, ESTRO, SIOPE etc). In the opening speech, Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, eloquently highlighted how JANE-2, an initiative developed within the broader frameworks of the EU Cancer Plan and the EU4Health Strategy; plays a crucial role in advancing Europe's commitment to cancer care. Moreover, the coordinator Paolo G. Casali has shared a truly inspiring vision — one that transcends the scope of individual projects to create lasting value. The goal is not just to connect institutions but to foster genuine cooperation through inclusive Networks of Expertise that go beyond technological connections.



In the context of the kick-off meeting a Roundtable on policy challenges was held. Representatives of relevant Joint Actions and Organizations such as CCI4EU, EUnetCCC, EORTC and ECO participated in the discussion presenting the current challenges and giving the perspective of synergies in the context of EU Health Networking on Cancer. All panelists highlighted the complexity of the EU Health Networking environment having to do with great heterogeneity and inequities in cancer care and treatment across Europe, depending on member-states' national health policy and legislation. Therefore, specific actions have to be undertaken and funded in cancer care, research and training/education to integrate advanced technology, build capacity and appropriate infrastructure and harmonize health care systems as well as legislation across Europe.

During the first six months of the project's implementation, significant progress was made in all work packages. In summary, the developments per work package, so far, are as follows:

## WP1 Project management and Coordination

The Coordination Team has had a busy first six months in launching JANE-2, with the focus very much on networking. The successful kick-off meeting held in Milan, on January 28-29, 2025 marked the first major achievement.

Also in January, ESMO Open published the Consortium's Green Paper, *Health networking on cancer in the European Union*, with the aim to encourage discussions within the oncology community, create the best possible NoEs, and improve the tool of health networking in Europe.

Supported by the European Commission, JANE-2's Coordination Team has set up a restricted network on the Health Policy Platform entitled, *EU Health Networks: Synergies and Challenges*, bringing together the Coordinators of cancer-related joint actions, relevant EU projects and the European Reference Networks. The first online meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

The next plenary meeting will be held in Paris on 6-7 November 2025 in conjunction with JA EUnetCCC. JANE-2 is planning sessions on the strategic role of EU health networks in delivering impactful, coordinated responses to Europe's cancer challenges.

Internally, the Coordinators have been holding individual meetings with the Leaders/Co-Leaders of each NoE and Domain to discuss specific plans, strategic priorities and the policy challenges confronting each network moving forward.

Monthly online Steering Committee meetings bring together the WP and NoE Coordinators/Co-Leaders and Task Leaders to monitor progress and discuss future strategies.

The first of a series of online brainstorming Competent Authority Board meetings will shortly take place with a focus on the issues and challenges facing the seven NoEs from the Member State perspective.

## WP2 Dissemination and Communication

During the first six months, the WP2 team focused on the establishment of tools and channels for efficient communication of JANE-2 activities.

A Communication team was established already in January 2025 among the WP2 partners, NoEs' dissemination teams, and nominated representatives from WP1 Project Management and Coordination, WP3 Evaluation and WP4 Sustainability. The members of the team participate in regular monthly meetings in order to update and plan the public communication of JANE-2 activities and facilitate efficient communication and collaboration among project partners.

In parallel, WP2 focused on the construction of the JANE-2 website (<https://jane-2.eu/>). Given the size and complexity of the consortium, the main goal was to construct an inclusive but user-friendly website connected to the background history of JANE-2 as well as other relevant Joint Actions and projects. The architecture and concept of the website was approved by the General Assembly at the JANE-2 Kick-off meeting and the partners were asked to give their final input in view of finalizing the task and making the website functional in early April 2025. The website is connected to JANE-2 social media (LinkedIn and Bluesky), where useful material and updates on the progress of the JANE-2 activities are posted on a regular basis, increasing the visibility of the Joint Action.

### **WP3 Evaluation**

During the WP3 Evaluation Kick-off Meeting in December 2024, the core objectives and tasks of WP3 were outlined to the JANE-2 WP leaders. and at the JANE--2 Kick-off Meeting in January 2025, WP3 objectives and future activities were communicated to the whole consortium.

Building on these foundations, clear communication pathways were established, internally and with the other Work Packages. These structures have been and will be essential for maintaining a smooth workflow, allowing for efficient information sharing and productive collaboration between WP3 evaluation and the NoEs.

A key achievement during this period was developing the first milestone of WP3(MS3.1): a list of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) built on fruitful collaboration with the other JANE-2 WP leaders. This list will help measure the progress of JANE-2 and assist the WPs in advancing towards their goals.

Moreover, WP3 team is very close to completing D3.1, the Evaluation Framework, which will guide the future evaluation activities and serve as a reference document for the JANE-2 Evaluation, providing an overview of the evaluation activities and outcomes of our efforts.

### **WP4 Sustainability**

WP4 has focused on the initial steps necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the NoEs that are about to be launched within the framework of the JANE-2 Joint Action. To achieve this objective, the WP4 team, with the support of NoE leaders, initiated a comprehensive stakeholder mapping process, with the aim of identifying all relevant stakeholders who will play a significant role within the NoEs. WP4 prepared an initial draft, based on the information and knowledge gathered previously in JANE, NoE leaders have been actively involved in the process, contributing their expertise and insights to further refine and expand the stakeholder mapping.

Nowadays, this mapping exercise includes more than 100 organizations, representing a diverse range of stakeholders such as non-profit organizations, professional societies, research and innovation organizations, policymakers and patients groups. It is anticipated that additional organizations will be identified and included before the task is completed.

Next steps in this matter involve consolidating the information provided by the NoEs and designing a tailored survey to assess the specific needs of these stakeholders. By gathering and analysing this feedback, the NoEs will be able to evaluate whether the activities and services they are planning to implement align with the actual needs and expectations of the identified stakeholders. This approach is intended to ensure that the NoEs remain relevant and sustainable beyond the duration of the JANE-2 Joint Action funding period.

Additionally, a bilateral meeting between EUnetCCC and JANE-2's WP4 leaders was held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. In this meeting collaboration points and synergies between both initiatives were explored, with the aim of maintaining communication between both projects and generating opportunities for joint activities, in order to work towards a thriving European cancer ecosystem.



**Two New Expert Networks Launched for Poor Prognosis Cancers:** Two key domains under JANE 2's Work Package 5—focused on complex and poor prognosis cancers—have officially launched their activities.

The **Pancreatic Cancer Expert Network** held its kickoff in April, with a second meeting scheduled for May 28th. Chaired by Mef Nilbert, Matthias Löhr, and Nuria Malats, the network has gathered around 100 identified experts from across Europe. Its aim is to foster multidisciplinary collaboration to improve quality of care, accelerate research, and integrate national and regional networks. Early discussions have focused on clinical care standards, translational research, and engaging with European advocacy groups and initiatives such as PANCAIM, PANCAID, and SCANDARE.

The **Lung Cancer Expert Network** officially kicked off on May 12th, marking the establishment of the second expert network within WP5. Chaired by Joanna Chorostowska and Torsten Blum and colleagues, this network builds on existing efforts such as the SOLACE project and aims to improve lung cancer outcomes by aligning clinical guidelines, quality indicators, and innovation pathways across Europe.

With these two launches, the Networks of Expertise (NoEs) for pancreatic and lung cancers are now fully initiated, and planning is underway for a robust program of activities. Discussions include developing quality parameters, mapping care pathways, building educational programs, and designing collaborative research frameworks. These networks serve as blueprints for expanding JANE 2's impact to other poor prognosis cancers in the future.

**New experts are warmly welcomed to join the networks.**

**Next Steps:** The second Pancreatic Cancer Domain meeting will take place on May 28th, focusing on patient pathways, quality parameters, and educational needs. Both domains will continue refining their roadmaps and engaging stakeholders across Europe.



In the first six months of JANE-2, WP6 has progressed from planning to the initiation of coordinated implementation activities, with the aim of establishing a sustainable pan-European Network of Expertise (NoE) in palliative care. The overarching ambition is to ensure that timely, needs-based, and equitable palliative care becomes an integrated part of routine cancer care across all levels of the healthcare system in Europe.

Led by Oslo University Hospital (NO), with co-lead Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (IT), WP6 focuses on four key tasks: organisation, digital care pathways, education, and indicators. A successful in-person kick-off meeting was held in Oslo in January 2025 with task leaders, co-leads, and participating partners. Three full WP-wide online meetings have been conducted to foster cross-task



dialogue, supported by biweekly coordination calls with task leads and co-leads to ensure strategic alignment.

A WP6 position paper is currently under development to clarify the scope and content of palliative care, articulate its value across the disease trajectory, and define the need for unified quality indicators and educational standards.

Ongoing work in WP6 includes the development of two major surveys: one mapping the national organisation of palliative care, and another assessing clinical practice and the extent of integration at the patient level. WP6 is also preparing a scoping review of integration indicators and planning qualitative interviews with key opinion leaders and patient organisations.

WP6 engages with the Atlantes Observatory (EAPC Atlas) and EU-funded initiatives, and is actively mapping related projects to leverage existing resources and foster sustainability. WP6 maintains collaboration across the JANE-2 framework to explore synergies. Cooperation with EUnetCCC strengthens integration with broader cancer policy initiatives. Strategic engagement with WHO and EAPC continues to align WP6 activities with international standards and advocacy priorities.

WP6 remains committed to delivering a coordinated and impactful contribution to the long-term integration of palliative care across Europe.



The Survivorship NoE held its internal kick-off meeting on November 18 2024, where the initial objectives and a preliminary plan for each task were outlined. Since then, Task leaders have convened monthly, to update and discuss the initial steps of their tasks.

Task 7.2, one of the first ones to launch, has recently finalized a **Survivorship Care Survey** designed to map cancer survivorship care across Europe. The survey will be shared with around 60 entities, including cancer centers, scientific societies, patient advocacy groups, and research institutes. Task 7.2 leaders from Istituto Giannina Gaslini (IGG) will distribute the survey in an initial round ahead of summer.

On May 9 2025, the Sant Joan de Déu (SJD) institution hosted the first in-person meeting with Survivorship NoE task leaders in Barcelona, bringing together 18 representatives from European institutions. The meeting focused on advancing an integrative care model for cancer survivorship. One of the key agreements was the proposal of a **“working definition”** for **cancer survivor**, which will be crucial to establish a common care framework.

Additionally, the network has partnered with **EUnetCCC**, another EU Joint Action-funded cancer project. In particular, leaders from EUnetCCC’s WP8 have collaborated with Task 7.2 leaders to develop and distribute the survey. This collaboration was established through the NoE’s coleads Sciensano, who work in both projects. The Survivorship NoE has also engaged with leaders from the **Palliative Care NoE (WP6)**, the **AYAs NoE (WP11)**, and the **Personalized Prevention NoE (WP8)** to align efforts. Furthermore, procedural steps are underway to include new stakeholders to the NoE, such as survivor and family associations and policy advocacy groups.

Finally, the network is initiating a parallel study, with details still under discussion, to collect and integrate survivors' feedback into all NoE actions, ensuring their perspectives shape the network's mission and future direction.



The Network of Expertise on Personalised Cancer Prevention has mobilised ten coordinated tasks to co-create strategies focused on improving prevention and early detection strategies across Europe. Experts are mapping educational programmes, exploring tools to improve health literacy, and drafting evidence-based policy recommendations that incorporate omics, AI, and social determinants of health.

Research teams are conducting five systematic reviews (on the clinical utility of genomics and epigenomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, and radiomics) with protocols nearing registration on OSF or PROSPERO. Findings, together with results from other tasks, will contribute to the development of prevention recommendations.

Gaps in identification of individuals at increased cancer risk due to genetic or epigenetic factors are being explored. Reviews are analysing biomarkers related to pancreatic and lung cancers, including risk factors in non-smokers and the role of MITF gene. Furthermore, a survey is underway to evaluate BRCA and Lynch prevention programme implementation and cascade testing.

In March, WP8 convened an in-person meeting in Rome, hosted at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, co-led by Stefania Boccia and Delia Nicoară, sharing insights with initiatives like THCS, EUCanScreen, and WP9 (Omics NoE), fostering synergies across projects.

The collaboration with EUnetCCC, Europe's leading cancer care network, began with early efforts to define shared goals and avoid duplication. The framework supports joint meetings and initiatives—such as the development of Cancer Prevention Hubs and twinning projects. The first teaming workshop was held in April at Centre Léon Bérard in Lyon.

WP8's reach extended globally on 13 May, during the panel “Road to Success: Learning from Other Major Bold Initiatives,” at the Exposome Moonshot Forum in Washington, DC, where Dr. Delia Nicoară shared insights into JANE-2's vision for prevention-focused ecosystems.

Ongoing collaborations with PreventNCD and PROPHET, along with strategic partnerships with organisations like IARC, ESTRO, ESMO, ESO, OEI, ECL, and the European Cancer Organisation, reinforce the commitment to innovative, scalable, and sustainable cancer prevention across Europe.



The NoE on Omics aims to achieve fast and efficient integration of omics technologies into all EU healthcare systems to improve clinical decision-making in precision oncology at the different steps of cancer management in a sound and sustainable manner, striving for equal access to high quality services for all EU citizens. WP9 kicked off their journey to establish the Omics NoE on December 9th, 2024 at the Sciensano Cancer Centre's headquarters in Brussels. We were happy to welcome Prof. Stephanie Best (University of Melbourne, Australia) for an inspiring guest lecture on implementation science principles relevant to our NoE's activities. We were also joined by collaborative stakeholders from ELIXIR and ESMO to explore shared interests and future collaboration opportunities.

The services of the future Omics NoE will be established through its four transversal tasks;

- Technical & clinical support → Guidelines, technology assessment indicators
- Ethical & legal issues → Modular navigator toolkit
- Training centre → Patient information packages, training resources, capacity building support
- Synergies, collaborations & funding opportunities → Matchmaker platform

The transversal tasks are currently developing surveys to assess the current state of the field, mapping needs and inequalities, and gathering the necessary data to produce their deliverables. These surveys are planned to be disseminated in the fall of 2025.

The tasks will be fed by expert consultations in four thematic areas, determined based on clinical readiness, which will serve to define and prioritise the needs to be tackled by the NoE's services;

1. Established omics in the standard of care.
2. Omics technologies in clinical research
3. Omics technologies in translational research
4. Integrative (multi-)omics

A first expert consultation was conducted in March 2025 through the task on ELSI, when the Omics NoE submitted [feedback to the EC on IVDR implementation](#), highlighting six key issues affecting our community and providing recommendations.



The future European network on high-tech medical resources is structured around seven key domains: nuclear medicine, radiomics, innovative radiotherapy, innovative surgery, physical methods of ablation, cell therapies, and ex-vivo testing of agents.



Each of these domains is actively developing its internal governance structures and initiating scientific work that focuses on their specific areas of expertise, with their different development and perspectives. These efforts include the preparation of scientific papers that explore current advancements, challenges, and opportunities in their respective fields.

In addition to establishing operational frameworks and launching scientific work, the domains are now turning their attention to a crucial issue: equitable and sustainable access to their technologies for all citizens in all EU countries. Ensuring that patients and medical institutions throughout the EU can all benefit from these high-tech medical resources is emerging as a central issue that the future network will work to tackle. This will require interactions with healthcare authorities in all countries and involve cross-border healthcare. Addressing this challenge will be a priority in upcoming scientific publications and policy discussions.

To better understand and take on the issue of access, many domains have begun a mapping process. These mapping activities aim to assess the current availability and distribution of technologies, identify regional disparities, and highlight gaps in infrastructure or expertise. This analysis will be key in all future activities of the future networks, allowing domains to uncover which areas of the EU lack access to certain high-tech medical tools and what barriers may be contributing to these gaps. This mapping will also help define the strategic direction for improving access, whether through policy recommendations, investment needs, or collaborative initiatives that will inform the rest of the work done within JANE 2.

The findings will inform future actions at the EU level, helping to ensure that access to innovation in healthcare is robust and sustainable. Ultimately, the future networks' work will contribute to a more cohesive and equitable healthcare landscape across Europe, where advanced medical technologies are rapidly disseminated and accessible to all.



During the first six months, significant progress was made across multiple workstreams within the Network of Expertise (NoE) on AYA with cancer.

The NoE engaged key stakeholders and contributed to both national and international initiatives, including a dedicated policy session on AYA with cancer held at the SIOPE Annual Meeting in Budapest on May 14th. Links with other NoEs in JANE2 are under identification.

In collaboration with the JANE2 Coordination team, the initial governance structure was established, encompassing the Steering Committee, External Advisory Board, and key scientific societies.

The NoE advanced efforts to map existing AYA cancer care practices across the EU through three approaches: a scoping review (completion expected in June), a survey currently under development, and planned interviews across participating countries.

Work also began on identifying and prioritizing clinical recommendations specific to AYA patients. A set of key terms and a data extraction template are being finalized, with data collection to begin

shortly. A complementary survey will assess the real-world use of existing guidelines across institutions.

The NoE is refining age-based cancer group definitions through epidemiological analysis to be closer from underlying biology and identify priorities. A survey is being developed to map national AYA clinical trial structures, with a working group established for this task. Additionally, collaboration is planned with the ACCELERATE FAIR initiative to compete the current landscape in early clinical trial for AYA and the consequences in term of rapid access to innovation, with expert volunteers being recruited.

Additionally, the NoE defined a project to monitor AYA cancer care quality. Suitable models were reviewed, and a protocol is in the final stages of development, with submission planned for June.

JANE-2 will collaborate and develop synergies with all ongoing EU Joint Actions, projects and initiatives being in compliance with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, translating overlaps into synergies by pursuing complementarity. A particular synergy is developing with the new Joint Action EUnetCCC "European Network on Comprehensive Cancer Centres", officially launched in November 2024, having a duration of 4 years and building on the results of the JA CraNE (2022-2024). For this reason, **the next Annual Meeting of JANE-2 will be held in collaboration with the Annual Meeting of EUnetCCC, in Paris, November 6-7, 2025.**

Bringing the two projects together offers a unique opportunity to highlight their complementarity and foster synergies between institutional, clinical, and expert networks. This collaboration will also allow both actions to align on key challenges such as governance, data, and sustainability, while jointly exploring how European cancer networks can contribute to more equitable, integrated and high-quality care across the EU.