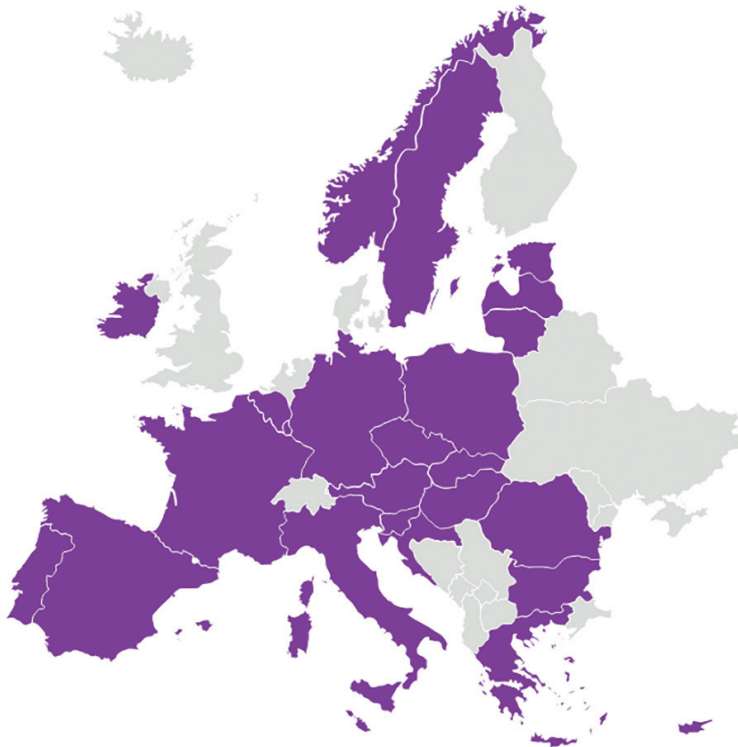


Stakeholder Forum in Slovakia

under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic

Integration of clinical care, research, innovations, and education within the Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Europe. A current state and challenges for Slovakia

15. 12. 2023 Conference Hall at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
Conference language: English/Slovak



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Dear colleagues,
I am pleased to open the Stakeholder Forum that brings all relevant stakeholders in Slovakia to discuss the need for and crucial steps for implementing the Comprehensive Cancer Center that integrates high-quality clinical cancer care with excellent research and education. We need to remember the historical context of existing institutions and aim for excellence and sustainability. I am optimistic that we can make the change based on deep understanding and wise decisions that will benefit all of us. I appreciate and welcome the chance to hear from colleagues from other European countries to share their views and experiences.

Zuzana Dolinková
Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic



Dear colleagues,
I am delighted to invite you to the Slovakian Stakeholder Forum based on the European project CraNE-JA, in which our international collaborators will present the main mission and achievements of this very important EU project. The National Cancer Institute and its integral part National Oncology Institute are involved in several EU projects, and coordination and support actions to join the collaborative approach in the fight against cancer in the EU. I appreciate that such renowned international presenters will come to Slovakia. At the same time, I am very thankful to Slovak experts in all areas of oncology for their willingness to discuss the current state and challenges, aiming to build the first comprehensive cancer center (CCC) in Slovakia. This key goal is in line with the National Oncology Program of the Slovak Republic and also with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. I believe that the symposium will be of great value to all attendees, with fruitful discussions and collaborative agreement on the Final statement from the Stakeholder Forum.

Tomáš Alscher
Director of the National Cancer Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia



Dear colleagues,

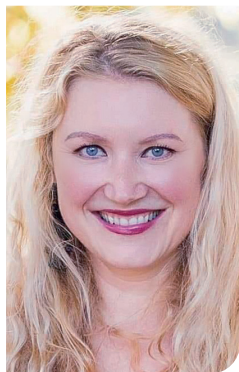
It is my great honor to welcome you to the Stakeholder Forum for the project CraNE-JA. In line with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, one of the main goals is to ensure that 90% of all eligible patients for care in CCC will have access to such centers. In Slovakia, we currently do not have any CCC, and thus, we stand in front of the challenge of getting all relevant stakeholders to discuss and start the realization of the CCC, which is also one of the goals of the Slovak National Oncology Program endorsed by Slovak Government with updated action plans in 2021. The CCC has to provide not just excellent healthcare that is available for all eligible patients but also, as its integral part, provides excellent research and education. Thus, we must connect all available resources and collaborate throughout Slovakia, as all cancer patients in Slovakia have to benefit. I am very thankful to our international speakers, who have experiences and knowledge they can share with us, and I am also thankful to all representatives of essential stakeholders in Slovakia who will come to actively discuss their potential in fulfilling this critical task for Slovakia.

Mária Rečková

Co-coordinator of the CraNE-JA activities in Slovakia
Director of the National Oncology Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia



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Dear colleagues,

It is my greatest pleasure to present you the CraNE Stakeholder Forum in Slovakia under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic. This Forum is dedicated to the prestigious EU project CraNE-JA, aiming to create an EU network of the already existing and newly established CCCs, to support cooperation and reduce the inequalities in oncology across Europe. We are very honored that our treasured European collaborators from Crane-JA Tit Albrecht and Per Magnus Maehle, co-coordinator of another renowned EU project ECHO-S - Hugo Soares, and Olga Sapožnikov from Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute received our invitation to share their expertise and strengthen the international cooperation with the Slovak Republic in EU projects aiming to fulfill the goals of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. I deeply appreciate the willingness of all Stakeholders to come and discuss this crucial topic of building CCC in Slovakia and EU networking. I am sure that fruitful discussions between delegates from our State Authorities, top experts in oncologic clinical care, research, and education, and cancer patient representatives will contribute to designing future steps for improvements in oncology in Slovakia.



NATIONAL
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Soňa Čierniková

Co-coordinator of the CraNE-JA activities in Slovakia
Research and Education Project Coordinator,
National Oncology Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia
Senior Cancer Researcher, Biomedical Research Center
of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

National Cancer Institute in Bratislava



is a specialized hospital focusing on providing complex oncological healthcare, specifically in terms of inpatient and outpatients healthcare, common examination and treatment units, and intensive healthcare in corresponding medical specialties. National Cancer Institute acts as a coordinating center and methodically manage, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the professional level of oncology care throughout the Slovak Republic. It offers consultations in oncology for oncological facilities, provides preventive care, and evaluates the expert level of delivering cancer care throughout the Slovak Republic. In research and development, it participates in clinical trials and education of cancer researchers. Importantly, the National Cancer Institute cooperates with other health, academic and scientific institutions at the national and international levels.



National Oncology Institute

serves as a clinical research, academic and educational platform. The main mission of the institute is comprehensively and independently participate in the implementation of the goals of the National Oncology Program in cooperation with other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, in five specific areas: primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment, research, and development, use of health data and information. The priority of the National Oncology Institute is coordinating and evaluating cancer screening programs in Slovakia. In the domain of research and education, it has established Cancer Trials Register in Slovakia, and regularly announces a call for grant applications for short-term international fellowships for physicians working in the field of oncology.

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15. 12. 2023 Conference Hall at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

Conference language: English/Slovak

Programme

8.00 – 8.30

Registration

8.30 – 8.55

Official Welcoming:

President of the Slovak Republic – **Zuzana Čaputová**

Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic – **Zuzana Dolinková**

Deputy Head of the Unit for Cancer and Health at the European Commission, DG Santé

– **Matthias Schuppe**

Scientific Coordinator of the CraNE-JA – **Tit Albreht**

8.55 – 9.00

Coffee Break

9.00 – 10.35

CraNE-JA: Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCC) and synergies with other EU projects and cancer centers to fulfill the goals of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan:

Led by: coordinators of the CraNE-JA activities in the Slovak Republic

Soňa Čierniková, Research and Education Project Coordinator at the National

Oncology Institute, Researcher at the Biomedical Research Center, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Mária Rečková, Director of National Oncology Institute

Presentations:

The importance of establishing international collaboration of key national comprehensive cancer centers/infrastructures

Presenter: Tit Albreht, Scientific Coordinator of the CraNE-JA, Head of the Centre for Health Care at the National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia – 20 min.

European network for cancer centres – from the idea to reality

Presenter: Per Magnus Mæhle, Co-leader of WP7 (Framework and criteria to enable the implementation of CCCs within an EU Network) a co-leader of WP5 Subtask 5.3.1 (Design of collaboration activities of national CCCs within the European context) in the CraNE-JA, General Manager at Cancer Center Board, Oslo University Hospital CCC, Norway – 20 min.

MOÚ Brno – The Path to OECI Comprehensive designation

Presenter: Olga Sapožnikov, Head of Accreditation Section, Department of International Accreditations at the Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute CCC, Czechia – 20 min.

Uniting against Cancer: ECHoS Project

Presenter: Hugo Soares, Coordinator of the ECHoS project (Establishing of Cancer Mission Hubs: Networks and Synergies), Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation, Portugal – 20 min.

Discussion – 15 min.

10.35 – 10.50

Coffee Break

10.50 – 12.50

Panel Discussions

Challenges for Slovakia in the context of building CCC and EU networking

FIRST PANEL

Chairman, Health Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

V. Baláž

State Secretary I, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (MoH)

M. Štofko

Chief Expert of the MoH on Clinical Oncology in Slovakia

M. Mego

Chief Expert of the MoH on Pediatric Oncology in Slovakia

A. Kolenová

Director of University Hospital in Bratislava

A. Mayer

Director of National Cancer Institute

T. Alscher

Representative of St. Elizabeth Cancer Institute, President of the Slovak Oncology Society

S. Špánik

Representative of East Slovakian Oncology Institute, Chief Expert of the MoH on Radiation Oncology

P. Dubinský

SECOND PANEL

State Secretary to the Vice-premier of the Slovak Republic for the Recovery and Resilience Plan and EU Funds, Government Office of the Slovak Republic

A. Sabelová

General Director of the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Slovak Republic

J. Kyselovič

Director of National Health Information Center, Slovak Republic

P. Lukáč

Representative of League Against Cancer, Board Member of European Cancer Leagues

P. Benczyová

President and founder of No To Cancer

J. Španková

Member of the Board of the Slovak Cancer Research Foundation

J. Sedlák

THIRD PANEL

State Secretary II, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

R. Zsembera

President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

P. Šajgalík

General Director of the Biomedical Research Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

S. Pastoreková

Head/representatives of Faculties of Medicine at the Slovak Universities:

Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University in Bratislava

J. Payer (Dean)

D. Ondruš (Head of the Committee for study Program Oncology)

Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University in Martin

A. Čalkovská (Dean)

Faculty of Medicine, Slovak Medical University in Bratislava

Š. Laššán (Vice-Dean)

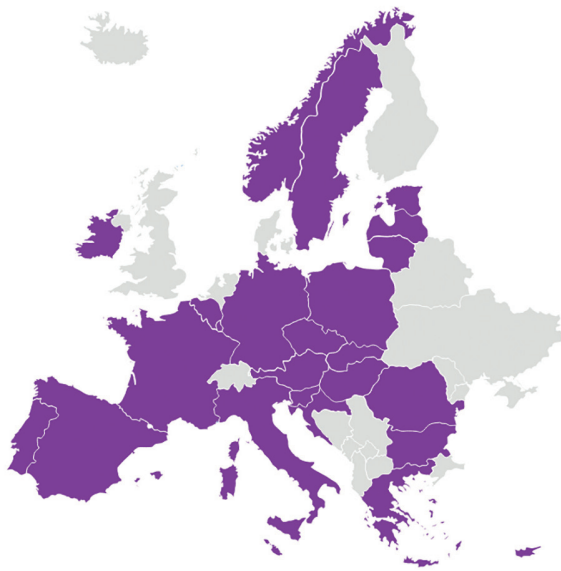
Facilitators: coordinators of the CraNE -JA activities in the Slovak Republic

Mária Rečková and **Soňa Čierniková**, National Oncology Institute

12.50 – 13.00 **Concluding Remarks** – Statement of the Slovak Republic

13.00 – 14.00 **Press Conference**

14.00 –15.00 **Buffet Lunch, Networking**



Crane



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the art of healing

About Crane- JA

National Cancer Institute and National Oncology Institute are part of the prestigious European project Crane Joint Action – JA (complete project name: Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres-Preparatory activities on creation of National Comprehensive Cancer Centres and EU Networking). This project responds to Flagship Number 5 of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, which defines that the European Commission will establish by 2025, an EU Network linking recognized National Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCCs) in every Member State. The Europe's Beating Cancer Plan aims to ensure that 90% of eligible patients have access to such centres by 2030.

The main aim of the Crane JA is to create an EU network of the already existing and newly established CCCs, to support the implementation of quality-assured early detection, screening, diagnosis, treatment, support to cancer survivors, research and training of the cancer workforce. Crane JA is preparing the necessary preconditions, administrative, professional, and those related to high-quality performance.

The kick-off meeting of Crane JA was held on November 3, 2022 at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia in Brussels. The project officially started on October 1, 2022. Crane JA brings together 25 Competent Authorities and 21 Affiliated Entities from 25 different countries, marking 46 partners in total. Crane JA partners are uniquely placed to implement the network of CCCs in Europe. The target group of Crane JA are the main actors who will be concerned in the future development of the network of CCCs: representatives of member states, networks of CCCs, European organizations, and experts. Patient advocates and representatives are included in the work of work packages and represented in the Stakeholder Forum.

The Crane JA project, which will last two years received funding from the European Union through the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) within the framework of the EU Health Program (EU4Health) 2021-2027.

<https://crane4health.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Crane-JA-The-newest-European-Project-in-the-field-of-Cancer.pdf>

Tit Albreht

Scientific Coordinator of the CraNE-JA

in Health Services Research at the University of Amsterdam, Head of the Centre for Health Care at the National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia, Senior Researcher in the field of health services research, health policy and health systems research, member of the Scientific Committee of EUPHA. He served as President of the Slovenian Preventive Medicine Society between 2016 and 2022 and was elected President-elect of the European Public Health Association for the term 2024-2026. His research and policy work has predominantly been on national and EU policies in health workforce, patient mobility, cancer control and cancer care (the latter two since 2006). He was the scientific coordinator of three EU cancer policy projects, Joint Actions. He is assistant professor of public health at both Slovenian medical faculties as well as at the Faculties of Nursing in Maribor and Jesenice.



NIJZ National Institute
of Public Health

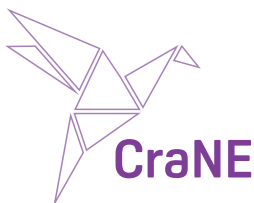


Per Magnus Mæhle

Co-leader of WP7 and Co-leader of Subtask 5.3.1 of WP5 in the CraNE-JA

holds the position as general manager of the Cancer Centre Board at Oslo University Hospital (OUH) – Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC). The hospital is a competent authority of Norway in the EU Joint Actions of Crane, Jane, and the new EU CCC Net, and OUH is also a partner in CCI4EU. Mæhle is representing OUH in work package leads in these programs. Mæhle had the position as project manager in two CCC accreditation processes of OUH and has been one of the initiators of the Nordic-Baltic network of CCCs. Previously he has had other leading positions in OUH, the Regional Health Authority in South-Eastern Norway, in private industries, and in the Norwegian Ministry of Finance. Mæhle has PhDs from the Faculty of Medicine and from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo, and has been a member of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

 **Oslo
University Hospital**
Comprehensive Cancer Centre



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Olga Sapožnikov

International Accreditation Manager, Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute

Dr. Sapožnikov is part of the team of Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute in Brno, Czech Republic. As the head of the Accreditation Unit, she deals with whole-institution accreditations, designations, and certification. The work requires involvement in setting of activities, both at institutional level and externally, as well as work on preparation of the institution for external audits, which requires careful gathering and description of existing processes. Important milestones of the Unit were the process of re-accreditation and designation by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) – where the Institute was given the status of Comprehensive Cancer Center, adherence to European Reference Networks (ERN), obligatory 5-year re-evaluation of membership in ERNs and management of related processes. The Accreditation Unit also supervises the follow up actions drawn after some assessments. In addition, Dr. Sapožnikov is a member of several OECI thematic committees and is an institutional representative in several national and international networks and projects.



Hugo Soares

Co-coordinator, ECHoS Project

Hugo Soares is the co-coordinator of the European project ECHoS, aiming at Establishing Cancer Mission Hubs and to create networks of support to EU Mission on Cancer through synergies and community engagement. Bringing together the expertise of 58 leading organizations, from governmental, healthcare, research, academic, and non-profit sectors, the ECHoS European consortium will ultimately provide member states and associated countries (MS/AC) with the capacity to gradually create National Cancer Mission Hubs.



Hugo is also the co-coordinator of the Portuguese National Cancer Hub (NCH-PT), a structure dedicated to connecting people and organizations to foster the translation of scientific evidence into policies. The NCHPT is oriented towards the implementation of EU Mission on Cancer and EBCP initiatives in the full spectrum of cancer - from fundamental research to clinical research and clinical practice. The NCH-PT catalyses the development of multi-stakeholders' projects and connections to the community in Health, Research and beyond.



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