

CraNE Local Stakeholder Forum in Germany

The German Local Stakeholder Forum of the Joint Action Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres: Preparatory activities on creation of National Comprehensive Cancer Centres and EU Networking (JA CraNE) was held in Berlin on 21 February 2023, within the framework of the German Cancer Congress.

The German Cancer Congress is the largest congress covering cancer diagnostics and therapy in German-speaking countries.



The German Cancer Congress took place from February 21 to 24 2024, in Berlin and was hosted by the German Cancer Society and German Cancer Aid for the 36th time. Attendees were health care providers in the field of oncology, patients, representatives from German stakeholders in health policy, such as federal ministries, social health insurances, scientific societies and representatives from the health industry.

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 on going 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 of the German Local Stakeholder Forum included:

- Matthias Schuppe, European Commission, team leader for preparing DG SANTE's work on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP): "Europe's Beating Cancer Plan"
- PD Dr. Hubert Misslich, German Aerospace Center Project Management Agency (DLR-PT), participant of the Coordination and Support Action Establishing National Cancer Mission Hubs: Networks and Synergies (CSA ECHoS): "Cancer Mission: National Cancer Mission Hubs"
- Ellen Griesshammer, German Cancer Society, deputy-leader of Work Package 6 JA CraNE: "EU4Health: JA CraNE"
- Dr. Peggy Richter, Technical University of Dresden, responsible for Task 2.3. within the Coordination and Support Actions Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures 4 Europe (CSA CCI4EU): "Cancer Mission: CCI4EU"

Matthias Schuppe presented a summary and status quo of the EBCP implementation focusing on projects and collaborative efforts, which are focusing on developing and improving high standards in cancer care. Moreover, he offered insights into upcoming initiatives like the Joint Action EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (JA EUNetCCC) and Joint Action Networks of Expertise on Cancer (JA JANE2), scheduled to be launched in November 2024.

Afterwards Hubert Misslich gave an overview of the work of the CSA ECHoS. ECHoS aims to



support the implementation of the Cancer Mission activities in all Member States and Associated Country through the establishment and development of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMH) operating at national, regional and local levels. He briefly presented the six thematic Work Packages (WPs) with a focus on WP2 “National Cancer Mission Hubs: Design, Creation and Knowledge Exchange” and WP4 “Synergies: bridges to Missions and other European initiatives” in which the DLR-PT is mainly participating. In Germany a NCMH is already established in the form of the Steering Committee of the National Decade Against Cancer. Therefore the DLR-PT is mainly involved as a knowledge sharing partner within the project to support Member States that are in the process of setting up new NCMH in their countries.

Ellen Griesshammer presented the JA CrANE, including overarching objective and structure while providing insight to the four thematic WPs. A more detailed overview was given of WP6 “Organization of comprehensive, high-quality cancer care in Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks”. The goal of WP6 is to further develop the access and availability of comprehensive high quality of care in Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCCNs) to all Member States and to align the high standards in cancer for all quality assured institutions with a focus on the interfaces between care and research (CCCN and Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCC)). Within WP6, support instruments to set-up CCCNs are developed and Set of Standards and quality indicators for Lung Cancer Care developed. Moreover a patient pathway for Lung Cancer Care is being developed with the goal to enhance patient centredness in CCCNs. Finally all developed instruments are being implemented in two CCCN pilot sites.



Peggy Richter gave an insight into the CSA CCI4EU. She outlined the various objectives and key project details of the eight WPs including the interplay and interconnectivity. She put special focus on WP2 “Definition of criteria for Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures (CCIs) using a CCI Maturity Model (MM). Objectives of WP2 and how to get there is to take into account already existing definitions (e.g. from JA CrANE, JA Jane, JA ECHOS), develop a joint understanding of CCIs and to agree on criteria for CCIs, including quality indicators based on eight themes¹. Based on the agreed criteria, a MM and a digital data platform (MM Web Tool) will be developed to support the assessment of CCIs and to identify possible capacity building interventions in order to improve and increase the maturity of CCIs.

After each session there was room for questions from the audience. Topics discussed included the interplay between the Mission on Cancer and EBCP as well as the concept of CCIs and how it connects to CCC and CCCNs in the overall cancer ecosystem. Sustainability of the structures that are initiated through the various projects was also addressed and identified as a challenge.

Overall, it was emphasised that the presented European projects should ensure to promote collaboration between the different stakeholders and identify synergies to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure an aligned overall strategy to improve oncological care in the European Member States.

¹ Theme 1 „Structure of the CCI“, Theme 2 „Comprehensive Cancer Centres“, Theme 3 „Interfaces and Quality Indictaors“, Theme 4 „Discovery and Translational Research“, Theme 5 „Clinical Research“, Theme 6 „Outcomes Research“, Theme 7 „Screening and Early Detection“, Theme 8 „Patient Pathway“