

Advancing telemedicine adoption into European cancer care through the Joint Actions eCAN and eCAN Plus

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Introduction

Cancer patients across Europe still continue to face disparities in receiving holistic and high-quality care.

Telemedicine (TM) emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic as a promising solution to address some of the existing gaps, enabling remote consultations and patient monitoring. However, TM uptake remains fragmented and the path forward unclear. To address this challenge, the Joint Actions eCAN and eCAN Plus were launched within the context of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to better understand how to foster TM integration into cancer care, with a focus on identifying barriers, enablers and pathways to sustainable implementation.

eCAN Strengthening eHealth for
Cancer Prevention & Care

Methods

A combination of **qualitative and quantitative methods** was used:

- Literature reviews
- Stakeholder surveys
- Interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Foresight exercise
- Three telemedicine pilots (RCT design) in 10 EU countries with cancer patients

Stakeholders engaged

Policymakers, cancer patients, healthcare professionals and payers.

Results

The Joint Action generated a diversity of outputs:

- Stakeholder specific **guidelines**
- **Digital training modules**
- **Policy mapping dashboard**
- **Mobile application** for capturing patient reported outcomes
- **Dashboard for clinicians** to remotely monitor patient outcomes

The **pilot studies** identified that TM approaches can be practical and beneficial across different cancer types and healthcare settings

A **roadmap** for future actions was developed laying out 16 policy recommendations across six intervention domains:


Regulatory, governance and policy framework


Collaboration and stakeholder engagement and awareness


Infrastructure and technology development


Training and education


Implementation and integration into healthcare systems

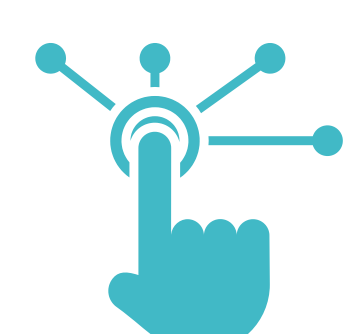

Evaluation and continuous improvement



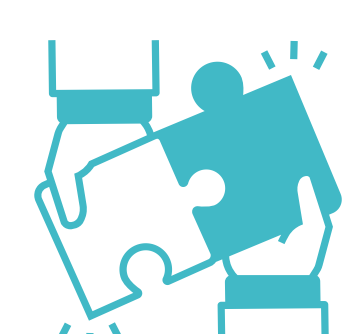
Recommendations roadmap for scaling-up eHealth
eCAN Joint Action (2022 - 2024)

eCAN Enhancing digital capabilities of cancer centres in Europe

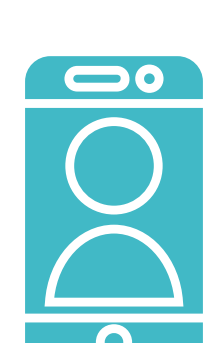
Objectives



To implement a comprehensive training programme for digital skills development.



To enhance digital collaboration among cancer centres.



To explore clinical telemedicine applications in different settings of cancer care.



To bolster preparedness for the European Health Data Space's (EHDS) implementation.

On-the-ground work

Digital skills training pilot

Digital cancer prevention education programme

Health data exchange use cases

Virtual molecular tumour boards
Digital discharge conferences

Telemedicine implementation pilots

Active-treatment setting
Palliative care setting
Survivorship setting



eCAN Plus leaflet
eCAN Plus JA (2025 - 2029)

Conclusion

JA eCAN established the groundwork for integrating telemedicine into routine cancer care by transforming stakeholder needs into concrete tools and policy recommendations. Building on this, JA eCAN+ aims to sustain this progress and promote equitable, digitally enabled cancer care across Europe.