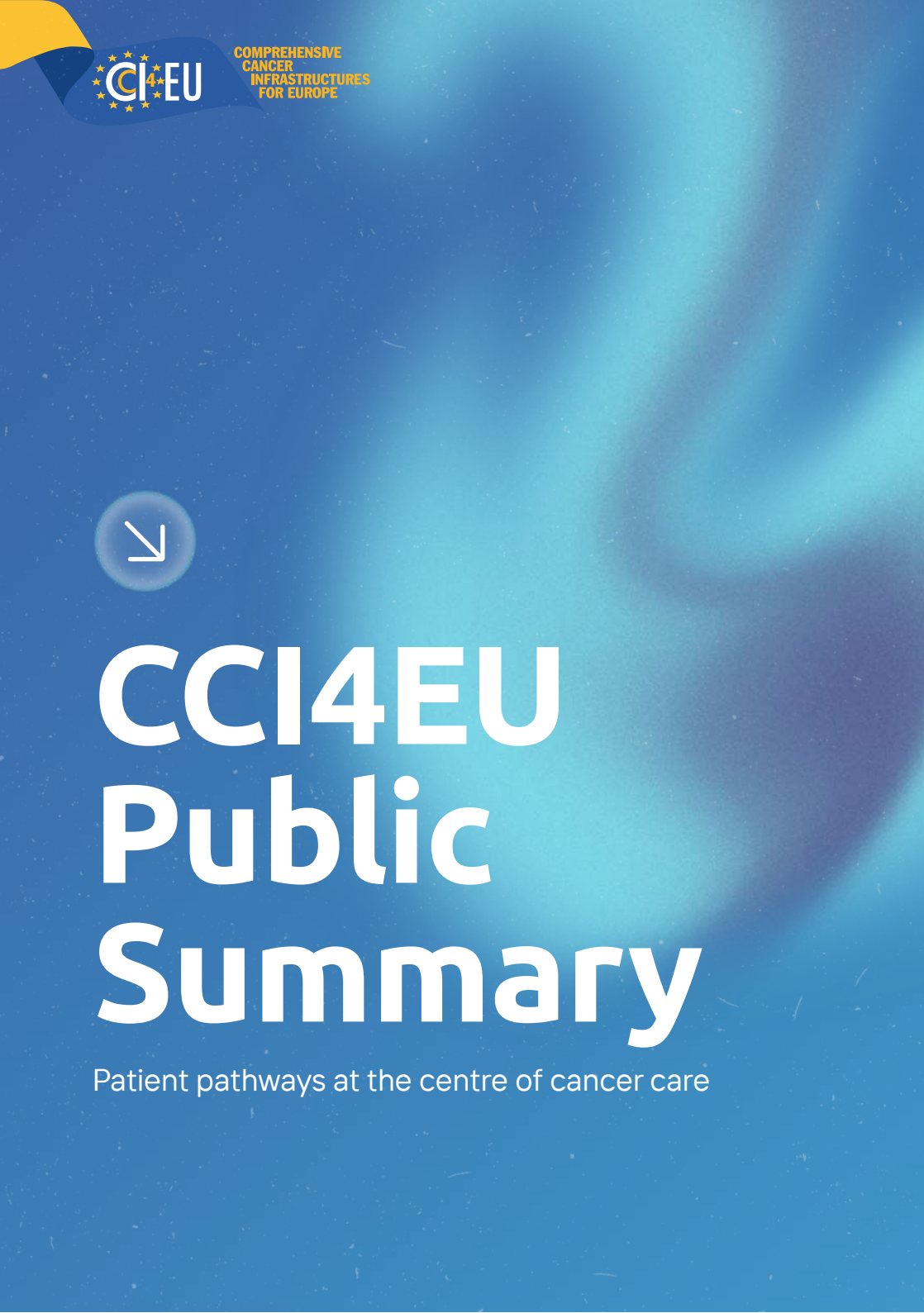


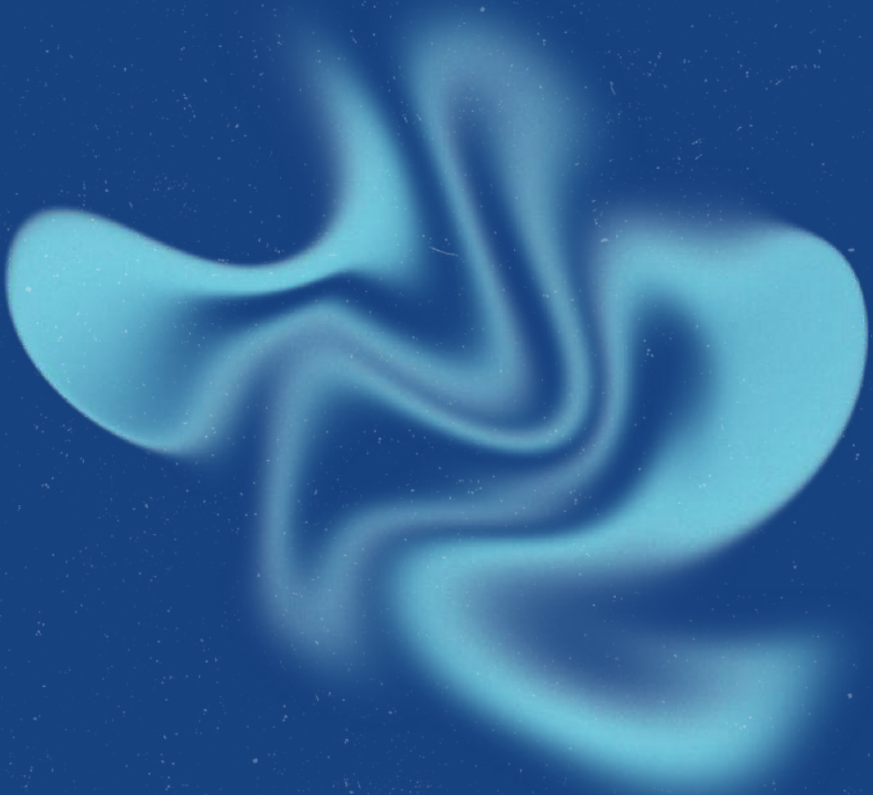


COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER
INFRASTRUCTURES
FOR EUROPE



CCI4EU Public Summary

Patient pathways at the centre of cancer care



CANCER REMAINS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN EUROPE

Cases are expected to increase by 25% by 2035

Why CCI4EU was needed



Everyone in Europe should have access to high-quality cancer care, regardless of where they live. Yet this is still not the reality. Access to specialised care, research and innovation varies across Europe, creating inequalities that affect patients and healthcare systems alike. With cancer cases expected to increase by 25% by 2035, helping countries strengthen their cancer services has become more important than ever.

One way to reduce these inequalities is through strong Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures (CCIs). Rather than relying on individual organisations working in isolation, CCIs bring together cancer centres, hospitals, research institutes, screening programmes, cancer registries, primary care and public health services into one integrated approach to preventing, diagnosing, treating and studying cancer.

The level of CCI development varies significantly across Europe — and CCI4EU was created to help close this gap.

By combining onsite expert consultancy, training and peer learning, CCI4EU helped build more integrated, effective and resilient CCIs that deliver better care and better outcomes for patients.



How CCI4EU made a difference



The first step was to understand where support was needed most. CCI4EU developed a Maturity Model — a practical assessment tool that helped cancer centres evaluate their level of development across 8 key areas:

The structure of CCIs

Establishing and accrediting Comprehensive Cancer Centres

Interfaces between research and care

Discovery and translational research

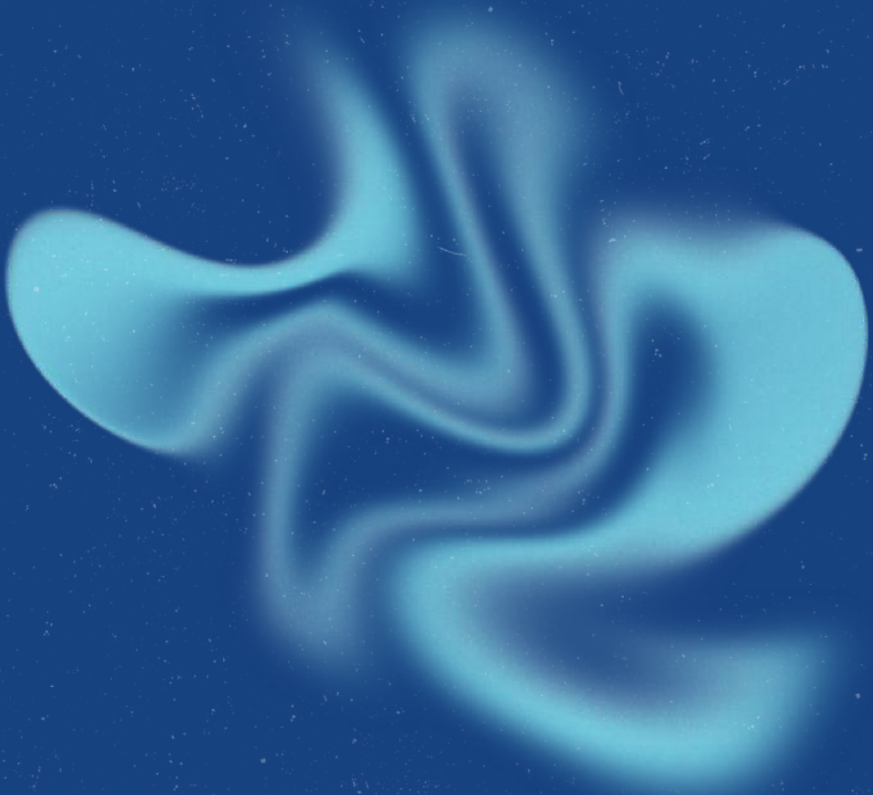
Clinical research

Outcomes research

Screening and early detection

Patient pathways

56 CCIs from across Europe completed all or part of this assessment. The results revealed significant differences between and within Member States, and helped the project identify where support could have the greatest impact.



A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR MEASURING MATURITY

The Maturity Model provided a structured framework to assess the development of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures across Europe and identify priorities for capacity building.

How CCI4EU made a difference

Based on these findings, CCI4EU launched a capacity-building programme designed to help cancer centres learn from one another.



Online courses

Healthcare professionals strengthened their knowledge through ten online courses covering topics such as precision cancer medicine, clinical trials, patient pathways and patient empowerment.



Regional Conferences

Three regional conferences in Warsaw, Brussels and Madrid brought together multidisciplinary teams to exchange experience, discuss practical challenges and share successful approaches from across Europe, with particularly strong participation from younger clinicians and researchers.



Expert Consultancy Deep Dives

At the heart of the project was the Deep Dive programme. Ten Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures received tailored support from multidisciplinary teams of international experts, which visited each centre three times and worked side by side with local professionals and patients. Together, they analysed challenges, identified practical solutions and developed action plans adapted to local priorities and needs.

How CCI4EU made a difference



Observerships

Clinicians and researchers from participating centres also completed observerships at more mature Comprehensive Cancer Centres, where they gained first-hand experience of successful practices in areas such as molecular tumour boards, early-phase clinical trials and biobanking, before bringing this knowledge back to their own organisations.

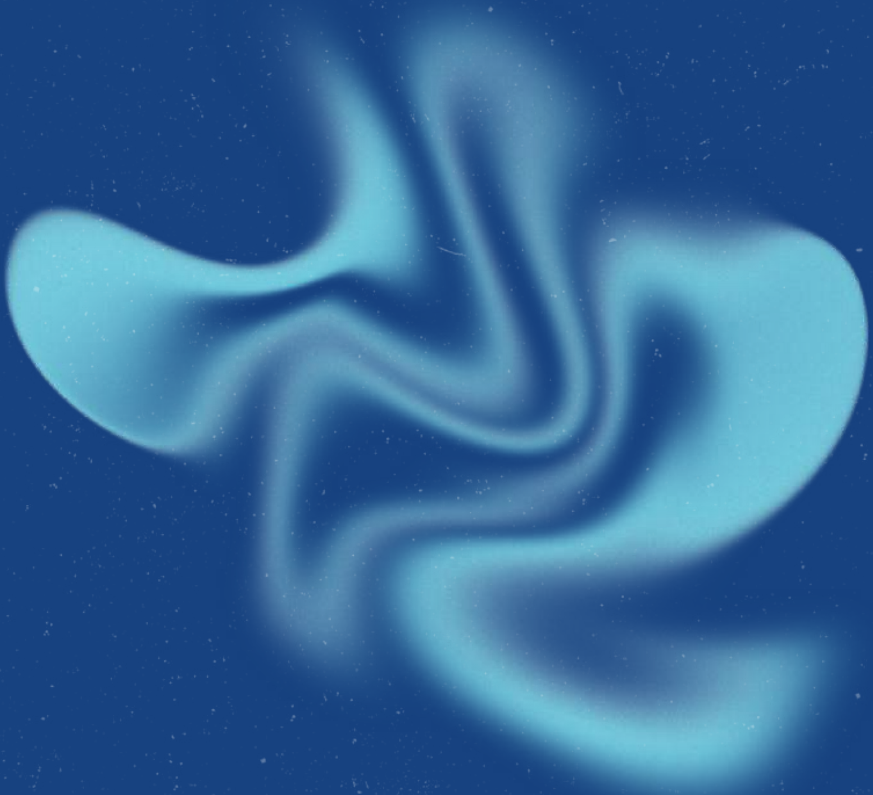


Resource centre

To ensure that the knowledge created by the project remains available beyond its lifetime, CCI4EU developed a free online Resource Centre containing more than 270 validated resources — including guidelines, templates, standard operating procedures and examples of patient pathways.

This Resource Centre is freely accessible —

<https://resources.cci4eu.eu>



LEARNING THROUGH COLLABORATION

Knowledge sharing is most effective when multidisciplinary teams learn, collaborate and exchange practical experience.

What changed?

1

Over 270 validated materials made freely available through the online Resource Centre.

2

300 experts (most under the age of 45) attended 3 regional conferences.

3

662 healthcare professionals trained through 10 online courses.

4

1,367 experts involved in reception of 10 expert consultancy Deep Dives.

5

40 clinicians and researchers completed international observerships.

6

10 cancer centres received tailored support through the Deep Dive programme, engaging 1,367 experts and local professionals. Across all centres, the average score increased from 32 to 46 points out of 100, with individual improvements ranging from 6 to 30 points between October 2024 and November 2025.



Why it matters for Europe



The project highlighted the importance of placing patient pathways at the centre of cancer care, and demonstrated that cancer centres achieve greater impact when they work as part of well-connected infrastructures that integrate research, education and clinical practice.

It also showed that practical, peer-to-peer support can help organisations improve faster than working in isolation – and underlined the importance of continuing to invest in education and international collaboration, particularly for younger clinicians and researchers in central and eastern Europe, who often have fewer opportunities to access specialised training and exchange programmes.

The CCI4EU Maturity Model proved to be an effective instrument for measuring progress, identifying priorities for improvement and monitoring the impact of capacity-building activities. Together with the Deep Dive methodology, it provides practical tools that can continue to support European efforts to strengthen Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures and reduce inequalities in cancer care long after the project has ended.

CCI4EU has shown that when knowledge, expertise and experience are shared across borders, every cancer centre has the opportunity to grow – and every patient stands to benefit.

BUILDING CAPACITY. REDUCING INEQUALITIES. SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE AND RESEARCH.

The results of the project show that reducing inequalities in cancer care is not only about investing in buildings, equipment or technology. It is equally about investing in people, sharing knowledge and helping healthcare systems learn from one another.