



COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER
INFRASTRUCTURES
FOR EUROPE



CCI4EU Public Summary

Patient pathways at the centre
of cancer care

What is CCI4EU?



CCI4EU helps European cancer services deliver better care and better outcomes for patients. It does this by building networks that bring together cancer centres, hospitals, research institutes, screening programmes, cancer registries, primary care and public health services – all working as one. These networks are called CCIs: Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures.

Strong, effective CCIs work together in an agreed way to prevent, diagnose, treat and study cancer. The level of CCI development varies significantly across Europe. CCI4EU helps CCIs to develop and improve by:

Supporting healthcare systems to share knowledge and learn from one another

Giving cancer services access to expert advice and training



Why was CCI4EU needed

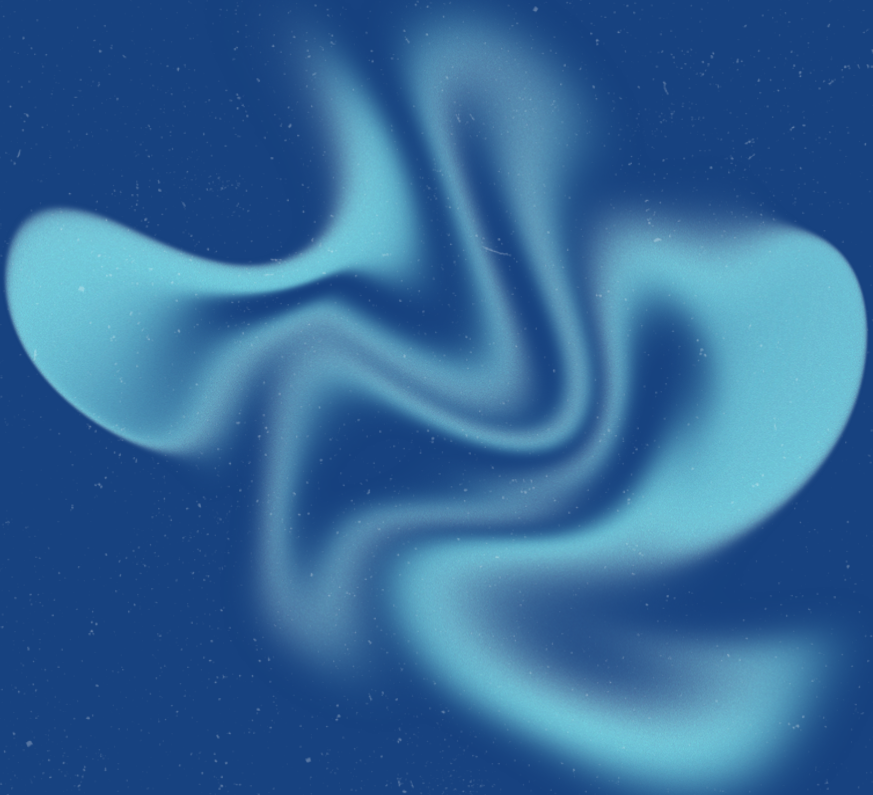


Cancer cases are expected to increase by 25% by 2035.

This means helping countries to develop and strengthen their cancer services is even more important.

Everyone in Europe should have access to high-quality cancer care, regardless of where they live. However, access to care, research and innovation varies across Europe. This creates inequalities that affect both patients and healthcare systems. CCI4EU works to reduce these inequalities.





CANCER REMAINS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN EUROPE

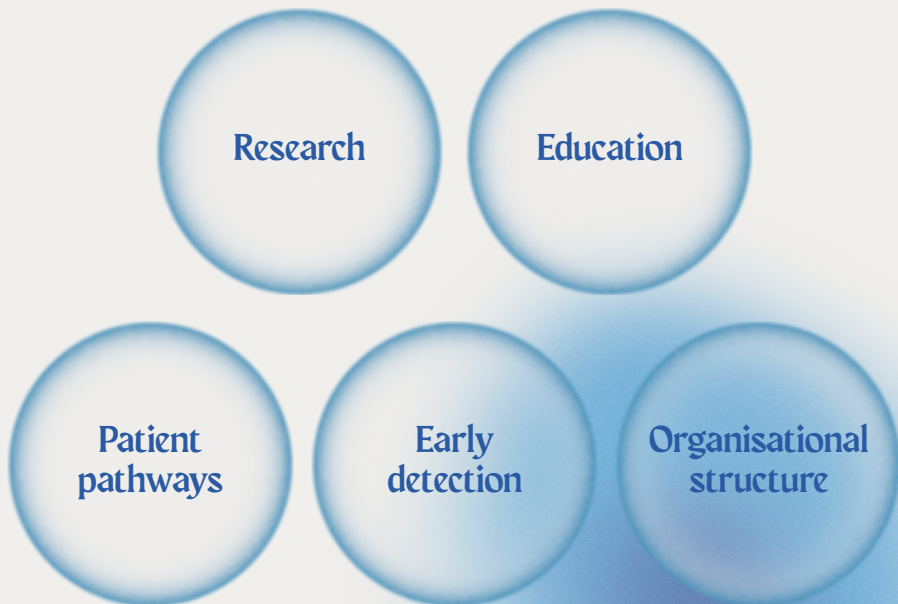
Cases are expected to increase by 25% by 2035

How did CCI4EU make a difference?

1

Understanding where support was needed

CCI4EU developed a Maturity Model. This is a tool that helped cancer centres evaluate their level of development (or 'maturity') across 8 key areas. These areas included:



Research

Education

Patient
pathways

Early
detection

Organisational
structure



56 cancer centres from across Europe completed all or part of the 'maturity model' assessment. The results helped the project identify where support could have the greatest impact.

How did CCI4EU make a difference?

2

Sharing knowledge

Based on the findings from the maturity model assessment, CCI4EU launched a programme designed to help cancer centres develop and improve by learning from one another.

Healthcare professionals strengthened their knowledge through 10 online courses covering topics such as precision cancer medicine, clinical trials, patient pathways and patient empowerment.

Regional conferences in Warsaw, Brussels and Madrid brought together multidisciplinary teams to exchange experience, discuss practical challenges and share successful approaches from across Europe. At the conferences, there was particularly strong participation from younger clinicians and researchers.





How did CCI4EU make a difference?

3

The Deep Dive programme

10 cancer centres received tailored support from teams of international experts. The experts visited each centre 3 times and worked with local professionals and patients. Together, they analysed challenges, identified practical solutions and developed action plans adapted to local needs.

Clinicians and researchers from the 10 centres also visited more mature cancer centres. This allowed them to gain first-hand experience of successful practices in areas such as molecular tumour boards, early-phase clinical trials and biobanking. They then brought this knowledge back to their own organisations.

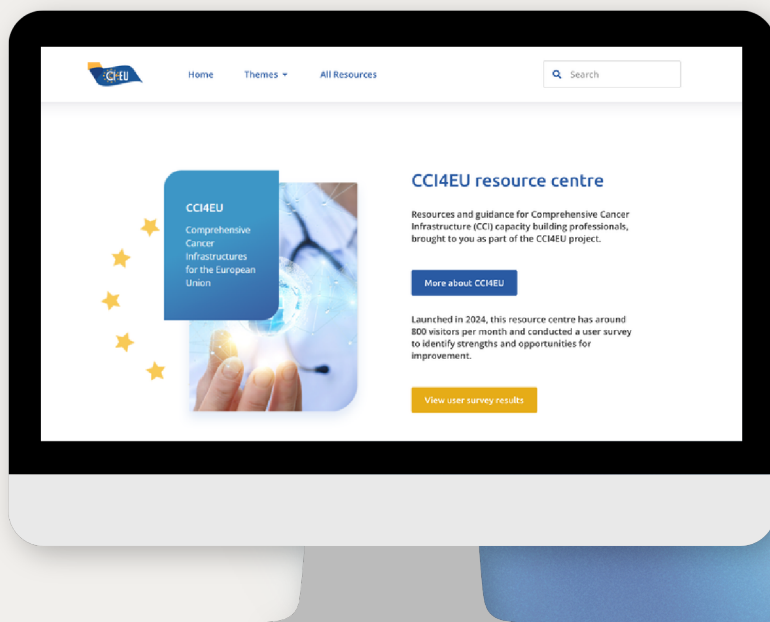


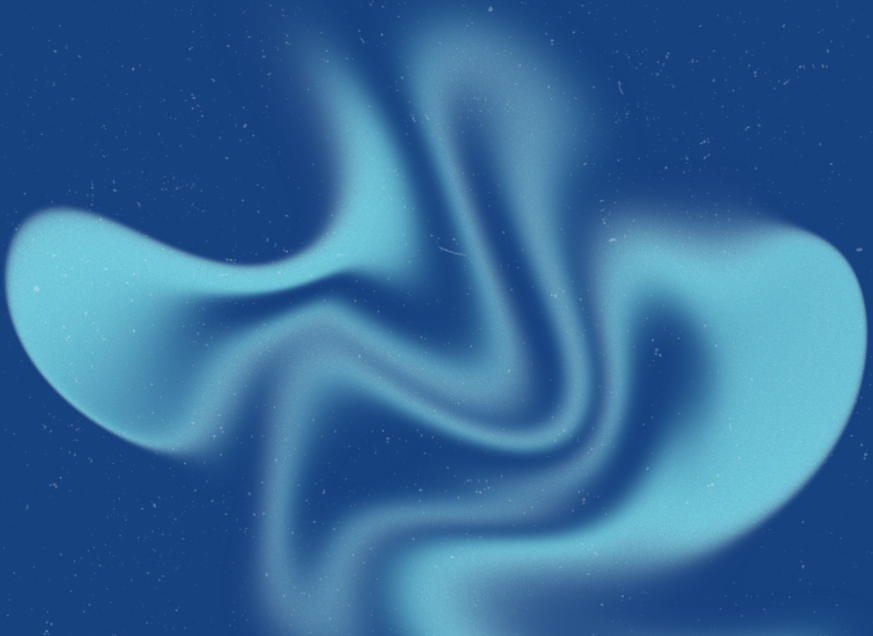
How did CCI4EU make a difference?

4

Developing an online resource centre

CCI4EU developed a free online resource centre to make sure that knowledge created by the project will remain available in the future. The resource centre contains more than 270 resources. These include:

[Guidelines](#)[Templates](#)[Standard operating procedures](#)



BUILDING CAPACITY AND REDUCING INEQUALITIES

The greatest improvements were seen in the cancer centres that took part in the Deep Dive programme. Every participating centre improved their maturity score between October 2024 and November 2025. The score out of 100 increased by an average of 14 points across all centres. Individual improvements ranged from 6 to 30 points. These results show that working together internationally, shared professional learning and expert support can strengthen cancer infrastructures in a measurable way.

What changed?



CCI4EU demonstrated that activities to develop and strengthen the skills, resources and systems of cancer services and people working within them can produce measurable improvements.

After 36 months, the project delivered the following results:

CCI4EU engaged healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers and patient representatives across all EU Member States through at least one of its activities

56 cancer centres used the CCI4EU Maturity Model assessment.

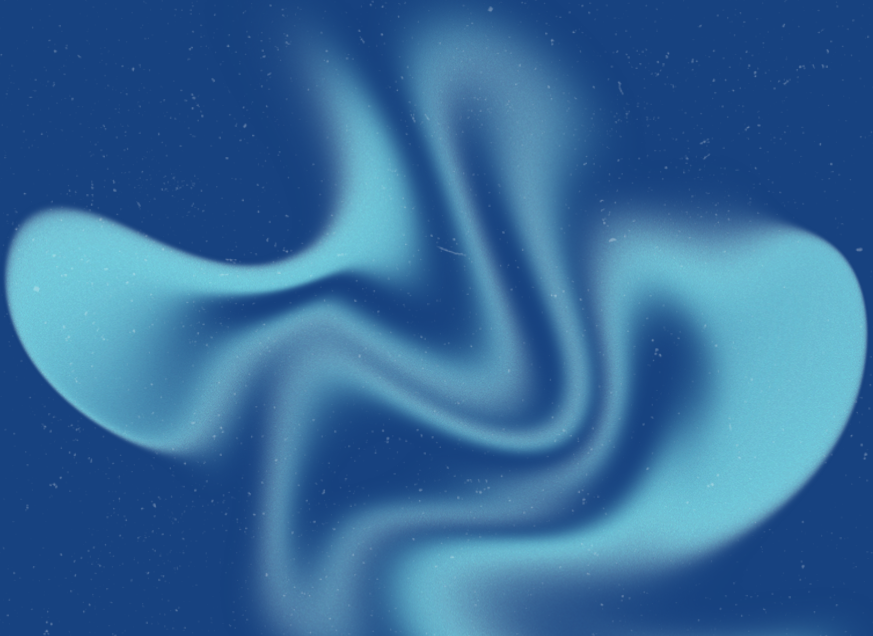
662 healthcare professionals accessed training through 10 online courses.

Around 300 participants attended 3 regional conferences. Most participants were under the age of 45.

10 CCIs received tailored support through the Deep Dive programme. 1,367 experts and local professionals were engaged as part of the programme.

40 clinicians and researchers visited other cancer centres to learn from their work.

The online resource centre made more than 270 resources freely available.



A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR MEASURING MATURITY

The CCI4EU Maturity Model tool worked well to measure progress, identify priorities for improvement and monitor the impact of capacity-building activities.

Together with the Deep Dive programme, it provides practical tools that can continue to support European efforts to strengthen CCIs and reduce inequalities in cancer care long after the project has ended.

Why this matters for Europe



CCI4EU showed that reducing inequalities in cancer care is not only about investing in buildings, equipment or technology.

It is equally important to invest in people, share knowledge and help healthcare systems to learn from one another.

The CCI4EU project:

Highlighted the importance of placing patient pathways at the centre of cancer care.

Shown that practical, peer-to-peer support can help organisations improve faster than when they work in isolation.

Shown that cancer centres are more effective when they work as part of well-connected infrastructures that bring together research, education and clinical practice.

Highlighted the need to continue to invest in education and international collaboration. This is particularly important for younger clinicians and for researchers in central and eastern Europe, who often have fewer opportunities to access specialised training and exchange programmes.



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