



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY
EU4Health Unit

EU4H-2021-JA-05: *Direct grants to Member States' authorities: **strengthening eHealth, integrating telemedicine and remote monitoring in health and care systems for cancer prevention and care** (AWP Ref.: DP/C-g-11.3.1) – Budget: 4 000 000 EUR.*

Andrea, Pace, IRCCS Regina Elena National
Cancer Institute

Telemedicine and cancer care:

Cancer care is currently shifting from a disease-centered approach to a more personalized and person-centered approach.

The integration of telemedicine tools such as teleconsultation and telemonitoring may allow to improve person-centered care and patients' empowerment.



WP1 – Coordination

Led by Sciensano (The Belgian Institute for Health), the coordination's work area ensures an effective management of all administrative and budgetary requirements. The Coordination also looks after the implementation of the project's activities in pursuit of the general and specific planned objectives.



WP2 – Communication

Under the leadership of the Institut Català d'Oncologia (Catalan Institute of Oncology, in Spain), the communication area takes care of all work related to disseminate eCAN's activities, updates, results and recommendations. All actions undertaken in this regard aim to maximise the impact of this JA.



WP3 – Evaluation

Headed by Maria Sklodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology (MSCNRIO, in Poland), the evaluation work area will assess whether eCAN is implemented as planned. This group will also evaluate the outcomes of the project according to the planned objectives and the satisfaction of the target groups.



WP4 – Sustainability

Managed by Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, GÖG (The Austrian National Public Health Institute), this work area will develop a roadmap towards a sustainable and broad implementation of eHealth initiatives in cancer care. This work area will foster the integration into EU MS' policies of evidence-based initiatives and key recommendations issued through this JA.



WP5 – Teleconsultation

The Regina Elena National Cancer Institute (IFO-IRE, in Italy) will lead two pilot projects dedicated to address the role of teleconsultation in rehabilitation treatment and psychological support for Breast, Head and Neck cancer patients. This working area will provide crucial results for this JA.



WP6 – Legal, ethical framework and cybersecurity

Managed by the Regina Elena National Cancer Institute (IFO-IRE, in Italy), the coordinator of the pilot studies will also focus on the organizational level of telemedicine activities. This work area aims to produce guidelines and recommendations for health professionals concerning on legal and ethical framework and cybersecurity in telemedicine.



WP7 – Telemonitoring

The National eHealth Authority of Cyprus (NeHa), along with affiliated entities and collaborators, will analyse telemonitoring solutions used for cancer patients worldwide. This work area will also propose and design alternatives that improve existing systems and methodologies for telemonitoring.



WP8 – Stakeholders Engagement

The 3rd Regional Health Authority of Macedonia (3rd RHA) is the Greek institution responsible of leading this work area. WP8 will map existing networks of stakeholders across the EU in order to improve the knowledge in the virtual consultation of patients and survivors and the professionals' preparedness to respond to crisis situations.



Strengthening eHealth for
Cancer Prevention & Care

Newsletter Issue 1
January 2023

**Strengthening eHealth including
Telemedicine and Remote Monitoring
in Health and Care Systems for Cancer
Prevention and Care**

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER - 101075326

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or eCAN. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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16 Countries and 35 Organisations Involved



AUSTRIA
Austrian National Public Health Institute



LITHUANIA
Viesoji Istaiga Vilniaus Universiteto
Ligoninė Santaros Klinikos
Lietuvos Sveikatos Mokslų,
Universiteto Ligonine Santaros
Klinikos
National Cancer Institute



BELGIUM
Sciensano
National Institute for Health and
Disability Insurance
Antwerp University Hospital
Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food
Chain Safety and Environment



MALTA
Ministry for Health



CYPRUS
National eHealth Authority
Cyprus University of Technology
Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients
and Friends



NORWAY
The National Welfare Technology
Program



DENMARK
Health Innovation Centre of Southern
Denmark



POLAND
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National
Research Institute of Oncology



GREECE
3rd Regional Health Authority
(Macedonia, Greece)
Lab of Medical Physics and Digital
Innovation, Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki
Institute of Applied Biosciences at the
Centre for Research and Technology
Hellas
General Hospital Papageorgiou



PORTUGAL
Central Administration of the Health
System
The Directorate General of Health
Shared Services of the Portuguese
Ministry of Health
Portuguese Institute of Oncology
(IPO) - Lisbon
IPO - Porto
IPO - Coimbra



HUNGARY
National Institute of Oncology



SLOVAKIA
National Health Information Center



IRELAND
HSE Digital Transformation



SLOVENIA
Institut of Oncology Ljubljana



ITALY
Regina Elena National Cancer Institute
National Cancer Institute of Naples
IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele

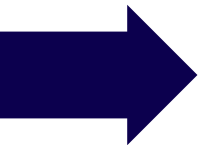


SPAIN
Catalan Institute of Oncology
Valdecilla Health Research Institute
Andalusian Health Service

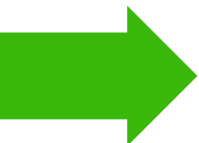
WP5 activities

The eCAN JA explores the role of telemedicine teleconsultation and telemonitoring in two clinical trials focusing on tele-rehabilitation and tele-psychological support in different populations of cancer patients in 11 European countries. **Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO)** and Experiences are monitored by dedicated tele monitoring systems

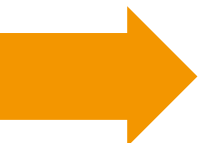
WP5 Pilot trials



Pilot 1 a: intervention arm 59 newly diagnosed BC control arm 59 newly diagnosed BC



Pilot 1b: intervention arm 59 patients with H&N cancer control arm 59 patients with H&N cancer



Pilot 2: intervention arm 59 pts with advanced cancer control arm 59 patients

A total of **254** patients have been randomized

Outcome measures

The patient-reported outcome (PRO) is a standardized method for measuring patients' views of their health and health-related quality of life, and the results are expected to play several roles in advancing patient-centered health care.

EORTC QLQ C30

QoL measure
specifically
designed for
cancer
patients

VAS Pain

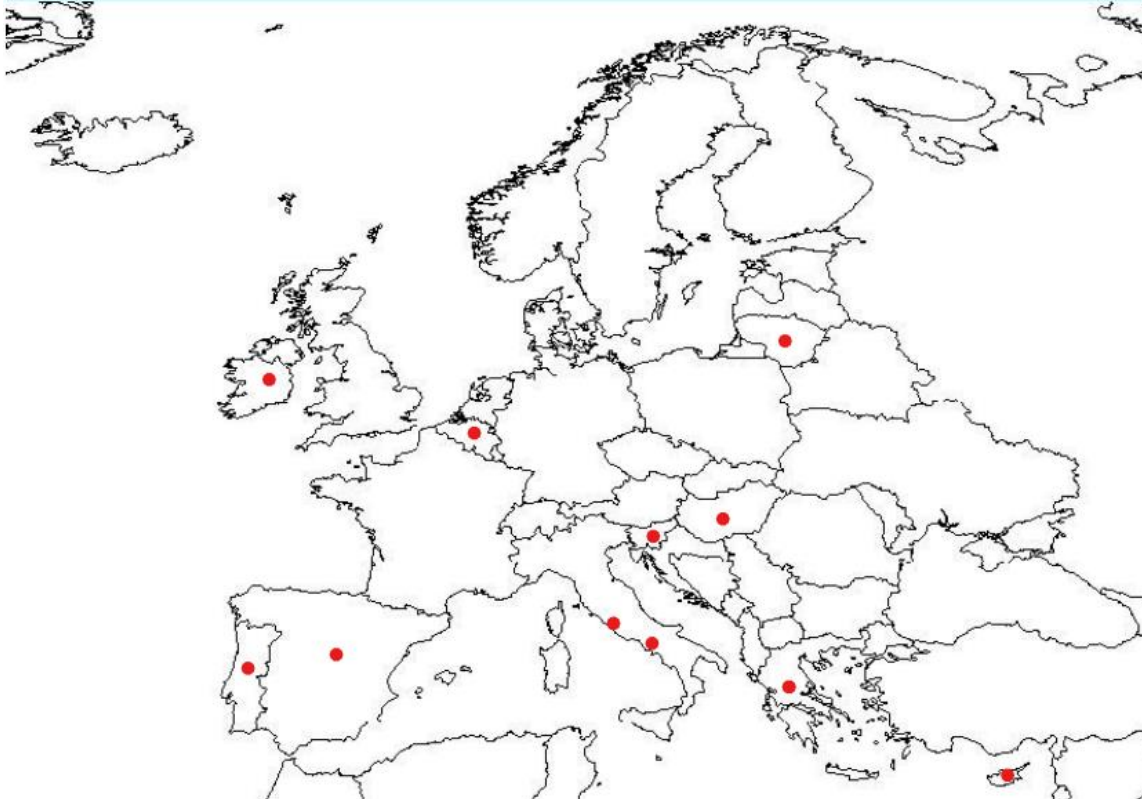
VAS is a
unidimensional
measure of
pain intensity,
used to record
patients' pain
progression

DISTRESS THERMOMETER

This ~~TER~~ is a
single-item
tool using a 0
(no distress)
to 10 (extreme
distress) point
Likert scale.







Pilots, WP5

10 countries and 18 centers



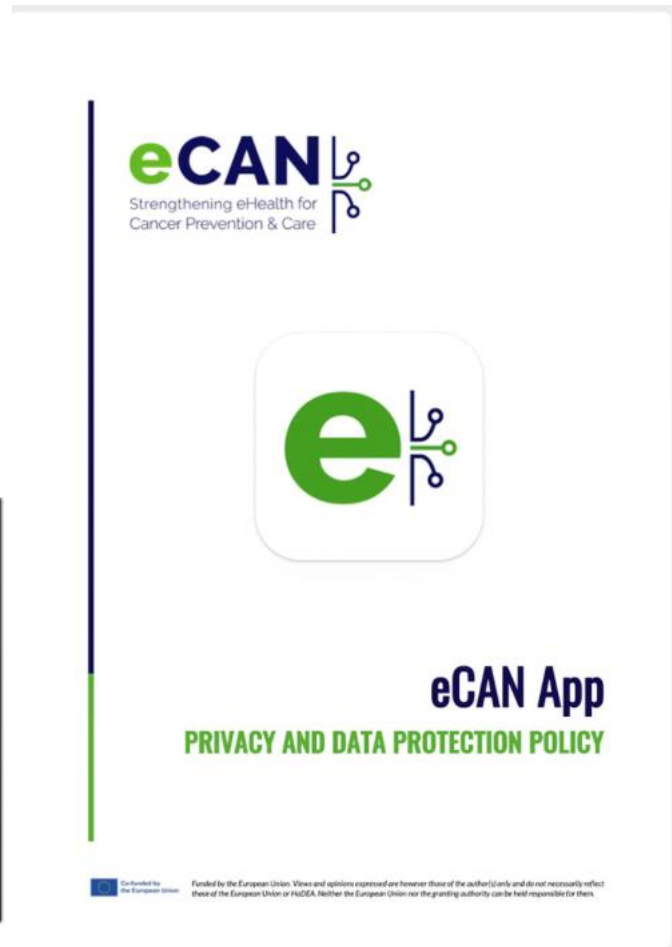
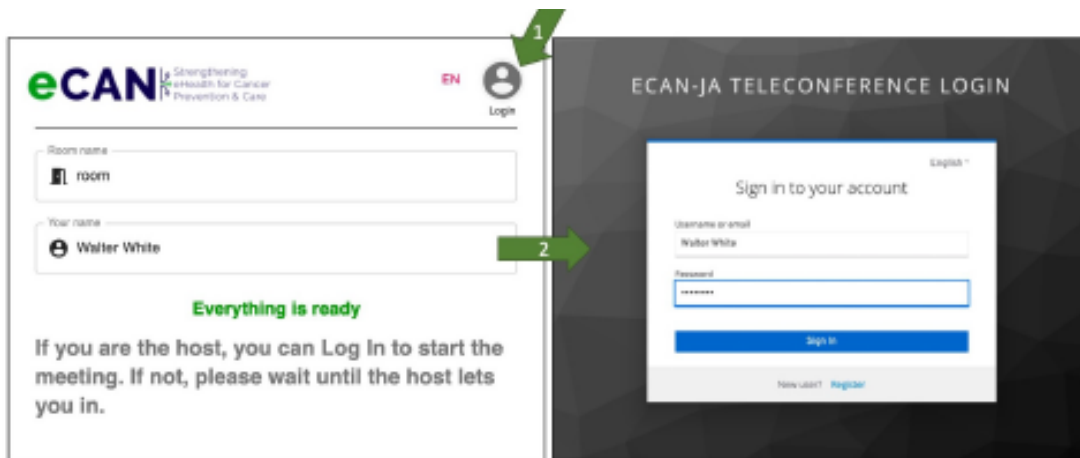
- **ITALY:** 2 centers
- **BELGIUM:** 1 center
- **CYPRUS:** 3 centers
- **GREECE:** 1 center
- **IRELAND:** 1 center
- **SPAIN:** 2 centers
- **HUNGARY:** 1 centers
- **LITHUANIA:** 3 centers
- **PORTUGAL:** 3 centers
- **SLOVENIA:** 1 center

Lesson learned

- Clinical trial conductio  Large variability in clinical expertise
- Telemedicine expertis  Low digital health literacy skills in several European Centers
- Technical tools  Lack of eHealth tools
- Variability in DPO evaluation and GDPR compliance data protection  different approach to rules
- Legal and Ethical framework  lack of common guidelines
- Role of telemedicine in cancer care  Need of validation of eHealth tools in different setting of cancer care

WP6

- Cybersecurity
- Legal and Ethical issues



**STRENGTHENING DIGITAL CAPABILITIES INCLUDING E-
HEALTH, TELEMEDICINE, REMOTE MONITORING SYSTEMS,
HEALTH DATA ACCESS AND HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE
SERVICES IN CANCER CENTRES IN THE UNION
(JA ECAN2)**

**Cancer
Centers**

**Telemedicine
expertise**

**Clinical trial
skills**

Centers to enhance digital capabilities of cancer centers in Europe, particularly in Eastern Europe

Implementation of eHealth

Telemedicine
Telemonitoring
Interoperability
Pilot projects

Health Data

Data Access
Data Exchange
Machine learning
AI implementation

Research activities

Guidelines
Protocols
Recommendations
for
Digital
Capabilities

The Digital Skills Gap Index (DSGI)

The DSGI 2021 identifies and evaluates the factors that underpin the pillars of digital strength, resilience, and responsiveness.

Using a robust methodology, including a survey of representative domain experts in all 21 APEC economies and a compilation of relevant global indicators, Wiley developed the inaugural 2021 Digital Skills Gap Index (DSGI).

RANK	ECONOMY/LOCATION	SCORE
1	Finland	7.5
2	Sweden	7.3
3	Norway	7.2
4	Luxembourg	7.2
5	Netherlands	7.2
6	United Kingdom	7.2
7	Switzerland	7.2
8	Germany	7.1
9	Estonia	7.0
10	Denmark	6.8
11	Ireland	6.5
12	Austria	6.5
13	Belgium	6.5
14	France	6.4
15	Iceland	6.4
16	Portugal	6.3

17	Azerbaijan	6.2
18	Russian Federation	6.0
19	Spain	5.9
20	Lithuania	5.8
21	Cyprus	5.7
22	Slovenia	5.7
23	Poland	5.6
24	Kazakhstan	5.6
25	Czech Republic	5.5
26	Latvia	5.4
27	Italy	5.3

27

Italy

5.3

