



# ERN on paediatric cancer (haemato-oncology) (ERN PaedCan)

*Paediatric cancer is rare and comes in multiple subtypes. Each year across Europe, 35,000 children and young people are diagnosed with cancer and 6,000 paediatric cancer patients die - the leading fatal disease for children aged over one. More than half a million long-term survivors of childhood cancer are alive today in Europe, with two-thirds of them experiencing long-term health and psycho-social problems due to their disease.*

Average survival rates have improved in recent decades - progress for some conditions has been dramatic, while for others the outcomes remain very poor. Significant survival inequalities are a challenge, with worse outcomes in Eastern Europe.

ERN PaedCan works to improve access to high-quality healthcare for children and adolescents with cancer whose conditions require specialist expertise and tools not widely available due to low case volumes and lack of resources. It builds on previous EU-funded projects ENCCA, PanCare and ExPO-r-Net.

Members include a strong interactive network of paediatric hospitals and units specialised in paediatric and adolescent cancer care. Together with the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE), European Standard Clinical Practice (ESCP) guidance protocols have been established as a

common reference for upfront treatments in all major paediatric cancer care settings, and a virtual paediatric oncology tumour board uses eHealth tools to share expertise and advice. Education and training are fostered through webinars, meetings and exchange programmes.

ERN PaedCan strives to achieve equity in childhood cancer outcomes across Europe and to help implement SIOPE's Strategic Plan, strongly supported by the Horizon Europe Cancer Mission, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe.

The network aims to increase childhood cancer survival and quality of life by fostering cooperation, research and training, with the ultimate goal of reducing current inequalities in childhood cancer survival and healthcare capabilities in EU Member States.

## NETWORK COORDINATOR

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